



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 13 June 2019

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	1955
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member	1955
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	1955
Error in <i>Notice Paper</i>	1955
Research Internship.....	1955
Twinned Parliament Relationships, Parliamentary Trade Mission.....	1955
School Group Tours.....	1956
TABLED PAPERS	1956
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1956
Budget, Advance Queensland.....	1956
Trade Mission, Exports	1957
Budget, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.....	1957
Budget, Hydrogen Industry	1958
Budget, Innovation.....	1959
Queensland Health, ieMR Project	1959
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 13 June 2019, from the Director-General, Queensland Health, Mr Michael Walsh, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding digital hospital transformation.	1960
Budget, Education	1960
Budget, Infrastructure.....	1961
Budget, TAFE Queensland	1961
Works for Queensland	1962
Regional Queensland, Jobs	1962
Coalmine Workers, Health and Safety	1963
Correction to <i>Record of Proceedings</i> , Apology	1964
Budget, Women.....	1964

Table of Contents – Thursday, 13 June 2019

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	1964
Office of the Information Commissioner, Report	1964
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 5 of 2018-19—10 years on: Queensland government agencies' self-assessment of their compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).....	1964
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1965
LNG Royalties.....	1965
Budget, Resources Industry.....	1965
Budget, Mackay-Whitsunday Region.....	1966
Budget, Vehicle Registration.....	1967
Skills and Training.....	1967
Correctional Centres.....	1968
Budget, Regional and Remote Queensland.....	1968
Rockhampton, Ice Rehabilitation and Treatment Facility.....	1969
Regional Queensland, Infrastructure	1970
Mackay Ring Road.....	1970
PRIVILEGE.....	1971
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House.....	1971
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1971
Innovation	1971
Bundaberg, Hospital	1972
Resources Industry.....	1972
Electricity Prices	1973
Budget, Education.....	1974
Queensland Health, ieMR Project.....	1974
Budget, Health.....	1974
New Acland Coalmine	1975
Regional Roads and Transport Plan	1975
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION	
AMENDMENT BILL.....	1976
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1976
PRIVILEGE.....	1983
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House.....	1983
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION	
AMENDMENT BILL.....	1984
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1984
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Hand-written equation relating to spending, income and debt.....	1989
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.....	1992
Adani Carmichael Mine	1992
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION	
AMENDMENT BILL.....	1994
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1994
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition regarding Willows School Security Fencing.	2013
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 11 June 2019, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Grace Grace, regarding the Renewing Our Schools program.	2014
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated May 07, titled 'Transport Planning on Sunshine Coast— Caloundra South CAMCOS Realignment Study'.	2058
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Liberal National Party document, undated, titled 'Our Economic Plan'.	2071
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Australian Institute of Building Surveyors member communique, dated 12 June 2019, titled 'Professional Indemnity Insurance Update'.	2098
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland government report, undated, titled 'Queensland Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce: Status report'.	2098
ADJOURNMENT	2103
Climate Change	2103
Greater Flagstone Infrastructure Agreement.....	2104
Prenzlau State School, Nature Based Play	2105
Mansfield Electorate, Queensland Day Awards	2105
Brightwater	2106
Speed Cameras	2106
Cyclone Ada, Memorial	2107
Redlands Electorate, Volunteers.....	2108
North Stradbroke Island, Protests.....	2108
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated June 2019, titled 'The Friendly Bay Islander Monthly, Vol. 8, No. 9'.	2109
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>The Friendly Bay Islander</i> online, dated 29 May 2019, titled 'All is not well on North Stradbroke Island'.	2109
Yarrabilba State High School.....	2109
ATTENDANCE	2110

THURSDAY, 13 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.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I apologise to the House for not raising this earlier. On reviewing *Hansard* this morning it has come to my attention that during question time yesterday the member for Broadwater, in asking a question of the Premier, stated that the budget only allocated another \$5 million towards planning for the second M1 and that the member for Macalister had said it could take 40 years to finalise the plans. Those statements are inaccurate. I believe the member has deliberately misled the House and I will be writing to you about this matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Error in Notice Paper



Mr SPEAKER: I advise that the *Notice Paper* published on the parliament's website for today contained an error in relation to the numbering of certain questions on notice. The relevant departmental officers have been contacted and referred to the parliament's questions on notice database which contains the correct information. Apologies for that error.

Research Internship



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is time to nominate for the 2019 Queensland Parliament Research Internship Program. Under the program, a final-year university student will undertake research on a specific research project of the member's choosing and provide a comprehensive report prepared under academic supervision from their respective university.

Previous research topics have investigated the management of juvenile recidivism, the easing of traffic congestion, a water catchment rehabilitation study and an evaluation of the Queensland parliament's estimates process.

Mr Bleijie: That was mine, wasn't it?

Mr SPEAKER: It may well have been, member for Kawana. Any members who are interested in this program are asked to notify the Table Office by close of business this Friday, 14 June.

Twinned Parliament Relationships, Parliamentary Trade Mission



Mr SPEAKER: For more than a decade the Queensland parliament has been committed to twinned-parliament relationships with the national parliaments of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. These twinned parliament relationships have been formed under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Under this relationship the Queensland parliament provides support for capacity development for the Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu parliaments. This promotes the development of sound parliamentary practice and strong democratic institutions.

To renew the Queensland parliament's twinning partnerships, I will be travelling to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu with other members over the next two weeks. From Sunday, 16 June to Tuesday, 18 June, I will be leading a delegation of seven members on a parliamentary trade mission to Papua New Guinea. The delegation includes the members for Bancroft, Condamine, Cook, Greenslopes, Hill and Theodore. From Monday, 24 June to Wednesday, 26 June I will be visiting Vanuatu with the member for Mirani. On both trips I will sign new parliamentary partnership agreements with both nations' parliaments. I look forward to strengthening our important parliament-to-parliament relationships with our South Pacific neighbours during these visits.

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Ipswich Homeschool Village and Sacred Heart School in the electorate of Ipswich and Tweed Valley Adventist College.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

- [971](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (3095-19) Sponsored by the member for Everton, Mr Mander, from 111 petitioners, requesting the House to construct dedicated right turn arrows at the traffic lights of Samford Road, Prospect Road and Taylors Road at Gaythorne
- [972](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (3110-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 274 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Childers Courthouse is better resourced to meet the needs of the community
- [973](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (3129-19) presented by the member for Mulgrave, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, from 866 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a bus service is provided for the Bupa Aged Care Facility and Sheridan Meadows Daycare facility, Progress Road, White Rock
- [974](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (3130-19) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 358 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
- [975](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (3131-19) presented by the member for Clayfield, Mr Nicholls and an ePetition (3094-19) sponsored by the member for Clayfield, Mr Nicholls, from 58 and 216 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure residents and local businesses have their say on the Gympie Road Northern Transitway
- [976](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (3133-19) presented by the member for Barron River, Hon. Crawford, and an ePetition (3100-19) sponsored by the member for Barron River, Hon. Crawford, from 5,063 and 4,571 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide harsher penalties for hit and run driving offences and dangerous driving causing death or grievous bodily harm

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Advance Queensland



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): My government's fifth budget is about jobs and business, it is about the regions of our state and it is about the critical infrastructure that Queenslanders need and deserve—economic infrastructure that enhances productivity and social infrastructure that our communities rely on. We are investing in roads and transport and in water and energy. There is funding for social housing and cultural facilities, ensuring Queensland communities and families continue to enjoy an improved quality of life. This all helps to create jobs, support Queensland businesses and grow the economy in the south-east and in our vital regional areas. We intend to add every day to the 199,000 jobs that have been created since we came to office. This budget's huge business boost will stimulate even more employment growth with lower payroll tax.


I am especially proud that this budget also provides further support for our Advance Queensland initiative, with a funding boost of \$105 million from next financial year to continue to diversify our economy. That includes \$45 million for the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. This is the

fund that assists companies to relocate or establish new projects, to reinvest or to expand in Queensland. Two of its key objectives are sustainable employment and regional development—exactly what this budget is about.

Recent examples are Rheinmetall's new manufacturing facility for combat vehicles for the Australian Army; Boeing's new drone program; and the new Qantas flight academy in Toowoomba. I can confirm applications are now open and the academy is due to open in September. The budget boost means we can continue to attract industries like these and grow employment. There is also \$25 million for the Research Infrastructure Co-Investment Fund to improve R&D infrastructure capacity; \$5 million to support the development of our biofutures industry; and \$19 million for our Hydrogen Industry Development Strategy. All this brings total funding for Advance Queensland to \$755 million. As well as that, we are delivering another \$25 million for our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. There is increased funding of up to \$14 million over two years to meet continued demand for our Back to Work program and \$14.8 million next year for the regional Business Energy Savers Program.

The evidence is clear that sensible budget investment priorities can stimulate business and create jobs. That is why we have made the decisions we have; that is what Queenslanders expect.

Trade Mission, Exports

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): My government's support for new industries as well as existing ones is a reason the Queensland economy outperforms other states. This was in stark evidence on my recent trade mission to Japan. Japan is our second biggest trading partner. While in Tokyo I met with JFE Steel, one of our single biggest coal customers. You cannot make steel without strong metallurgical coal and Queensland's coal is acknowledged as some of the world's best. Through its partnerships with local companies, JFE Steel employs 3,500 Queenslanders in its coalmines. We would like them to employ more and that formed the basis of our discussions.


I signed a memorandum of understanding with investment group Jogmec, the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, to further cooperate in developing our hydrogen industry. What is very clear in Japan is that whilst acknowledging our traditional strengths, they are also looking at new innovation to drive their power needs into the future. That is why hydrogen is front and centre of a brand-new industry that Queensland can embrace with open arms. A clean, renewable hydrogen industry is this generation's space race and the MOU is the acknowledgement that Queensland is ahead of the pack.

Our proximity to the growing middle class in Asia, a shared time zone and the high standard of our agricultural products are further boosts to our economy. Around 77.3 per cent of exported goods are sent via Brisbane Airport and the opening of a second runway provides opportunities to increase that figure even further.

We are examining the development of export hubs in both Toowoomba and Cairns and, as I said yesterday at our post-budget lunch, I cannot see why we cannot have both. I would be interested to hear the views of the Toowoomba and Cairns members of parliament on that. During my time as Premier, Queensland exports have increased by 93 per cent and it is no accident that jobs have also increased by 199,000. Trade equals jobs.

The link between developing overseas markets and the benefits for families in even the most remote parts of our state could be seen when I launched a new brand of beef for the Japanese market called 'Queenslander', because it is the best. It is sourced partly from the north-west of Queensland near Julia Creek, which is only now getting back on its feet after the floods. Having new buyers in Japan helps them all. That is what trade does. It shows what trade missions and decent trade ministers can achieve. I will never stop backing Queensland.

Budget, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to improving health, housing, education and employment outcomes for Queensland's first nations people. In this budget we have allocated more than \$300 million across multiple programs and agencies to secure those improvements. We know that good jobs are critical to closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Jobs provide dignity, opportunity and prosperity. Work lifts people out of poverty and, shamefully, first nations Queenslanders are amongst the poorest in our state. That is why this Labor government is investing in opportunities to grow local Indigenous jobs, improve access to training and build business opportunities across the state.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt, Deputy Premier. Members, there is too much general conversation in the chamber. If you are having a conversation please take it outside. The ministerial statement will be heard.

Ms TRAD: In the past financial year, the Palaszczuk government procured goods and services for more than 420 Indigenous businesses, worth \$300 million, under our Indigenous Procurement Policy. The benefits of procurement reach beyond Indigenous businesses to the families and the local communities where those businesses are established. We also know that Indigenous businesses are more likely than non-Indigenous businesses to employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. That is why this budget also allocates more than \$8 million over two years to develop new tourism products and experiences, backing Indigenous jobs and businesses.

Although the federal government may have walked away from a 50-year national partnership on Indigenous housing, the Palaszczuk Labor government—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms TRAD: Although the federal government has walked away from a 50-year national partnership on Indigenous housing, the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to fund housing in remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in order to alleviate overcrowding and to close the gap. In this budget we will allocate \$228 million to support the construction of housing and home ownership in remote discrete Indigenous communities. We also commit to continuing to hold the Morrison Liberal-National government to account for their failure—

Mr Hart interjected.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Deputy Premier. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Moggill, you will cease your interjections.

Ms TRAD: We also commit to continuing to hold the Morrison Liberal-National federal government to account for its failure to fund housing in remote Indigenous communities. We know that we need to do more when it comes to the health of first nations Queenslanders, a key area of focus in the Closing the Gap targets.

Too many young Indigenous Queenslanders are taking their own lives. In recent months I have personally met with Indigenous community leaders and we are responding to their calls for dedicated support. The Palaszczuk Labor government is directing almost \$7 million in this budget to improve Indigenous young people's mental health and wellbeing under the Shifting Minds Suicide Prevention Flagship program to change that unacceptable trajectory. We are also investing almost \$14 million to support resilient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and youth through family wellbeing services. Additionally, we are investing more than \$25 million to expand and continue the very successful Deadly Choices Healthy Lifestyle Program. In this budget we are also allocating \$9 million to support greater participation in decision-making and self-determination by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, which is the key recommendation from the Queensland Productivity Commission report.

This government is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to reframe our relationship. Our budget is delivering on important initiatives to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes right across the state.

Budget, Hydrogen Industry



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's No. 1 priority is jobs. That is what our budget is focused on and that is what we are delivering. We are investing \$49.5 billion in infrastructure over four years, including \$13 billion this year, directly supporting more than 40,000 jobs. Nearly two-thirds of those jobs will be outside of Greater Brisbane. We are driving forward in our traditional industries of mining, tourism and agriculture, but we are also backing new industries that will bring Queenslanders the jobs of the future.


As the Premier said, renewable hydrogen has the potential to be Queensland's next great resource industry and I am proud to say that Queensland is at the forefront of hydrogen industry development. It has the capacity to deliver significant economic opportunities and it offers the potential for new highly skilled jobs, especially across regional Queensland.

In this year's budget we have backed our commitment to developing a world-class sustainable hydrogen industry with a new \$19 million Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy. Worldwide demand for hydrogen is increasing, with the market expected to reach US\$155 billion by 2022 and much of that will be driven by Asia-Pacific markets. Our strategy sets out our plan for Queensland to get a big share of that market.

A glimpse of the future of that exciting new technology will be front and centre from 1.30 pm this afternoon on the Speaker's Green, here at Parliament House. On display will be a hydrogen-powered Toyota Mirai fuel cell electric vehicle, one of only 13 currently in Australia. The car is fully electric. However, instead of storing energy in a large battery, the Mirai stores energy as hydrogen gas, which is used to generate electricity on demand to power the vehicle. I invite all honourable members to grab a glimpse of the future this afternoon, right here on the Speaker's Green.

Having that hydrogen vehicle at parliament is a symbol of the great promise the industry holds for the Queensland economy and for future Queensland jobs. It is a symbol of the jobs and the growth that the Palaszczuk Labor government's fifth budget is delivering for Queensland.

Budget, Innovation


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.46 am): We are investing in emerging industries to create the jobs of the future here in Queensland, which is what our Advance Queensland agenda is all about. Today I am proud to announce that, through our investment and by partnering with the private sector, industry and small and medium sized businesses, we have cracked 15,200 jobs created through Advance Queensland. This week's state budget builds on that success.

As the Premier has outlined this morning, in this state budget an additional \$105 million will be provided to create new jobs in new industries. We will continue to back what we know works, such as the Business Development Fund, which has been instrumental in supporting Queensland start-ups to go global. The fund continues to grow, helping our homegrown innovation businesses. To date, 51 businesses have received \$58 million to create 400 Queensland jobs.

Last week I saw firsthand the impact the fund is having as Brisbane based software start-up RedEye opened its third office to support its growing American customer base. In fact, they have grown from two workers to over 100. That is why our government officially opened a new Trade and Investment Queensland office in San Francisco, the gateway to Silicon Valley. That office will be the launch pad for Queensland businesses to enter the US market.

The state budget also includes \$15 million over seven years for the Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems, creating Australia's leading hub for high-tech drone design and manufacturing right here in Queensland. We will continue to invest in innovation to diversify our economy and create jobs, now and into the future.

Queensland Health, ieMR Project

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in our hospitals. On Tuesday we announced the biggest ever Health budget, because we know that public health care is important to Queenslanders and demands on our services are growing. That is also why we cannot be held back by outdated software and laborious paper based systems. The digital hospital program is making Queensland's hospitals safer than ever before. It has reduced the average length of stay, unplanned readmissions and the number of serious falls and pressure injuries for Queensland patients. There has also been a reduction in medication errors.

Independent research of more than 2,000 hospital staff across Queensland found the ieMR rollouts so far have been a major success. The Queensland Audit Office report released in December last year confirmed the digital hospital program is improving patient outcomes. The report found the digital program contributed to a significant increase in the early identification of deteriorating patients and a decrease in emergency patient readmissions and that staff can access clinical information faster and patient records are more legible.

This also makes our hospitals more efficient. Independent forecasting in June 2018 showed our digital hospitals have already realised \$187 million in both financial and economic benefits at the PA, Mackay base, Cairns, Townsville and Queensland children's hospitals. Patient safety experts and the vast majority of clinicians across Queensland agree that the benefits of the ieMR far outweigh the risks.


This morning I discussed with my director-general issues reported in the media today. He assured me he has confidence in the ieMR and that it is delivering better patient outcomes. For the benefit of the House, I table his advice to me confirming his support for the ieMR.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 June 2019, from the Director-General, Queensland Health, Mr Michael Walsh, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding digital hospital transformation [978].

Before every go live the director-general meets with clinicians to ask them if they believe their hospital is ready to implement the new system or they want to remain with the old, paper based record system while further preparations are made. If staff or clinicians believe they need more time or training with the system then the go live is rescheduled for when they believe they are ready.

As demand for public services increase and our system grows with it, we need the best technology for our clinicians and their patients. Every day in Queensland our digital hospitals open over 300,000 charts. More than 40,000 medications are administered. In just one month the ieMR will make 4.53 million orders across pharmacy, radiology, pathology and other diagnostic services—quickly and safely.

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.51 am): This budget is an education budget with the Palaszczuk government again demonstrating our strong commitment to education because we know a great education makes a difference. The Department of Education's total budget for 2019-20 is a record \$13.8 billion, an increase of nearly \$800 million or 6.1 per cent on the budget last year. Some \$9.5 billion, or around 70 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.

The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to employ an additional 3,700 teachers over four years to meet growth in the state school sector, and we are delivering on that commitment. In this budget there is additional funding to employ 1,000 additional teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides to cater for increased enrolments in our Queensland state schools. It also includes funding to continue our staff and student wellbeing programs and our regional and remote strategy. Also 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. This is an injection I am particularly proud of.


The continued record investment in education has been well received by our key stakeholders. The President of the Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders, Roselynn Anderson, enthusiastically commended the 2019 budget for the disability education sector. Further to this, we announced \$63.6 million to continue funding early childhood development programs and services in 102 centres for children with a disability aged zero to five years. The Queensland Teachers' Union has acknowledged this as one of the stand-out announcements in this year's education budget.

We are also investing in early childhood education to ensure we give all Queensland children a great start in life, no matter where they live across the state. In this budget, there is \$293 million for early childhood education, up 8.2 per cent or \$22 million on the previous year. This includes \$25.6 million this year to support the operation of Early Years Places in more than 50 locations around the state. These Early Years Places offer a one-stop shop providing young families with the support they need, such as early childhood programs, child and maternal health services and parenting programs. We also have ongoing funding provided to deliver Remote Kindergarten in up to 67 Queensland state schools which has supported access to kindy for almost 400 kids since 2016 in the most far-flung parts of the state, where there is no other kindergarten service nearby.

In addition, the 2019-20 budget includes—and I am very proud of this—a record \$1.464 billion infrastructure spend. This investment will see the total number of new schools opened by our government since 2015 increase to 26—eight to be opened next year and five to be opened in 2021. Throughout the state we see schools receive funding for new classrooms, refurbishments and facility upgrades and enhanced maintenance and minor works under our SIE and SSS programs. As I announced, this budget will also include early works for a new secondary school at Palmview, which is forecast to open in 2023.

The added benefit of our huge education infrastructure program is the jobs it will create in the building and construction industry, which was acknowledged by MBA members when I visited and addressed them last week. Our infrastructure program is expected to support around 4,200 jobs across our state, particularly in regional Queensland. 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 this great state.

Budget, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): People are turning up for work today on construction sites across regional Queensland because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's infrastructure investment. In this year's budget we have again delivered a record infrastructure program—our fourth in five years; \$23 billion over four years to create more than 21½ thousand jobs across Queensland. The majority of that record investment will support regional Queensland. That investment will support more than 13½ thousand regional Queensland jobs. We are making sure there is a pipeline of work for Queenslanders and their employers well into the next decade.

Last month I joined the Member for Cook to inspect progress on sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road. That transformative project is opening up access to Cape York communities, improving road safety, unlocking new opportunities to expand tourism and growing their economies. There is a commitment of another \$15 million in this year's state budget. Roadworks on the cape are also an important local employer, providing jobs and training for Indigenous workers. I spoke with crews on that trip that were glad to know that our investment would guarantee them work for many years to come.

People living in regional Queensland spend more time in their cars travelling and this budget will pour funding into road upgrades to make their drive safer. Queensland's major coastal arterial road, the Bruce Highway, will continue to be made safer between Brisbane and Cairns, thanks to a jointly funded \$12.6 billion rolling upgrade plan. We are also progressing the Bruce Highway Trust to lock in \$1 billion worth of joint funding annually to guarantee upgrades into the future.

Our road safety budget has also been boosted by \$205 million over the next four years, with more than \$900 million to fix dangerous roads and create overtaking lanes.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite may not want to hear about regional Queensland, but I will proceed.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. The member for Pumicestone will cease interjecting.

Mr BAILEY: In Rockhampton we have backed the \$1 billion ring-road project and are full steam ahead with the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade—a \$121 million project supporting more than 400 jobs, which I was very happy to visit with the member for Rockhampton recently. Ring-roads in Townsville, Mackay, Cairns and the Gympie bypass created by the Cooroy to Curra stage D upgrade will take traffic, particularly trucks, off local roads and increase our freight productivity. A range of road projects in Maryborough will be warmly welcomed by local residents. Warrego Highway safety upgrades west of Toowoomba will continue. We will work with the Commonwealth to deliver improvements east of Toowoomba.

We also know how important the north-west minerals province is for the economy of North Queensland and the north-west. That is why we have a \$500 million plan to boost mineral freight on the Mount Isa to Townsville line, which we recently restored in 12 weeks, including a reduction in access charges and a new freight facility at the port of Townsville—a port that is still publicly owned under this government, and it will continue to be publicly owned. It will not be sold off like those opposite would like to see happen. This year's budget continues our focus on investing in job-creating projects in regional Queensland because this is a budget for all Queenslanders.

Budget, TAFE Queensland

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.59 am): Today is National TAFE Day and campuses across our state are celebrating the fantastic contribution TAFEs make to training Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. TAFE is the largest provider of education and training in Queensland, delivering training to over 120,000 students. This is only possible because of our incredible, hardworking TAFE teachers who are shaping the futures of so many of our young Queenslanders. It is great to see that more and more young Queenslanders are now gaining skills and training they need for an exciting career for free. There are now over 6,000 year 12 graduates enrolled under our popular free TAFE initiative, gaining a qualification in industries where we know there will be future jobs such as health care, hospitality and engineering.


The Palaszczuk government is very proudly pro TAFE, and we are committed to rebuilding campuses across Queensland. That is why it is fantastic to see in this week's budget that we are doubling our investment in TAFE campuses by investing more than \$105 million to provide

state-of-the-art training facilities right across our state. When we were elected in 2015, TAFE campuses were left in a pretty concerning state with a severe maintenance backlog, all ready to be sold off. I am pleased to report a construction blitz of Queensland's TAFE campuses from Thursday Island to the Gold Coast. On the Gold Coast alone, we will be investing \$30 million, doubling our previous \$15 million election commitment. This will include constructing a new trades building at Ashmore and a brand-new nursing facility at Southport to cater for our continued growth on the Gold Coast.

In the electorate of Mansfield, \$15 million will be invested to revitalise the Mount Gravatt campus, creating Queensland's first vocational education design tech precinct, specialising in creative arts, fashion and design to rival the very best in Australia. Our Alexandra Hills campus in Redlands is set for a more than \$10 million upgrade to its trades and health facilities. This will mean students can complete their full apprenticeship locally rather than having to travel to the other side of Brisbane. I am pleased to report that at the end of this year works will be complete in Townsville and Toowoomba on the \$35 million redevelopment at the Pimlico centre and the new Toowoomba Rural Centre of Excellence.

Members on this side of the House understand the value of investing in TAFE. By continuing to build and upgrade our campuses, we are making sure that Queenslanders have access to state-of-the-art facilities to gain the skills they need for the jobs of the future.

Works for Queensland

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.02 am): I never miss an opportunity to talk about the Palaszczuk government's signature regional local government program Works for Queensland. Tuesday's budget delivered by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer included the next \$50 million instalment of the hugely successful and popular \$600 million Works for Queensland program, which has already supported more than 14,000 regional jobs right across the state.


In a shining example of Works for Queensland delivering for regional communities, last week we saw the Murweh Shire Council taking out the Park of the Year award at the Park and Leisure Australia Regional Awards Queensland for Charleville's Graham Andrews Park, following a \$350,000 Works for Queensland investment in that new community facility. It was a great outcome for the Murweh Shire Council and the whole of the Charleville community. I want to congratulate Mayor Annie Liston and the whole council team—the councillors and all of the council staff—for the great work that they have done on that project. It is a great feather in their cap and it is indicative of the outcomes that Works for Queensland is delivering to communities right across regional Queensland.

In another welcome development on Tuesday, those opposite were also talking up the merits of Works for Queensland, with the shadow minister, the member for Burnett, quoted in the *Bundaberg NewsMail* saying how supportive he is of the government's Works for Queensland program. 'Our local government has made amazing results from that money,' he said—and so he should be supportive of the program with a total of \$33.51 million delivered to the Bundaberg Regional Council under the Works for Queensland program.

We also know that the Mayor of the Bundaberg Regional Council, Jack Dempsey, is a great supporter of the Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland. As far back as 2017, Mayor Dempsey—Mayor Dempsey, as we know, was a former LNP minister in this House—wrote to the Palaszczuk government urging us 'to continue this type of program into the future to facilitate job creation projects to reduce unemployment levels within regional Queensland'. Every time I see the mayor he tells me that if ever I want someone to help spruik Works for Queensland he is my man.

With those opposite and local governments across our regions in support of this signature Palaszczuk government program, I must take this opportunity to call on the Leader of the Opposition to include a commitment to Works for Queensland in her budget reply speech today. It has sadly been something that the Liberal National Party has never supported and has used as a way to make savings ahead of any other program, so this is an opportunity to make a commitment to this vitally important program, which is very popular with regional councils across the state.

Regional Queensland, Jobs

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.06 am): The Department of Housing and Public Works takes responsibility for housing for critical front-line service workers in some of the remote corners of the state. We heard this week that the Palaszczuk government's 2019-20 budget is supercharging those front-line services in regional Queensland. Far North Queenslanders will be served by an extra

239 teachers. Families on the Darling Downs needing health care will welcome the 381 extra nurses. Outback Queenslanders will also benefit from an extra 68 nurses, a further 32 doctors and 38 extra teachers and 12 teacher aides.

If you are a Queenslanders who commits your life to supporting Queenslanders then we are backing you. We are investing in reduced hospital wait times and better schools. We are investing in our resource and farming communities that build and feed our nation, because Labor is committed to ensuring that rural and regional Queenslanders have access to a good education and that they should have access to the best health care regardless of where they live.

The front-line workers who deliver these critical services also deserve safe, secure and affordable homes to live in. That is why this year's budget will fund our commitment to construct 113 new government residences in remote and regional communities by 2021, from Thursday Island to Coconut Island and Cooktown to Camooweal, particularly in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Funds will be invested to construct 22 new residences in Doomadgee, 17 in Bamaga and nine more in Weipa. This is all about enabling essential services to be delivered to Queenslanders and jobs for regional Queensland.

The 2019-20 budget investment into government employee housing will create jobs for 510 regional Queenslanders to carry out maintenance, upgrades and construction of new housing. Our commitment to regional Queensland is clearly demonstrated through funding further construction and jobs growth where it counts. The Buy Queensland procurement policy will also make sure that this budget investment in security upgrades, air-conditioning, new kitchens, bathrooms and window replacements and new builds will be delivered by local tradies—local jobs in regional communities, in our resource communities, in our farming communities.

In this year's budget Labor will invest a further \$19.5 million to build new homes for some of the hardest working Queenslanders that you will come across. Plus, we will invest a further \$15.4 million in maintenance and upgrades. Projects will see the creation of additional construction jobs in remote locations including on Palm, Mer and Warraber islands, as well as many more through the building industry supply chain in regional communities. This will build on the 26,800 construction jobs that have already been created under the Palaszczuk government. Labor is backing Queenslanders and Queensland jobs in every corner of the state.

Coalmine Workers, Health and Safety



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.09 am): The safety and welfare of Queensland's mine workers is paramount. The 2019-20 Queensland budget reinforces this, as we continue to invest in the safety and health of the men and women who work in our \$70 billion resources industry. As part of the black lung health and safety reforms in this year's budget, last week in Mackay I announced that we will provide more than \$1.2 million for a mobile screening service. This service will help improve the detection of coal workers' pneumoconiosis, silicosis and other mine lung dust diseases. It will also encourage workers who previously may have been unable or reluctant to travel for testing to be able to do so much closer to their place of employment. This screening service will supplement existing services in communities including Moranbah, Rockhampton, Mackay and Emerald.

As a doctor, I know that early detection is critical. Subsequently, a further \$1.68 million will be invested to enhance skills in the regions in dust monitoring by increasing occupational hygiene inspections and audit activity. This \$2.8 million in overall funding is on top of the nearly \$25 million that was committed in 2017 to mine dust related disease health and safety reforms. Queensland coal workers now receive free respiratory health checks when they start in the industry, when they leave the industry, and every five years while they are working in the industry. Free checks are also available for retired or former coalmine workers. All doctors and radiologists who offer health services receive extra specialist training. They are appropriately registered, as are the X-ray imaging clinics.

We have delivered all of the recommendations of the independent Monash University review of the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme. We have now actioned all 68 of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee's recommendations. At this time I would like to again acknowledge the work of the dedicated members of the parliamentary select committee.

These are more funds for more reforms to protect the health and safety of our 38,000 Queensland coalmine workers. The health of Queensland's miners remains our No. 1 priority, and with them we will continue the fight against this insidious disease. The Queensland government greatly values our resources industry, but we value our workers even more.

Correction to Record of Proceedings, Apology



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.11 am): Mr Speaker, yesterday in the House I provided figures relating to gas exploration. I said 43,000 square kilometres in total and 11,000 square kilometres for domestic use. The figures should be 39,000 and 8,500. I apologise to the House for this error.

Budget, Women



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 am): The 2019-20 state budget backs gender equality. The Palaszczuk Labor government believes that all women in Queensland have a fundamental right to equal participation in the social, economic and cultural life of our state. It is not only the right thing to do: it is the best thing to do. Time and time again research has shown us that the benefits of women and girls fully participating in contributing to all aspects of society are enormous. It is why we publish a separate Women's Budget Statement to highlight the opportunities we want to provide for women and girls in Queensland while supporting the principle of gender equality. It is why we have a Queensland Women's Strategy to identify areas of participation and leadership, economic security, health and wellbeing and safety as the key priority areas for attention.

Our investment in these priorities is paying off, but we all have a responsibility to keep that momentum going. That is exactly what this budget does. Our aim is to have gender parity on government boards by 2020. From the 31 per cent of women on government boards—the level that we inherited from the LNP government in 2015—we are now at 48 per cent. In this financial year we will invest \$17.3 million to deliver new and enhanced domestic and family violence and sexual assault support services in regions right across Queensland; \$7.6 million will go towards culturally appropriate maternal parenting and child health services in regions right across Queensland; \$7 million will be invested to improve female sporting facilities and provide equitable pathways to success in regions right across Queensland; and \$80 million is being invested to help employers take on at least 10,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders, including women, in regions rights across Queensland.

As part of the \$6.9 million committed over four years we continue to assist Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to complete their studies and have an economically independent future in regions right across Queensland. We will again support the Queensland Women in STEM Prize and continue our annual contribution to the STEM Girl Power Initiative for women and girls in regions right across Queensland. We are investing \$1.6 million over three years to continue the Women of the World Festival—a wonderful opportunity to celebrate women's and girls' achievements and build change-making networks of women from all backgrounds and circumstances.

These are just some of the numerous initiatives that our budget provides. We are building a stronger Queensland by creating new jobs, growing new industries, building better infrastructure, delivering high-quality front-line services and focusing on regions. Our women and girls will play an equal part in a stronger Queensland.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (10.15 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, pursuant to the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009 I table a report by the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland titled *10 years on: Queensland government agencies' self-assessment of their compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 5 of 2018-19—10 years on: Queensland government agencies' self-assessment of their compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [977].

It reports on the agencies' self-assessment of their progress in addressing strategic and operational requirements of the acts across the 10 years since commencement. It summarises reported progress in implementing legislation, highlights emerging trends and challenges and guides action for the continued maturing of information access and privacy practices in Queensland to ensure agencies are well placed to meet community expectations and manage risk. I commend the report to the House.


Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before going to question time I wish to acknowledge that we have with us in the gallery today David Hodgett MP, state member for Croydon from the parliament of Victoria, who is the shadow minister for sport, tourism and major events. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

LNG Royalties

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): My first question is to the Premier. On 30 May 2019 when the Premier was in Gladstone, the LNG capital of Queensland, she said that there would be no royalty increase in this year's budget. Just 12 days later Labor has increased LNG royalties by 25 per cent. How can Queenslanders trust anything this Premier says?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Queenslanders can trust us but they cannot trust the LNP. You only have to go back to 2012, when they said there would be no increases in coal royalties and then they increased coal royalties. They said there would be no impact on the Public Service and they cut 14,000—

Mr Dick: 'Nothing to fear.'

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection. They said they had nothing to fear. When I was in Gladstone we were talking about a brand-new hydrogen industry for Queensland. As I said very clearly in my ministerial statement this morning, Japan recognises how resource rich we are. They know how important our metallurgical coal exports are. Now they want to talk to us about a renewable energy program utilising hydrogen. I believe that Gladstone has the capacity to help Japan with that, but we are not ruling out Townsville either. South Korea is very much looking forward to utilising Townsville as a potential export hub for hydrogen. We will work with these countries to realise what is potentially a more than \$100 billion a year industry. I am happy to talk about gas royalties, because it was a Labor government that set up the industry 10 years ago. From memory, the LNP was opposed to it.

That is why we said we are reviewing the royalties system for the gas industry—very clearly. We ruled out an increase in coal royalties. Those opposite increased coal royalties by \$1.6 billion and then they said they would have a Royalties for the Regions program. What did they do? The Auditor-General did a report and said that they favoured LNP electorates. They gave Mackay, which produced more than 50 per cent of the royalties of this state, around 12 per cent, because Mackay was held by the member for Mackay back then, the Hon. Tim Mulherin. Do not come into this chamber and lecture how supportive you are of regions when you are not. Do not come in here and lecture us about trust when Queenslanders do not trust the LNP.

(Time expired)

Budget, Resources Industry

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to media reports that the Treasurer grossly misunderstood who would pay her half a billion dollar tax grab on the resources sector. How can Queenslanders trust anything the Palaszczuk government says when the Treasurer does not even understand Labor's new taxes?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about trust any day.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. She does not trust the shadow Treasurer to talk about the budget.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, the level of interjection is unbearable. I appreciate there is some provocation as well as questions being asked that you wish to have answered. I ask that you keep your level of interjection to a minimum. I need to hear, as does Hansard, the speaker on their feet.

Ms PALASZCZUK: She does not trust the member for Everton to comment on the budget. No, no, no. She has outsourced that to the member for Clayfield, and we know how much Queenslanders trusted the Newman-Nicholls government. That was a big disaster as we saw three years later even when they had the biggest majority that Queensland has ever seen. Let me remind those opposite. LNP members sat all the way around the chamber and ended opposite us there, and we in Labor were sitting at the end with seven members. They lost the trust of Queenslanders in the 2012 election and then it went back.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I ask under standing order 118(b) that you come back to the question that has been asked. It may assist with the level of interjection.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Broadwater for his interjection because he lost the trust of the people of Townsville and he had to flee south.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left in particular, pointing and making personal attacks is unacceptable in this chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. If they want to talk about trust, I can say that the *Brisbane Times* reports today that the LNP will not rule out axing public servants to balance the budget. Do they want to talk about trust, Mr Speaker? There it is. Today we are going to hear where the \$5 billion of unfunded commitments is going to come from. I am looking forward to hearing that. It is either going to be sacking, cutting or selling. How do we know that? Because the LNP has form. Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP in this state. They cannot trust them. They say one thing before an election and they do another thing.

Ms Trad: Electricity prices, royalties, transfer duties.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. In relation to electricity prices, we all know that electricity prices rose 43 per cent under the LNP. We know that the Leader of the Opposition said that she was proud of the Newman government. In fact, I think she went on Sky TV from memory just recently and talked about how proud she was of what Campbell Newman did in Queensland. I am ashamed of what Campbell Newman did to Queensland. He cut, he sacked and he sold.

(Time expired)

Budget, Mackay-Whitsunday Region

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting the Mackay-Whitsunday region?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for that question. She is a very strong advocate for her local community. The member for Mackay advocates and we deliver. In relation to the Mackay-Whitsunday area, Tuesday's budget is delivering \$615 million towards infrastructure, \$463 million towards health and \$31.9 million towards education and it is supporting some 2,100 jobs.

We only have to think about what happened with Tropical Cyclone Debbie to know how that area was devastated. I am very pleased that the member for Mackay will represent the government this Saturday when Daydream Island reopens. When Tropical Cyclone Debbie went through Mackay-Whitsunday and especially those islands, Daydream, Hayman and Hamilton islands copped a fair brunt of that. Daydream Island has been rebuilt. It is going to again be a jewel in the crown of the Queensland tourism industry and I know that many people will enjoy what Daydream Island has to offer.

I go back to what we are going to hear from the Leader of the Opposition today. We are hearing some exclusive reports that she is going to be talking about royalties, that maybe there is a Royalties for the Regions program like what Jeff Seeney, the former deputy premier, put in place. When it came to delivering that Royalties for the Regions program in Mackay, let me say very clearly that the Auditor-General found that that program which the LNP adopted did not deliver for the regions that produced the royalties. In fact, the Auditor-General said it delivered mainly for LNP members

The Royalties for the Regions program was evaluated by the Auditor-General. We know that the Deputy Premier at the time had I think from memory three airstrips upgraded in his own electorate. We know he spent over \$600,000 on those charter flights. However, Mackay received roughly 12 per cent of the funding, and that was actually outlined very clearly in this Auditor-General's report on Royalties for the Regions.

We will continue to invest in the regions, as we have always done. The budget that the Treasurer handed down backs our regions and it backs jobs, and we will continue to do that. I also look forward to visiting Mackay next week. I think I am opening the show. It will be wonderful up there in Mackay to continue the strong representation—

(Time expired)

Budget, Vehicle Registration

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday the Premier said Queensland's car registration is competitive with other states, yet the RACQ says Queensland's registration is one of the highest in the nation. Given this latest increase is above CPI and will be Labor's fifth registration hike in five years, how can Queenslanders trust anything this Premier says?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said yesterday, it is the federal government's CPI rate. As I also said—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, predicted rate. It was those opposite who actually had a government indexation rate of 3.5 per cent in their last budget. It was the LNP that put in the framework of the government indexation rate. Perhaps those opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana! Member for Glass House! The Premier has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps those opposite can actually outline why they made that decision—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Conversations between one another loud enough to be audible are considered interjections. You cannot disguise them, people.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to talk about our record budget in roads and transport as well. We are putting money into continuing works along the Bruce Highway, improving our beef roads, the Cairns Smithfield bypass, the Mackay Ring Road—

Ms Trad: The Townsville Ring Road.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—the Townsville Ring Road and, of course, Rocky gets a mention as well. Registration is important because it means that we can continue to build the roads. Queensland is the most decentralised state. I get a lot of representations from the mayors out west wanting us to continue the Western Roads Upgrade, which we continue to do. We will always make sure that people are employed locally to ensure they get that work. You cannot trust the LNP. They cut RoadTek staff—

Ms Trad: And TIDS.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—right across Queensland and they also cut the TIDS program. From memory, it was around 600 RoadTek staff, but I am more than happy to go back and check that.

We will continue to invest in the transport that is needed across Queensland, whether that is road or rail. Of course, it was the LNP that put in place a 3.5 per cent government indexation rate, and we scrapped that.

Skills and Training

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is growing and strengthening Queensland's skills and training system?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. I know how much she is welcoming the additional money for the redevelopment of the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. I back in what the Minister for Training and Skills Development has said that today is TAFE day. It is an opportunity for us to congratulate all of our students and workers who work in the TAFE industry right across Queensland. That is why we have put over \$100 million in this year's budget to continue with the infrastructure that is needed across Queensland to grow TAFE.

Since free TAFE was launched in August 2018 more than 6,000 students have already started a new class for free. If people want to talk about changing people's lives, it is about ensuring that people have the opportunity to get a job when they leave school. The best way to get a job when they leave school is to get a qualification and to get that training that we need for the future. So far, 6,000 students have undertaken a new course for free. I am sure that that gives them a really good opportunity to actually get work into the future. As the minister said earlier, there is \$15 million to revitalise the Mount Gravatt campus, more than \$15 million allocated over the next financial year for the Gold Coast campus, and of course Pimlico and Toowoomba campuses will be completed this year. I look forward to joining members at the opening of those campuses.

What is very encouraging is the fact that the number of people in Queensland who are now moving into TAFE training has increased dramatically over the past 20 years. The percentage of people getting a certificate, diploma or advanced diploma has risen from 27 per cent to 38 per cent. The percentage of people with no post-school qualification has nearly halved in that same 20-year period, going from 60 per cent to 36 per cent. With people getting the training in years 11 and 12 and also having that opportunity to get skills training, it really does mean that we are setting up a workforce for the future in Queensland. As I said, that agricultural centre of excellence in Toowoomba, backing in the development that is happening with the Wellcamp Airport and hopefully an export hub in the future are some examples of how my government is prioritising the jobs of the future that we need and growing regional communities.

Correctional Centres

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Premier. I refer to WorkCover Queensland's assessment that Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is one of the safest prisons in Queensland. Given the Palaszczuk government is slugging Queenslanders \$111 million to take over privately managed prisons that have industry-leading safety records, how can Queenslanders trust a word this government says?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to get more details in relation to the question. As I think many members will know, the CCC did an investigation in relation to how the correctional facilities were run and it was advised that hybrid models were perhaps not the best models. That is why we are taking them back into government control. We want our prisons to be a safe workplace for people. Can I also add—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock, member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. The Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is why this government is not only expanding the correctional facility in Rockhampton, creating more beds, but also building a brand-new expansion facility out in Gatton. Once again, I still have not heard the member for Lockyer—I think I got a smile, so I think he must be happy. What that new correctional facility means—over \$600 million—is 500 ongoing jobs. Those jobs are not just going to be located in Gatton, but they can be drawn from Ipswich and Toowoomba as well. This gives long-term, secure employment to locals in this area. I think honourable members will find that our investment in infrastructure, including adult and youth detention facilities, is over a billion dollars. We are a growing state, we are building the infrastructure that is needed and we are creating those long-term, secure jobs.

I am happy to get some further details about the WorkCover aspect, and perhaps the minister can address that later.

Budget, Regional and Remote Queensland

Ms LUI: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier outline for the House how this year's budget is backing jobs and service delivery in regional and remote communities and if there is any alternative?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Cook for her question. Can I say from Kowanyama to Thursday Island this budget is delivering for the people of Far North Queensland and particularly in some of those very remote Indigenous communities. In this year's budget, in the financial year of 2019-20, our almost \$1 billion infrastructure investment in the far north will create more than 3,300 jobs. Primarily, this money will be spent on remote Indigenous housing, which I talked about earlier in the chamber, but also there is money for seawalls in the Torres Strait, which we have been lobbied about by the Torres Strait Islander community as well as by the member for Cook. It is very important in terms

of dealing with extreme weather events and sea level rise. Of course, there is also money in this year's budget over the forward estimates for more than \$1.4 billion worth of roadworks. That Peninsula Development Road is going to be critical in terms of opening up the north to tourism opportunities.

We can make these investments because, as we heard from Standard & Poor's, we have a track record of strong financial management—strong financial management which has been recognised by the ratings agencies. I am really conscious of the fact that very soon the Leader of the Opposition will get up and outline her alternate economic plan, and we know that the shadow Treasurer has said it would be crazy to actually detail a debt management plan this far out from the election. We know that on this side of the House we can actually deliver on these sorts of investments in our state because of our strong financial management. What did Standard & Poor's say in 2014? What did it say about the LNP and its financial management of the state? It said that it had a very weak performance in terms of the state's finances.

We saw that in terms of economic growth under the LNP—5.1 per cent in the entire time it was in government, compared to over 11 per cent since we have been in government. More than anything else, there is our record on jobs growth compared to theirs. When we came into government, unemployment was 6.7 per cent and today it is less than six per cent. If we want economic growth, investment and jobs, it is all about a Labor government delivering for Queenslanders—not those opposite.

Rockhampton, Ice Rehabilitation and Treatment Facility

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's election promise to build a new ice rehabilitation and treatment facility in Rockhampton by June 2020. Given the Premier will fail to deliver this election commitment on time, with almost 90 per cent of the funding for this facility after the next state election, how can Queenslanders trust a word this Premier says?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know the impacts that ice is having. That is why this government took the unprecedented step of holding the first ever ice summit. We put it on the national agenda. I very clearly remember the member for Keppel raising these issues with me from a local perspective, and we had that summit in Rockhampton. In relation to the ice facility in Rockhampton, I can confirm that the departments have been negotiating on a suitable block of land. This is being done in consultation with council. I understand that the land has now been identified.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I have been clear about interjections when that is the case.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Construction will start this financial year. There has been some difficulty in identifying exactly where this facility should be located. As members would appreciate, it is a brand-new facility and the community needs to be absolutely 100 per cent guaranteed that it will be in the right location. I have actually—

Mr Mander: There is no spare land in Rocky!

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is about actually finding the right place. Money has been allocated. It is about finding the right place. As I have said in this House, we understand that a number of young people coming into our youth justice system, and of course into our adult correctional facilities, are there as a direct result of the drug ice. That is why, in another first, we are looking at addressing those issues as well in the corrective system. We take this issue seriously. We were, I believe, the first state to have the ice summit—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the House will put her comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In fact, I can also recall holding a discussion with people in Townsville about ice. We had a regional one, and I think from memory there was also one held in Logan. We will continue to work with families and local councils, and there will be an ice centre to rehabilitate people addicted to ice. This is a very serious issue. I know those interjecting think this is frivolous, but it is not.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They come up with no ideas of their own. I notice the Leader of the Opposition started talking about it a year ago when we actually raised it several years ago. Construction will start in the next financial year.

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on the government's work delivering infrastructure for the regions and whether there are any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question and for her support for our government's plan to strengthen regional Queensland, particularly Central Queensland, for which she is a very strong advocate, along with the member for Rockhampton. To date, the \$295 million Building our Regions has supported 223 infrastructure projects across 66 local government areas in regional Queensland, supporting 2,419 jobs. This has unlocked co-contributions of almost \$487 million from local governments, the federal government and others to create a total value of capital expenditure of almost \$780 million.

While Building our Regions is delivering for Queensland, we have heard the Leader of the Opposition announce another royalties gimmick. The Leader of the Opposition's bold, powerful policy is to spend royalties you do not have to deliver precisely zero for regional Queensland. This is 'Deb-onomics'—writing a cheque with money you do not have for things you cannot afford. This is 'Deb-onomics'—cutting, sacking, selling and delivering absolutely nothing for regional Queensland. It is another LNP scam from the party that wrote the book on scamming regional Queensland. Let us not forget the LNP's so-called Royalties for the Regions program or, as it is better known, 'Rorts for Regions'. Jeff Seeney spent half a million dollars in the regional *Q Magazine* to promote himself. If members want to know how bad was the LNP 'Rorts for Regions program', they do not need to take my word for it; they can listen to the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General said that the Royalties for the Regions program was more likely to fund projects in LNP electorates. About the LNP royalties gimmick the Auditor-General said—

... it remains unclear what actual criteria were used to decide what projects were to be funded.

The key criterion was: where did Jeff Seeney want to land a plane? Three airstrips were rebuilt in his electorate, including at Monto, so he could chauffeur himself by air around Queensland. That is what the LNP stands for—looking after themselves and ignoring regional Queensland. Do not listen to what they say; look at what they do. Now we have the chance to hear from the Leader of the Opposition. How will she fund \$5 billion in unfunded election commitments? She has an hour to do that, because if she does not explain it—

(Time expired)

Mackay Ring Road

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's member for Mackay claiming Mackay was 'lucky' to receive \$70 million in the budget for the Mackay Ring Road stage 2 only three days ago. Given that the budget does not even mention this project, let alone allocate a single cent for it, how can Queenslanders trust a word this Palaszczuk government says?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My advice is that, in relation to the Mackay Ring Road, \$60 million out of the \$497.4 million for stage 1 of the two-lane ring-road is allocated and confirmed by the minister. This is an 80-20 arrangement with the federal government—one that we are honouring, and we are getting on with the job. I do not know the premise of the member's question, but we will continue to deliver for Mackay, unlike those opposite. As I have said very clearly in this House before, when they were in office their Royalties for the Regions program—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118, relevance. The Premier asked what was the relevance of the question. The question specifically talked about stage 2 of the project, acknowledging the Premier talked about stage 1. The member for Mackay's quote concerned stage 2. The basis of the question concerned stage 2, not stage 1.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has the call. Premier, under standing order 118(b) please come back to the core of the question, which relates to stage 2.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are finishing stage 1 first before we move on to stage 2. Just like with Gold Coast Light Rail, we actually built stage 1 and then we wanted to build stage 2. We had to drag the federal government to the table to build stage 2.

While I am on my feet, I would like to talk more about Mackay. I am happy to talk more about Mackay, because we are continuing to deliver. For the Mackay port there is \$12.7 million out of \$20.9 million for improved access and relocation of the tug facilities for larger vessels. In relation to the


Bluewater Trail and Queens Park, there is \$3.1 million of \$8.9 million for improvements after the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In relation to domestic and family violence, there is \$228,000 out of \$935,000 for Indigenous liaison teams and also to support high risk. The Mackay Netball Association gets \$226,000 out of \$500,000 under the Female Facilities Program.

As I said earlier, there is \$615.2 million of infrastructure for the Mackay-Whitsunday region. We will always back Mackay. The Treasurer went up there and announced \$14 million for the Mackay sugar mill, securing the future of the sugar mill for future investment opportunities.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.50 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. If I heard the question correctly, the honourable member for Glass House said that there was no reference in the budget to Mackay Ring Road stage 2, otherwise known as the Mackay Port Access Road. There are clear references to it in QTRIP, which is part of the budget. I intend to review the question in its specificity—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders. I have made it a practice to hear points of order in silence to understand the points members are trying to make. I cannot do that if you are interjecting. Minister, will you be writing to me regarding this matter?


Mr BAILEY: I will be writing to you about this matter if the House has been misled.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Innovation

 **Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to invest in innovation to create jobs across Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. There are a lot of things the member for Cairns and I have in common. One of them is that every morning we wake up to create jobs in Queensland. That is exactly what we are doing through our innovation agenda.

Today I have announced that through the investment we have made by partnering with the private sector—major businesses, small businesses and start-up businesses—we have now created, through Advance Queensland, more than 15,200 jobs. This is 15,200 Queensland jobs that absolutely would have been on the chopping block if the LNP had been elected at the last state election. Their record speaks for itself. We know that when they were last in government they sacked more than 12,000 public servants and took the razor to many of the core functions of government, and then backed it up with gag clauses so people could not talk about the cuts there were imposed on them. They also cut more than \$50 million from the innovation budget. It just goes to show that there is one thing you can rely on when it comes to the LNP. They sing from only one song sheet: cut, sack, sell.

We are investing in jobs in Cairns. Through an Ignite Ideas grant from the state government, Cairns based Sophus Health has commercialised its product, which is now available for everyone to download and get benefit from. It seeks to tackle one of the greatest problems we have here, and that is healthy living.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms JONES: KFSU, a food-tech business based in Ayr, has created more than 13 jobs in regional Queensland with Advance Queensland backing. GO1 has developed a new training solution for engineering, mining and energy. It has received an Ignite Ideas grant that has created more than 30 jobs. Already today I have spoken about RedEye, a Brisbane based company that has now expanded

globally. It has gone from having only two jobs to over 100 jobs globally. These are real Queensland jobs creating economic activity and growth. That is why we continue to see unemployment at much lower levels than under the LNP's terrible record.

Today, in less than an hour, we will hear from the Leader of the Opposition about the LNP's plan to deliver for the people of Queensland. I have sat through many of these, probably too many to mention—in fact, we all look the same. It will just be the same old thing: cut, sack, sell. Those opposite will not invest in Queensland's brains. They will not invest in Queensland jobs. They will do what they have always done, because it is the only script they have. They want to cut front-line services, sack public servants and sell our assets. Our government backs Queenslanders no matter where they live, backs business, backs jobs and will continue to deliver.

(Time expired)

Bundaberg, Hospital

Mr BATT: My question without notice is to the Premier. After a 400-day-plus absence from Bundaberg, the Premier recently flew in promising a new hospital. However, in the budget this week there is no funding, no site and no time line for this promised project. How can the people of Bundaberg believe anything the Premier says, given this government is all talk and no action?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to talk about Bundaberg and about the new hospital for Bundaberg. Let me explain the process.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba South, under standing order 253A you can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Toowoomba South withdrew from the chamber at 10.55 am.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Initially you do an evaluation to see whether or not a new hospital is viable. That evaluation has come back and has given the proposal a tick. Now we will go through and do a detailed business case. In the meantime, it has been confirmed by the health minister and by the chair of the HHS that they are now actively looking for a site.

I can also advise the House that I have received correspondence from the mayor of Bundaberg welcoming, for the first time ever, a commitment from the government that there will be a site identified and a new hospital. In fact, the mayor of Bundaberg has written to me and said that he would like to assist the Department of Health in identifying that site. There is great cooperation from the mayor of Bundaberg, working with the state government to identify the site for a vital piece of infrastructure for Bundaberg.

While I am on my feet, I thank the local family that invited me on to their property in Bundaberg to see the great expansion that is happening as a result of some of our agricultural grants. This family matched the grant, resulting in 50 jobs. They can also expand their facilities and are now looking at expanding their export markets. It was great to see this cooperation.

I acknowledge the great work of Minister Furner, the farmers' friend, in recognising the needed infrastructure to partner with farms to grow their businesses and create jobs. There has never been a greater friend of the farmer than Minister Furner.

While in Bundaberg I also had the opportunity to visit the Bundaberg Show. I met many service providers who are doing extraordinary work. I had a great time there. I will definitely be back.

Resources Industry

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, and I ask: can the minister update the House on how the resources industry is performing in Queensland and whether he is aware of any alternative policies?

Dr LYNHAM: The member for Thuringowa knows that it is not just the Maroons that are going from strength to strength; the Queensland resources sector is also going from strength to strength. There is a conga line of new and reopened resources projects across this great state. In fact, since Labor came to government there has been \$20 billion worth of committed or going resource projects supporting 7,000 jobs. I am very pleased to advise the House that Queensland is a resources powerhouse.

In fact, exploration investment is up by more than 20 per cent over the year to March—that is, \$134 million in exploration. We are the only party that supports the resources sector in this state. We are the only party that supports the miner, the explorer, their families and the regions—the only party.

Queensland continues to be the investors' choice, with a 13.4 per cent increase over the year for mineral exploration expenditure and new tech minerals for our renewable future. We provided concessions for explorers during the downturn—the downturn of those opposite. We are investing \$30.9 million over four years in the north-west for large-scale geological programs. What did those opposite offer? What did they offer? As usual, they opposed concessions for our exploration sector. They opposed supporting our explorers and their families. They opposed the regions.

A government member: Why do they hate the regions?

Dr LYNHAM: They would not back them. What happened as mineral exploration fell off a cliff under their government? Let us take a look. In 2012 some \$962 million was spent on exploration. In 2014 only \$494 million was spent—halved in two years. What exactly did the policy dynamo opposite do when it fell off a cliff? They did the only thing they could think of—nothing, nil. They were too busy trying to sell our assets. What can those opposite offer us now in exploration? All they can offer us is 'Radioactive Man from Hinkler' and 'Fallout Broadwater Boy'. That is all they have, so dust off the Geiger counters, sharpen the pick, sell the donkey: here comes the LNP!

Electricity Prices

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The Northern Iron & Brass Foundry near Innisfail has already been hit with a 126 per cent increase due to the waste levy and now will be slugged a 40 per cent increase on electricity charges with the government's removal of tariff 37. Will the minister commit to reviewing the proposed removal of this tariff to save the industry and 700 regional jobs?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Hill for his question. I listened to your adjournment speech last night with interest—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will put your comments through the chair, please.

Dr LYNHAM: Sorry, Mr Speaker. I listened to the member's adjournment speech last night where he mentioned this issue. I understand its concerns and two weeks ago I arranged a meeting with foundry owners in my office. I will be meeting with them shortly, but I take the opportunity to recognise that those opposite said something like I would not meet with foundry owners. The same day I looked in the paper and they said I would not meet with canegrowers, but I remember I was in my office meeting with canegrower representatives!

However, I did listen to the member's speech last night and, as he said, tariff 37 is indeed disappearing as part of the ACCC recommendations and before that as their government did support the removal of obsolete tariffs, so it is in fact disappearing. Energy Queensland is working cooperatively with manufacturers and with large users on a new tariff structure. The draft tariff structure has gone out to some of our larger consumers already and that is being worked through with Energy Queensland. Therefore, we do understand the member's concerns and we are actively addressing those concerns.

Let us look closely at those opposite. What did they do and what are their claims? We heard the member for Warrego stand up and say that people in her electorate have been slugged with 100 per cent price increases over 10 years. The metric is very important—10 years. Why does the member for Warrego pick 10 years? We promised to stabilise inflation over five years for large consumers and the price rise was 3.5 per cent. If we do our maths, that is a 96.5 per cent price rise under those opposite. So what is it—43 per cent or 96.5 per cent? What are you going to claim now, member for Warrego?

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister.

Dr LYNHAM: We understand that over the last two years there has been no increase in price for obsolete tariffs and the Queensland Competition Authority also in its latest determination said that there would be no further increase for obsolete tariffs. We listen to people in the regions. We understand their concerns. In 2012 those opposite promised \$120 off everyone's electricity bill. The federal LNP promised \$550 off under the NEG. What did we get from the feds? Nothing! What did we get from those opposite? A 43 per cent price rise or, as the member for Warrego wants to call it now, a 96.5 per cent price rise. It is just not good enough. This side of the House looks after the regions.

Budget, Education

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise the House how the budget ensures every Queensland child gets a world-class education regardless of where they live in our state?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question because, as a former principal, he knows what it means to have extra teachers and teacher aides, he knows what it means to have extra investment in facilities at schools and he knows that in the regions and everywhere throughout Queensland we deliver a world-class education, and this budget ensures that we continue to do that—that no matter where children live they get a world-class education. I am very proud of the additional infrastructure spend that we are—

Mr Watts interjected.

Ms GRACE: I hear the member for Toowoomba North interjecting, and I am coming to you.

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister.

Ms GRACE: Through you, Mr Speaker, I am coming to the member for Toowoomba North. We are investing \$1.464 billion on state school infrastructure which does not include the additional \$100 million that we are investing in the non-state school sector as well, honouring our commitment to assist those schools to also deliver a world-class education, but it is regional schools that are the big winners. Close to \$400 million will be spent building new classrooms and refurbishing, expanding and maintaining existing facilities from Cape York—it was wonderful to visit the Torres Strait and Lockhart River with the member for Cook—right down to Coolangatta, and we have heard about the new schools.

In Townsville and surrounding areas there is \$31 million, with \$574,000 for Pimlico, \$11 million for Heatley Secondary and \$7 million to complete the second stage of the \$47 million new North Shore school in Hinchinbrook. In the Wide Bay—I heard the member for Bundaberg—there will be additional classrooms. Bundaberg State High is receiving an \$11 million injection. In Hervey Bay—I met with the member for Hervey Bay—we announced \$10 million spending for the Hervey Bay State High School after we met to deliver classrooms and multipurpose areas, and that is a great win for that area.

One thing those opposite did when they were in government was put up the 'for sale' sign, and nowhere more so than the Darling Downs and the south-west. I met with the member for Condamine and he wants to see us buy some land. In the meantime, what were those opposite about to do? They had the Wyreema State School slated to close. We stopped it with the community. They rallied and we stopped that happening. We have now saved that community, and that school, through the injection of funds that we are putting in, has tripled in size.

If you build it, they will come. That is what we have done in the Toowoomba area. There is \$11 million to renew the Toowoomba State High School, but what did those opposite do? They sold the Toowoomba South State School and they sold the Stuart school site and now the member for Condamine wants me to buy new land for a new high school. We are looking into it and there will be more news to come. We have done an excellent job spending on schools right throughout Queensland.

Queensland Health, ieMR Project

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to media reports of secret recordings of Labor's director-general of Health which have revealed that he has been forced to speak positively of the ieMR upgrade in public. Will the Premier halt the rollout of the ieMR and immediately investigate who is pressuring the top public servant in Queensland Health?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As members will be aware, the health minister made a ministerial statement this morning in relation to the rollout. In relation to the progressive rollout, it will be closely monitored and, as the minister said, it is always done in careful consultation with the clinicians and patient care and safety is always front and centre. I have every faith in the minister and the director-general continuing those discussions in the best interests of families entering into our healthcare system.

Whilst I am on my feet, I want to correct the record. Earlier I said that 600 staff had been axed under the former LNP. It was actually 700.

Budget, Health

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's record Health budget will support jobs in the regions?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. It is a good and important question, because our record Health budget is creating jobs in every region in Queensland, including Rockhampton. I know that the member for Rockhampton will be interested to know that our \$622 million investment into the Central Queensland HHS will create jobs for doctors, nurses and health workers in our hospitals as well as jobs for construction workers in our important construction projects.

There will be 115 more jobs in hospital and health services throughout the Central Queensland region—a region that was decimated by the cuts made by those opposite. One hundred and ninety-seven jobs were cut from the Central Queensland HHS. We have replaced them and more again with this budget. That is not to mention the people who will feed their families with the money they receive by working on our construction projects, such as this 42-bed rehabilitation facility that will begin construction next year and the \$42 million Gladstone ED refurbishment that is under construction which is employing people now.

It is not just in Central Queensland where this is the case; right across Queensland's regions we are creating jobs in hospital construction projects as well as jobs for healthcare workers. In Cairns, our record \$1 billion investment will see us recruit 130 new staff to the hospital and health service where those opposite cut 306. On the Darling Downs, our \$847 million investment will see us recruit another 164 staff where those opposite cut 116. That does not include the construction workers on the Kingaroy Hospital.

On the Gold Coast, we will employ 322 more health staff where those opposite cut 52. In Mackay, our \$463 million investment into the Mackay HHS will allow us to recruit 44 more doctors, nurses and healthcare workers where those opposite cut 32. In the north-west, our budget is up, where those opposite cut 14 staff. In the south-west, those opposite cut 55 staff, but we are increasing the budget. On the Sunshine Coast, they cut 65 staff and we are increasing the budget. In Townsville, we will recruit another 107 health workers where those opposite cut 397. In Wide Bay, we will recruit another 134 where those opposite cut 345.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: They do not like it—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Dr MILES: We create jobs—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Dr MILES: They sacked health workers.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I do not like repeating myself.

New Acland Coalmine

Mr WEIR: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's delays in approving the mining lease and associated water licence for New Hope's New Acland stage 3 expansion that may see 150 direct workers and hundreds of indirect workers lose their jobs. Will the Premier set a deadline of the end of August for the final approvals to protect these regional resource jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. My last advice is that it is still going through the courts, but I am happy to update the member.

Regional Roads and Transport Plan

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's four-year regional roads and transport plan outlined in this year's budget and the potential job opportunities that it will create?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Gladstone for his question. I know he will be doing the sod turning for the \$25 million upgrade of East Shores stage 1B, which is a fantastic project in his electorate. We are committed to regional Queensland. One only needs to look at our commitment and contrast it to that of the previous government, where its cuts bit the deepest in regional Queensland. Under the previous Newman government, there was \$600 million worth of cuts to road and transport projects. That previous government gutted the roads projects in regional Queensland, whereas we have invested four out of five record QTRIPs across our five budgets in regional Queensland. We are backing

in regional Queensland. There is a reason there are eight Labor members representing North Queensland and the opposition's representation there is down to one. We back in regional Queensland. We keep our ports in public hands. We invest in roads. We invest in jobs.

I will refer to the long list of projects that we have in regional Queensland that the members on the other side could have done and never did. There is the Smithfield bypass in Cairns, the Bruce Highway upgrade—the Cairns southern access—from Kate Street to Aumuller Street. Mr Speaker, we have already done Robert to Foster Road and we are about to do Gordon to Edmonton, which I know you will be very pleased about. We have the sealing of the Peninsula Developmental Road—a transformational project for those communities up there from both a road safety and economic point of view.

There is the Townsville Ring Road stage 5. Federal funds have been locked in for that as well as our funding. We funded that project first. We are doing that after we have done Riverway Drive. There is the Mackay Ring Road stage 1. When we have finished that, we will do the Walkerston bypass, which those opposite refused to do, and then we will do the port access road. There is the \$514 million upgrade of the Haughton River flood plain on the Bruce Highway, the Rockhampton northern access, the Sarina roundabout and northern access and the Cooroy to Curra Bruce Highway upgrade. There is the huge project on the Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway on the Sunshine Coast, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Warrego Highway upgrade and the Beerburrum-Landsborough rail duplication, where more than half a billion dollars will be spent.

There is also the port channel upgrade, which is critical to North Queensland's supply chain and economic future as it will reduce costs for exporting and importing. Under this government, that project is underway. There is also the expansion of Cairns port. We are keeping that port in public hands and investing in it, creating jobs. Under those opposite, the jobless rate in Cairns was at a high level and it has come down significantly since then.

There is the Queensland electric vehicle superhighway, which is getting ready for the future and the technological change that those opposite deny. There is the War on Wrecks. We have removed more than 250 sunken ships in our waterways. With the help of the member for Redlands, we are cleaning up our waterways. We are sealing roads such as the Cloncurry to Dajarra road. We are investing in regional Queensland. That is what this budget is about. We invest; they cut. That is the truth.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL


REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1847), Appropriation Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1855) and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 11 June (see p. 1857)

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.17 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.17 am): On Tuesday, the Treasurer began her speech by stating that budgets are about choices. I think we can all safely agree on that, but the choices that she made on Tuesday were the wrong choices for Queensland. The Treasurer chose to take another \$1.25 billion in tax from Queenslanders. The Treasurer chose to cut spending on infrastructure by half a billion dollars in the next financial year. The Treasurer chose to create fewer jobs and the Treasurer chose to increase debt, yet again, to \$90 billion. That is a \$67,000 debt bill for the typical Queensland family. Labor is not borrowing to build; Queenslanders are borrowing to bail out this incompetent government.

It is clear that Queensland cannot afford Labor and Queensland cannot trust Labor either. Its fiscal principles are now in the waste bin and so are its forecasts. Unless it drastically changes course, the Palaszczuk government will break the \$100 billion debt barrier. Labor's wrong choices are destroying jobs and they are blighting the future of this state.

Five years ago the Premier promised to deliver jobs, jobs, jobs. The good times she promised have not arrived yet. The good times are never coming back under Labor. As this budget has proved, the Palaszczuk Labor government is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs. That toxic combination will never work in Queensland. Instead of jobs, all the Premier has delivered is higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure.

Our state is stagnating. State final demand increased by just 0.3 per cent in the December quarter. Without net interstate migration to Queensland this anaemic figure would have been even lower. The construction industry is now in steep decline. The number of homes being built in Queensland has fallen to its lowest level since August 2012. The value of completed construction work has fallen to its lowest level since December 2006. That was almost 13 years ago. Investment has collapsed and so has confidence. The latest CCIQ survey showed that barely one in 10 businesses in the south-east expect our economy to improve.

The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to be rated the worst government in the nation in the census survey of small and medium sized businesses. It is no wonder that this Premier refuses to meet with her own business advisory council. The slump in confidence and investment is destroying jobs. In April more than 158,000 Queenslanders were looking for work. Our unemployment rate remains well above the national average. Our unemployment rate is far higher than Victoria and New South Wales.

Ms Jones: It's lower than yours!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, you are warned under the standing orders. I have been clear about comments coming through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Queensland is now a second-tier economy with a third-rate government. When one looks beyond the headline unemployment figures the picture gets even worse. In Mount Isa and Western Queensland the unemployment rate is at 14 per cent. The number of people out of work in Western Queensland has surged by almost a fifth in the last year. In Townsville more than 9,000 people are looking for a job. In Cairns and the Gold Coast, jobs are being lost as international airlines axe routes into Queensland.

Employment is not just a problem in our regions. The job crisis is right on Brisbane's doorstep. In Caboolture, unemployment is at 9.4 per cent. More than 11,000 people are out of work in the northern Moreton Bay area. In Logan 13,200 people are unemployed. That total has surged from 11,500 just one year ago. These numbers do not tell the full story of this government's failure. Under Labor the workforce has actually shrunk across much of Queensland. Townsville has lost 4,800 jobs since Labor came to power. In Mackay employment is falling off a cliff. Some 9,600 jobs have been lost in the last year alone. Alarming, the government's own budget papers show a 26,000 drop in forecast job growth. These numbers speak for themselves. Let us remember that every number is a Queenslander, a Queenslander who does not know where the next pay cheque is coming from, a Queenslander who cannot pay their bills, a Queenslander who cannot provide for their children.

How did we get to this point? Why is our state falling behind while the rest of the country is moving ahead? The answer is simple: the Palaszczuk Labor government is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs. Labor is draining billions of dollars from our economy in new taxes. Labor's taxes are toxic for business. Labor's taxes are destroying jobs. After ramping up charges and introducing new taxes in its first term, last year the Palaszczuk Labor government came back for another tax raid on Queenslanders. The Treasurer's first budget inflicted new taxes worth \$2.2 billion. The Treasurer's second budget picked up where she left off with even more taxes—another \$1.25 billion in new taxes.

In just two budgets Labor has ripped almost \$3.5 billion out of our economy with nine new or increased taxes. The LNG royalties hike will take \$476 million. The first land tax hike took \$540 million. The second land tax hike will take another \$238 million. The third land tax hike will take another \$311 million. The payroll tax hike will take \$544 million. The betting tax will take \$366 million. The property investors tax will take \$132 million. The car tax, also known as the grey nomad campervan tax, will take \$103 million. The waste levy—the biggest tax of the lot—will take \$1.3 billion.

The waste levy will pay for a new incinerator in Ipswich, but it will smash small businesses everywhere in Queensland, whether be it fish and chip shops or garages. Even hairdressers will be hit. The biggest hit of all will come to our struggling construction sector. Master Builders forecast the waste levy will add \$1,500 to the cost of a new home. Logan City Council will charge builders an extra \$100 for every time they take a trailer load to the waste dump. Labor's waste levy is nothing more than a tradie tax. It is a tax that will sting subbies on every worksite across Queensland. It is a tax on the tradies who build this state.

I am glad that Labor has implemented the payroll tax relief policy that the LNP took to the last state election. Fifteen hundred small businesses will pay no payroll tax as a result, but under Labor's budget a further 6,000 larger businesses will be stung with higher payroll tax. Queensland businesses will be taxed more for giving people a job. Labor's tax grab will also slow the growth of our LNG industry which has provided much needed employment in regional Queensland. Labor's latest land tax hike will be passed on to commercial tenants and then to Queenslanders.

Everyone will feel the impact of Labor's giant tax take. There is no safe space for Queenslanders when it comes to Labor's taxes. If these taxes were not enough, other government charges are soaring too. The Palaszczuk Labor government has now hiked rego more than \$48 since it came to power. Six-cylinder vehicles have been hit with a \$76 rise. Queenslanders are being squeezed by higher taxes and hikes in the cost of living. Queenslanders cannot afford Labor.

How much more is Labor planning to take? Nowhere has ever taxed its way to prosperity. Taxes make life tougher for ordinary Queenslanders and they damage business. Anyone who has ever run a business knows this. I know what I am talking about because I have run small businesses. I did not spend my working life in the Labor Party. I earned my wages in the real world. I learned that running a business is damn hard work. The people who run small and medium sized businesses are not the top end of town; they are the backbone of our economy and they are sick and tired of being undermined by Labor politicians, many of whom have never had a proper job in their lives.

If Labor ran businesses like they ran this state, they would have gone bust years ago. It is not just Labor's taxes that are holding back businesses; it is lack of demand. Under Labor, there are too many taxes and not enough contracts. We should be boosting job creation by investing in infrastructure, but Labor has slashed our infrastructure budget. More than \$9 billion was slashed from infrastructure during the first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This underinvestment in infrastructure has continued in the government's second term. On Tuesday the Treasurer boasted about a \$49.5 billion infrastructure program. It is a big number, but let us have a look at the small print. It is less than the LNP was spending more than five years ago. It is less than Queensland's long-term average infrastructure spend. It is less than every other state is spending as a proportion of revenue. It is less than we need to get our regions firing.

The truth is that the Palaszczuk Labor government has gutted infrastructure investment. The 2019 budget papers show infrastructure investment next year will be more than half a billion dollars less than stated in the 2018 budget. The infrastructure budget has been gutted to fund Cross River Rail. The regions and outer suburbs are being robbed to pay for Labor's flagship program in South Brisbane, just like they are being robbed to pay for a new theatre in South Brisbane, as well as a new school in South Brisbane and an upgraded stadium in South Brisbane. The South Brisbane building boom might be good news for the Treasurer, but it will not create jobs in Townsville or Toowoomba.

Labor would argue that higher taxes are delivering higher spending on health and education, but the truth is that our services are not improving. In fact, most services are getting worse. Commuters in the south-east have now endured 32 months of Labor's rail fail. Just 32 of the 472 services that were axed by Labor in 2016 have been restored. At this rate it will take more than 36 years for Labor to restore the Citytrain timetable.

Crime is spiralling out of control under this Premier. Since 2015 robbery is up 62 per cent, car theft is up 45 per cent and assault is up 32 per cent. Labor promised more police, but all we have got is more criminals. Our youth justice system is in absolute crisis. The nation has been sickened by the inhumane treatment of juveniles by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am not soft when it comes to crime, but the detention of kids in our watch houses is brutal and it is barbaric. We have juveniles locked up for 43 days at a time, frightened kids trying to hang themselves in our police stations and girls in detention alongside suspected sex offenders. This shameful situation has been caused entirely by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This arrogant and incompetent government has ignored our warnings.

It alone decided to remove 17-year-olds from adult prisons without any plan whatsoever. Who has been held accountable for this outrageous failure? No-one! In Queensland, your job is only safe if you are in the Palaszczuk cabinet.

In the past year our health service has been rocked by sackings and scandals. If you are frail or sick, you can no longer count on Queensland Health—not under this government. In March hospitals across the south-east ordered patients to stay away because of a code yellow crisis. Our public health system could not treat the public. In April paramedics and nurses at Logan Hospital argued over which patients could be admitted. Our paramedics and nurses blamed each other for the crisis. I blame Labor.

Queensland Health has been deteriorating ever since the Palaszczuk Labor government took office. Treatment times in our emergency departments have been increasing for years. In April a staggering 60 per cent of ED patients were not treated on time at the Gold Coast University Hospital. Ambulance ramping is back. Thirty-five per cent of ambulance patients arriving at Logan Hospital now spend at least 30 minutes stuck in their ambulance before being admitted. At the Gold Coast's biggest hospital, the number is 44 per cent. In the bush, maternity unit closures are putting country mums and bubs in danger.

Queensland is facing a health emergency and what has been Labor's response? It was to sack men such as Dr Stephen Ayre, the hospital chief executive who dared defend a doctor. The Palaszczuk government does not have a clue how to fix our broken hospital system. The only things that get fixed under this government are polls, such as the dodgy poll that was used to rename the Lady Cilento children's hospital. Every day in Queensland our doctors and nurses go to work to save lives and treat the sick, but our health minister goes to work to insult the memory of one of our greatest medical pioneers. Could he be any more out of touch?

This arrogant and incompetent government has the wrong priorities for the state. Unfortunately, this government's incompetence does not come cheap. It costs a lot of money to be this bad at running Queensland. Labor's debt is now on course to hit \$90 billion. Debt is soaring far beyond the projection made just one year ago. Alarming, the Palaszczuk Labor government no longer even pretends it has a plan to control this enormous debt. The Treasurer's attitude to debt is, 'Don't worry, she'll be right.' I do not believe this is a she'll-be-right situation. Labor is increasing taxes and increasing debt year after year. Queenslanders cannot afford Labor. When Labor run out of money, they come after yours, either through higher taxes or loading debt onto the taxpayer credit card. This reckless and irresponsible approach has to end.

A future LNP government will stop Labor's waste and treat taxpayers' money with respect. The LNP will stabilise Labor's debt and then begin repaying it, with a target of regaining the state's AAA credit rating. We will achieve that without asset sales and without forced redundancies in the Public Service. The LNP will maintain a fiscal principle that, over the economic cycle, we will have a fiscal balance—that is, we will not spend more than we receive. We will report against that fiscal principle in every budget. It will take time, but there is clearly scope for saving when you consider Labor's wasteful record. The LNP has identified over \$1 billion of Labor waste in the past 12 months and that is just from the publicly available data. We have seen \$460 million lost on IT project blowouts and \$111 million lost on a dodgy prison deal to appease union bosses. Anyone can see that Labor cannot continue on this course. The Palaszczuk Labor government cannot keep blundering on. It will either collapse or be kicked out. I hope it is the later.

I want Queenslanders to know that the LNP is ready to lead this state. We have fixed Labor's failures before and we are ready to do it again. Twelve months ago I unveiled the LNP's plan for Queensland. The LNP's plan is the most advanced program of action that any Queensland opposition has put forward. We announced it in the very first year of this parliament. Our plan has a simple aim: helping Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead.

Queenslanders are battlers. They are not afraid of hard work. They do not envy others. They simply want better lives for themselves and for their kids, and to get ahead. Queenslanders will roll up their sleeves. They will make sacrifices. They will struggle and they will fight, but they are sick of having to fight their own state government to get ahead. They are sick of the taxes and the bureaucracy that Labor has put in their path. They want a government that backs them not breaks them. I promise that an LNP government will back them all the way. It does not matter if you are a builder in Brisbane or a miner in Mackay; the LNP is on your side. Our plan will give every Queenslanders a go.

Under Labor, businesses dread a Labor state budget. It means only one thing—more tax. In the last two budgets Labor ripped almost \$3.5 billion in extra taxes out of the economy. Under my plan, the next LNP government will give Queensland a no new tax guarantee. There will be not a single new tax under the LNP. Queenslanders will be able to breathe easy at budget time. We will spend responsibly

and end Labor's waste. We will make stabilising our chronic debt a fiscal principle. We will improve our finances by expanding the economy. We will give businesses certainty on tax and allow them to plan for growth.

We will also give Queenslanders certainty about our Olympics bid. Disappointingly, the Treasurer failed to back the games in her budget speech. The Palaszczuk government has failed to provide any leadership on this issue. The LNP wants Queensland to go for gold. We are backing a bid for the Queensland Olympic Games. The games would supercharge our tourism industry, showcasing Queensland to the world. It would ensure that future-proofing infrastructure is delivered. Queensland will need this infrastructure with or without the Olympic Games, but a games bid will ensure the infrastructure is delivered.

Our economic plan will support Queenslanders in every corner of this state. The high price of electricity is one of the biggest complaints I hear from Queenslanders, especially in the regions. The Palaszczuk Labor government treats regional Queenslanders like second-class citizens. While consumers in the south-east have benefited from more competition between energy retailers, regional consumers are stuck with Ergon's rip-off rates. The LNP's plan will introduce retail price competition across the whole state. We will bring down bills for every home north of Gympie and west of Toowoomba. We will bring down the average regional bill by \$1,200 over the next parliament. That is \$1,200 that the LNP will put back into the pockets of regional households.

Our reforms will not just benefit the regions. Restructuring our power companies from two to three, as recommended by the Queensland Productivity Commission, will drive down wholesale power prices for everyone. The LNP will also unlock the benefits of green energy by mandating our power companies invest in renewables. Power workers have been laid off at Stanwell because our generators have been banned from competing with renewables. CS Energy's credit rating is under pressure because it cannot compete either. After two years of talk, the long-awaited CleanCo has yet to invest a single dollar in renewable energy capacity.

Labor's energy policy is a disaster. It is costing jobs. It is costing households. Labor's energy policy is costing our environment too. The LNP's plan will not just unlock the potential of our energy market; it will also unlock the potential of Queensland's water. Regional Queensland has had enough of the Palaszczuk Labor government's anti-farming agenda. Time and time again Labor has ignored the pleas of producers and only listened to the voices of environmental extremists. Labor's Brisbane based ministers do not care about the bush. They only care about their own backyards.

The LNP has never turned its back on our farmers and a future LNP government will get behind agriculture. We will begin with our plans for new dams because the LNP knows that water means jobs. We will progress both the Nullinga and Urannah dams, providing water for agriculture and industry in Central and North Queensland. We will also begin raising the Burdekin Falls Dam. Regional Queensland is crying out for new dams and new jobs. We will deliver both.

The LNP will also create a new government owned corporation in Townsville—the Queensland dam company—to implement our water projects. Under Labor Townsville residents saw millions of litres of water flood their homes then run out to the sea. Under the LNP we will harness water and create a flood of new jobs across Queensland. Cheaper power and water will give regional businesses the lift they desperately need.

Businesses will also benefit from the LNP's investment in infrastructure. Under Labor transport projects have been stuck in the slow lane, just like our commuters. Labor's congestion crisis is yet another brake on job creation. Congestion costs time and money. Small and medium sized businesses cannot afford it either. We will need spending to solve this crisis, but we all know Labor is only spending big in South Brisbane.

The LNP's plan will ensure the rest of Queensland gets its fair share. We will build a transport network that is fit for the 21st century. We will start by busting gridlock on the Gold Coast. We have committed \$550 million towards the second M1. We will work with Canberra to secure a fifty-fifty funding deal for the road.

Labor are not big fans of the second M1. The member for Macalister says that it could take 40 years to plan. If it were left to Labor it probably would take 40 years. That is if they decided to fast-track it. Fortunately, the LNP will not need 40 years. We will build the second M1 just like we built the first M1. The LNP will also stop the petty political bickering with Canberra that the Palaszczuk Labor government has practised since day one. Queenslanders are fed up with Labor's never-ending blame game. Voters on the Gold Coast want Labor to grow up and get on with it. They think the Premier has the wrong priorities and they are right.

The Premier rolls out the red carpet for Dora the Explorer. She throws public money at Hollywood to get a snap with the stars, but she refuses to work with our own Prime Minister to build infrastructure on the Gold Coast. This Premier is more interested in Instagram pictures than infrastructure. If she insists on bringing more kids characters to the Gold Coast then I have a suggestion to make. Forget Dora the Explorer, let us bring on Bob the Builder. Labor cannot get the job done, but Bob will definitely fix it.

Unlike Labor, I backed the federal government's M1 funding for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun and Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrades. Unlike Labor, I will work with Canberra to get Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A finally built. The LNP will build the infrastructure that Queensland needs.

In Central Queensland we will build stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road. Stage 2 is vital to the future of Mackay. It will link its port with the Bowen Basin, the Galilee Basin and prime agricultural regions further west. Some 500 jobs will be created during construction. That is why the federal government has agreed to fund 80 per cent of stage 2. Canberra is kicking in \$350 million, but the Palaszczuk Labor government will not commit a cent. It is another stab in the back for Central Queensland. I promise the people of Mackay that I will not waste a minute in getting this road built. The LNP will back Mackay by providing the \$70 million that is needed to finish that ring-road.

We will also invest in the Sunshine Coast. Labor started talking about duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line over a decade ago, and they are still talking about it. Let us face facts: the Sunshine Coast rail duplication will never be built by the Palaszczuk Labor government. If Sunshine Coast commuters want to travel on a new rail line, they have two options: one, they move to South Brisbane, because that is the only place the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in any rail; or, two, they vote for the LNP, because only the LNP will build this rail line.

We will accept the federal government's funding deal and invest \$390 million in the Sunshine Coast. Only the LNP is on board with this project. The LNP is on board with the Brisbane Metro too. Peter Beattie's busway vision was dumped by the Palaszczuk Labor government years ago, but they did not replace it with anything. This Labor government does not do plans, and it does not like anyone else to have a plan either. That is why it has repeatedly delayed approvals for this Brisbane City Council project. An LNP government will back Brisbane Metro and we will expand it across the suburbs. We will take decisive action to bust Labor's congestion crisis.

The LNP's plan will help commuters and it will help our kids. Last year the LNP pledged to air-condition every single state school classroom in Queensland. If elected in 2020, the LNP will put its air-conditioning plan into action. The contrast with Labor's half-baked announcement could not be clearer. Replacing air-conditioning units in the Cooler Schools Zone is nothing more than an air-con con. Labor's announcement was a slap in the face for our hardworking P&Cs. P&Cs should not be expected to raise money for essential items like air conditioning.

Unlike Labor, the LNP believes that no student should swelter in 40-degree heat. No teacher should teach in those conditions. Kids simply stop learning when it gets too hot. The LNP wants Queensland kids to be the smartest in the nation. We will air-condition every state school in Queensland because we know that cool kids are smart kids. The LNP's plan will lower temperatures in our classrooms and it will raise standards too.

The LNP's plan will also help Queenslanders whose lives are destroyed by ice. Ice addiction has exploded under the Palaszczuk Labor government's watch. Tackling ice is a priority for me and for my LNP colleagues. We have seen firsthand the damage this drug does. A future LNP government will build four new rehabilitation centres across the state, with more detox facilities to help people kick their addiction. We will deliver more treatment, more prevention and more rehabilitation. We will fight the war against ice in every corner of this state.

Many new policies have been added to the LNP's plan since I announced it 12 months ago. Unlike Labor, the party I lead is brimming with ideas. Today I am adding even more policies to the LNP's plan—policies which will create tens of thousands of new jobs, policies which will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

We all know that Labor and IT do not mix. Ten years on from the Health payroll debacle Labor has not learned a thing. The ICT Dashboard is currently showing a staggering blowout of almost \$450 million. Labor is incapable of controlling IT projects, but the LNP plan will do just that. The LNP will build a firewall that ensures Labor's digital disasters are never repeated. We will insist that the Chief Information Officer works with government departments to produce mandatory project criteria. Departments will be compelled to provide more information about their decisions and conduct regular health checks as projects are rolled out. The Chief Information Officer will investigate project failures and ensure that lessons are learned. We will keep technology budgets on track and in the black.

The impact of our new policies will be felt far beyond Brisbane. They will have the greatest impact in the areas that need the most help—our forgotten regions. The people of Central and North Queensland will never forget the shameful way that Labor played politics with their livelihoods. Today's Labor Party does not care about workers. It does not represent them and it does not share their values. The Labor Party may have been born in west Queensland, but today its roots are firmly in West End. The line between the Greens and Labor is now just a blur. The Premier can pull on her hard hat as often as she likes, but Queenslanders know that Labor is anti resources, anti jobs and anti regions.

Unlike Labor, I value the resources industry. Queensland is a resources state, and it is time we acted like one, so a future LNP government will implement measures to support resources and generate new jobs in the regions. We will begin by giving the sector the certainty it so desperately needs. We will give the industry a 10-year royalty guarantee, ensuring that businesses can safely invest in Queensland. Royalties will be frozen for a decade. We will not hold the mining industry to ransom like the Labor government. There are \$50 billion worth of projects in the pipeline for the Galilee Basin—projects which will create 15,000 new jobs—but they will not get off the ground until the industry regains its confidence in Queensland. Our royalties guarantee will restore confidence. Our plan will allow Queensland to finally access the wealth of the Galilee Basin.

Our plan will also guarantee that everyone benefits from that wealth. The Galilee Basin will deliver tens of thousands of high-paying jobs, as well as billions of dollars in royalties. Our resources are finite and they can only be sold once. We will not squander the state's royalties like the Palaszczuk Labor government has. Every cent from the Galilee Basin will go towards building a better Queensland. Every cent of the Galilee Basin's royalties will go into a new Queensland infrastructure fund. This fund will be used exclusively to pay for schools, hospitals, roads and bridges right across Queensland. We will ensure that the regions do get their rightful share. Regional Queenslanders do not want handouts; they just want their fair share of the wealth they create, and the LNP will give it to them. We will build new infrastructure that benefits Queenslanders today and for generations to come.

Queensland is blessed with natural resources, but our resources industry has been abused and exploited by the Palaszczuk Labor government. In particular, the project approvals process has been completely politicised. Anti-mining activists whose wages are funded from coal royalties have been welcomed into 1 William Street. Labor claims the approvals process is unbiased and independent. No-one believes a word of that. Labor has moved the goalposts on the approvals process. If we are to create more resources jobs, we must restore confidence in the system.

The approvals process must not be stacked against the resources sector. Each delay destroys jobs. The process should be fair and transparent, with a clear line of sight for the first dollar invested to the first dollar earned. The last LNP government halved the time taken for environmental approvals by introducing targets and time lines for actions. This work was undone by the Palaszczuk Labor government, but a future LNP government will restore key performance indicators for environmental approvals. These will be published, tracked and reported.

There will be a clear line of sight from the first dollar invested in a project to the first dollar it returns. KPIs will also be applied to the granting of exploration, tenure and production leases. The framework will respect our environment, but it will also respect the needs of industry. Not every company has Adani's staying power. Resource projects need certainty to get off the ground, and the LNP will provide certainty. We will send out the message that Queensland is open for business once again; however, that message will not be an easy sell after the Palaszczuk Labor government has spent years trashing our reputation on the world stage. We will need to spread the message ourselves. That is why the LNP will reinstate the position of the Queensland resources investment commissioner.

This role was designed to attract resources investment to Queensland, but it had one major flaw: investors will not waste their time working with a Labor government that is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs. The last commissioner was put in an impossible position. The commissioner's days were numbered as soon as she admitted that the approvals process for Adani was an absolute mess. Not for the first time a Palaszczuk Labor government employee found their job terminated because they told the truth. Under an LNP government our resources investment commissioner will be encouraged to tell the truth. They will be encouraged to tell the world that the LNP backs the resources industry 100 per cent. Our commissioner will be told to bring jobs to Queensland because jobs will be our priority.

More than 9,000 people are out of work in the Townsville region. At the port of Townsville throughput has halved in the last seven years. Times are tough in Townsville even though the city is the gateway to some of the richest mineral deposits on earth. A future LNP government will take the

shackles off the north-west minerals province. Labor's budget announcement on Tuesday failed to address all of the challenges faced by the north-west minerals province. Electricity costs and exploration funding are holding the province back. Transport is a challenge, but the province also needs cheaper electricity and more exploration. Labor has failed to listen, but the LNP will act.

Our plan will commit \$8 million to minerals exploration in the north-west. We will help Queensland capitalise on the growing demand for batteries and solar farms. The LNP will also cut the crippling electricity costs faced by the minerals sector. An energy audit will examine how we can bring down bills for that industry. The options include lowering the regional reference price as well as increasing generation in the north-west. By boosting supply with solar, gas, coal and hydro we will reduce transmission losses, meaning cheaper electricity and more jobs. We will supercharge the north-west economy and drive minerals wealth and jobs all the way from Mount Isa to Townsville.

Manufacturing must be front and centre of our economic future. The federal government is pumping billions into defence manufacturing in Ipswich, but other centres need support too. Under Labor thousands of manufacturing jobs have been destroyed in Brisbane, Townsville, Toowoomba, Mackay and Cairns. A future LNP government will stand up for manufacturing. We will create a \$20 million fund to back heavy engineering and manufacturing in this state. Unlike Labor, we will not write cheques for Scottish breweries. We will use Queensland money to help Queensland firms develop new markets in Australia and overseas. We will give manufacturers the support they need to succeed.

Business leaders and their employees all want to get on and get ahead, but they can only succeed if their state government has the same priorities. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk Labor government's priorities are all wrong. Just look at the collapse of training under Labor. Youth unemployment is shamefully high at 12.6 per cent, yet there are now 11,000 fewer Queenslanders in training compared to 2015. The number of Queenslanders completing apprenticeships and traineeships has plummeted by almost 40 per cent. So much for the Smart State. This do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government is throwing away the potential of our young Queenslanders. It is crushing their careers before they have even begun, and this collapse in training is holding back our key industries.


Unlike Labor, a future LNP government will deliver the skills that our employers need. We will give employers a seat at the training table by creating a Queensland industry skills council. The council will also include training and employee representatives who will report straight to the training minister. It will draw on data provided by bodies such as Construction Skills Queensland and Energy Skills Queensland, but it will also work with regional skills boards that report on local training needs. We will guarantee that young people get the training they need for the roles that are needed. The LNP will not fail young people. We will help them get a job and get ahead, unlike the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Palaszczuk Labor government had no plan when it came to power. Four and a half years later there is still no plan. I could say that this government has run out of energy and out of ideas, but it never had any of either. It is a small-target strategy that may have worked for some time, but it is clear that big changes are now needed. Queenslanders have had enough of the drift, delay and deceit. All that Labor gave them in this budget was higher tax, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. Unlike Labor, the LNP does have a plan. We have a plan to help every corner of Queensland, a plan to build the infrastructure this state needs and a plan to deliver the jobs our regions are crying out for. I have listened to Queenslanders across this state. They know that this government is going nowhere and it is taking them with it. They want a new direction for Queensland—a new direction that only the LNP can provide. Only the LNP will get this state back on its feet. Only the LNP will unite this state. Only the LNP will help every Queenslanders get a job and get ahead.

Interruption.


PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.07 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In her speech just now the Leader of the Opposition repeated the same accusation that the member for Glass House made: that the Mackay Ring Road stage 2, otherwise known as the Mackay Port Access Road, did not appear in the budget papers. It does in fact appear at pages 171 and 173 of the QTRIP document, and I will be writing to you about this matter because she has misled the House.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.08 pm): I am pleased to report good news to the House and the people of Queensland. Since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the May data figures for employment in Queensland reveal that the Palaszczuk Labor government has been responsible for creating almost 207,000 jobs in Queensland. What we have just heard from the Leader of the Opposition was arguably the most economically irresponsible budget reply that has ever been delivered in this House. It was the greatest mix of whingeing and incompetence since Alexander Downer was the leader of the federal opposition. It was not a plan; it was a letter to Santa—a wish list with no funding attached to it. It is ‘Deb-onomics’. ‘Deb-onomics’ means writing a cheque with money you do not have for things you cannot afford. ‘Deb-onomics’ means cutting, sacking and selling and giving nothing back to Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders. Say anything, promise anything, blow the lid off the spondometer, all aboard on the bus to the LNP Mount Fantasy.

I was actually quite surprised to see the Leader of the Opposition delivering the speech today, given everything we have heard about the spill now being on, but it showed that it was a speech more directed at the LNP party room than it was for the people of Queensland. It was a speech that sounded less like a budget reply and more like a recipe for a magic pudding. We all remember last year’s offering—the air conditioning of all Queensland schools. That is what the Leader of the Opposition said in the House—air conditioning for all Queensland schools. That lasted as long as it took for her to walk out of the chamber. How can Queenslanders trust anything the Leader of the Opposition says when it takes her the time for her to get out of the House to abandon a promise?

What about her commitment to 30 per cent renewables? That flamed out in almost as shorter period of time—faster than Clive Palmer’s political comeback. The Leader of the Opposition has learnt nothing from this experience. She stood up today and reannounced \$5.2 billion in unfunded promises. That is what she came into the House with, and then she added to it today. She made it worse. Let us take her 10-year freeze on royalties. Those resources belong to the people of Queensland, but if they implement a 10-year freeze how will they pay for their promises? They promised: building a second M1, \$2.4 billion; regional electricity commitment, \$768 million; air-conditioning schools, \$2 billion; four new ice rehab centres, \$56 million; land for Brisbane Metro, \$20 million; water infrastructure studies, \$20 million. Who is going to pay for that? They have ruled out taxes. They have promised a royalties holiday. They have said no more debt. What is left?

We know what is left because Queenslanders have seen this movie before. They saw this movie under Campbell Newman. What is left? They will have to cut over 10,800 government workers, calculated at \$1.3 billion a year over four years, to fund that \$5.2 billion of spending, or maybe there is another plan. What about Strong Choices 2.0? They will sell our assets. They will sack nurses, doctors and teachers to fund their reckless, half-baked spending spree.

The budget delivered by our Treasurer on Tuesday was unashamedly about creating and sustaining jobs for Queensland, and we have now reached almost 207,000. It is a project that has been the No. 1 priority for our government since we were elected in 2015. Jobs have been the core business of this government led by the Premier and Deputy Premier. One of its most evident achievements is the 207,000 new jobs created, with the ABS putting the growth of state final demand in Queensland at the head of the pack of the Australian mainland and there is more to come. Every one of those almost 207,000 jobs represents a Queenslanders whose life has been improved by their ability to find work because we have built an economy that is generating that opportunity.

I want to commend the Treasurer for bringing down a budget in challenging economic circumstances—a budget that not only stumps up for infrastructure and job creation, not only backs our regions and supports business and industry, but continues the unbroken run of surpluses delivered by

the Palaszczuk Labor government, at five in a row. That has been exacerbated by a federal coalition LNP which fails to deliver to Queensland our fair share—the more than \$800 million in GST that we should be receiving. That is an incredible burden our state has to carry.

It is no surprise that the opposition are failing so badly. Let us look at what they said about infrastructure. They keep saying that the capital program has a \$500 million cut over the next three financial years compared to the last financial year. Budget Paper No. 3 lays out a commitment of \$49.5 billion over the forward estimates. That is up by around \$4 billion over last year's budget. One thing is certain about the forecast in Budget Paper No. 3; that is, on this side of the House we will deliver what we said we will.

Between the 2012-13 financial year and the 2014-15 financial year—that is, the Newman government—at budget time their capital underspend averaged 16 per cent. That is when the member for Everton sat around the cabinet table. Thanks to the commitment of the Premier and all ministers to capital delivery, we have worked hard year on year to reduce that average. In the previous financial year, the capital underspend in our state was around five per cent—not 16 per cent, but five per cent. I am pleased to report to the House that the forecast underspend for the current financial year is close to zero. They can talk the talk if they like, but Labor governments deliver. When we say we are going to spend money on capital infrastructure, we deliver. I will stand by this government's record every single day of the week.

What about the Leader of the Opposition's view on jobs? What about what she said on jobs? 'Fewer jobs,' she said—ignoring the almost 207,000 created since we came to office. She talked about the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is 5.9 per cent. When the Leader of the Opposition left government, in which she was an assistant minister, the rate was 6.6 per cent. Youth unemployment in Queensland is lower. She even had the temerity to say that every number on the unemployment rate represented a Queenslanders. Can I say this to you, Mr Deputy Speaker: every one of the 14,000 jobs the Newman government axed was a Queenslanders too. They had the promise of a job and a future that she was so proud to take away from them when she sat at the CBRC table as an assistant minister.

What great news for the waste industry in New South Wales that we heard today. Under the LNP the waste levy will go. Queensland will become the only state in mainland Australia without a levy. Drivers, start your engines, because the trucks will once again start rumbling across the Queensland border, building the landfill mountains in Queensland with rubbish from other states.

What about the lecture on the gas industry? The hypocrisy of it. It is an industry built by a Labor government. What about the attack on Brisbane? What about all those Brisbane MPs? I am going to look forward to the member for Everton's response to that attack on our great state capital. Our capital benefits this state because tourists come from around the world and around Australia to contribute to the Queensland economy. This contribution benefits all citizens of our state. These tourists come to our state's capital to experience world-class sporting events and world-class arts events because we are building that infrastructure. We are building vital transport infrastructure so those tourists and those people travelling to our capital can move around. There was a chorus of negativity from the Leader of the Opposition that will keep Queensland in the slow lane.

It only took 10 minutes for the campaign of falsehoods by the Leader of the Opposition to jump the shark, and that is a big thing, even for her. The Leader of the Opposition had the temerity to say that the waste levy will pay for a new incinerator in Ipswich. That is what she said. It only took her 10 minutes to say something that is completely, totally and utterly false. The proponent of the waste-to-energy plant—and there is only one that has come to government—is not seeking any taxpayer funding from the waste levy. They are not seeking any funding at all from the government, but it is very hard to get the Leader of the Opposition and truth into the chamber at the same time. No wonder the move is on. Even her backbench knows that when she says something to their face it is not true. When she comes into the House and, through the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, puts up a bold-faced lie in this House, she knows that it is wrong.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Unparliamentary language.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. When she puts up a bold-faced falsehood in this House, everybody knows that is her form. She cannot get the basics right. She just makes it up.

Then we had the fiscal balance. We heard a new promise: the LNP will achieve fiscal balance. The warning lights are on. Achieving a fiscal balance will require at least another 10,000 jobs cut from the Public Service on top of the \$5.2 billion in unfunded promises. This is straight out of the playbook of the shadow shadow Treasurer, the member for Clayfield. When the member for Clayfield was the treasurer he kept promising a fiscal surplus. The return to fiscal surplus was the centrepiece of the first

Newman LNP budget that the Leader of the Opposition was proud to frame when she sat around the CBRC table as an assistant minister. It was the reason, it was the explanation, for why they sacked and removed 14,000 public servants.


It turned out, for the member for Clayfield, the fiscal surplus was like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: he kept promising it and it could never be reached or delivered. By the time of the second budget the promised return to fiscal surplus was drifting off into the forward estimates beyond the next state election in 2015-16. They promised it and they could not deliver it. The people of Queensland have heard this falsehood before and they know that it will never be delivered unless 14,000 jobs—at least—are taken out of the Public Service. While it was a promise they could not deliver, they could deliver on the promise to cut, sack and sell.

There has been more dishonesty about manufacturing jobs. For weeks we have heard members opposite repeating in this parliament that thousands of jobs have gone out of manufacturing in Queensland. Honourable members do not have to take my word for it: the Queensland Government Statistician notes there has been a 5.3 per cent increase in Queensland manufacturing jobs year on year compared to 3.2 per cent at the national level. That means that Queensland's manufacturing sector employs 173,400 people, an increase of 8,700 people compared to the March quarter 2018. I have outlined these facts in the parliament on two separate occasions. I have written to the Speaker about this and I will write to Mr Speaker again about this absolute dishonesty and attempt to deliberately mislead the House.

In conclusion, we saw two visions laid out for our state this week in this parliament. On Tuesday, the Treasurer delivered the next chapter of our government's plan for a future built on optimism and opportunity, on fairness and partnership, that sets out a program to build confidence, promote business investment and deliver on our commitment to ensure no Queenslander is left behind.

This morning we heard from the Leader of the Opposition an alternative plan—that is, if you could call it a plan. It was a disappointing contribution from a leader in deep trouble—desperate, reckless, profligate and entirely unfunded. The government, under the leadership of the Premier and the Deputy Premier, continues to work in the interests of all Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state to build a stronger and more resilient economy. The opposition, under the chaotic leadership of the member for Nanango, has no plan at all, just an unfunded wish list designed to keep her in the only job she is worried about: maintaining her position as Leader of the Opposition. She says there would be no new taxes and a 10-year freeze on royalties, which means two things: a massive blowout or asset sales. Stand by, Queensland, for Strong Choices 2.0.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Everton, members, just a reminder. The following members have been issued a warning already. They are the members for Burleigh, Woodridge, Kawana, Glass House, Broadwater and Cooper.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.23 pm): I rise to address the 2019-20 budget and support the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in her reply. The member for Woodridge might talk about 'Deb-onomics', but thankfully the would-be Treasurer will never get that job and Queensland will be saved from 'Dick-onomics', that is for sure. Could honourable members imagine it—somebody who dreams of being the Treasurer and had the unsuccessful plot to bring her down. Thankfully for the people of Queensland that will never happen. Contrary to what the Deputy Premier would have us believe, the Palaszczuk Labor government has proven once again that it is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs. No matter how the Deputy Premier would like to spin it, this is a budget about higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure.

The Queensland economy has stalled. Economic growth is flat at less than three per cent, substantially less than the long-term average of four per cent. Because of Labor's poor economic management, employment growth forecasts have dropped off from last year's optimistic budget. This means that there are now 26,000 fewer jobs expected by 2021-22 compared to last year's budget outlook. So much for a so-called jobs budget! This budget has now pencilled in a perpetually high predicted unemployment rate, which has led wages growth to stagnate and be revised down every year across the forwards. This is fewer jobs and less money in the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders.

The inconvenient truth for the member for South Brisbane is that on average the unemployment rate has been higher under Labor than the LNP. While the national unemployment rate remains low, the Palaszczuk Labor government has managed to buck this trend and keep Queensland's unemployment rate unacceptably high. I can report that the latest unemployment figures have been delivered this morning and Queensland's unemployment rate is 6.2 per cent, a full one per cent higher than the national figure and, of course, still lingering around the bottom of the table with regard to the other states. New South Wales and Victoria have left us for dead.

The March Sensis Business Index rates this Palaszczuk government as the least popular government amongst small and medium sized businesses for the fourth consecutive quarter. The March CCIQ Pulse Survey continues to show that not only has Queensland's economic outlook taken a dive but business conditions and profitability continue to rapidly weaken, which costs jobs. The April CommSec State of the States puts shame to the Premier's State of the States 'golden age' claim putting Queensland into sixth place in the nation, solidly in the bottom half of the economic ladder. With nine new and increased taxes, Queensland has well and truly lost its status as the low-taxing state. It is no wonder that businesses will not invest and employ in Queensland under Labor.

That is not the end of the bad economic news under Labor. ABS trend building approvals in Queensland have fallen every single month since January 2018. The value of building jobs has fallen by \$364 million since January 2018. Queensland continues to be the strike capital of Australia, with the most working days lost of any state during the Palaszczuk government's time. Queenslanders have lost 156,200 working days to strikes since this government has been in power, equal to almost 33 per cent of the nation for that time period. ABS construction work done in the March 2019 quarter fell to the lowest level since December 2006. This translates to fewer construction jobs, which of course is fewer jobs for Queenslanders.

Queensland has suffered from the largest drop in investor confidence in the whole nation, according to the Infrastructure Investment Report for 2019. Money for Queensland's desperately needed infrastructure has been going to the southern states because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. New South Wales and Victoria are now clearly three times more attractive to those wanting to invest in infrastructure than Queensland, and it is Queensland's jobs that suffer. As if this flight of private investment in construction and infrastructure is not enough, this Labor government itself has failed to deliver. Labor always talks big about infrastructure, but it never delivers.

The truth about this budget is that Labor is borrowing more and building less. Infrastructure spending across the forward estimates has actually decreased by \$23 million compared with last year's forecast. The Premier has invested less in infrastructure than any premier in living memory. Queenslanders are sick and tired of lucrative royalties delivered to this state from resources dug up in their towns going to the member for South Brisbane's pet project, Cross River Rail.

Not only is government infrastructure investment down; Labor has also killed off job-creating private sector projects worth billions. That is why Queensland roads are congested and getting worse. That is why Queensland schools are overcrowded and student results are in decline. That is why Queensland's public hospital waiting times are blowing out and ambulance ramping is increasing.

This budget also revealed that not only are Queenslanders being conned out of services; they are also being conned by Labor's broken promises. You cannot trust Labor. Revenue from vehicle registration will rise \$1.85 billion in 2018-19 to \$2.12 billion across the forward estimates on the back of above-CPI rego hikes, another broken promise of the Palaszczuk government and another example of Labor treating Queensland motorists as cash cows. Labor has broken its promise and now delayed its one and only additional ice rehab facility in Rockhampton. When Labor was elected in 2017, Annastacia Palaszczuk said that the facility would be delivered by June 2020. Now it is 'to be determined'.

The Queensland Resources Council said the new royalty hike on gas and petroleum is a broken promise by the Premier and a betrayal of trust for the 315,000 Queenslanders who work in the resources industry, including in regional Queensland. You cannot trust Labor. When Labor runs out of money, they come after yours. Queensland's fiscal position has continued to weaken under Labor. Queensland is heading forwards a massive debt bomb of \$90 billion. Only Labor has a massive coal royalty windfall bringing in nine new and increased taxes but still has to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole.

A higher payroll tax rate of 4.95 per cent will be introduced for businesses with taxable wages of more than \$6.5 million a year, raising about \$544 million over four years. An extra \$778 million will also be raised by increasing land tax for companies and trustees with aggregate land holdings of more than \$5 million by 0.25 per cent and by increasing the absentee land tax surcharge to two per cent. That surcharge will also be extended to foreign companies and trustees of foreign trusts.

This Labor government is working to ensure that Queensland is no longer the low-tax state, driving away business investment that costs jobs. As Property Council Queensland Executive Director Chris Mountford said—

It is simply not accurate to suggest these taxes won't be paid by Queenslanders, or won't affect job creating investment in this state.

These new taxes and increased taxes amount to \$1.25 billion over four years that were not promised in the last state election. That is on top of the \$2.2 billion from the last budget. That means there were \$3.4 billion in more taxes since the last state election. Despite these nine new taxes, over the forward estimates debt is now on track to hit over \$90 billion. Labor's debt burden on Queensland is increasing, with a family of four's share of Labor's \$90 billion debt bomb being a whopping \$67,000. The same family is now set to pay \$11,808 in tax in 2019-20, \$1,256 a year more than under the LNP. Labor is failing to meet its own fiscal principle on debt, with the relative debt burden set to increase rather than decrease over the forwards even on its purposefully limited general government terms. Labor's 'borrow to build' mantra is a complete fabrication. Even the government's fiscal principle on general government capital expenditure shows cuts in 2019-20 and 2020-21 compared to MYFER in 2018-19.

Although the member for South Brisbane insists the government still has a debt reduction strategy, it is clear that this Labor government has entirely given up on paying off its ever increasing debt. Public service employee expenses are now expected to be \$7.8 billion higher for 2019-20 than the LNP's last budget. A 3.3 per cent increase to Treasury's own staff compared to last year's budget shows how inept this Labor government is at reining in public service blow-outs. Once again, Labor failed to keep public service growth below or equal to population growth despite this being one of its fiscal principles. This is just one way in which Labor is bad with money and Labor waste is hurting taxpayers. The LNP has identified \$1 billion of Labor's waste since the last election, and that is only from the information publicly available that the opposition leader referred to earlier.

The LNP will stabilise Labor's debt and then start repaying it with a target of regaining the state's AAA credit rating. We will do this without asset sales and without forced redundancies in the public service. The LNP will have a fiscal principle that over the economic cycle we will have a fiscal balance, that is, that we are not spending more than we earn. We will report against this fiscal principle every budget and map out a course for every dollar to stabilise and repay Labor's debt. That is the only way to stabilise and start repaying Labor's debt. We already see Labor write down \$1.3 billion in revenue due to a forecasting area, a billion dollar blunder. Labor has failed to meet its fiscal principles every year, meaning every year more and more debt is added to the taxpayers' credit card.

I turn to my electorate. I was very happy to hear about extra money being spent at Everton Park State High School. Thankfully, I saved the school from being closed, something they thank me for every day. I am also happy to see money for the stage 1 upgrade of Stafford and South Pine roads. We expect to see that start at the end of this year. There are two issues in my area which have not been committed to but which need funding; namely, the accidents that continue to happen outside 667 and 669 South Pine Road. The moment it gets wet, cars career into fences and brick walls, putting pedestrians at risk. I have constantly asked the main roads minister to respond to this, but it is all talk and no action. I am very concerned that somebody will lose their life.

Another false announcement of the members for Aspley and Sandgate concerned \$25 million being committed to the Linkfield Road overpass. A commitment of \$100 million was given to this overpass by the federal government. This government claims it is filling in 20 per cent of the \$25 million, but guess what? It is not in the budget papers; it is in QTRIP. Most of that money is beyond the estimates. There is no funding for it. Even if there were funding for it, it would not start until after the 2024 election. It is another con job. We will remind the electors of Sandgate and particularly Aspley, a seat that we will win at the next election, of this con job.



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (12.37 pm): The Palaszczuk government will continue to invest in Queensland. This week we have delivered a budget that backs Queenslanders, our regions and jobs growth. It is a budget that will see us invest more than \$49.5 billion in job-generating infrastructure over the next four years. It is a budget that cuts payroll tax for small and medium sized businesses right across our state, particularly in regional Queensland.

This is a budget where we choose not to sack, cut or sell as those opposite would. We will continue to invest in Queensland and Queenslanders and to build our economy. This is in stark contrast to what we heard today from LNP members. The Leader of the Opposition referred to Dora the Explorer, but it sounded as though Dora the Explorer walked onto the set of *A Nightmare On Elm Street*. This little Dora is walking around Queensland promising anyone who will listen that she will not raise taxes, not raise royalties, there will be no new taxes, no cuts and no selling of assets. How? How will the Leader of the Opposition pay for her \$5 billion of false promises?

It is a joke. In fact, I do not even want to talk about it. It is so embarrassing that the level of debate in Queensland has dropped so low that all we have from the LNP is them saying that they are not going to raise taxes. I do a lot of homework with my five-year-old daughter. She started school this year because Labor introduced prep into Queensland. It took a Labor government to do that. I thought I would explain this in a diagram for my child. Today the LNP has promised to spend more but have less income. Then they say that somehow they are going to reduce debt. It does not add up. I table that diagram for the Leader of the Opposition.

Tabled paper. Hand-written equation relating to spending, income and debt [979].

Consider it a gift from me to her. You cannot promise to deliver more and spend more but reduce income and then turn around and say that you are not going to raise debt.

A government member: She is misleading the House.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. If any government implemented the plan the Leader of the Opposition outlined today, it could kiss any credit rating goodbye. My daughter, Grace, who is five, would be paying for the LNP's incompetence until she is 40. It is a disgrace.

What upsets me the most is that the people of Queensland deserve a contest of ideas and policy. I have worked in this chamber for over 20 years, but it is the same old story. Those opposite promise one thing before an election, but if—God forbid—they were elected they would do the other. The only option left on the table for the LNP would be to sack public servants. Members should not take my word for it. The Leader of the Opposition started by saying, 'Trust us.' Last time they said they would not sack people but what did they do? They sacked people. The LNP members who were part of that government should listen to me when I tell them about the people of Ashgrove who came up to me and cried on my shoulder because they had lost their jobs and lost their income. They were in the same boat that those opposite want to put Queensland in—spend more with less income. Do members opposite know what that means for those people? It means that their costs and debt go up. Those opposite heartlessly cruelled people's lives.

The Leader of the Opposition started by telling public servants to trust the LNP. Then by the end of her speech she was saying that we will have to reduce them, to cut. We know what is in their playbook: cut teachers, doctors and nurses from front-line roles. To be frank, I am a feminist. I have always supported Deb Frecklington as the Leader of the Opposition. After today's appalling display, it is no wonder Alan Jones is saying it's on. Of course it's on. We deserve better than her appalling effort. Those opposite have no policy and no detail—just empty promises, which is all we have come to expect from the LNP in Queensland. It is a disgrace.

I am happy to share with the opposition the diagram I did for my five-year-old child. Their sums do not add up. The Leader of the Opposition said, 'We fixed Labor's problems and we'll do it again.' We know what that means for Queenslanders. There is no way we will ever let them get back onto this side of the House to wreak more havoc to front-line services in our hospitals, schools and ambulance services.


As I said, the contrast is clear for all to see. We are a government that invests in Queenslanders and invests in jobs. As the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development, I am very proud to be part of a government that continues to invest in job-creating industries. In this budget we have allocated an extra \$20 million to grow our tourism industry, on top of the already record investment we have made. This means that more than 200,000 Queenslanders have a job in the tourism industry. We back Queenslanders. We back Queensland jobs.

When it comes to innovation, as I announced here today, in new data just in more than 15,000 jobs have been created through Advance Queensland. Those jobs are from the cape in the north all the way down to Coolangatta. We back bright Queenslanders, we back innovation and we back jobs. It is not just in regional Queensland; it is right across our state.

I am very proud to be providing my second budget address as the member for Cooper. It is an electorate that I love and where I am raising my own family. In this budget, just like we said we would, our record investment in education is delivering. There is an additional \$1.4 million for a new building at The Gap State High School. This is a state high school that is growing at such a significant rate because parents in my local community are seeing firsthand the excellence in public education being provided and supported by this government. There is \$300,000 for a new classroom at Petrie Terrace State School and \$350,000 to refurbish A block at Ashgrove State School. These projects are all part of more than \$18 million invested in education to ensure that children in my local community get the best possible start in life. It also includes six new classrooms and two specialist classrooms at Ithaca Creek State School.

We are also making a record investment in sporting infrastructure. I see that the Minister for Sport is in the chamber. We are changing the lives of Queenslanders through our investment in sport. We know that one of Queensland's heaviest cost burdens continues to relate to the health of Queenslanders. We are tackling this up-front by providing new sporting infrastructure to ensure that young people, women and girls get the opportunity to participate in sport. I am proud that \$100,000 has been provided in this budget to upgrade changing rooms to support women at The Gap Football Club. There is also \$168,000 towards the Des Connor Fields in Ashgrove. This not only supports Marist students but also allows students from many schools, including public and Catholic schools, to participate in sport. Even more importantly, it opens up these schools to the broader community so that children like my own and others can learn how to ride their bike, play cricket and be active as families, bringing families together.

To sum up what the opposition has promised here today, they are going to spend more of Queenslanders' money but raise less money. That is the debt bomb that the member for Everton was talking about. I will finish with this point. I ask the whip to note that I am sticking to 10 minutes. It takes only one minute to say this. We know what those opposite do. I have seen it all of my life. The only solution of the Borbidge government was a capital works freeze. Then Campbell Newman promised one thing before coming to government—that is, public servants did not have to worry about their jobs. That was a very dumb decision to make in a seat like Ashgrove, mind you. After coming to government he sacked them. Then today we hear LNP members making promises that are completely unfunded. They have made \$5 billion worth of promises but have also said that they will raise less money to deliver them. That leads to only one outcome: a higher debt burden on Queenslanders. It is shameful that the quality of the contributions from the Leader of the Opposition and her deputy was so appalling. We know that only Labor will continue to deliver for the people of Queensland.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.47 pm): It is great to be here to talk about my electorate and the budget but, unfortunately, I do not have good news for the electorate. This budget delivers higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. That will particularly hurt in my electorate of Toowoomba North, for which I work and which I represent in this place. I am their strong local voice, making sure that the things we should have in our region are delivered.

Queensland does not deserve the debt forecast of \$90 billion. It is intergenerational theft. The people who will pay this will be the children, the nieces and nephews and the grandchildren of the people in this place. They will have to repay the money that is spent today just trying to keep the wheels turning because Labor cannot live within its means, because Labor wastes money at every opportunity.

We have seen it all before. We have seen the waste and the debt go up, and that theft is off our children and grandchildren. Labor should be ashamed of itself and our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, should be ashamed of stealing that money off future generations.

Business confidence has slumped under the Palaszczuk Labor government for the fourth consecutive quarter. It is rated the least popular government amongst small and medium sized businesses, and in Toowoomba we are now starting to see a jobs crisis. The unemployment rate in Newtown is now at 10.4 per cent, in North Toowoomba and Harlaxton it is at 11.9 per cent and in Wilsonton it is at 10.5 per cent. Interestingly enough, these are the areas that support a Labor government. What people who live in these areas want are jobs, yet they are not seeing it from the government that they have supported. I urge them at the next election to consider their job prospects under a Labor government, and people know what I know—that you cannot afford to trust Labor. You just cannot afford it.

Labor has no vision for Toowoomba, and the lack of new investment in our region in the 2019-20 budget is proof. Toowoomba is the largest inland city in Australia and it makes an economic contribution to Queensland's economy, and that is why a strong plan to elevate our natural assets, accelerate the development of our infrastructure priorities and support local tourism and industry diversification is critical. Unfortunately, we do not see a lot of help from the Labor government. Toowoomba needs strong leadership here in Brisbane to realise our region's potential and invest in game-changing projects like the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. It took an LNP state and federal government to get this job done. The only thing Labor has managed to contribute is a delay in delivery and a lack of information about how much businesses will have to pay. Inland rail is the next project. I urge the minister to get on with the intergovernmental agreement so that we can get the wheels turning again in Toowoomba. Toowoomba is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland and it is only fair we receive our fair share of funding for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

Mr Power: Like the police facility at Highfields?

Mr WATTS: I will come to the police facility, and I thank the member for Logan for bringing it up. The community and I have worked very hard to get two police facilities in the electorate at Newtown and Highfields, and these are good announcements. The members of the community who worked hard along with me and attended various forums to fight for this are glad that their voices have been heard in this place and that this will be delivered for them.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr WATTS: Absolutely! I made the commitment to the electorate that I would fight for them and get these projects delivered, and in this budget we see them delivered.

The students who study at Toowoomba State High School at Mount Lofty and the students who study at Toowoomba East State School will also be pleased, because after being neglected we have been working very hard to ensure that those schools get the maintenance and improvement budget allocated to them that they deserve. Again, their voices have been heard in this place and I do thank the minister for upgrading those facilities for my community and my community will thank the government for it as well. The North and Ruthven Street upgrade is something about which I have lodged a petition in this place and spoken about countless times in adjournment debates. It was promised on the never-never for so long by this Labor government. Finally we see that the government has been shamed into delivering the money in this budget for an upgrade that was needed five years ago and is still only just about to get underway.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WATTS: We need to consider what our community will look like in the next 10 to 20 years. Who will be living in Toowoomba, what will they be doing and what are the things and infrastructure they will need? I believe firmly in supporting the Olympic bid because we believe that will help deliver the infrastructure, particularly the transport infrastructure, that we need to make sure—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WATTS: Member for Logan, I will be here when you speak, so be ready, because all you have to talk about is a debt bomb—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Order!

Mr WATTS:—something that you will be proud of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WATTS:—delivering a debt bomb to the children of Queensland!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will resume your seat. When I call for order, that is the expectation. If I stand to my feet, everyone stops and you resume your seat. Member for Logan, your interjections were not being taken. You are now warned under the standing orders. Member for Toowoomba North, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the member's behaviour was completely unparliamentary and outrageous and I would ask you to counsel him on that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, thank you. I am quite capable of doing this job. I have done that already and directed the member for Toowoomba North to follow the directions of the person in the Speaker's chair.

Mr WATTS: In the future in Toowoomba I look forward to seeing investment in new technology, infrastructure and services such as inland rail with fast passenger rail to Brisbane, telecommunications, roads and a hospital that needs funding and not just another plan, but, finally, we do see that the money is going to be expended this year on the plan that was promised last year. I also look forward to seeing a mountain bike track and walking tracks, public transport and green space. This is the future for Toowoomba North. These are the things that we would like to see.

There are a couple of projects that have been left out of the budget. One of those is funding for a parking master plan at Fairview Heights State School. I would urge the education minister to consider this request again. There are many signatures on the petition and we would really like to have a master plan because we do not want to see children getting hit by cars out the front of the school, which has unfortunately already happened in my electorate. The Boundary Street connection road to Highfields is a critical piece of future infrastructure that will allow Highfields to continue to grow and will connect the residents of Highfields to jobs at both Wilsonton industrial estate and other areas in Toowoomba. It is important that we ensure that we have a plan for this road and identify a path and we preserve that path to make sure that it is not built on. Again, I urge the minister to consider putting that in a future plan.

There is lots of talk in Toowoomba about a raceway and entertainment precinct near the airport in Pat Weir's electorate, and this is something that needs to be seriously considered and something that I have advocated for previously. It will be a great tourism drawcard for our region and it will be a great opportunity for the people of Queensland to enjoy more motor racing sport in our region, something that I know they are very passionate about, and even bring some extra major events.

The Quarry Gardens is another area that just needs to be got on with. We just need to stop the planning and need to invest some money to ensure this tourist attraction gets developed. The railway precinct—a priority development area that Jeff Seeney designated—has basically sat stagnant under this Labor government through complete lack of investment in developing that parkland. Yes, we have seen some opportunities to do up the Goods Shed, but the parkland needs to be developed to unleash the private businesses that adjoin that parkland and encourage them to build and develop opportunities for jobs in Toowoomba.

Those are the things that are going on in my electorate, but I will come back to some of the statewide issues. One of the things that we have spoken about is this debt bomb for future generations and the complete lack of transparency in suggesting that the government will bring this debt bomb forward and ensure that the people of Queensland understand that they are going to be saddled with this debt for infrastructure. The budget papers show that to not be true.

The other issue that I want to talk about is my shadow portfolio of the police. Over a period of time the Police budget is reducing as a percentage of the overall budget. If we take the average that we spent on police whilst in government and we take the average being spent by Labor whilst in government, as part of the overall budget we see that the police are missing a \$1.173 billion budget underspend over five years. If we want to know why crime is up, it is because there is less money being allocated in the budget.

We have heard people speak about the priorities of government. Clearly the priority of the Labor government is not to keep the people of Queensland safe because it does not prioritise the Police budget as a percentage of the overall budget, so we will see less money in the budget and we will see more crime under this Labor government. There is \$234 million per year missing out of the Police budget under the Labor government over the last five years and the result of that can be seen in many areas, including the 24-hour station at Kirwan closing down because there were not enough police to man it—an unprecedented event.


We have seen that police resources are being drained into watch houses and that police are having to babysit children who should fall under another department's responsibility, but that budget is being tapped into by those other departments and is squeezing the police's ability to deal with crime on our streets when it should not be. Not only is the budget being underfunded as a percentage of the overall budget; it is also squeezing various parts of the budget by making the police do jobs that are not truly their responsibility.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Adani Carmichael Mine

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. When it comes to resources projects in this state, our government has always been clear: proponents must demonstrate that their projects stack up financially and environmentally. This is an approach that has seen more than \$20 billion worth of resource investment in this state since the Palaszczuk government came to office.

The Coordinator-General, a statutory independent decision-maker, first gave approval for the Adani Carmichael mine in 2014, assigning more than 190 conditions to that project in order for it to proceed. Since that time, as is the usual practice and in keeping with the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Department of Environment and Science, as the regulator, has been working alongside the company to assess and progress its plans against the environmental conditions that are a requirement of their approvals. As the Minister for Environment, I have been consistent in my statements that the regulator would undertake its assessments and make its decisions free from political interference as is prescribed in the Environmental Protection Act, and the government has stood by that commitment.

Today, the regulator has informed Adani that, following many years of work, the groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan has met the environmental conditions required by its environmental authority and has been approved. In granting this approval, the regulator has met the time frame for its decision, which was put in place by the Coordinator-General on 24 May. Let me be clear: today's decision as per the Environmental Protection Act was not and could not be made by me or anyone else in the cabinet. It has been made by the regulator and is backed by expert advice.

The groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan is a critically important document that puts in place safeguards for the protection of groundwater in the project area, including the Doongmabulla Springs complex. Assessment of the groundwater plan has been subject to a thorough scientific process. At times, the robustness of the process has attracted criticism from those in the media and the community who would have liked a quicker decision and it has been derided by the LNP in Queensland, which appeared to be keen to see all environmental processes abandoned. But the people of Queensland have a right to expect that the government takes a responsible approach to environmental protection, upholds the law and supports decisions based on the best available science.

Our state has some of the most rigorous environmental protections in the country and we do not apologise for that. This year, there have been two remaining management plans that are required for stage 2 undergoing assessment for the Carmichael mine. The black-throated finch management plan, as well as this groundwater plan, have both undergone thorough assessment by independent experts. In cases where assessment is required for matters of particular significance, I support the decision taken by the regulator to seek independent expert advice.

The location of the proposed Carmichael mine is home to Australia's largest and most significant known population of the southern black-throated finch, which is an endangered species as listed under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act and under Queensland legislation. I am advised by the regulator that, following comprehensive feedback, largely as a result of that independent advice, Adani agreed to substantial improvements to its finch management plan and it was on that basis that the plan was approved about two weeks ago.

Similarly, the groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan has received its approval on the basis of significant amendments and commitments to continue to undertake important monitoring work over the next two years and throughout the life of the mine. As I mentioned earlier, one of the most highly publicised sections of the groundwater plan relates to the Doongmabulla Springs complex, an important wetland located in the vicinity of the project area. Let me be very clear for the benefit of the House and the community that the regulator's assessment of the impact of the project on the springs has been comprehensive and based on the best available science. The regulator received specific additional advice from CSIRO and Geoscience Australia on this matter.

I am advised that, based on this expert scientific advice and legal opinion, the regulator is satisfied that the groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan sufficiently establishes the main source aquifer of the springs. To the extent that other lesser sources are plausible but not proven, the regulator has sought and received commitments from Adani to undertake further scientific work as recommended by CSIRO and Geoscience Australia in the next two years to identify any potential contribution from other aquifers.

Both the Commonwealth Department of Environment and the Queensland department sought expert advice from CSIRO and Geoscience Australia in their assessments of the groundwater plan. Following the approval by the former federal minister for environment, on the eve of the federal election, might I add, and after threats from members of the LNP to have her sacked, it was important that the Queensland regulator discuss the plan again with CSIRO and Geoscience Australia to clarify their advice and request any additional changes. Just in the last 24 hours we have seen what happens when appropriate processes are not followed in the granting of approvals for resource projects.

The federal government's decision to concede the case brought against it regarding Adani's north Galilee water scheme demonstrates how critically important it is for proper processes to be followed. It will be interesting to see how the federal government justifies its approval of a previous version of the GDEMP given the considerable enhancements that have been required in order for it to reach a standard for approval by the Queensland regulator. As a result of that extra engagement with CSIRO and Geoscience Australia, Adani was requested to make further changes to the groundwater plan to strengthen it and ensure environmental protections.

Yesterday, I am advised that Adani submitted a new version of the groundwater dependent ecosystem management plan—version 12a. At the regulator's request, a range of additional commitments have been made, some of which I will outline here for the benefit of the House. To further improve the understanding of source aquifers of the springs complex, Adani is required to undertake

detailed hydrogeochemical analysis of water sampled from groundwater and different spring groups; examine core samples from new bores to attain a better understanding of hydraulic properties and provide more detailed geological mapping; incorporate airborne electromagnetic modelling undertaken by Geoscience Australia to improve hydrogeological understanding of the area; and install a deeper bore to below the Rewan Formation in the vicinity of the Doongmabulla Springs complex. This will help to address the concerns raised by scientists from Flinders University that Permian aquifers may be a source to the springs complex.

As further protection measures, Adani has also committed to the following: using a Dunda Beds bore in the vicinity of the Carmichael River as an early warning drawdown trigger for groundwater drawdown monitoring to the Carmichael River. At the second model rerun, Adani will review the latest hydrochemistry and seismic information. If this review determines that additional seismic studies are required to better understand the source aquifers of the Doongmabulla Springs complex, Adani will complete these surveys and include the data in revised modelling. Underground mining will not commence until these actions are completed and only if predicted impacts are consistent with approved impacts. Other measures have also been agreed if the conceptual model or impacts differ from that of the approved project.

The development of this groundwater plan has been a rigorous process. The Coordinator-General first required the groundwater plan to be produced in 2014. It was two years before a version was first provided to the Department of Environment and Science in November 2016. In total, Adani has submitted updated versions of its groundwater plan to the regulator 12 times since 2016. The department has provided feedback on each submitted version in order to ensure that what has been approved for the company today meets the standard expected of a management plan and provides appropriate protections.

I acknowledge the hard work of the staff in the Department of Environment and Science who work every day to ensure management plans like this are produced to the highest standard. Going forward, the role of the regulator continues to be incredibly important as it ensures compliance with the approved management plan. Unfortunately, to date Adani has not always engaged with the department in the same constructive way that other major resources companies have done. I hope that this is not an indication of how the company will approach its future obligations. As with all projects, the regulator will focus strongly on compliance with the approved plan and the company has an obligation to Queenslanders to ensure it acts in accordance with its approvals.

The regulator's decision to approve the groundwater management plan today comes after a comprehensive scientific assessment; Queenslanders expect nothing less from their environment department. The obligation is now on Adani to abide by its approval conditions as it goes about its work.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1992, on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.


 **Mr WATTS** (2.11 pm), continuing: What is clear from this budget is that one cannot afford to trust Labor. In Toowoomba North we have the beginnings of a jobs crisis. In Newtown we see 10.4 per cent unemployment, in North Toowoomba and Harlaxton we see 11.9 per cent unemployment and in Wilsonton we see 10.5 per cent unemployment. That is not good enough. We do not want the jobs in our region to be threatened. This new royalty tax on the gas industry will hit jobs hard in our region at a time when unemployment is growing. The approval for the New Acland mine will ensure that 150 people will not lose their jobs. I urge the minister to take a serious look at that.

What do we know about Labor's form? We know that they will bring in higher taxes. We know that they will give us more debt. We know that there will be fewer jobs and we know from this budget that there will be less infrastructure. Labor's incompetence and waste has not come cheap for the people of Queensland. Locally, I have always said that I will fight for the people of Toowoomba. I will

be their strong local voice delivering for our region by coming to this place and demanding we get our fair share so I am pleased that my election commitment to get the Highfields Police Station and the Newtown police hub is delivered by this budget.

After doing a petition and working hard with the community to put the North and Ruthven streets junction upgrade on the agenda, I am pleased that there is money in this budget for that. I am very pleased that in its centenary year Toowoomba State High School will receive funding to bring its campus up to speed with Highfields State Secondary College and Wilsonton State High School, two schools that have seen great funding come in in my time as a member.

I go back to where I began: one cannot afford to trust Labor. Its incompetence and waste is not cheap for the people of Queensland. A \$90 billion debt bomb has been handed to our children and our grandchildren with no solution on the horizon. Millions of dollars a day in interest payments could otherwise be going to job-creating infrastructure; millions of dollars a day could be going to hospitals; millions of dollars a day could be going towards improving roads and reducing congestion. These are all things that government has to make a choice about and this government has chosen not to fund them but to build debt.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (2.14 pm): The Palaszczuk government's budget has once again delivered important support for the agriculture and fisheries sectors, building on a proud record stretching now to five successive surplus budgets. This budget delivers on biosecurity, it delivers on fisheries reform, it delivers on drought support and it delivers in spades when it comes to jobs in rural and regional areas of the state. That is investing in regional jobs today and for the future.

The budget funds the key programs that will support our agriculture sector through the tough times of drought and floods and help to enhance it as the vital economic driver that we know it is. The increased 2019-20 budget for agriculture and fisheries is \$525 million and contains ongoing funding to support producers grappling with serious and persistent drought conditions across much of the state.

That compares to a budget of \$408 million under the final year of the previous Newman government. That is right, we have increased the allocation for agriculture and fisheries by more than 28 per cent in just five years. The Leader of the Opposition is so embarrassed by it that she made not one single commitment to the agriculture sector in her budget reply speech. When I travel around the state, and I have done more than 91,000 kilometres since becoming minister, talking to producers and industry leaders, I am inspired by so many regional Queenslanders who are so passionate about what they produce and the communities they support. I stand with them. Every single day I stand with them and the Palaszczuk government does the same with this budget, supporting regional Queensland businesses today and growing our economy for the future.

We have set aside more than \$74.6 million over the next four years for continuation of the multi-agency Drought Assistance Package as well as support for implementing Queensland drought reform, delivering on our commitments under the National Drought Agreement. There is \$11.7 million available over the remaining three years of our world-leading Queensland Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. Since this drought began we have invested more than \$670 million in supporting producers and drought-affected communities.

Queensland faces more biosecurity threats than any other state or territory, which is what made the Newman government's cuts to Biosecurity Queensland even more shameful. This year's budget includes funding for control and eradication programs for red imported fire ants, electric ants, exotic fruit flies in the Torres Strait and pest weeds. We have also allocated an additional \$12.1 million to continue our successful response to Panama disease over the next five years.

The budget has also provided additional funding of \$3.6 million over three years for Queensland to meet its obligations within the National Biosecurity System, including strengthening Australia's fruit fly system. We will continue to progress the Queensland Biosecurity Capability Implementation Program and provide grant funding for maintaining wild dog fencing to support the growth of Queensland's sheep industry. That is right, we are bringing the sheep industry back in Queensland. On Saturday at Winton it was my pleasure to attend the Winton show with the consular general from Japan, Mr Tanaka, who put a ribbon over a champion award winning merino.

Already we have allocated \$3.2 million in the first round of the Rural Economic Development Grants, supporting expansion projects at rural businesses such as the Kenilworth Dairy and Flourish Plants at Mareeba, as well as Swan Ridge Farms in the Bundaberg region, which the Premier attended last week. In all, 15 projects will create more than 600 direct and indirect jobs under the first round of projects. The final two rounds funded in this budget will bring the total invested to \$10 million by 2021.

These are serious and strategic investments supporting regional Queensland businesses today and growing our economy for the future. The budget also includes \$10.6 million over two years for ongoing reform of our fisheries. These are vital reforms to protect jobs in the commercial and recreational fishing industries, building a legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren.

We are protecting Queensland's way of life while investing in jobs today and for the future. We are investing \$1 million in the installation of fish-attracting structures in South-East Queensland to promote recreational fishing and \$1.1 million to further enhance our fisheries compliance system and review fisheries regulations to better reflect community expectations. Development of our strategy for agribusinesses and food industry development is underway and we are about to begin working with industry on a 10-year road map to achieve zero net emissions in the agricultural sector by 2050.

The budget confirms our commitment to the transition of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges to a more modern training model at the end of 2019 with the provision of \$7 million over two years. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to research and development work to make sure that Queensland's agricultural sector is at the cutting edge of technology and science. We are investing in innovation so that our farmers can take on the world. In this budget that means an additional \$8 million investment for safety improvements and site equipment upgrades to research and operational facilities across Queensland, including \$1.7 million to upgrade Toowoomba's Tor Street site and Leslie Research Facility. That is yet another example of the Palaszczuk government's investment in regional jobs today and for the future. We will invest \$700,000 to begin the refurbishment of the Wacol Tick Fever Centre and we are developing a Queensland government policy on the future of timber production in state owned native forests.

The budget also invests in greater swimmer safety at our 86 popular beaches, with more than \$17 million in additional funding for the Shark Control Program over the next four years. This will help to manage increasing equipment, safety and contractor costs and underwrite our SharkSmart safety and education program. Importantly, it includes \$1 million over the next four years to research new technologies.

I turn to my electorate of Ferny Grove and I am proud to say that the budget has delivered for my constituents. As the member for Ferny Grove since 2015, I have been campaigning to have improvements made to some key intersections on Samford Road. I am very pleased to be able to say that the Palaszczuk Labor budget has delivered.

I successfully lobbied Transport and Main Roads to conduct the first traffic-flow study of the Mitchelton section of Samford Road in more than 25 years. Full upgrades of the Pickering Street and Glenholm Street intersections have been funded in this year's budget, with funding allocated for the planning for Osborne Road. That is in addition to the upgrade of the intersection outside the Enoggera Army barracks, which came on line in 2018 and has already cut five minutes off morning journey times along Samford Road. The Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$26 million for the Stafford Road bypass, which will further relieve traffic problems on Brisbane's north side. These are real investments in real infrastructure that will make tangible differences to the lives of people in the Ferny Grove electorate and on the north side.


The Palaszczuk government budget has once again delivered for schools in Ferny Grove with the allocation of \$5.5 million worth of investments committed to local schools, with the bulk going to primary schools facing growing student numbers. Newmarket State School has received a new classroom that I had the pleasure of inspecting last week. Student numbers have doubled in just 10 years and are still growing, so this great state school has received funding for another four classrooms.

Oakleigh State School is undergoing classroom renovations, along with Patricks Road and Ferny Hills state schools. Earlier this year, Grovely State School opened its new car park and drop-off and pick-up zone, completing the delivery of another election commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The \$18 million Centre of Excellence at Ferny Grove State High School is nearing completion. Construction will begin shortly at Ferny Grove and Mitchelton state high schools on our \$20 million investment in new school halls to meet growing student needs and deliver state-of-the-art facilities to those school communities. The budget invests half a million dollars in Grovely TAFE and another half a million dollars in local department of housing properties.

Work is ready to begin on the transit oriented development at Ferny Grove. A \$100 million investment of private funds is delivering new parking, more shops, cinemas and apartments on the site of the Ferny Grove Railway Station. This budget locks in the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$9 million

investment in the site, delivering hundreds of extra car spaces and much needed local jobs for the Ferny Grove electorate. Brisbane City Council approval for that important project is pending and hopefully not too far away.

I am incredibly proud to serve as the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries in the Palaszczuk Labor government and I am just as proud to serve the people of Ferny Grove as their local member of parliament. It is at times like this, when a Palaszczuk Labor government is clearly delivering by investing in jobs today and for the future and is delivering infrastructure and services for our growing state, that we can proudly state that we are Labor and we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Queensland.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.24 pm): When the Deputy Premier and Treasurer handed down her first Queensland state budget in 2018 I said that it could only be described as one of spin and rhetoric. Twelve months later and we see a 2019 state budget that not only embraces the Palaszczuk Labor government's policy of spin and rhetoric, but indeed goes further and delivers higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. In my budget reply speech last year I made the prediction that the legacy of the Treasurer would be one of tax, unemployment and debt. The Treasurer and Deputy Premier can certainly be confident that the Queensland budget handed down this week not only cements that but also firmly builds upon that terrible legacy.

Before further examining this year's state budget, it is important to look at the past 12 months and the lead-up to the state budget to fully understand and appreciate the precarious financial position that Queensland finds itself in thanks to the gross economic mismanagement of the Palaszczuk Labor government and its Treasurer. Over the past 12 months, the Palaszczuk Labor government has simply jumped from one crisis to the next. In our hospital and health system, ambulance ramping and bed block have once again become a permanent feature. Recently in South-East Queensland, 10 hospitals were on code yellow. At the time, the Premier and health minister blamed Campbell Newman, the Morrison federal coalition government, people with the flu, the elderly and even sick people in general.

There has also been the disgraceful renaming of the Lady Cilento children's hospital, whereby hundreds of thousands of dollars were wasted and a family was devastated through the process—all justified by a faulty and fraudulent survey. The recent findings of the Crime and Corruption Commission in relation to this matter are an indictment of the Labor government's dubious handling of the renaming process. It is high time the Palaszczuk Labor government understands that, when it comes to Queensland's health system, the primary role of government is service delivery and not rhetoric, not spin, not slogans and not dubious decision-making.

Let us look at Labor's record in health, because what Queenslanders who are seeking health care within the Queensland hospital and health system have had to endure in just the first few months of this year alone leaves a lot to be desired. Year on year the Palaszczuk Labor government allocates a record spend in health. This year's state budget includes a record \$19.2 billion spend in health on behalf of Queenslanders, which is an increase of \$929 million. Labor always throws dollars at problems without examining system issues, let alone implementing processes to measure outcomes on behalf of patients and the taxpayers of Queensland. However, Queenslanders have seen this all before under the failed Beattie and Bligh Labor governments, in which the Premier served as an apprentice and which were hopelessly infected with inertia and failed public administration.

It is also common knowledge that this Labor government is always desperate to avoid a negative headline rather than actually solving any crisis of its own making. Nurses, doctors, ambulance and paramedic staff and health professionals are being forced to shoulder the burden of Labor's gross incompetence and mismanagement of our health system. Labor always trumpets how they are the friend of the worker. With friends like the Palaszczuk Labor government, the workers of our health and ambulance services have been badly let down. All this goes to the very heart of Labor's failed priorities. When Labor is called out for all of these failings and more, what happens? Labor often says, 'It is not our fault. It is not our problem. It is not our responsibility.'

Labor has also lost control of the justice system. There has been the farcical scene of a lavish prison wedding taking place. Meanwhile, prison guards continue to be assaulted as Labor's Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services fails to act comprehensively and decisively. The ABC's *Four Corners* program exposed the crisis in Queensland's youth system, with children as young as 10 being held for prolonged periods in maximum security watch houses designed for adults only. It was even revealed that senior officials from the Premier's department were warned multiple times about serious incidents and concerns regarding children being held in maximum security adult watch houses. There appears to be no end in sight with respect to this sorry saga.

Under Labor, the rail fail crisis continues to roll on. Just last month, Labor gave themselves a pat on the back for restoring 32 services. However, Labor still has 440 services to restore. The Liberal National Party shadow minister for transport and main roads, Steve Minnikin MP, said that based on the current projections of 32 services being restored in 2½ years it will take more than 36 years to give Queenslanders a fully restored schedule. Even so, Labor refuses to tell Queenslanders when they can finally expect all services to be restored. When it comes to fixing transport, we just cannot trust Labor.

Let us not ignore the mismanagement by this Labor government as it continues to bungle the transition to the full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme here in Queensland. Despite years of knowing Queensland would transition on 1 July 2019, it is only during this sitting week—the last sitting week available—that the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill was finally before the House, with Labor desperately playing catch-up, despite the minister trying to blame the federal government.

Recently, Queenslanders saw the full incompetence of the Premier and her Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Transport on full display with the axing and reinstating of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme—a callous decision that had significant ramifications for some 10,000 Queenslanders. It has only been reinstated for a further 12 months after significant pressure by the Liberal National Party and 13 organisations in the disability sector.

Let us now turn to Queensland's economy and debt crisis under Labor. Queensland has one of Australia's worst unemployment rates—forecast in the 2019-20 state budget for unemployment to remain at six per cent and today announced to be at 6.2 per cent. Debt is now set to break through \$90 billion within four years. Wages are also stagnant under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Cost-of-living pressures continue to skyrocket for all. Queensland now also holds the unenviable title of being the strike capital of Australia. Recently it was revealed that around 2,700 working days were lost to industrial action in the March 2019 quarter, meaning 156,200 days have been lost under the two terms of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Some 18,000 jobs have been lost in the manufacturing sector alone.

This is not to mention the years of absolute negligent in providing the infrastructure Queensland desperately needs. In 2018-19 Queensland had the second lowest infrastructure spend as a percentage of gross state product at 1.75 per cent. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and her Treasurer always try to blame Canberra and the Morrison federal coalition government for their own Labor government economic disasters and infrastructure failures. On Tuesday this week the Treasurer again tried to blame Canberra over GST calculations. Over the federal budget forward estimates, the percentage of federal infrastructure spending for Queensland is at least three times as much as that of New South Wales.

Queensland is groaning and suffering under the weight of the new taxes announced by the Treasurer—new taxes ripping billions of dollars out of the Queensland economy. Treasurer Jackie Trad has piled more than \$3.45 billion in extra taxes and charges onto Queenslanders in just two budgets. We all recall in the dying days of the 2017 election campaign—in fact, on the eve of election day itself—the Labor Party announced four new taxes and tax increases on Queenslanders, including the staggering \$1.3 billion for Labor's waste tax. There is now also increases in land tax rates and the land tax absentee surcharge—another slug on many Queensland seniors, including members of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Queensland.

At a time when our state economy is struggling under the poor economic leadership of Premier Palaszczuk and her Treasurer, when Labor continues to allow our debt to increase each and every day, when more and more Queenslanders are struggling to find a job as we suffer one of the nation's highest unemployment rates and when hardworking Queensland families continue to suffer the onslaught of skyrocketing cost-of-living pressures whilst having to navigate ever-congested roads, including in the electorate of Moggill and across the western suburbs of Brisbane, those opposite treat Queenslanders as a relentless and unlimited source of revenue. It really takes a special level of arrogance by this Labor government to be so out of touch with hardworking Queenslanders, including local residents in the electorate of Moggill, as well as Queensland businesses. Local businesses in the western suburbs of Brisbane are doing it tough as it is without having to pay more to Labor's Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

The new Labor waste tax will undoubtedly mean that the disposing of commercial or industrial waste will cost our businesses more. Costs will inevitably be passed onto consumers. In my electorate of Moggill, according to the 2016 census data, almost 65 per cent of all blue-collar workers are in the construction industry. These are workers whose future work is under threat thanks to the additional costs that this Labor tax imposes on an industry that needs all the support it can possibly get.

Similarly, on the latest figures available, the Moggill electorate is home to more than 4,600 businesses—many of which are small businesses. That is nearly 4,600 businesses that will have to dig further into their pockets because Labor are too lazy and too addicted to tax, tax and more tax. There can be no doubt, whether it is costs directly through day-to-day waste disposal or costs that are passed on through the supply chain, that businesses in the electorate of Moggill will feel the full force of this new tax. Also, Labor has embarked upon another smoke and mirrors exercise, offering an \$885 million payroll tax relief package for Queensland's small businesses, but this comes at a huge cost to larger businesses with them being slugged to cover the cost.

Who can forget last year's rollout of the container refund deposit scheme—a rollout that already had to be pushed back and ended up being nothing short of a debacle. Whilst the intent and principles of the scheme are positive and have had my full support and that of the Liberal National Party, the Palaszczuk Labor government's implementation has been botched. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my local Kenmore Rotary Club for the work they have done to date. In particular, I acknowledge Stuart Stoddart, Greg Adermann, Ken Ryan and the broader membership of the Kenmore Rotary Club.

In turning to more of the specific detail of this year's roads and transport budget, once again the needs and concerns of the electorate of Moggill have been completely ignored by the Premier and her Labor government. Since being elected to this House in 2015 and as the state member for Moggill, I have consistently advocated on behalf of local constituents and residents of Brisbane's western suburbs to get the Labor government to take action and implement a comprehensive, integrated road and public transport plan to reduce traffic congestion on our state controlled roads.

As this latest excuse of a budget shows, these calls continue to be ignored. However, I will not give up. I will continue to fight to ensure that motorists, cyclists and public transport users in the electorate of Moggill and the greater western suburbs of Brisbane get the road and public transport infrastructure and solutions they rightly deserve.

I would also like to know what the Palaszczuk Labor government intends to do about state funding for the Kenmore roundabout given the federal Morrison coalition government has already committed \$12.5 million to this roundabout. I would like to note that, while it appears some funding has been allocated to the upgrade of the Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange, the Palaszczuk Labor government must make the delivery of this vital safety upgrade a priority. This includes working collaboratively with the federal Morrison coalition government after years of delayed inaction by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Education is a fundamental right and it is also fundamental to empowerment, personal development and our economy. I am proud to be a member of the Liberal National Party—a party which has a strong record of supporting our teachers and providing career advancement opportunities for teachers to excel and professionally develop. I am also just as proud to be the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, an electorate that has nine high-performing state schools and two incredible first-class independent schools.

In the electorate of Moggill just some of the critical infrastructure our schools desperately need includes: at Kenmore State High School an upgraded library and new hall; at Pullenvale State School, parking solutions; at Brookfield State School, playground upgrades; at Chapel Hill State School, more modern, permanent classrooms; at Kenmore State School, a new administration block with disability access and refurbished classrooms—just to name a few.

I certainly hope that when further information becomes available from this state Labor government, constituents of the electorate of Moggill will see funding allocated for such critical school and educational infrastructure via the State Infrastructure Enhancement Program. Whilst I am pleased that Moggill State School will receive \$5.9 million for additional classrooms—something I have been fighting for; in fact, it was allocated \$1.775 million in 2019-20—there is still so much more that needs to be done. I do acknowledge the funding that has been allocated to the Moggill koala hospital.


On a number of other matters related to my shadow portfolio, I do note the Labor government's \$2 million to access options for a new first nation's cultural centre in Brisbane, as well as the \$25 million for its Deadly Choices program, targeted at improving Indigenous health outcomes. Both of these are welcomed, along with the government's \$6.9 million for Indigenous youth mental health and wellbeing initiatives. However, this Palaszczuk Labor government is failing on developing comprehensive economic development opportunities for Indigenous communities as well as failing on meaningful improvements on meeting Closing the Gap targets, with Queensland shamefully at the bottom of the league table when compared with other state jurisdictions.

I would like to acknowledge the increase in this year's state budget in concessions for Queensland's seniors and pensioners, as well as concessions made available to other groups, including families and young people. That being said, it is incumbent on this Labor government to ensure both the knowledge of and access to these concessions. Unfortunately, too many Queenslanders are not aware of the availability of such concessions, as I am sure most in this House can attest.

I do acknowledge the Labor government's \$5 million commitment over two years for LED lights at QPAC and the \$4 million in additional funding for the Queensland Art Gallery, which will certainly assist in attracting significant future exhibitions.

However, in concluding, under the LNP debt will always be lower and the LNP will always implement a responsible debt stabilisation plan, unlike the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is simply a state Labor government of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure.

Labor's state budget fails to address Queensland's ever-growing debt bill with rampant Labor government spending. Queenslanders, including residents of the electorate of Moggill, simply cannot afford Labor. Also, it is clear that Queensland simply cannot trust Labor. When Labor runs out of money they come after yours. This state Labor government is not managing the economy. They are running up debt. Unemployment is higher. It is simply not good enough for the people of the electorate of Moggill and the people of Queensland.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.39 pm): I would like to begin by congratulating the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, on a budget that delivers not just for Queensland and Ipswich but also for my electorate of Ipswich West. This budget, like the 2018 budget, delivers on Labor's 2017 election commitments, and we have kept our faith with the people of Queensland. This is a strong Labor budget and one that delivers for all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government's 2019 state budget has made record investments in infrastructure and front-line services that back jobs in Ipswich West. This budget has met the needs of Queensland, and what we have seen is record investment in education, health and infrastructure. I am delighted, like the member for Moggill is I am sure, that the government has committed to upgrading the busy Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange, subject to the federal government's contribution of 80 per cent to the \$22 million project from its recently announced Warrego Highway fund. This project will duplicate lanes on the southern Tivoli roundabout and involves constructing a dedicated pedestrian and bike bridge across the Warrego Highway. I would like to thank both the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, and the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, for their support in securing funding for this project.

I have been advocating for an upgrade of the Mount Crosby Road-Warrego Highway interchange since I was first elected in January 2015. In May 2016 I was successful in getting the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, to visit the site. In May 2017 I sponsored a petition to state parliament by the then councillor for the area, Wayne Wendt, a former deputy speaker of this House and former member for Ipswich West, seeking an urgent upgrade of the interchange. As a result of that petition, I was able to secure \$120,000 in funding for design work and survey work of the site.

In January 2019 I sponsored a second petition seeking an upgrade of the interchange. That petition was by Sandra Clarke and was tabled on 26 February. In response to this petition, the minister indicated that the interchange was part of the National Highway network and therefore funding would require an 80 per cent contribution from the federal government pursuant to the National Land Transport Act 2015.

With this budget, the Palaszczuk government is committed to providing its share of the funding for the \$22 million project. I will continue to fight for an upgrade of this interchange and I will call on the federal government to come to the table with their funding contribution. I hope I can count on the member for Moggill in that fight. I would like to again thank Wayne Wendt and Sandra Clarke for providing petitions to parliament with regard to the upgrade of the interchange.

Other local budget highlights for the residents of Ipswich West that were contained in this year's state budget include: \$8.7 million for new education infrastructure including 12 new classrooms at your old school, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, Ipswich State High School; refurbishment of the manual arts centre at Rosewood State High School; and refurbishment of the outdoor learning centre at Rosewood State School.

There is \$4.1 million over five years to establish a Murri Court, a diversion court, at the Magistrates Court in Ipswich; \$50,000 for upgrades to the Rosewood fire and rescue station—that will eventually lead to a new fire station being built in the township of Rosewood; \$2.3 million over four years to provide dementia respite, mental health and palliative care services in Ipswich; \$7.2 million for upgrades to Ipswich TAFE; \$10 million towards the redevelopment of Ipswich Hospital; more than \$7 million for child protection placement services; over \$1 million to deliver specialist homelessness services for Ipswich; and \$3.1 million to continue the award-winning project Booyah initiative in Ipswich.

The budget also makes provision for over \$4 million in investment in Ipswich West schools. About \$2 million has been allocated towards the construction of those 12 new classrooms at Ipswich State High School, but the overall cost of the project will be \$6.7 million. Ipswich State High School, as you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, is a great school with a suite of programs that puts it in a class of its own.

Soon I, and the minister hopefully, will have the honour of opening the new \$10 million performing arts centre, which will be a really good asset for not only Ipswich State High School but the community. The two-storey building will comprise a 450-seat auditorium, ticketing and refreshment facilities on the ground floor, and specialist rooms on the second floor. Most importantly, the new performing arts centre will allow Ipswich State High School to grow. The Ipswich State High School's catchment takes in all of the northern suburbs of Ipswich and has enrolments now approaching 1,900 students.

I congratulate principal contractor Intrec Management on their good work in completing the project. I would also like to thank Principal Simon Riley and his staff, as well as the current Minister for Education, Grace Grace, as well as the former minister for education, Kate Jones, on bringing this major project for Ipswich State High School to fruition.

I am also absolutely thrilled that the budget provides \$600,000 to refurbish the manual arts area at Rosewood State High School. I thank the Principal of Rosewood State High School, Nicole Sherlock, for her commitment not just to her school but to the Rosewood community. Nicole was born and raised in Ipswich. She started her working journey as an apprentice before attending university to complete a dual degree in education and behavioural science. During this time Nicole taught vocational education and training at TAFE and was a program manager overseeing the schools program.

Nicole began her high school teaching career at Ipswich State High School. She became head of department and introduced vocational education and training courses at the school—a first in any Australian high school. Her career took her firstly to deputy principal and then principal of the remote Cape York community of Kowanyama, moving Kowanyama State School from the lowest performing Indigenous school in the state to the highest performing Indigenous school in the state.


During her time at Rosewood State High School, the school has achieved the highest increase in the state for apprenticeships and traineeships, as well as the third most vocational education course offerings in all Queensland state high schools. The school is now offering more university entry VET courses than any other high school in Australia.

Nicole is also a representative for the Australian Skills Quality Authority, the Australian governing body for vocational education and training, and is now a proud representative of the Ipswich City Council new management committee. Nicole was recently a guest speaker at my state government community forum at Rosewood and spoke to a full house of residents.

The budget also provides \$550,000 to refurbish and enhance the outdoor learning centre at Rosewood State School. Georgia O'Shea is Principal of Rosewood State School. She attended my recent community forum at Marburg. I know that she will be excited about this news and the enhancement to the school's outdoor learning area. I would like to thank her for her dedication to the school and to the Rosewood community. I know that both the Ipswich State High School and the Rosewood State High School communities will be looking forward to the exciting infrastructure projects for their schools as detailed in the budget.

The budget also provides \$620,000 for school maintenance and \$243,000 for minor works at other state schools right across my electorate of Ipswich West. As the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, has said, the Palaszczuk government is delivering education infrastructure not just in Ipswich but in all of Queensland. I would like to thank the minister for her ongoing support for all of the schools in Queensland but particularly for my schools in Ipswich West. This coming year the Palaszczuk government will spend more than \$1.464 billion on new and enhanced schools right across Queensland.

I am pleased to be part of a government that is committed to world-class education facilities not just in my electorate but all over Queensland. I am pleased to be part of a government committed to workers' rights, creating jobs, providing safe work conditions and providing hope for the people of Queensland. In closing, I would like to again say that this is a great budget for my electorate of Ipswich West, it is a great budget for Ipswich and it is a great budget for Queensland. I am pleased to commend this budget to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.49 pm): Queenslanders are hardworking people, and the people of the Scenic Rim electorate are no exception. Some 90 per cent or more of the businesses there are small businesses, and they are the lifeblood of the local economy. Some of my constituents work two or three jobs to provide the best for their families and for the future. Some go to work in town during the day and go home at night to rake and bale hay to keep the farm business ticking over. Some are fly-in fly-out mine workers; others sell insurance, Tupperware, vet products or work supporting our needy at the Beaudesert, Boonah, Logan, Gold Coast or Ipswich hospitals or the various aged-care facilities around the region. The people I represent work hard, and they expect their representatives and government to work hard too.

Sadly, this Labor government has failed the hardworking people of Queensland time and time again. The business community has no confidence that the government is working for them. Numerous business surveys continue to show that the Queensland Labor government is the least popular in Australia when it comes to business confidence. In this budget we see that the government continues to deliver more debt, higher taxes, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. The truth is that Labor cannot manage money. They cannot be trusted with people's money, and when they run out of money they come after everyone else's. We all know that the ACTU wants to see death taxes introduced in Australia. It is in their policy platform—

An opposition member: Robbing the dead.

Mr KRAUSE: Robbing the dead. I will take that interjection. We all know too that this government takes its marching orders from the unions. When Labor runs out of money it comes after yours, so how long will it be before this Labor government starts looking at people's family homes and seeing a pot of money it can get its hands on through death taxes? How long will it be? We have seen them raid public servants' superannuation contributions. We have seen them shovel public debt from the government's books to Energex, Ergon and other government owned companies so that we pay for it in our power bills. We have seen them raise seven or eight new taxes in this term so far—

Mr Stevens: Nine new taxes.

Mr KRAUSE: Nine new taxes this term so far. We have seen vehicle registration go up year on year, sometimes over double the rate of inflation. There is no end to the Labor government's appetite for taxing and spending and borrowing and spending. All of this waste, incompetence and sheer mismanagement by the government is bad for business and bad for the people who employ people to pay taxes and keep the economy strong.

All of this wasteful spending means that things that should have been done—roads and other infrastructure that should have been built years ago—have not been built. The entire Queensland community pays the price for this. There is no better example of a community paying the price for a generation of Labor failure to plan, build and spend wisely than the electorate I represent, because while the government continues to implement a planning system that allows dense development in the Beaudesert corridor without an appropriate investment in state roads, congestion and safety issues on the Mount Lindesay Highway continue to grow.

The government recently trumpeted an infrastructure agreement with developers at Flagstone and Yarrabilba—state development areas approved by the Bligh government—but is there any money in it for the Mount Lindesay Highway or other state roads? The media release did not refer to any, so I am guessing the answer is no. There is precious little in the way of new investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway, and it is not as though Labor has not had time to plan for it. After four years and four months and 25 out of the past 30 years in government, one would think they could have put something more substantial on the table for the highway than what they have. There was no new construction on the highway announced in this budget—just recycled news and a drip-feed of bandaids solutions. While Springfield got their Centenary Highway upgrade from Labor when it took off, the Mount Lindesay Highway seems to be stuck in the slow lane under Labor MPs who seem to be completely taken for granted by their own—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Logan, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr KRAUSE: This highway needs a funding commitment of a significant amount over a four-year period or more to enable Main Roads to plan for the most efficient upgrades and not just the piecemeal approach they can afford with measly allowances from this government. That is what I will continue to lobby for, because after three decades of growth and development our region deserves better for its major road artery. I have been lobbying in the media and with the government for them to get on with planning to fix the Jimboomba bottleneck, where we see four sets of traffic lights over just a few kilometres. It is a huge slow-down point. It is also a section of road with a lot of intersections. Cars turn on and off the highway and Jimboomba State School students cross the highway, so it is a major choke point.

I see in the budget that planning funding has been allocated for this section and also for the North Maclean to Jimboomba section. That funding should be used to plan for works that will get traffic flowing through the area and put in place service roads to move traffic locally. That would be a very significant project and would take quite some time to build and plan. There is a wide corridor; it can be done. That planning funding should be used to work towards that. May I also add that there can be no major improvements to that section of road without also planning for a new bridge across the Logan River at Maclean. That should be part of that planning.

The government's neglect of the Scenic Rim electorate continues, with Labor using electricity as a stealth tax. Farmers, families and small businesses pay through the nose for power to prop up Labor's budget, including wastage like the \$500,000 that was spent to change the name of the Lady Cilento children's hospital, \$100,000 on an app to be developed for fat dogs, or the thousands wasted on a speed camera on the Mount Lindesay Highway that was removed just a couple of years later. Obviously, they finally figured out that what I said all along was correct: congestion, not speed, is the issue on the Mount Lindesay Highway. There is no relief in sight for the businesses that continue to pay extraordinarily high power bills straight into Treasury coffers when they use over 100 megawatts per annum. Farmers, cafe owners, bakers and other small businesses, not to mention large players like AJ Bush & Sons in Scenic Rim and major employers across the state like Queensland Alumina, struggle with huge power bills that send truckloads of cash straight to the government: \$1.7 billion in the last financial year. This is a tax on jobs in rural and regional areas.

As for irrigators on farms, they do not know when it is going to rain or whether there will be drought or flood. If the government wants to support primary producers they need more certainty about their cost of power. I call on the government to take action to give certainty beyond 1 July 2020 for those irrigators who still use irrigation tariffs. There are many of them across the state. Many growers call for the reinstatement of cheap night rates for irrigation so that the excess power generated by government owned coal-fired generators at night—where there is plenty of excess—can be utilised by some irrigators at a cheaper rate than paying during the day when the demand for power is much higher. As it is, some irrigators are turning to diesel generators or diesel engines that drive pumps because they cannot afford to pay electricity charges.

This is a completely absurd situation. Billions were spent to upgrade our networks, and now they are too expensive to use in many parts of the Queensland economy. No doubt the emissions generated by diesel engines are greater than would be generated if farmers and others used electricity through the network. It does not make sense, but this is what happens when the government sees farmers and businesses as cash cows and spends their money on subsidies in a headlong rush to renewables. That money then has to be paid for on people's power bills. People look for alternatives. People might go off the network altogether, which makes costs even higher for those who still rely on the network. It is a complete mess, a shambles. We need to get back to the core of a strong economy in Queensland: affordable, reliable power above all else. That is what I will continue to argue for because our families, farmers and small businesses depend on it.

There are many roads in my electorate that need work. This budget fails the community. I have spoken about the Mount Lindesay Highway. The budget fails the Cunningham Highway and clearly shows that Labor takes Ipswich for granted. Not only are the upgrades around Yamanto, Purga, Willowbank and Ebenezer not funded; the government has removed this project from its priority list. There is nothing in this budget for upgrade works around the area, despite serious issues on the road every day and a long accident history between Yamanto and Ebenezer Creek.

I contrast this with the approach of the federal coalition government, which has allocated \$170 million to upgrading this section of road, thanks to my lobbying and that of my federal colleague, Scott Buchholz. It is no wonder Shayne Neumann, the federal member for Blair, copped a nine per cent

swing against him on 18 May. This Labor government takes Ipswich for granted. Even Jim Madden, who just spoke, could not bring himself to mention the Cunningham Highway because his own government has turned its back on his pleas for funding to be put on the table to improve the Cunningham Highway.

Mr MADDEN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask my friend to use my correct title. I am the member for Ipswich West.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I ask the member to resume.

Mr KRAUSE: It is no wonder Shayne Neumann copped a hiding when even the member for Ipswich West cannot mention the Cunningham Highway because his own government has turned its back on the Labor member for Ipswich West. Sadly, this divided Labor government will not listen to its Ipswich MPs and it is taking Ipswich for granted. I will continue to raise this issue with the government, arguing for improvements to this part of the highway as well as other parts of the highway south of Aratula and in other parts, such as around Mutdapilly and Silverdale. There is no funding for: Beaudesert Nerang Road at Tabragalba near Beaudesert; Boonah Rathdowney Road at Maroon and Bunjuren; the Kalbar Connection Road; or the Mount Lindesay Highway south of Beaudesert around Laravale and other parts of the road to Kooralbyn and further towards Rathdowney, Palen Creek and the border.

For 30 years now, the Biddaddaba Creek Action Group has been arguing for improvements to Beaudesert Nerang Road at Wonglepong. For a government that is so good at throwing money around, one would think it could allocate a little bit to improve this stretch of road, but no. It must be the worst state road in Queensland; it is an absolute disgrace to Main Roads.

Rosewood Warrill View Road needs work around Mount Walker and Coleyville. Rosewood Laidley Road in the electorate of Ipswich West needs work. Ipswich Boonah Road needs work, especially between Peak Crossing and Yamanto. A recent fatality on Beaudesert Boonah Road drew attention again to the narrow road near Crows Creek, but Main Roads has advised me that this is not on the agenda for improvement. I support my colleague Ros Bates, the member for Mudgeeraba, in her fight for \$15 million in funding to improve Beechmont Road to make it safer for all residents of Beechmont and Lower Beechmont. There is nothing in the budget for Beechmont Road. Tamborine Mountain Road needs repair in various sections, but there is nothing in the budget for this, although I am happy to see an allocation for Tamborine Oxenford Road near Tolima Drive, a road I have made representations about on many occasions to Main Roads.

This budget fails the community and it really reinforces the findings of the Auditor-General. It outlined a generation of failure by Labor governments to fund roads rehabilitation. Roads rehabilitation was found to be funded at 16 per cent of requirements with a \$2.6 billion backlog. Bridges and culverts were funded at 19 per cent of current requirements with a \$1 billion backlog. There is a \$9 billion backlog in the coming years. That is starkly illustrated in the Scenic Rim electorate by the litany of poor road conditions that need fixing, but there is simply no funding in this budget for any of them.

I will keep on lobbying hard to get funding to fix these roads that need work. These roads have been neglected for 25 out of the last 30 years by Queensland Labor governments. The Scenic Rim deserves better. Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders deserve a government that will put their jobs, their homes, their small businesses and their roads and infrastructure front and centre of decision-making—not the narrow, self-serving needs of the union movement when it comes to employing an army of public servants with worse public services—just look at our hospitals; or when they demand a private prison be taken over by the state to the cost of over \$100 million; or when the unions demand unlawful regulations on solar projects just to satisfy the demands of the ETU. All of these demands, acceded to by this hapless government, drive up the cost of government and the cost of living for Queenslanders. The Scenic Rim electorate has been badly let down by this government, indeed by all of the Labor governments over the past 30 years. There has been a generation of failure, remembering that Labor has been in office for 25 out of the last 30 years. This budget continues that neglect.

In the time remaining, I want to speak briefly about the Beaudesert Hospital. The LNP restored maternity services there in 2014. Since that time, over 1,000 babies have been born at Beaudesert Hospital. I will keep lobbying to get an increased range of services at that hospital because services could still be added there into the future. I place on the record concerns that midwives and doctors in that facility have raised with me about the digital record system that has been the subject of so much media reporting in recent times. Midwives have concerns with the system in the delivery suite; they have concerns about the impact it has on their care for mothers. There are many other things I could talk about in this budget. This budget neglects my electorate.



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.04 pm): The 2019-20 Queensland state budget delivers for all Queenslanders. This record investment of \$19.2 billion is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders no matter who they are, what they do or where they live in our great state. This is an investment in Queensland Health's people, their hospitals, their technology and most of all their patients. It is the largest share of the state budget because this government is committed to Queenslanders—what they want for themselves, their dreams for their families and their hopes for their loved ones. We know that good health is central to that.

Our health services are the best in the country and amongst the best in the world. They do not deserve to be pilloried like they were by the Leader of the Opposition this morning. In her one-hour long whine, she bagged our hospitals and our hardworking health staff. She unveiled a magic pudding that can only be paid for with the jobs of those hardworking health staff, just as they were the last time the LNP was in government.

Our budget supports Queensland's health workers—like the surgeons at Prince Charles who have pioneered a new procedure that can mend a heart valve, a technique that requires the skill and precision to perform it in a single heartbeat, a procedure that will ultimately save the lives of so many Queenslanders, like Malcolm who I met on Friday. Thanks to this new procedure, he is back home with his wife, Eileen, and, importantly, has since been able to return to his much loved square-dancing lessons.

In an average day in the health system across Queensland, our doctors and nurses provide care to more than 10,700 inpatients and more than 37,600 non-admitted patients. They provide specialist outpatient services to more than 12,900 people, and accident and emergency services to around 5,500 sick and injured Queenslanders. They care for little Isabel. The Premier and I met Isabel and her parents, Christie and Steven, at the RBWH on Sunday. Isabel was born at 28 weeks. She is so little right now but her stay in our world-leading neonatal intensive care unit—which takes care of the tiniest Queenslanders from around the state—has meant she is growing every day, getting healthy and strong, and will be home with her parents in just a couple more weeks. It is stories like Malcolm's and Steven's and Christie's that show why more and more people are opting to use public hospitals than ever before. That is why we must ensure we have enough doctors, nurses, specialists, allied health staff and support staff and, of course, our amazing QAS staff.

We will hire 200 more paramedics. I was so proud to announce on Tuesday that the Queensland Ambulance Service budget will receive an increase of more than 10 per cent. Its \$885 million budget includes funding for new and refurbished ambulance stations across the state and 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. This budget will also fund a 3.4 per cent increase in hospital and health service staff across the state.

To improve flow and help patients navigate the system and better support our maternity services, the 400 nurse navigators and 100 additional midwives we committed to at the election will be made permanent. My first experience with the nurse navigators was when I met little Ged in Gladstone. His mum told me how their nurse navigator, Sue, had changed their lives. She helped coordinate his treatment between the Children's and Gladstone hospitals and made sure all his specialists were working together. She also made sure his siblings had somewhere to go to school in Brisbane while the family was down here so they did not miss out on their education while Ged got his treatment. As a parent, that really struck me because we all know it is hard enough to get your kids ready for school on a normal day. Imagine if you had to do it 500 kilometres from home and with a sick child to worry about. Thanks to this investment, our nurse navigators can keep reducing preventable admissions, cutting emergency department presentations and improving patient outcomes.

Along with our people, we are also investing heavily in our places: the ongoing redevelopment of the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, the redevelopment of the Roma Hospital, the upgrade of the Gladstone Hospital emergency department and the continuing expansion at Redland Hospital. We are investing in better imaging technology like the new MRI and second CT machines at Redcliffe. In the regions we will redevelop the community hospital in Blackall and the Sarina and Kingaroy hospitals, Townsville Hospital's clinical services, and the Maryborough emergency department and specialist outpatient department.

I am proud to say this year's Health budget also has a strong focus on mental health. It has the funds to complete the 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 at Logan and the Gold Coast. On Thursday I opened one of those

step-up step-down facilities in Cairns and it felt like half the town had turned out. So many people were excited to see this wonderful space for young people to get help with the right support from nurses and mental health professionals in an environment that really allows them to heal.

The Palaszczuk government is also investing nearly \$40 million in a new acute mental health inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and refurbishment of the existing acute mental health unit at Maryborough Hospital. Along with mental health infrastructure, this budget also has a strong focus on mental health services and supports, like the \$61.9 million of funding allocated to suicide prevention to help us achieve the Queensland government target of reducing suicides by 50 per cent. It includes \$7½ million over four years for the Way Back suicide prevention services that provide follow-up support after a suicide attempt and nearly \$11 million for the establishment of safe haven cafes for people experiencing suicidal crisis, run by non-government organisations and staffed by allied mental health clinicians and peer support staff.


For patients, we are slashing specialist outpatient wait times, with \$77.4 million for the Specialist Outpatient Strategy. A \$17.5 million boost to aeromedical services will provide a vital round-the-clock lifeline of emergency transport for sick and injured people in Queensland, especially those living far from emergency care in rural and remote areas. We are investing in preventive health through our flagship Health and Wellbeing Queensland. We are taking care of Queenslanders with a disability whereas the Morrison government is ripping them off. Additional funding of \$52 million will help with transition delays and to plug emerging gaps in NDIS services.

This is the part of my budget speech where I would usually respond to those opposite on their proposals for health care. I cannot do that today because the Leader of the Opposition did not make a single proposal for health care in the state. She was happy to talk down our doctors and nurses but offered nothing in the way of a plan—no commitments to new hospitals or more service or staff—because the LNP has never had a plan when it comes to health.

I am proud that this budget is delivering more jobs and better schools and hospitals for people who live in my electorate of Murrumbidgee. We will all benefit from the big upgrades at Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals. The kids at Mango Hill State School are so excited about their new school hall. It will let them take their Wakakirri performances to the next level and let the whole school attend assembly together. A massive expansion to the hall at Kallangur State School will do the same. There is also funding for a new building with 14 more learning spaces at Griffin State School and a refurbishment of two blocks at Hercules Road State School. That is in addition to continuing the expansion at Murrumbidgee State Secondary College and building the brand-new Mango Hill state high school, which will open next year.

The budget delivers the funds to upgrade Dakabin train station, intersection upgrades at Morris Road and Deception Bay Road and more safety barriers on the Bruce Highway. It even delivers for boaties, who will be able to get up the river or out on the bay easier and quicker after a complete upgrade of the Dohles Rocks Road boat ramp.

This is a government that cares about Queenslanders, about their health, their wellbeing and their livelihoods. I am proud of our investments in the services that people rely on and the projects that make their lives better across Queensland and in my special part of the world. I commend this budget to the House.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to speak to the state budget and the Appropriation Bill. On Tuesday we discovered just what the Palaszczuk Labor government really thinks of the Pumicestone electorate. It has delivered Pumicestone a hollow budget. It is a desperate government and you cannot trust a sick government.

This budget puts the aspirations of every Queenslanders on a low priority list. I know for a fact that the hopes of Pumicestone locals have been eroded in less than two full years of this Palaszczuk Labor government. Now this government has a new endeavour: to 'push the bush' following the election lesson that regional Queensland gave them recently—one they will not forget. I think Paul Kelly summed it up when he spoke at the Sydney Institute last month on why Labor is so on the nose. He said that Labor shows no respect for the Australian public, and this state Labor government follows suit.

Big job-generating infrastructure is the biggest lie in this budget and it is just as farcical as the Premier spruiking that she is all about Queensland. She is no more about Queensland than Bill Shorten is now unpacking his bags at Kirribilli House. Only a few weeks ago members opposite were boasting about the unlosable election and spent their time in this House worshipping Bill Shorten instead of caring about regional Queensland. It was an embarrassing display, particularly by the minister for tourism with what came out of her mouth. She said—

... Queenslanders know that if they vote for Bill Shorten they will get Bill Shorten.

The people of Longman listened to Minister Jones and took her at her word, and they voted accordingly.

After five years of this Labor government all it has delivered is higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. Fees and charges for car registration are increasing above the forecast inflation rate. Our state debt will soar to a mammoth \$90 billion. Labor members are not borrowing to build; they are borrowing to cover their wasteful spending. Queensland just cannot afford Labor. We all know that when Labor runs out of money they come after yours.

The Leader of the Opposition has announced one of the most significant plans that will drive the development of the Galilee Basin and create thousands of new jobs across Central and North Queensland. The LNP will freeze mining royalties for the next 10 years and what this will do for regional Queensland is significant. It is about boosting long-term investment in the resource industry. It will overhaul Labor's sham of an approvals process and drive international investment in resources in Queensland. We will also guarantee that every dollar of the royalties collected in the Galilee Basin will go towards building the hospitals, the schools and the roads that are needed right across this state. I contrast the LNP's plans to progress this great state with what this Labor government has done to Queensland. It has delivered one of the highest unemployment rates in Australia and one of the highest state debts in the country, and electorates like mine have been overlooked.

By my calculations, only \$3.1 million in new funding for Pumicestone appears in the budget papers for 2019-20. This is to fund a couple of school improvement projects, and I will come back to that later. I note that the Department of Transport and Main Roads infrastructure budget has been cut by almost \$854 million at the same time that around \$759 million has found its way into the Cross River Rail project. Call me cynical, but if it looks like a rat and smells like a rat, then we can be pretty sure it is a rat. Labor is cutting road and rail projects across regional Queensland to pork-barrel the Deputy Premier's seat. It is no wonder there is not any new funding in this year's budget for road upgrades in my electorate.

I remember driving through Ningi as a teenager, and nothing much has changed since then to improve this stretch of Bribie Island Road. Nothing has changed except there are now thousands more cars each day driving on this road. What is interesting is the planning to upgrade the road through Ningi was done back in 2010 under the Labor government and under the other Anna. The community's expectations were raised and finally they thought things were progressing, but how wrong were they. Not a cent has ever been allocated to that glossy plan—not a cent. Again, this year there is no light on the horizon for the Ningi people, who have this major road cutting right through their centre.

It is great that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is in the House while I speak. I ask the minister to sit with me in the early hours of the morning and in the afternoon when children are scrambling across Bribie Island Road at Ningi to catch their school bus or to get home. It is just terrifying to watch them run the gauntlet between cars. It is only a matter of time before one child is seriously injured or killed. I hope the minister heard that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs WILSON: It is definitely no laughing matter. The \$20 million of federal government funding provided to upgrade Bribie Island Road's most dangerous and congested pinch points has been quarantined by the state government until 2021. This funding was made available by the federal government last year and now the Premier, Treasurer and transport minister have put it in a time capsule, with nothing to happen anytime soon to fix Bribie Island Road. This is absolute trickery and they ought be ashamed at how from the beginning they handled this funding gift from the federal government. The work I did on getting the money has been pushed into the long grass. Just like the maintenance program along this road, there is long grass and no action.

There is some additional funding in TMR's maintenance program and some of that money had better make its way onto Bribie Island Road. The lack of maintenance on this road causes the majority of complaints my office receives. There is much work to do on Bribie Island Road, but this government tucks away federal funding that is available. Why? Because it wants to make a big, glossy announcement on it next year when we are a little closer to the election. This road needs upgrading now, not when it is convenient for the minister to spend federal funding. The frustration of visitors on this road is high and the impact on locals is significant. Minister, stop playing politics on Bribie Island Road and fix it now.

Beachmere Road did not even get a guernsey for the vital upgrades it so desperately needs. There is no funding to commence planning for the new Bribie Island Bridge. In January I wrote to the minister, the Treasurer and the Premier requesting funds be allocated in this year's budget to fix these

two state controlled roads. I put my submissions forward on behalf of my electorate, because this is what my electorate has been calling for—road improvements to get them home safer and sooner. It was pointless writing to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Last week I received a ‘thanks for your letter’ from the Treasurer. This was six months later with no funding attachment to her reply to upgrade these two vital roads.

In fewer than two terms of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the aspirations of Pumicestone residents for safer and less congested roads have been eroded. To add insult to injury, last year the Minister for Transport and Main Roads allocated himself a \$45 million bike path in his electorate but still no additional funding to fix Bribie Island Road and zero funding to upgrade Beachmere Road. Not once has this minister picked up the phone to talk to me about needed road upgrades. I have never been consulted. They do not talk to locals about what is needed. In my electorate Minister Bailey is about as well liked as Bill Shorten. He has been anti Pumicestone in every measure he takes and his latest foolery has been to mess with our beloved pelicans, forced off the Bribie Island Bridge by cruel steel spikes his department installed. There is a briefing to fix this mess. The minister just needs to sign it and get the roosts back on Bribie Island Bridge. I hope that by now the minister has done that.

I would like to touch on the schools in my electorate. The Pumicestone electorate has proud school communities, highly dedicated teachers and principals and outstanding P&Cs. It is good to see some funding available in this year’s budget for Pumicestone State School, which will receive some new classrooms, and for Banksia Beach State School, which is getting a new carpark, but not before time. However, it was greatly disappointing to see that the Palaszczuk Labor government will not commit to the LNP’s promise to air-condition every state school in Queensland. Its commitment does not go far enough, and the baseline should be that if it is good enough for some it is good enough for all. It will take the LNP to deliver better learning outcomes for our children—something the Labor government cannot do. We will get the setting right for better learning outcomes by air-conditioning every state school in Queensland. That is our commitment and that is what will happen.

The Treasurer talks a lot about job creation in this budget. Queenslanders will be left in the dark wondering where these jobs are. I hope that we start to see some real job creation—with jobs that last for not just one week or month but are sustainable—in the Moreton region, a region which has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the state.


They are building a new car park at Caboolture Hospital. The money is being provided as a loan to the health department, but they have to pay it back. The income from the car park will be generated by charging people for being sick and charging our hardworking doctors and nurses for the privilege of just coming to work. They will have to park somewhere. Why not charge them, because that is the Labor way? This is disgraceful and is just another tax on people who are most vulnerable and those who work so hard to treat them.

Instead of doing something in Pumicestone in this budget, lately the only Labor action we see in the electorate is Labor left faithfuls running around shadowing the former federal member, Susan Lamb. They try to be seen and to get their name ID out there. One of them may even work for the health minister. They have been out there but have not been relaying the needs of the electorate to their mates in government. They have not been advocating, like I have, on the big issues that need addressing and certainly do not help attain what is needed in the next budget.

One of the biggest concerns for Bribie Island locals is access to better health services on the island. The minister knows all about this as I have brought it to his attention on many occasions. He knows that with an ageing population comes the need for better health services that provide urgent care. It is all up to the federal government to fix the needs of Pumicestone. Whether it is health services or road upgrades, it is all up to the federal government. According to the Palaszczuk Labor government, the state has no skin in this.

At every opportunity, the Palaszczuk Labor government has stifled the rightful advocacy and lobbying for improvements by non-Labor local members—so much so, they make it impossible to accept and act on sensible advice in electorates that they do not hold. I wrote to ministers, the Treasurer and the Premier highlighting the needs of my electorate, but not one issue was considered or acted upon in this budget. The Premier must think that getting rid of Rick Williams is enough to keep Pumicestone locals satisfied for the next 10 years or more. This budget is grossly unfair to the Pumicestone electorate, and there is no respect in that. What I hear from those on the other side clearly shows that there is absolutely no respect whatsoever for the Queensland people.

In closing, I commend the Leader of the Opposition on outlining her vision for Queensland and the LNP's plan to create jobs and opportunities in every corner of this state, including in my electorate of Pumicestone. We say, 'Bring it on.'

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.28 pm): I am proud today to be able to speak to this year's appropriation bills, introduced by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Hon. Jackie Trad. This is my fifth year of being able to respond to a good Labor government budget and, I must add, the fifth surplus budget from our Palaszczuk government.

This year's budget is about delivering jobs and infrastructure, and that is what it does. I am proud of the great outcomes this budget will bring to all of Queensland but especially to the residents I represent in the Kurwongbah electorate. As our population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the country, we need to keep pace with the jobs and infrastructure that our new Queensland residents will require. This budget has committed \$49.5 billion over the next four years to fund construction of the critical infrastructure and capital works needed to rebuild and grow the state, to facilitate and support business led growth, and to deliver the essential services Queenslanders need. The infrastructure spend in this budget will support over 40,000 jobs. It includes a \$5.6 billion spend on road and transport; \$332 million on youth justice over five years; \$14.9 billion on education and training; \$18½ billion on health; and \$5.7 billion towards lowering the cost of living—all of this while delivering a budget surplus.

We have been able to do all of this without the toxic asset sales agenda that the Newman government proposed. The current LNP leadership in this place really needs to push back against our federal government's plans on asset sales. Enough of that.

My electorate of Kurwongbah continues to win in this budget. I am proud to have worked with our community to achieve some of the announcements I can make today. Since becoming the member for Kurwongbah and inheriting Lawnton State School, I have been working with the Lawnton school community and Minister Grace towards getting a much needed multipurpose hall for this school. I am very proud to announce that this budget delivers the funding to get this hall started. With a much appreciated contribution from the federal member, Lawnton State School will finally get its hall.

Burpengary State Secondary College in the north of the Kurwongbah electorate is a fast-growing STEM school. Students and teachers there will be very happy with the addition of a new building consisting of 12 general learning spaces and four specialist learning spaces. Students in the Kurwongbah electorate who attend Bray Park State High School will also be pleased with the funding announced for new classrooms there.

Sometimes it is not the biggest spend that brings the most joy. The \$380,000 in sport funding from Minister de Brenni for the Pine Rivers Junior League Club—or, as they are known, the mighty Pine Rivers Bears—certainly highlights this. The money will be used to construct an amenities block including change rooms, an officials room, toilets, showers and a multipurpose room to support female participation in Rugby League and touch football. To say that the club is over the moon is an understatement.

Work continues on the Petrie roundabout. This financial year the work should become visible. Coming from the electricity supply industry and the construction of high-voltage substations, as I did, I know how much work goes into planning, but no-one sees it or believes it until the boots are on the ground, and this year that should happen. I know that our commuters will have to endure the pain of the roadworks associated with this build, but I can assure all that I will work hard to make the project as painless as I possibly can.

This financial year will continue the design of and start of early works on the New Settlement Road and Deception Bay Road highway overpass—

Mr Whiting: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: The member for Bancroft is excited about that, as am I—with \$36 million in funding in 2018-19 from a total project cost of \$150 million. My colleague the member for Bancroft and I will certainly celebrate the start of this as, after the Newman government pulled this project from QTRIP and we got it back in, the community has been very sceptical about whether the project would ever start. It is starting.

Since first being elected in 2015, I have been very vocal about the long-overdue upgrade to Dakabin Railway Station. I now share this station with my friend and neighbour Dr Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba. This year the real work starts, with \$15 million from a total spend of \$41 million.


Also, extra car parking on the Kurwongbah side of the station will be funded by DTMR. Again, I want to thank the partners we have had in this project: Gemma Gale and the Dakabin Station Action Group, Moreton Bay Regional Council and all the residents and commuters who have helped us make this station's upgrade a priority.

The budget delivers funding to continue the construction of the park-and-ride on the Kurwongbah side of Lawnton station. Our local stations and their parking spaces are of vital importance to all Moreton Bay Labor MPs to ensure that our commuters can access public transport with as little difficulty as possible.

Residents and neighbours of Burpengary Pines retirement village will be very pleased with the planning starting for the relocation of the southbound bus stop on the Burpengary service road. Residents have been asking for this to be looked at for quite a while. It will provide a safer option for ageing bus travellers.

Lastly, another project I am proud of but can no longer call my own is the Kallangur Community Centre, which started from an election commitment I made in 2015. The commitment was to consult with the Kallangur, Petrie and surrounding communities about the growing needs for a community hub to bring the services in the area together in one place. The Murrumba and Kurwongbah communities will both benefit from the centre, which sees funding in this budget to start the design and construction. I will certainly be continuing to talk to our ministers to look at an outreach of this centre in the Narangba and Burpengary areas in the future.

I once again thank our ministers and their staff for working with me and accepting my constant and tenacious lobbying for our community. That is what I do and what I will always do. The Moreton Bay region is growing at an enormous rate, and we need to continue to keep ahead of this growth with our infrastructure rollout. The residents in my community can take comfort from the fact that we have a government that listens and delivers and puts their best interests and the interests of all Queenslanders first and foremost. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.35 pm): Almost 5,100,000 people call Queensland home. Over 600,000 Queenslanders live on the Gold Coast. Queenslanders speak more than 180 languages, with one in 10 of us speaking a language other than English at home. More than one in five of us was born overseas and we come from over 220 countries. Most of us have a connection to sport, whether it is through playing or supporting a team. In 2016, only 45 per cent of children and 61 per cent of adults were sufficiently active. The racing industry currently has 41,800-plus participants, 130 clubs and 119 racecourses across our state. My role as the member for Surfers Paradise and shadow minister for sport and racing, multicultural affairs and the Commonwealth Games impacts all Queenslanders in some way. Contrary to the Treasurer's promise, Labor's budget is bad news for each and every one of these Queenslanders. Once again, in true Labor form, all we are seeing is more debt, more tricky economics, higher taxes, fewer things built and more waste.

I thought Anna Bligh was bad and Andrew Fraser was terrible as treasurer, but Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane, is truly the worst treasurer in the history of Queensland. The figures do not lie, with a \$7 billion increase in debt, taking it to \$90.7 billion. Whilst the federal LNP government has us back in the black, all Queensland Labor has delivered is a budget that takes us back to the bad old days of Labor.

Labor's declining spend on infrastructure is typified for the people of the Gold Coast, who will not forget that it was Brisbane Labor that stymied the plans for a multibillion dollar tourism resort and cruise ship terminal. This is a project that Gold Coasters voted overwhelmingly in support of in 2015. Labor's ruling out of anything happening on The Spit is equivalent to its delaying tactics on the Adani Carmichael mine project. In the Gold Coast's case it cost 13,000 jobs and over \$9 million of taxpayers' money in compensation to not go ahead with the project. Now the Premier has the gall to say, with The Spit Master Plan, 'Gold Coast, you have won.' In the budget we see \$60 million over the forward estimates, but only \$29 million has actually been allocated, with \$31 million squirrelled away for the out years. The Premier is treating Gold Coasters like we are fools. Like many things to do with the Gold Coast, the member for Inala has no idea about the people of the Gold Coast or what the majority of them want. This Labor government has stifled infrastructure and investment at every turn. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* editorial titled 'Labor needs to back city' this week opined—

The 2019 Major Projects Pipeline report released in March found the Coast was lagging behind Brisbane and other regional centres in terms of major project work planned for the next five years.

Our city has \$900 million committed in funded work, which compares to \$6.7 billion for Brisbane, \$3.4 billion for Mackay, \$4.1 billion for Ipswich-Toowoomba-Logan and \$1.4 billion for the Sunshine Coast.

Renee Viellaris rightly coined it Labor's 'infrastructure inertia', saying that Cross River Rail has exposed the government's 'inexplicable stubbornness and recklessness ... digging in its heels, while digging itself in a hole, and giving regional Queenslanders a two-fingered salute'.

This is a project that has already blown out by an additional \$250 million and engineers tell me that the Deputy Premier has told tenderers that the pay scale for Queen's Wharf is the best practice model for Cross River Rail, driving up costs so much that many workers will be earning up to \$300,000. Her *Courier-Mail* article published on 3 June 2019 read—

Internal analysis from Infrastructure NSW reveals Queensland in 2018-19 had the second lowest infrastructure spend as a percentage of gross state product at 1.75 per cent—ahead of only the ACT. NSW clocked 3.88 per cent and Victoria about 3 per cent.

And when it came to capital expenditure as a percentage of revenue, Queensland came dead last at 10.27 per cent in 2018-19. Victoria and NSW were 19.78 per cent and 30.18 per cent respectively.

The March 2019 quarter was the worst for construction we have seen since December 2006 and \$7.6 billion below the peak under the LNP. The word 'construction' appeared once in the budget speech. So much for one of Queensland's traditional strengths! It typifies our problem on the Gold Coast. We get a tiny share of Labor's decreased infrastructure spending. I say this to the Premier: the Gold Coast has not won and neither has any region in our state thanks to Labor's economic mismanagement.

I note that the Deputy Premier decreed at the Media Club last week that it is time to move on from Adani. The Labor government has tried to move on from Adani 3½ weeks after the May federal election result, but Queenslanders will see through its about-face on this issue after years of trying to stymie these jobs. This shows how much of a tin ear the Deputy Premier has for the people of Queensland, because it is not just about Adani. The Carmichael mine and its prospective workers are a simile for thousands of others employed in our state's traditional strengths such as mining—an industry where it was the member for South Brisbane who declared that coalminers should reskill and retrain as there is no future for them in their current jobs.

What a contrast between the Deputy Premier and former premier Peter Beattie, whom I remember saying when I first came into this place, 'Queensland has 300 years of coal. Don't tell me we're not going to mine it.' The Treasurer's eleventh-hour ransom demand of \$70 million from coalmining companies for a regional fund illustrates the tight position the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget is in. On 18 May Queenslanders across the state told this government that they do not appreciate the inner-city views of the putative premier being foisted on the rest of us. Look at the statistics. Labor polled 26.7 per cent in the House of Representatives statewide and just over 22.7 per cent in the Senate in the federal seat of Capricornia.

It is not just Queenslanders in these areas who do not appreciate Labor's absence in the face of crises. Labor continues to travel to the Gold Coast for media events but is nowhere to be seen when our city is facing concerns with law and order, infrastructure and jobs. When it comes to law and order on the Gold Coast, Labor has once again let down our community. Ask any of our MPs who represent the northern Gold Coast—the member for Coomera, the member for Broadwater, the member for Theodore, the member for Bonney—and they will tell you that they are concerned about the lack of police resources in their area. In my electorate locals and businesses along the glitter strip and in the suburbs are seeing the outcomes of a lack of police resources. According to an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* published on 4 March 2019—

Police are being warned to move specialist officers from north of the Gold Coast back to the Glitter Strip to stop a bikie war.

Dr Terry Goldsworthy, a former Gold Coast detective and now academic, said—

You can't take your eye off the ball. It has all the hallmarks of 2013 again (with the Broadbeach bikie brawl).

A police source told the paper that efforts to test bikies on parole for drugs and steroids have gone by the wayside because they no longer have the staff to do it. They said—

The bikies are like a cancer. You have to keep on it, to stop it.

Labor could not care less about driving bikies out of our city. Chris McMahon of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported on 31 May 2019 that the president of the Gold Coast chapter of Satudarah could not be less concerned about Labor's weak bikie laws, declaring that his gang is stronger than ever and laughing at attempts to try to wind it up. In a recent case, Labor's laws could not even stand up to a magistrate's scrutiny. A police source has said that the chief superintendent and assistant commissioner have openly said that they will not be getting any growth in the next few years because the government is broke. They are mopping up the mess but are struggling to do preventative and intelligence work because of a lack of resources. These are the real-life effects of Labor's poor budget

management. This budget needed to restore and increase police resources on the Gold Coast. We on the Gold Coast have fought long and hard to retain our city's reputation as a vibrant, family-friendly area to live, work, play, stay and raise a family, yet Labor's complete disregard for our city is putting this at risk.

Labor has let down the racing industry time and time again. It was on the eve of the last budget that Labor snuck in a 15 per cent point-of-consumption tax, which is amongst the highest in the country, with no plan to reinvest in the industry it is taking from. In an unprecedented move, we saw statewide strikes on Cox Plate day, with participants willing to also extend the strikes to Melbourne Cup Day if Labor continued to bleed the industry dry. Any attempt to fix this is just about saving face for Labor. It has proven that it does not understand or care about this vital industry.

With a 10 per cent tax in New South Wales and eight per cent in Victoria, Queensland has been falling further and further behind when it comes to competing with other states. This budget's Budget Paper No. 2 has these wagering taxes raising \$417 million, up from \$370 million last year. The Gold Coast has particularly felt the effects of this tax on the industry, with some trainers travelling over the border to get a better deal in prize money in northern New South Wales in places like Murwillumbah, Lismore and Ballina. The situation in Queensland is so bad that Queensland's biggest single investor in racing, Aquis Farm, announced for some time that it was bowing out of racing in this state due to ongoing integrity issues. This was unprecedented in Australian racing and just goes to show that Labor has no idea when it comes to this important \$1.2 billion industry.

The Gold Coast Turf Club, sponsored by Aquis, supported this move by Aquis Farm, reinforcing the importance of integrity and a level playing field, which has been compromised under Queensland Labor's watch due to the issue of the justice system in racing, which is also a shambles. We have had matters referred to QCAT, the Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which was not set up to handle matters relating to racing. In fact, recently it was given jurisdiction over things like dodgy cars. That is an issue for the members of QCAT because they do not have the experience when it comes to racing matters. Labor has blackened the names of racing participants who are facing charges, which were subsequently dropped, with no attempt to correct the record. Labor must do more to ensure that integrity is restored in Queensland after it ambushed the industry with this point-of-consumption tax on the eve of the last election.

One line from the Treasurer's budget speech sums up the difference between Labor and the LNP. The Treasurer said—

Never forget ... Labor made TAFE free.


Never forget that when I was the minister for training the LNP and I made TAFE free for courses that led to jobs. We will never beat Labor when it comes to spending, but we will always beat it when it comes to results. I quote from a release from 2013 when we said that year 12 graduates who were given a certificate III guarantee in the first year after they finished year 12 would get free training in manufacturing technology, laboratory skills, drilling oil and gas, arboriculture, landscape construction, parks and gardens, water operations, aged care, home and community care, children's services and disability, because they were the sorts of qualifications that would lead to jobs—not just giving people free TAFE training and then leaving them with the frustration that they have qualifications but no job.

We transformed TAFE into a world-class provider after years of decline, winning national awards in the years since. It is on Labor's watch that it has not transformed the industrial arrangements, thus leaving TAFE unable to compete with private providers. Gone are the days of subsidising Queenslanders to do courses that do not reflect what employers want. We did not want to see TAFE being perceived as a lesser alternative. We transformed it into an institution that provided actual jobs, not frustration from more training for training's sake. Employers told us what they wanted. We made sure that these courses were provided to Queenslanders, subsidised or free. Labor might be the party for spending for the sake of spending, but the LNP is the party for investing in actual outcomes.

The Treasurer said that budgets are about choices. Let it be known that Labor has chosen to increase debt. Labor has chosen to introduce taxes. Labor has chosen to continue to bleed the racing industry dry. When it comes to infrastructure, Labor has chosen to short-change all 5,100,000 Queenslanders and 600,000 Gold Coasters.

Only the LNP has a real economic plan to secure Queensland's future. Labor only has a plan for taxes, debt and unemployment. The LNP Frecklington government guarantees no new taxes and no royalties increases for a decade. We will air-condition all state school classrooms, because the parents and their children are our customers too, as are the teachers and other staff. An LNP government will lower electricity costs by introducing competition to the market. It will lower electricity prices by around \$300 for regional Queenslanders.

Our Leader of the Opposition spoke about restructuring our government owned power generators from two to three entities. We will fix the M1, build a second M1, deliver the duplication of the Sunshine Coast road and support the Brisbane metro. The LNP will cut red tape and ensure faster payments to Queensland businesses. Most importantly, we will fight tooth and nail to ensure that Queensland remains the best place to live, work, play and raise a family in Australia.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill that is before us today and acknowledge the best Treasurer that we have had in this state who has delivered and delivered big for the regions. Before I start, I would like to acknowledge Minister Enoch, who was on her feet earlier speaking about the Adani approvals. We know that workers in Townsville and the regions welcome that news. All we ask is that Adani delivers on the jobs and makes sure that it hires locals.

My area has received massive funding for infrastructure. Since we have been in government, about \$1 billion worth of infrastructure has been allocated to North Queensland. There have been allocations for the North Queensland Stadium, the Haughton water pipeline, the Powering North Queensland Plan, the port expansion, Riverway Drive and a number of other job-generating projects. To see the Townsville region receive a further allocation of \$930 million in this budget is fantastic news.

There is an allocation of \$36 million to the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 project. It is great that we have in the House at the moment the best Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I call on the newly elected federal member for Herbert, Phil Thompson, to deliver on that project. The federal government should stump up. It has made a commitment to get that job done. I do not want work being done on that project a year or two away; I want shovels in the ground as quickly as possible, because Townsville needs the jobs. That project will deliver over 200 jobs over two years. I welcome that.

Of course, that project is off the back of the Riverway Drive project, which saw \$100 million in investment from developers in opening up new shopping centres. The Townsville Ring Road stage 5 will allow a half a billion dollar residential development to go ahead by getting an interconnection on to the ring-road off Beck Drive. That interconnection will connect people to JCU, Townsville's biggest employer, the Townsville Hospital, and, of course, with Townsville being a garrison city, Lavarack Barracks. My area wants the jobs and that investment means more jobs in construction, retail and hospitality.

I thank Minister Bailey for the allocation of \$5 million to advance the intersection at Woodstock-Giru Road. Members are probably wondering why I am talking about that, because it is not in my electorate. That intersection upgrade also incorporates a rail crossing. That project is integral to two major job-generating proposals. The first one is Imperium 3, which is a battery manufacturing plant that we have already put \$1.3 million into—and I thank the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning for that—because we want to see manufacturing brought back to North Queensland and to this state. I look forward to that proposal going ahead. It is supposed to generate over 1,000 jobs.

The second proposal is Drive It North Queensland, a motorsport and driver education precinct. It received \$12 million of federal funding. I am pleased that \$5 million has been allocated to this intersection upgrade as the director of Drive It North Queensland, Pat Driscoll, said in Tuesday's *Townsville Bulletin* that this money was as good as money directly into the project, because we need the intersection upgrade to access both of those proposals. In which electorate is Drive It proposed?

Mr Whiting: Tell me which electorate.

Mr HARPER: It is in the electorate of the Burdekin. The member for Burdekin should hang his head in shame, because in his time he has not lifted a finger and fought for an allocation of any money for either Imperium 3 or Drive It. It took a Labor member to deliver the allocation of \$5 million. These two proposals are catalysts for the generation of further jobs in the area. I am astounded that the member for Burdekin did not lift a finger for these proposals. He has not said anything. The member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, said in the paper that we should back Drive It and Imperium 3. That minor party has done nothing but give verbal support. It took a Labor member to get the \$5 million and I took forward to continuing to support both of those proposals.

In terms of education, there is an allocation of \$11 million to nine schools in my electorate of Thuringowa. There is an allocation of \$700,000 for a security fence at the Willows State School. Recently, I have been working with the P&C and the broader school community. I table a nonconforming petition of 45 parents and supporters who have given their support to get this fence to provide a safer environment.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding Willows School Security Fencing [\[980\]](#).

They have had issues with vandalism, particularly over—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I have also done Heatley school, Rasmussen school and Heatley secondary school. All the schools in the Upper Ross are now done. They all have them. Again, it takes a Labor member to deliver. I was a Heatley kid and I went to Heatley high school. I table another letter because Minister Grace has announced \$12 million through the Renewing Our Schools program.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 June 2019, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Grace Grace, regarding the Renewing Our Schools program [981].

The minister confirms that, through that program, Heatley Secondary College—and I have already acknowledged the security fencing—will also get the refurbishment of multiple learning spaces and amenities and new covered walkways. Being a former student of Heatley school, I am pretty proud to see that kind of money being allocated.


It does not stop there. There is \$400,000 to refurbish block 1 at Kelso State School. I say g'day to the principal of Kelso State School, Darrell Sard. That school is located only around the corner from where I live. It is a great little school. There is also \$400,000 to refurbish teaching block 5 at Weir State School, which is Townsville's oldest school. There is almost \$1.1 million for minor works for the nine schools in the Thuringowa electorate.

Brothers Leagues Club has received \$564,000 for new change rooms and amenities and to upgrade existing amenities. Yesterday, I spoke to the CEO, Justin Wilkins. He is very excited about that allocation. My son plays in the under-17s at Brothers and the allocation for these amenities is another investment in junior sport in my area.

Kirwan Ambulance Station is a place where I worked in 1990. Back then it had two officers. It was also my last posting in late 2014 before I was elected to this place where I served as acting officer in charge and it had a staff establishment of 44. That station has well and truly gone past its use-by date. There is an allocation of \$5 million to replace that station. I am very proud to see \$1.6 million in this budget to get that construction underway. I know the paramedics at that station. I thank the health minister for that allocation. The officers at that station will welcome that along with the announcement of 200 paramedics for Queensland. Being a former ambulance officer, I am absolutely rapt to see that.

I would also like to talk about Community Gro, which is a community centre in Rasmussen that services the Upper Ross area. I give a shout-out to Susan Perry and her team. They look after vulnerable people. That organisation received \$128,000 to provide programs to help individuals and community groups and also \$195,000, which they would not have known about, to help individuals and community groups participate positively in their community.

Our Back to Work program is amazing. It has been allocated \$2.194 million to date and has supported over 239 jobs in Thuringowa with the Regional Employment Package. I welcome the investment in our Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I welcome the investment in the budget for the Back to Work Regional Fund, which we heard the Treasurer talk about. I also welcome the \$1.5 million to FEAT, an organisation that looks after vulnerable and homeless people, and the \$1.5 million for a public housing initiative. This budget delivers more jobs in construction and more jobs for Thuringowa locals. I am fully supportive of this budget. We will keep building. We will keep delivering. There is nearly \$930 million in infrastructure in the budget. We welcome it. Thank you, Treasurer. I endorse the bills.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the appropriation bills. As a result of the 2019-20 budget, 37 schools in my electorate have benefited. The full allocation is \$4 million, which is not a large amount, but it is important to those schools. I acknowledge the P&Cs, which lobbied the department right through to the state government, for the wonderful work that they do. These might be small amounts but they are a big deal for these schools. The amount of \$80,000 will go to replace the playground equipment at Tolga State School. I spoke to the P&C president who is very pleased because they have been lobbying for this. The equipment has reached its use-by date.

I was at the Anzac service of the Mourilyan State School. They have been applying for funds for a paint job for many years. There is a lot of rain in that area. There has been \$200,000 provided to them. The Mundoo State School has only 37 students. They were hoping to get funding of \$50,000, which they have received, and they are very pleased. The Malanda State High School has been lobbying for \$270,000 for a tuckshop upgrade. The P&C has been lobbying for funding for that for four years and they have finally received it. They are very pleased with that. I believe that it is important to look after our local schools. It is beneficial for the economy. I acknowledge the work that the P&Cs do. The Atherton State High School had been lobbying for an upgrade to its manual arts rooms. The amount of \$1 million will go to the Atherton State High School on top of the \$2.3 million that was provided for the special education unit the year before.

It is great to see that \$13.6 million has been set aside out of the \$70 million that we had won after a long battle over a period of time for the upgrade of Atherton Hospital. This upgrade will start in July. This upgrade had been pushed for for 20 years. After the Ravenshoe blast in which a number of people were killed it was acknowledged that the emergency department and the operating theatres could not cope with all those patients who came in at once. There was a review. There were petitions with over 6,000 signatures. We ended up getting that \$70 million in funding. It did not come on a silver platter. It did not happen with just a click of a finger. It was a lot of hard work.

I am very pleased to see that local jobs will be created as a result of the upgrade of this hospital, which includes the emergency department, the operating theatre, the community allied and mental health building, the construction of a new clinical services building and also the redevelopment of the hospital in general. There is \$4.1 million to redesign the current emergency department and improve patient flow, modes of care, security storage and service delivery at the Tully Hospital. This is good news. In 1966 I was born in the Tully Hospital. I am very proud to see this \$4.1 million delivered. I do not think they have spent too much money on this hospital. They upgraded the hospital, including the new maternity ward, I was born and not much has happened since then. I am very pleased to see that funding allocated to Tully Hospital.

Turning to Main Roads, it is good to see \$18 million to upgrade the Gillies Highway, including the intersections. About 35 per cent of that highway is in my electorate. There is \$564,000 to be spent on signage on the El Arish Mission Beach Road. I was constantly annoyed by constituents, including the members of the Mission Beach Community Association, about the signage. It is great to see that that funding has come through. They are over the moon.

I am also pleased to see clarity of stage 1 and stage 2 of the Clump Point safe harbour boat ramp. This issue has been going on for eight or nine years. As a result of this budget it will be fully funded to community expectations in the order of \$23 million. That was in limbo but there is now full clarity and it is going full steam ahead. I believe that tenders for stage 2 have already been called. That is very important for the community. When people launch their boats and crocodiles are around they will have safe access. They will be able to harbour boats overnight. There is an expansion of the carports and lighting to prevent theft. That will remove congestion on the weekends. They will be able to get back in on high tide and low tide. Most of the time they cannot. This is really good news for a beach community.

I am very pleased that there is half a million dollars for Atherton Malanda Road. I have not seen any funding for the Millaa Millaa-Malanda road. Many reports of problem potholes have been uploaded to Facebook and there was much media attention on the Millaa Millaa-Malanda road, particularly with the tar issue. I am still waiting for feedback from the minister that there will be funding for this road. I believe money has been set aside. If we can get that road upgraded it will alleviate issues on the Tablelands such as potholes and line marking. We have had record rainfall over the years. I am disappointed there was only \$3 million for the Palmerston Highway. It is a major arterial highway. That road is used to get to and from the coast, the gulf and the Tablelands. Thousands of vehicles use that highway every day.

It is important to ensure that we look after the local contractors. When they construct those roads they know that if they do not do a good job they will not get the job again. When we get southern or Western Australian contractors they come in, do a dodgy job, they do not put the money into it, they undercut the locals and all of a sudden we are getting them back six months later. We really need good, local contractors and RoadTek to do that type of work.

In relation to housing and public works, there was \$336,000 provided to construct an amenity block, including change rooms and showers, to support female participation in netball and rugby league in Innisfail. I spoke to the president of the Innisfail Rugby League Club and also the president of the netball association. They are over the moon. They thought all was lost. There has been an explosion in female participation in all types of sport, in particular in Rugby League where the touch games have been added to the competition. This is very important to them. They want me to tell the parliament that this is good news for them.

We appreciate the allocation of funding to commence upgrading the intersections of the Bruce Highway with Innisfail Japoon Road and McGowan Drive, south of Innisfail, at a cost of \$4 million. I hope that I have not left out anything.

In regard to nation-building projects, it is very important that we invest in big infrastructure projects. I was there when they finished the construction of the Burdekin Dam. During the October stock market crash much of Queensland was suffering, but North Queensland was booming because of that


construction. I want to put the Tully hydro project on the table. That project has the potential to provide over 600 megawatts of clean, green energy to Queensland. When in full flood, the north Johnstone transfer would pull a bit of water out of the North Johnstone River and put it into Lake Tinaroo. That would top up the lake and benefit farmers, skiers, recreational fishers and all the other users of that lake. If you were to harvest a little bit of water from the North Johnstone River and put it into Lake Tinaroo during a big flood event, you would prevent the flooding of homes at Innisfail. It is a good project and it is a cheap project.

I mention the Nullinga Dam, on which feasibility studies have been done for the past twenty-five years. Every three or four years a feasibility study is done on that project, but no dam is ever built. Even the Borbidge government did a feasibility study and committed to the Nullinga dam. We keep hearing about it, but it seems that no government has the intestinal fortitude to get out there and build it. We can talk about it and have feasibility studies done, but when it comes time to creating jobs through the construction of nation-building water infrastructure, we seem to hide away from it. I encourage the government to power on and push forward with the big projects that create the jobs that will reduce the 24 per cent unemployment rate that we have in many of our rural and regional areas.

Fifteen years ago I was a state member of parliament for an electorate that took in the whole of the Galilee Basin. At that time there was excitement and optimism about the opening up of the Galilee Basin. Alpha had lost its railway. There were shop-front closures in Alpha and Jericho. Aramac and Clermont were looking for a boost. We even started to see shop-front closures at Moranbah, which was looking for something to spur it along, as were Charters Towers and Townsville. Opening up the Galilee Basin was very important for the development of coal and the creation of jobs in the region, which would have given a boost to communities. It is still very important to open up the Galilee Basin and utilise it for the benefit of Queensland.

We have pushed for the construction of a state-owned and run railway line, which would automatically create about 17,000 jobs during the construction phase. It would also mean that we take ownership and control of the Galilee Basin, because it would be our railway track. Users would negotiate with us to use our railway track. Transport haulage costs for life would come back to the government, which means money going to schools, roads and hospitals. The state would get an income in return. I cannot see why we cannot take that initiative.

When we had the coal component of Queensland Rail in the Bowen Basin, every year \$1.8 billion in profit came to the government from the coalmining companies that used our rail. Sadly, that asset was sold off. I am led to believe that the multinational coalmining companies profit by about \$3.6 billion. That \$3.6 billion could have come back to the state. The state now has an opportunity to invest in the Galilee Basin. If we take ownership and control of it, money will come back to Queensland taxpayers to be spent, as I said, on our schools, hospitals and roads. I bring that point to the attention of the House.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill and the important choices and decisions that our government has made to deliver for the people of Queensland. The 2019-20 budget focuses on the issues that certainly matter to those in my electorate of Jordan: the creation of jobs, the opportunity of education, accessible health care, safe and inclusive communities, reducing cost-of-living pressures and infrastructure for our growing region. Queensland has been challenged through our recent natural disasters and a federal government that quite unfairly favours our southern cousins in New South Wales and Victoria. However, we prevail with a budget that continues to invest in the Queensland people.

We are backing jobs in this budget and that is particularly important for the people in my electorate. 207,000 jobs have been created by our government, made possible via investing in job-generating infrastructure, increasing front-line services, and focusing on new industries and diversifying our economy. We also know that, particularly in outer metropolitan areas such as Greater Springfield and Greater Flagstone in my electorate, small and medium businesses are vital to the economic prosperity of our region. I commend the Treasurer on the \$885 million commitment made in the budget in targeted payroll tax initiatives that will deliver lower taxes for an estimated 13,200 small and medium businesses. The increased payroll tax exemption threshold, the employment growth rebate and the extension of the apprentice and trainee rebate will certainly be welcomed by hardworking local business owners in my electorate.

I am particularly proud of the schools we have in the Jordan electorate. This year's budget provides a fantastic boost for our growing area, delivering a great start for our children. The Springfield Central State High School is the fastest growing high school in my electorate. Therefore, I am very

happy to see that we are addressing that growth with a \$10 million investment in new classrooms. Thank you, Minister. That new funding will complement the \$9 million we have already committed for a new multipurpose hall for the school, which is currently being constructed and is due for completion in September. One of our oldest schools in the electorate is also receiving a much needed boost, with Woodcrest State College in Springfield receiving new funding of \$550,000 for a community hub and outdoor learning area. Those are projects that I know the school communities will be very happy to see progressed and I was very happy to advocate for them.

I am proud to be part of a government that understands the importance of properly resourcing our health system. This year's budget has a record investment of \$18.5 billion in health services and infrastructure, which includes significant upgrades for the Logan and Ipswich hospitals. The Jordan electorate will also receive over \$2.3 million in the next financial year for targeted health support services and programs, including mental health services. That is a particularly important area of need within my electorate and the government's investment of \$62 million to support those struggling with mental health issues is vital and necessary.

Last year I was pleased to invite Queensland's Mental Health Commissioner, Ivan Frkovic, to the Jordan electorate as part of our Greater Springfield Regional Connect forum to hear directly from front-line services on the challenges of supporting those in our community with mental health issues and to hear more on the Queensland government's mental health strategy. I am very pleased that our government has committed funding to the early implementation of that strategy, which means funding for suicide prevention services and safe haven cafes as an alternative to emergency departments for people struggling with their mental health, as well as funding to trial a community based crisis stabilisation facility to support people in the initial 24 hours of a crisis. As the Minister for Health rightly pointed out, every death to suicide is one too many and Queensland's statistics are far too high.

I am also pleased to see continued funding for two key infrastructure projects in my electorate. The Mount Lindesay Highway is important for the southern end of my electorate, with \$47.5 million to be spent in 2019-20. Work is well advanced on the upgrade of the very dangerous Greenbank Road intersection in North MacLean, with early works now also underway in South MacLean. The widening of the highway to four lanes between Rosia Road and Stoney Camp Road and between Camp Cable Road and Johanna Street will also see great improvements in traffic flow for the Mount Lindesay Highway. The detailed design for the Springfield Central park-and-ride is advancing well and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with Queensland Rail, is working closely with the Ipswich City Council and the Brisbane Lions on ensuring the Springfield Central station stadium precinct is well planned and accessible for commuters, motorists and visitors.


Further funding in this year's budget will support this detailed planning as we move towards major construction works in the area in the later part of this year. The 2019-20 budget will also see funding for route planning for the Springfield rail extension. I am happy to see this commitment. Springfield Central Station, being a terminus station, is feeling the brunt of our growing commuter communities. There are only so many car parks to be built at Springfield Central so we need to progress the Springfield rail extension for those communities from Redbank Plains, Deebing Heights, Yamanto and Ripley who currently park at Springfield Central to access the rail line.

It is good to see funding for the Centenary Highway for Sumners Road and the Centenary Bridge. However, I am disappointed for my community that there is no funding for the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange. This is a section of the Centenary Highway that continues to see worsening congestion as the communities of Greater Springfield and Ripley grow. I have lobbied strongly for action on progressing the detailed design on this and moving to a construction solution. I will now redouble my efforts to support my community and see this notorious congestion hotspot fixed.

Having said that, I do see funding has been allocated for further project planning for the Centenary Highway from the Logan Motorway to Willowbank, which significantly impacts Jordan motorists. This is most welcomed given the growth we are experiencing. I have also seen funding allocated for network planning for west Brisbane and Ipswich and I am looking forward to working with TransLink on some of the bus routes in the Jordan electorate that certainly need to be reviewed.

Finally, I am particularly mindful that mortgage pressures and cost of living are significant issues for those in my electorate. The Palaszczuk government, through this year's state budget, has announced more than \$5.66 billion in significant rebates and concessions, an increase of \$76 million from last year. I regularly provide support to constituents to access some of these concessions and this boost in the state budget this year means I can look forward to assisting even more constituents of the Jordan electorate access anything that can assist them with those cost-of-living pressures.

As I said at the start of my speech, this is a budget that addresses the issues that matter the most to those in my electorate of Jordan and to Queenslanders more broadly—infrastructure, education, health, cost of living and, of course, job creation. I commend the Treasurer and all ministers involved in the preparation of this year's budget and look forward to seeing the results of this work flow through my electorate of Jordan.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bills before the House. When a full assessment is undertaken of the 2019-20 budget and its full impacts are understood it should send a shiver through the soul of every Queenslanders—a point that I will come to shortly. When I consider the immediate outcome for the state seat of Caloundra, one can only conclude that this government believes that some have to be worse off for others to do better, for it is clear that this government and this Premier and Treasurer see that once they arrive at Aspley the trek beyond is akin to a discovery expedition.

Talking particularly of Caloundra, which is in fact north of Aspley, it is a seat of some 213 square kilometres with a population of over 45,000 and a voting population of 33,500. The seat takes into account Pumicestone Passage, which is a Ramsar site; Moreton Bay; seven beaches and suburbs; the new area of Baringa, which will house 50,000 residents in time; and encompasses west of the Bruce Highway parts of Beerwah, Landsborough, Mooloolah and Glenview. The diversity of the seat can be summed up in these words—'the sea, sand, coast and railroad towns'.

With the growth in population and economic diversity in Caloundra and across the coast comes, as essential, a modern road and transport network. In terms of roads, the pivotal road from the Bruce Highway to Caloundra is Caloundra Road, which I term the longest car park on the Sunshine Coast. It is used by thousands of travellers each day, with that number swelling during school holidays, particularly at Christmas. Add to this the developments of Aura and Harmony, that at completion will combined house 67,000 people, and we will see Caloundra Road become even more critical for the future.

It is a fact that traffic on Caloundra Road is currently congested and will only get worse unless real action is taken. This impacts not just mums and dads but tourists and businesses that rely on the road network to transport goods and services, yet Caloundra Road has been ignored when it comes to new money in this budget aimed at dealing with those matters. There are a number of critical points along Caloundra Road that need to be considered and which I am fighting for. Given the time available today, I will detail only two. First of all, the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout has been of urgent concern for a while. In fact, the LNP committed \$15 million for exit lanes during the 2017 election—taking people off the roundabout who do not need to use it to continue their journey.

The obvious example is people using Caloundra Road heading to Nicklin Way. Instead of going through the roundabout, they would exit Caloundra Road via an exit lane and join Nicklin Way directly. Unbelievably, the minister believes the farcical light system he has in place at the roundabout at the moment will help the situation. This is simply ridiculous. People merely laugh at the idea. Some say it has made the situation worse and others say they have never seen the lights work. This government simply has no idea of what is needed in Caloundra. What I will fight for is exit lanes that move traffic off the roundabout that do not need to use it.

Secondly, the Caloundra Road-Kawana Way link road is facing a growing congestion issue, particularly coming from the Bruce Highway. This must be addressed before it becomes a replica of the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout.

The government is funding the construction of Baringa State High School to open in 2021. I acknowledge those funds from the education minister. Even that shows a breathtaking lack of planning by Labor. It is no more evident than the construction of this state high school. The government opened Baringa State Primary School last year. The Premier and Minister for Education attended. Even though students completed grade 6 last year and others will finish grade 6 this year, the high school will not open until 2021. I have been told that next year up to 100 students will travel to Meridan State College and other high schools across Caloundra, but they do not have their own school bus. As I said, that is a perfect example of poor planning and highlights the incompetence of this Labor government. To add to the insult, Baringa State Primary School is a specialised STEM school. That is emblazoned on the front of the school.

Other issues in my seat that I am fighting for include the restoration of six bus stops that were closed in Bellvista and Bells Creek; the failure to properly consult with the residents of Landsborough about the rail overpass; funding a review of Caloundra Health Service's opening hours for the Minor

Accident and Illness Clinic given massive population increases; funding of the Nicklin Way-Arthur Street road connection; a school bus for Baringa State High School students; and the bringing forward of the Bells Creek arterial road.

I turn to the fiscal position as contained in the budget papers. In my opinion, we are heading back to the Bligh years. We are heading back to those dark years with our debt now heading towards \$90 billion. The government will argue that they are borrowing to build. They have raided every honey pot. They have chased every rainbow to find its pot of gold and secured every leprechaun's pot of gold. The fear is what they will do next year.

They have never been good with money. In years gone by I can remember the refrain that there were 'rivers of gold' flowing into the coffers of the Labor government. This occurred during the Beattie and Bligh years. It was still between 2006 and 2011 when all that money was coming in that Labor sold assets totalling over \$15 billion. Between 2010 and 2011 they sold assets totalling \$11.5 billion. They sold Forestry Plantations Queensland for \$600 million, the port of Brisbane for \$2.1 billion, QR National for \$4 billion, Abbot Point port for \$1.8 billion and Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion.

In 2009 before those assets were sold the current Premier moved into the cabinet. She sat around that cabinet table and endorsed the sale of those assets. They have the gall to turn to us and say that we sold assets. Their history speaks for itself. The role of the Premier is open for all to see. In fact, there are a number of ministers who now sit in cabinet who sat around the table at that point in time and they were turfed out in 2012. When Labor run out of money they will come after your money. My fear is that they may come after your assets as well because they have a proven record on that point. I remember Anna Bligh standing in this House before the 2009 election campaign saying, 'We will not sell assets.' It is the same refrain that we hear today, but their history speaks volumes to the contrary.

The other factor of concern is this government's stability. Business in particular are mindful of how a government acts within its own ranks and the public quickly pick up on this. As we have heard in the past, 'If you can't govern yourself, you can't govern Queensland.' Even in the darkest days of the Bligh government of 2011, leading up to the 2012 election campaign, members of the ALP were locked in solidarity with Anna Bligh. That principle of solidarity is now broken. Numerous members of the ALP, including one minister, allegedly spoke out after Scott Morrison won the federal election. It is not the Labor of years gone by. It is not the Labor of Burns, it is not the Labor of Mackenroth and it is not the Labor of Goss. This Labor Party is weak at the core and you can see the factions coming to the surface.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order, Minister!

Mr McARDLE: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. Getting back to the budget, we see the debt over the forward estimates climbing towards \$90 billion and extra taxes of some \$1.25 billion will be collected and added to the coffers over the next four years. Again, I repeat: the suggestion by Labor that they will borrow to build is a pure nonsense. They trot this out on a regular basis but they never achieve their outcomes. It always falls to us on this side of the House to clean up the mess left by the incompetent Labor government that we replace. I want to turn to health very quickly.

Government members interjected.

Mr McARDLE: They cannot stand the truth. They shy away from the truth. They cower in their seats from the truth. The ALP government claim to be the great health providers. They believe that if you throw money at it it must improve. It must get better. The real result is judged against outcomes. Claiming a record budget is nothing more than mere words. The LNP inherited a health system in diabolical straits. Within three years Lawrence Springborg had turned that around.

Mr Saunders: He closed everything.

Mr McARDLE: Again, they are suffering from the inability to understand the truth. They are divorced from reality. The results of Queensland Health under Labor can be seen against ambulance ramping, access block and waiting lists—just to name a few KPIs.

Ms Pease interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Lytton!

Mr McARDLE: Against these measures this government fails and as such fails the people of Queensland. It is not a question of the quality of care; it is a question of being able to access that care. The health minister stood in this chamber this afternoon and told members about people he had met. I


empathise with those stories. Everybody in this chamber has met people who have had a good outcome with Queensland Health, but you have to get access to it. You have to get in the front door. Once you are there and you see a doctor it is fine, but the ramping, the access block and the waiting lists make that very hard.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr McARDLE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I beg your intercession again to protect me from my colleague the member for Maryborough.

In today's address by the Leader of the Opposition, she outlined a blueprint for the future by recognising the role of the regions in our economy, recognising the jobs the regions create both in the regions and across the whole of Queensland, recognising the mining industry as a current and significant future income source, committing to an infrastructure fund into which its royalties will be paid, committing that those moneys will be used to build infrastructure, and outlining a fiscal plan to deal with Queensland's debt issue. This is a clear plan for Queensland and indeed all Queenslanders.

The choice is clear: the ALP with debt, taxes, shaking foundations and a record of being appalling money managers against the LNP, which embraces the opportunities offered by the regions with a commitment for fiscal responsibility and a plan to use royalties for the betterment of all Queenslanders. Queenslanders saw through Bill Shorten and abandoned him in their droves—26 per cent primary vote in this state in the federal election. I say this: Queenslanders will see through the ALP in Queensland, this Premier and this Treasurer and abandon them in October 2020. If we want to grow this economy in this state, support the LNP and Deb Frecklington for premier.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.35 pm): I rise to support the bills. In listening to the debate across the chamber, I have this funny feeling that a lot of them are suffering from amnesia when it comes to what they were able to do when they were in government. We can talk and pontificate about all of the things that we would like to see, but budgets are serious business. Running the state of Queensland with the enormity of the size of this state compared to the size of Victoria—the roads expenses and the rest—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much cross-chamber chatter. The minister is not taking interjections. She is not being provocative. She is on her feet. Please let her start her contribution in silence.

Ms GRACE: They never like to hear what I have to say.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I just asked for silence, members.

Ms GRACE: We heard the member for Caloundra talk just now about the dark days of the Bligh government. Let me remind them of the dark days of the Campbell Newman government—drunk on power and arrogant beyond belief. There was not one community interest organisation that they did not put offside, not one. I had never experienced it in my whole life of being involved in politics in this state—the manner in which they governed Queensland and how immediately they took the benches they turned their back on what they said they were going to do when elected. The treatment of our seven members who were in this House was despicable. The manner in which they dealt with the public was absolutely unbelievable. You can talk to any business or community organisation you like and they will say exactly the same thing.

I remember the can-do Campbell attitude of their four pillars before they were elected. I remember a few of those pillars. One of them was, 'We're going to revitalise front-line services.' We know what they did with that first pillar. Like Samson, they knocked it down. That pillar was gone. Another one was, 'We're going to cut waste.' All they did was cut services. They closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. They gagged community organisations and there were cuts to community groups that offered services out in the community. That pillar also went out the window. Another one of their pillars was, 'We're going to have accountability in government.' Like Samson, they knocked that one down as well. All we heard about was gags and cuts. That is all there was.

They must think that somehow Queensland operates in a bubble—that we have a block wall at our border—to somehow suggest that they are going to deliver all of the things that the Leader of the Opposition spoke about in her speech without any attention to Australia's economic performance, which is going to have an impact on Queensland, or to the world's economic performance. Everyone in

Australia is saying that our economy at the moment is worse than when we had the global financial crisis. That is saying something. Read the newspapers. You quote them in here all the time. Read the economic newspapers and what they are saying.

If you think we can live in a bubble with no relationship to Queensland's economy, the GST income that we receive and the housing market, which is spread right across Australia, then you are living a dream. All that we hear from those opposite is a dream. 'We're going to give everybody jobs.' The unemployment rate was higher under them than it is now. 'We're going to give every youth a job and train everybody.' Youth unemployment was the highest it had ever been under them. 'We're going to air-condition every classroom.' That is interesting. I heard the member for Surfers Paradise talk about air-conditioning every classroom in the state, but when he was the minister we could not afford it. I have a press release dated December 2014.

He said that of course communities would like to have air conditioning. That is what he said then. It is completely different to what he said now. When reality hits it is a little bit different. He also said that because 'there is limited money ... we have to try to balance a budget'. He could not do it then—

Mr Hinchliffe: Maybe that is why they wanted to close all the schools.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection. That is why they were closing all the schools. That is why they failed to employ the teachers that we needed and cut the number of teachers who were needed in the classrooms. In the 2014 press release he also said that 'estimates have shown' it would cost \$2 billion. Now, all of a sudden with more classrooms the figures change, but the big difference between their policy and ours is that ours is fully costed. We still do not know how they are going to fund theirs.

Every member in this House comes and sees me and they all want new schools. They all want refurbishments. They all want new classrooms. They all want new buildings. They all want fences. They all want painting. They all want maintenance. All of that went down under those opposite. The maintenance budget was at its lowest when they were in government. Classroom sizes started to grow when they were in government. The ratio of teachers to students in classrooms started to expand because they failed to employ the teachers that were needed, yet all of a sudden with all of those pressures they think they are going to be able to do the lot. It is pie in the sky. They know it, and the people of Queensland know it because they are smarter. They understand what it takes to deliver services in this state. They understand what happened when they were in government, and we will remind them every step of the way.

They talk about debt in the budget, yet I hear nothing about the doubling of the debt federally since the Morrison government came into power. I hear nothing about the Brisbane City Council, which is nearly doubling its debt because it wants to borrow for capital investment as well. That is exactly what we are doing in this budget. The difference is that Queensland's debt includes our government owned corporations, which we own. New South Wales and Victoria do not include the debt for government owned corporations. You are not comparing apples with apples. Our GOC's debt is 54 per cent of the debt in this state and 46 per cent is general government, which is what is reported in New South Wales and Victoria. You cannot compare apples with apples because they do not have them. They sold their assets. We include ours, and that is why there is a difference. They do not realise that in relation to everything that is happening in this state they are in their own little bubble.

Queensland delivered for the Morrison government, and now we want to see him deliver for us. They delivered for him, and it is about time he put his hand in his pocket and delivered for us as well. There is nothing wrong with Queensland asking for our fair share. This is a budget for the regions. This is a budget for jobs and infrastructure. As the education minister I am proud, because this is a fantastic Education budget and a record Health budget to look after the sick and needy in this state.

As one who has lived in Brisbane all my life, I have seen the area grow and change so much. I am really pleased to say that the budget delivers the schools and transport infrastructure in McConnel that we need. With the capital city in this state growing the way that it is, you need a second rail crossing. We are nearly at capacity. If you do not have a city that thrives, Queensland suffers because of that when we have international visitors. If they think the regions are going to gain by somehow starving Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, they live in la-la land. That is how arrogant they are. On this side we understand that you have to do both: you have to help the regions and you have to do what you have to do in your growing cities as well. That is exactly what this budget delivers.

I am proud that, with people moving in, there is strong enrolment growth in my schools and that we are investing nearly \$100 million in new schools. The Fortitude Valley State Secondary College is on a site that was previously up for sale. In my electorate there are apartments going up everywhere. I

could not believe that they put a block of prime real estate which was necessary for schooling up for sale. Thank goodness we saved it. I was there with the Premier and Deputy Premier this week, and we saw the progress of the wonderful Fortitude Valley State Secondary College which is being built. The buzz amongst the children is unbelievable. There are 200 people working on that site. I am also very proud to say that New Farm and McConnel will receive funding for new classrooms, with \$14 million for Brisbane Central and \$13 million for New Farm. I am looking forward to working with those communities so that we can design and produce fantastic additional infrastructure there as well. There is \$350,000 for an outdoor centre for the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries at Kelvin Grove. I am also pleased that Kelvin Grove, which is growing at an incredible rate, is also getting an injection of around \$23 million to finish the ballet academy and multipurpose courts.

I could go on. There is so much good news in this budget for education. There is so much good news in this budget for teachers and teacher aides, infrastructure, health and Cross River Rail, which is much needed in this state. Economic and other benefits will come to the regions from the cuts we have made to payroll tax. This is a budget that is grounded in reality. This is a budget that does not put Queensland in a bubble. This is a budget that understands the economic conditions worldwide and in Australia. This is a budget that will deliver jobs, education, health and infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.47 pm): On behalf of my Mermaid Beach constituents I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2019. With this budget I am reminded of that well-worn saying that success has many fathers but failure is an orphan. Well, the 'Orphan Annie' Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019 budget fails the people of Mermaid Beach and the people of Queensland with its reliance on increased debt, increased taxes and a rehashing of old projects to hide the fact it is paying \$3,500 million a year in interest payments—money that would otherwise build a lot of schools, hospitals and roads for Queenslanders.

A new Labor benchmark high of \$90 billion committed debt for Queenslanders can only leave economists, political commentators and the Queensland public aghast as to how this enormous debt level for Queenslanders can ever be paid back. Everyone should ask this Palaszczuk government how it is that the tremendous state of Queensland, with its magnificent tourism resources, bountiful mining resources and rapidly increasing population growth, can go broke in an economic boom. Bad management by an horrific economic management team headed by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk is the sole reason that Queenslanders are facing higher tax slugs and higher costs of living incurred by this Labor state government's indirect taxing regime. This Labor government is solely focused on its seats in Brisbane at the expense of regional seats across the state.

I reiterate my call from past years' budget reply speeches that people on the Gold Coast want the M1 fixed. The current road is at capacity and no amount of smoke and mirrors by this government about spending tiddly bits on interchanges as its temporary fix is going to convince Gold Coasters that this government actually cares about the Gold Coast. Rehashing the overdue M1 roadworks from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes, utilising federal money to pretend they are doing something for the Gold Coast, is just an insult to the intelligence of Gold Coasters who see through this pea and thimble approach to fiscal commitment for capital infrastructure for the Gold Coast.

I was gobsmacked to see the omission of the much vaunted Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A, which runs for the most part through the electorate of Mermaid Beach, when previous utterances by the transport minister and the Treasurer indicated that the project was a must happen. When both the Prime Minister and the opposition leader who was trying to be prime minister, Bill Shorten, committed to a federal contribution of \$112 million towards the project, I and thousands of Gold Coasters assumed the deal was done and the project would proceed, but no. A backtrack blaming the size of the federal government commitment—which was to be the same even if the dreaded Bill Shorten became prime minister—has now made the project a no-go area for this Labor government.

The truth is that they could not afford the project along with their own profligate spending on the Cross River Rail in the Treasurer Jackie Trad's own electorate for now, so the Gold Coast Light Rail—with 10 LNP seats on the Gold Coast—was an easy sacrifice to a government desperate to claw back political favour in the northern parts of the state where the federal election showed how the Labor brand has been trashed in those areas by the unholy Labor-Greens alliance, which favours black-throated finches above the jobs and livelihoods of thousands of North Queenslanders. The Treasurer's unashamed allegiance to the left-leaning Labor-Greens alliance running this great state for the first time ever in Queensland's political history is the reason Queensland is going backwards faster than a train trying to leave Roma Street Station on time with a non-union train driver.

With 26,000 extra public servants since the Palaszczuk government came to power almost five years ago, you would think our hospital services and waiting lists for surgery would have improved, but they have not. Ramping has come back into the health delivery mode of government, despite a record spend—which it always will be and always has been every year—of \$19 billion. It is not the amount of money you throw at Health that fixes the problem but how effectively you spend that money. This government cannot understand anything about health other than union mandated nurse-to-patient ratios.

I note the commitment of \$6½ million to build a new school classroom building at Broadbeach State School in my electorate, which I am pleased to acknowledge—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Do not get too excited. However, this capital expenditure should be classified as routine necessary upgrades to replace the temporary dongas built along the Bruce Fox Oval in one of the fastest growing school areas on the Gold Coast. When I started in this parliament, Broadbeach State School had around 300 kids and now there are over 900. Of course they need new classrooms to accommodate their new kids, so a \$6½ million facility is not a bonus commitment for Mermaid Beach but only an education department obligation so kids can actually sit in a classroom rather than learning out on the oval in the open air.

I note the lack of funding in the budget for the much vaunted and lauded by the tourism minister global tourism hub. This fanciful Labor spin mirage as a cure for tourism economic activity on the Gold Coast is a blatant attempt at revenue raising by this Labor government through foisting thousands more poker machines on the Gold Coast community when they are not needed, are not wanted and will destroy many community clubs currently surviving on their existing poker machines. No-one has been told what this so-called global tourism hub actually is, where it might be located, what the business case is for it and how much funding is committed by this Labor government to planning and implementing this ridiculous proposal.

If the government were serious about promoting tourism on the Gold Coast and for Queensland, they would look at expanding the convention centre and commit funding for that expansion now so that it may be delivered within the next couple of years. We on the Gold Coast are already missing out on large international conventions and trade shows because of the lack of floor space so it is a no-brainer for tourism to expand the convention centre to join with the Star casino, the Pacific Fair Shopping Centre and the Broadbeach commercial centre, which is already a global tourism hub that has been developed in the main by private enterprise without the interference of union backed Labor puppets masquerading as development proponents.

If the Palaszczuk Labor government were serious about promoting tourism on the Gold Coast, they would seriously welcome the cable car proposal to the World Heritage listed Springbrook National Park to promote ecotourism on the Gold Coast, but no. They bow to the mad lefty greens under their unholy Labor-Greens alliance because they know they cannot win government under compulsory preferential voting without the support of the Greens. If the Greens say no, it does not happen under Labor.

Again, we see an exorbitant amount of the 2019 Labor budget committed to the infamous Cross River Rail in the Treasurer's own seat—or should I say 'current seat'. We have a parking lot already on the M1, yet this Labor government refuses to join the federal government in funding an alternative route between Australia's third largest city and Australia's sixth largest city to address a major transport route for the economic prosperity of Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Mr Nicholls: And northern New South Wales.

Mr STEVENS: And northern New South Wales. I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield, who understands that planning and prospering in this state needs a government commitment to obvious transport infrastructure.

The looney Labor-Greens alliance again stands in the way of a sensible, doable and simple answer to transport in the rapidly growing south-east corner. Despite this reduction in real-term infrastructure spend, the Palaszczuk Labor government is raking in another \$3,500 million in extra taxes from the pockets of Queenslanders through nine new taxes that it promised Queenslanders it would not introduce.

The waste of a combined \$450 million on IT programs brings back ghastly memories of the nurse payroll IT failure which cost Queenslanders \$1,300 million. It created havoc amongst our most valued nurses and hospital staff, and it took the LNP to give an above-agreed-rate rise to nurses pay when we

got into government in 2012. The Treasurer at the time will remember it as he smiled and wrote the cheques out. Nurses of Queensland, the LNP looked after your payrolls then and we will do it again in 2020. I just reminded myself of the fact that the good member for Greenslopes was one of the beneficiaries back then of LNP generosity when he was in his nursing career.

On waste, who could forgive the \$110 million wasted on returning the prison system back from the private sector to the union backed government operators who will undoubtedly send the prison system back into chaos just to appease their union masters? On law and order, the Palaszczuk Labor government has again failed the Gold Coast, with no extra money for policing in Queensland despite the Gold Coast growing at 15,000 people per annum. We need more policing to combat the rising crime we are witnessing. Through media reports and drug busts, we can see that the criminal outlaw bikie gangs are making the Gold Coast their home once again.

Labor do not care. With only the seat of Gaven in their cabal, they are prepared to sacrifice new projects such as Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A and they are prepared to sacrifice Gold Coast police officers from the highly effective RAP squad that is combating drugs and serious crime in my area down in Varsity to other areas to plug their shortfall in policing numbers. They are prepared to sacrifice the second M1 option to satisfy the Labor-Greens alliance who do not want any new roads built for more cars. The bad news for the Labor-Greens alliance in Queensland is that Queenslanders are sick of them holding up job-creating infrastructure and stopping coalmines for the regions and breathtaking ecotourism adventures for the sake of misplaced, minority, negative ideology that costs Queensland dearly in economic growth and sustainable living.

With the announcement this afternoon of the go-ahead for the Adani mine in the Galilee Basin I cannot help but wonder why there was no financial provision for further works and implementation of the Adani mine approval in the 2019 budget. The obvious question to ask is: was it prepared on the basis that a Bill Shorten Labor government would rule in Canberra and would cancel the proposal based on the spurious excuses of groundwater and black-throated finches offered by our left wing Labor-Greens alliance in Queensland? After Bill got the flick from Queensland it is amazing how quickly this government did a backflip on the project to try to claw back some semblance of support in the northern mining regions.

Through its heavy taxing of the resources industry and this government's abhorrence of using Queensland coal—even though the budget is predicated on over \$5 billion of mining royalties, which supports hospitals, schools, roads and policing—this budget gives total credence to the hypocrisy the Labor Party wears on its sleeve in pretending to be a friend of the industry and yet castigating the products it produces. I am imbued by the prospect that there will be only one more opportunity in the 56th Parliament for the Palaszczuk Labor government to bring down another anti job, anti region and anti economic growth budget. I am hoping the great people of Queensland and the great people of Mermaid Beach in particular recognise the havoc, debt and mismanagement the Labor-Greens alliance government has wreaked upon Queensland during their painful five years of irresponsible government in Queensland and give the other team a go. Deb in 2020 is the way to fix these Queensland woes with the wonderful Queensland plan she outlined today—clearly no new debt and no new taxes. That is the way forward for Queenslanders for 2020 and beyond.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Gaven, member for Mermaid Beach—


A government member interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need your guidance, member for Buderim. Member for Mermaid Beach, at the beginning of your speech you referred to the Premier as an orphan; you did not refer to her by her correct title. I ask that you withdraw the comment.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw, but it was not about her.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills. I made a commitment to Gold Coasters that we would build a bigger and better M1, that we would invest in our hospitals, schools and TAFE and that we would create jobs. This budget delivers on that promise. We have, of course, already secured funding to deliver four M1 upgrades, with work happening right now at Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and at the Gateway merge. As soon as we have finished those two

upgrades, we will move straight on to the M1 upgrades from Varsity Lakes to Tugun and from Daisy Hill to Eight Mile Plains. We have upgraded exit 54 and now this budget allocates \$96 million to upgrade exit 41 at Yatala South and exit 49 at Pimpama—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): One moment, member for Gaven. There is far too much cross-chamber chatter, especially from the member for Mermaid Beach, who has just finished making his contribution and he took the full 15 minutes. Let us give the member for Gaven the respect she deserves. I am asking for silence in the chamber or you can see yourselves out.

Ms SCANLON: I will repeat that. We have upgraded exit 54 and now this budget allocates \$96 million to upgrade exit 41 at Yatala South and exit 49 at Pimpama as well as \$25 million to upgrade exit 57 at Oxenford. At the rate the northern Gold Coast is growing, we cannot afford to lose momentum on these upgrades, so I would like to see the Morrison government match our commitment to get the job done.

Planning will also continue for an alternative road next to the M1. We have, of course, already gazetted the corridor and we have made a \$10 million commitment to do an options analysis and business case, contrary to what those opposite are saying. I know that a number of people in my electorate travel both north and south on the M1, so this funding will go a long way to get Gold Coasters out of traffic and home sooner.

I am also very pleased to see money in this year's budget for Cross River Rail, a project that will reduce travel time for Gold Coast commuters travelling to Brisbane by up to 15 minutes. I am also pleased to see funds allocated for the three new train stations on the Gold Coast, which I know is welcome news for people living in my electorate and in the northern Gold Coast. I grew up in Nerang and one of the issues I found growing up was access to good public transport to get to and from work. This is an issue that I know still exists, which is why I have fought hard to get funding in this budget for a mobility study to look at the network, consult with our community and find solutions to make public transport better.

Schools in our community are also winners in this budget. On top of the half a million dollars provided to Nerang State High School to upgrade their oval and install two 20-metre long jump tracks and sandpits, we have also provided \$220,000 to William Duncan State School for shade sails and water bubblers, nearly \$900,000 for Pacific Pines Primary School to upgrade their resource centre and \$670,000 to upgrade their special education Grevillea block. There is even more. This budget has allocated money to continue work on the state-of-the-art two-storey learning centre with 12 extra classrooms and design studios at Pacific Pines State High School. There is also \$450,000 of new money for William Duncan State School to demolish their prefabricated building and to create an outdoor learning area as well as funding to install partition walls. This budget has allocated \$850,000 for Worongary State School to demolish the prefabricated building B and refurbish the double-storey teaching block. There is also \$460,000 allocated across schools in my electorate for maintenance and \$130,000 for minor works.

I know that air conditioning is something that many schools are working towards and I am pleased to see \$100 million allocated in this budget for schools outside of the Cooler Schools area. I will continue to work with principals, teachers and our P&Cs to advocate for the needs of each school and to ensure that our state schools are great schools. We also want to make sure that when students leave school they continue to get the skills and training they need to get the jobs of the future. That is why in this budget we have offered free TAFE to year 12 graduates and we have allocated \$15 million to expand and refurbish our training facilities on the Gold Coast.


The Gold Coast is a rapidly growing area, so investing in our hospitals is critical. I am pleased to see \$1.6 billion invested in the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service under the Palaszczuk government's record Health spend. There is \$3.4 million out of a \$12.8 million total spend to replace the Medical Imaging Informatics Solution at the Gold Coast Hospital. There is also \$2.8 million in this budget to provide a youth mental health day program facility. I have met too many people who worked in our hospitals who lost their job under the Newman government. We made a commitment that we would restore front-line services. I am pleased to say that since 2015 we have had 874 extra nurses, up 31 per cent, and 214 extra doctors, up 23.4 per cent, on the Gold Coast.

I am also pleased to see \$10.7 million allocated in this year's budget for a new police hub at Arundel, just over the road from Pacific Pines in my electorate, as well as the continuation of Project Booyah, a program that is helping young people get back on track and re-engage with education and training. There is also just over a million dollars allocated in this budget for the Gold Coast Youth Foyer,

a safe place for young people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. We have some phenomenal organisations in my electorate that work tirelessly to help others. I am very pleased to say that there is ongoing funding in this budget for organisations like Act for Kids, the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre on the Gold Coast, the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre and Gold Coast Disability Advocacy to name a few.

Last but certainly not least, I want to talk about our sporting clubs. We are, of course, currently in the process of drafting the new sports strategy. However, I am pleased to say that I have been able to secure \$147,000 for the Nerang Cardinals and \$500,000 for the Gold Coast Suns' new female facility. There was a million-dollar commitment from federal Labor, and I am certainly hoping to see a matched commitment from the LNP Morrison government, too. This is on top of our commitment of nearly \$80,000 for the Nerang BMX Club to upgrade their track that I committed to during the election campaign, over \$63,000 given to PCYC Nerang to upgrade their basketball court and \$152,000 to help install lights on the Carrara sports field.

There is more in this budget that I could talk about, however I would well and truly exceed my time limit. Ultimately, I made a commitment to build a bigger and better M1, to invest in hospitals and schools and to create jobs, and that is exactly what this budget does.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.08 pm): What an impassioned speech we just heard from the member for Gaven. It was full of enthusiasm, ready to go and it is good that at least the majority of members on the Gold Coast are from the LNP as they have a passion for their area and are prepared to stand up and fight for their area, because we certainly have not seen that from the member for Gaven. Since the budget was delivered by the Treasurer on Tuesday afternoon, all we have heard from Labor members in this place ad nauseam is, 'Do not blame us; blame the Morrison government.' The only name that we heard fewer times from members of this government in terms of congratulating the Morrison government was 'Shorten'. In the last three days has anyone heard members opposite mention the word 'Shorten'? It was consigned to the dustbin of history so fast by the acolytes of only three weeks ago. It went faster to the remainder bin than Peter Beattie's biography!

In turning to the budget, I reflect on some of the announcements that have been made. Normally with a budget a government gets out and gives some strategic leaks. People might hear of a strategic drop to the *Sunday Mail*, something that will happen, a big news story. People might read something about it, so I flicked onto the iPad, looked at the *Sunday Mail* edition of the paper, but nothing—a big zero. I thought that they had gone back to the printer. They had to go back, rewrite it all and take out the \$2.3 billion that Shorten promised in relation to Cross River Rail, the money for this and that road, GST equalisation and all their other excuses for increasing debt and the fiscal deficit and for not delivering on infrastructure. But we turned up on Monday and what did we read? There is \$600 million-plus for prisons. I thought, 'Well, that is a novel way of going about it. We will have a crime led economic recovery under a Labor government.' What they are banking on is more criminals. They will bank on building another prison, spending something in the order of 10 times more than what we planned for in 2015 to provide 650 beds. A crime and prison led economic recovery under a Labor government? I thought, 'Well, how will that work?' because they are soft on crime so they will not catch them and put them in prison in the first place!

The hypocrisy and contradictions of a Labor budget are legendary and continue in this budget. Last year I said that budgets matter. That is no less true today than it was a year ago and indeed as it is each year. Last year, I expressed some surprise at the lack of enthusiasm the Treasurer brought to the job of the budget speech. I think it went for 26 minutes and there was of course no mention of the words 'coal' or 'debt'. I reflected on that and thought that the Treasurer, having taken the job from the person who had previously been promised the job at the election in 2017, just realised how dire Queensland's financial circumstances were and how difficult explaining those circumstances would be. This year, there are no excuses. This year, the chickens come home to roost. The 2019-20 budget is a testament to the failures of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This year's budget serves to highlight yet again Labor's ineptitude and lack of a plan. They are like a deer in the headlights. They are frozen. They do not know which way to go and they cannot see and cannot tell anyone else how to go about anything.

I listened to the Treasurer and I went through the papers. I was reminded of the Bligh Labor government budget of a decade ago. The members for Inala, Woodridge, McConnel, Cooper, Sandgate, Bundamba and Morayfield were also in this place about a decade ago and the similarities are frightening: debt, denial, desperation and a government going bust in a boom. There is of course one significant difference; that is, now there is no global financial crisis. At least back then the Bligh

government had to deal with the global financial crisis, no matter how misguided they went about doing so. For this budget there are no similar excuses. For this budget there is just debt, denial and desperation.

Whilst total state debt now reaches a record \$90 billion, back in 2009 it was a record debt of \$57 billion, projected in 2009 to go to \$83.5 billion in 2013-14. It took an LNP government to stop that happening. An LNP government stopped that happening, and the figures do not lie. As I used to say, we need only crayons and wax paper to explain figures in the ALP caucus room; there is nothing much more to it. There was a plan outlined in that budget—not a good plan by any means; in fact a dreadful plan, not a plan taken to the people of course, not a plan voted on—but at least a plan of sorts.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Member for Gregory, I take that interjection: what was that plan? Let us remind ourselves. It was to sell \$15 billion of assets. We all remember Labor's 'Mythbusters' plan, supported by all those opposite in this place then: sell assets and pay down debt, but it did not work. What did they sell? They sold Queensland Motorways, Abbot Point, QR National, port of Brisbane and Forestry Plantations Queensland. They had previously sold the Cairns and Mackay airports, Brisbane Airport, their wind energy assets, the gas assets and Enertrade, Golden Casket, Power Direct, Sun Gas, Sun Retail and Allgas—all sold by the Labor Party.

What else did they have? They had a plan to limit Public Service wage growth to 2.5 per cent and also ditched the Queensland Fuel Subsidy Scheme, costing Queensland motorists between seven and eight cents per litre of fuel. They increased car registration to the highest in the country. They increased tolls on the Gateway Bridge by 30 per cent so they could sell the Gateway Bridge. Here is one that has been repeated. They said they would find savings in the Public Service of initially \$200 million—that is coming back to haunt them—rising to \$400 million each year after that. In later budgets they increased stamp duty costs when people wanted to buy their principal place of residence by up to \$7,500.

Under the member for Inala, we saw public transport fares increase year on year on year. While we are on the subject of trains, let us remember that the Bligh Labor government made business so difficult in Queensland that Downer EDI pulled out of bidding for the Next Generation Rollingstock project in 2011. It pulled out because business conditions in Queensland were so difficult. The then government locked in over half a decade of power price increases by arguing for higher returns on the network distribution and generation companies, so locking in five years till 2015 of year-on-year power price increases. A decade ago, expenses were growing in the public sector at rates double and more the rate of inflation. Does this sound familiar?

There was a solar bonus scheme which was unaffordable, which put more pressure on power bills through higher costs to consumers and distributors and which added \$4 billion in costs to power bills to 2027, a cost that Queensland taxpayers still pay for in this budget. Yet again in this budget we see Labor abandon its own fiscal principles, as rubbery as those fiscal principles were, as soon as those principles are too hard to meet. Instead of working hard to meet its principles, it works harder to move its principles. How members opposite have failed to meet those principles!

The public sector growth principle failed from the day it was announced and continues to fail. They failed to meet the principle on infrastructure spending by spending less than predicted in last year's budget each year until 2021. No doubt, without the boom from the coal royalties and the new taxes totalling more than \$3 billion, Labor would have failed in its fiscal principle of maintaining an operating surplus, because it would have been an operating deficit. We know this because we need just look at the net debt position. That more than any other in the budget papers tells Queenslanders that borrowing is being spent on expenses and not infrastructure. The reason for that is that net debt is getting worse. If borrowing were for infrastructure, Queensland's asset base would be increasing. For every dollar we borrow and spend on infrastructure, we get an asset worth a dollar. This shows up in the books. What is happening? Each year out to 2023 net debt gets worse. Liabilities—what we owe—exceed assets—what we have—by more than \$19 billion. That is why the opposition leader's fiscal principle makes so much sense.

Labor's budget still has no plan to pay down debt. Gone is the short-lived Debt Action Plan. Can anyone remember that? Gone is the debt reduction fund. Did it even exist? Gone are the raids on superannuation and long service leave, because there is none left, as is the debt shifting onto the balance sheets of government owned corporations, because they are now under threat of a ratings downgrade. On top of that, one of them is being asked to make a \$100 million special dividend payment on top of the 100 per cent dividend payments they will already be forced to make.

There is something else going on, though. There is a new mystery organisation hidden away on page 58 of Budget Paper No. 2. The new announcement is—


A new board will be established to oversee the economic and financial risks to the State's Balance Sheet. This will provide the Government with central oversight of the identification and management of risks associated with whole-of-government assets and liabilities.

Has anyone ever heard of this one—the central government oversight board to look over the risks and management of the state's assets and liabilities? Members might wonder just what this new board might do and who will be on it. Which luminaries and oracles will be willing to take on this exalted role? More importantly, members and Queenslanders might well wonder why we have the almost 1,000 officers in the Treasury department and why we have a freshly minted Under Treasurer. What is his role? Why do we have the Queensland Treasury Corporation? What does it do? What about QIC? Surely it has some expertise in assets and liabilities. Finally, honourable members might ask why we have a Premier and Treasurer in cabinet if it is not their job to oversee and manage the risks associated with the liabilities and assets of the people of Queensland. What are they doing that is so important that all of these organisations, bureaucracies and individuals cannot identify and manage risks associated with whole-of-government assets and liabilities? Is it simply the case that the government does not trust its own bureaucracy?

We have a Labor government in denial and desperate. It denies that it has a debt and spending problem, but, like someone with a bad habit they are unable to break, this Labor government keeps desperately going back for more—more debt and more taxes to feed its profligate spending habit. It is not just royalties. Page 77 of Budget Paper No. 2 shows that tax revenue continues to grow. Tax revenue will explode by 8.3 per cent next year following an estimated 5.7 per cent in the current year. That is cumulative—year on year. It is not happening just because payrolls are getting bigger, because they are not. Unemployment is still at 6.2 per cent. Payroll tax is getting bigger because they are upping the rate. Let us look at the wagering tax. It goes from \$9 million last year to \$100 million. That is a tenfold increase. Let us address the big elephant in the room: the waste levy—\$1.3 billion.

In the very short time remaining to me, I want to quickly mention what has happened in Clayfield. I do not need a lot of time, because when I turned to the Brisbane and Redlands glossy brochure and looked at the map of Clayfield I saw a big zero—nothing there. I now know how my friends in the regions feel—completely ignored by the Labor Party. There is a previously announced inner northern bikeway project that has been going for years, a couple more classrooms and then a big zero. The people of Clayfield know that the Labor government in this state does not care for them. I cannot wait for a Frecklington-Mander government with sound fiscal principles to deliver not only for the people of Clayfield but also for the people of Queensland in the regions and all its cities.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise this evening to speak in support of the appropriation bills that are before the House. In doing so, I want to highlight a number of the commitments and initiatives included in this budget that will support and grow jobs and grow prosperity in Central Queensland, in particular in Keppel. In her budget speech the Treasurer talked about this being a budget for the regions. I really think this is a budget for regional Queensland. It is a tourism budget and an agriculture budget. It goes to the heart of education and health and creating jobs in our regions.

In particular, I am very impressed and very pleased to be delivering millions of dollars worth of education infrastructure. I note that this is a record Education budget. I know that the teachers, students and parents in Central Queensland and right across Queensland will be very pleased to see that this record budget is delivering \$1.35 billion in Education capital works expenditure. I think that is marvellous. Not only is it about improving our schools; it is also about creating jobs.

At Parkhurst State School there is \$5.7 million going towards six general learning spaces and two specialist learning spaces. I note that all of the member for Stretton's brothers went to Parkhurst State School. I am sorry that he was not fortunate enough to enjoy the experience of being a student at Parkhurst State School. I know that Principal Lyle Walker is over the moon about this funding.

There is \$250,000 to refurbish the tuckshop at Yeppoon State High School. I recently met with the P&C from Yeppoon State High School. They told me about the need to refurbish the tuckshop. This is something about which I went in to bat for them. I spoke with the minister and I lobbied really hard for this funding. On Monday I called the tuckshop to tell them that I understood there would be some money in the budget for the Yeppoon State High School tuckshop. They were just so over the moon about this funding that will go towards improving the tuckshop at Yeppoon State High School.

The Yeppoon State School P&C, parents and the school principal wanted to meet with me about the need for a new playground and shade covering, since the cyclone a couple of years ago knocked down most of the shade trees. I went in to bat for them, too. I am pleased that in the budget there is \$150,000 to go towards a new permanent shade structure and playground at Yeppoon State School.

There is close to \$870,000 allocated across the 15 state schools in Keppel for maintenance and minor works over the next financial year. I think that is great. A lot of the schools get maintenance and upgrade work done over school breaks. When the students, parents and staff come back, they are really pleased to see the work that has been done. Even a lick of paint on some of the buildings can make a big difference in terms of pride in the schools.

Also in the budget is \$5.1 million for Yeppoon State High School's new administration building. Construction is underway, so the funding in the next financial year is for the next stage of those works. I know that the P&C, the parents, the staff and the principal at Yeppoon State High School are very much looking forward to that building being completed.

There is also \$861,000 to provide mental health program services. The member for Rockhampton and I recently met with the CEO of Anglicare, which has been contracted to deliver part of this mental health program. She is just over the moon. I know that it will go a long way to helping people in the community who are struggling with their mental health.

There is also half a million dollars to construct change rooms and amenities to support female participation in multisport at the Barmaryee Multisport Precinct. That multisport precinct is a precinct that Labor has been investing in for years in partnership with the Livingstone Shire Council. That precinct now is huge. There are Rugby League and netball carnivals on there regularly. It is a hive of activity. It is amazing to see that, in partnership with the Livingstone Shire Council, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering on sporting infrastructure in Keppel. I thank the Minister for Sport for his support and for allocating this funding towards the multisport precinct at Barmaryee. The other day I spoke with the president of the netball association, Tanya Burnett. She is just so excited. The girls need more change rooms, and this funding will go towards expanding the amenities there.

There is also the continuation of funding, delivered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, for the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade in the Parkhurst part of my electorate. This project is shared with the member for Rockhampton and it is going gangbusters. There are workers and machinery everywhere. It is a \$120 million project that is creating jobs, giving local people the opportunity to work on a very big project and really improving the entire northern entrance to Rockhampton. It will make the entrance to Rockhampton much more spectacular and it is growing jobs at the same time. The businesses around the Parkhurst Town Centre are absolutely loving the fact that this project is ongoing around their shopping centre.

The budget also includes funding to deliver on our commitment for the Rockhampton alcohol, ice and other drugs detox and rehab centre, a \$14.3 million commitment that we made for a new 42-bed residential alcohol and other drug rehab and detox facility. There will be 32 beds in that facility for residential rehabilitation where people can stay and be treated, eight beds for withdrawal stage or detox treatment and two family units so that people can get the treatment that they need with their families supporting them on their journey. I understand that a preferred site has been identified for the facility, and the schematic level design and the detailed business case are expected to be completed by the end of this year, with construction planned for 2020. Service delivery will commence as soon as practicable after the completion of construction. The services to be provided include residential treatment for adults aged 18 years or over and flexible non-residential treatment provided for young people aged under 18 years and other groups in the community indicated for this type of treatment to address their substance abuse issues, and that is fantastic.

There is so much more that I could talk about with respect to budget commitments in Keppel. This is a great budget for Central Queensland and it is a great budget for Keppel. This budget will create jobs and it will improve our health services, our hospitals and our schools. We made the commitment in 2015 to restore the front-line services that the Newman government cut in Queensland and I am really pleased that since March 2015 when we came to government there have been 168 extra nurses employed in Central Queensland and 95 extra doctors. That is an outstanding number of front-line workers who have been employed in our hospitals and who are delivering services to Central Queensland local people in order to keep them healthy.

There have also been 185 extra teachers and 71 extra teacher aides, and that is just fantastic. It goes a long way to help improve our schools and help deliver a quality education for people in Central Queensland. As a teacher my mum would be very pleased to know that there are 185 extra teachers


in our region now. She is always talking to me about the importance of education and how hard teachers work. I know how hard they work because I have seen it. She has been working hard every day for the last 30 years as a teacher and she is passionate about it. She loves her job, but we need more teachers and the Palaszczuk government is delivering.

This budget includes \$1.1 billion for infrastructure in Central Queensland—a record budget for infrastructure. I understand that 60 per cent of the infrastructure spend in this Palaszczuk government budget is being allocated across regional Queensland, and that is great news for regional Queensland because the \$1.1 billion that is being spent in this budget will support around 3,600 jobs in this coming financial year in Central Queensland alone. That is outstanding news for people in Central Queensland. I also think that the payroll tax package is a great way to incentivise business to grow, to hire more staff and to diversify their business. It is an awesome package and I am so pleased that the Treasurer has listened to the calls from the chambers of commerce and other business associations across the state, because people in Central Queensland have been saying for a long time that they want payroll tax relief, and this government is delivering.

In closing, I highlight the need for the seven-day manning of the Yeppoon Fire Station. There is no budget line item for any additional firefighters at Yeppoon station, but I want to see that station manned seven days. Currently those officers are on a five-day roster—and the auxiliaries and the officers do a fantastic job manning that station—but I want to see that station upgraded to a category B station with seven-day manning. I will be calling on the government and the minister to allocate some of the remaining full-time-equivalent positions that are still owing to regional fire stations across the state to Yeppoon and I will be asking for the Yeppoon Fire Station to be considered for that upgrade, an upgrade which is desperately needed to help improve response times in Central Queensland.

Mr Millar: You have my support.

Mrs LAUGA: The member for Gregory is also supporting that call. I congratulate the Treasurer on this fantastic budget that is delivering jobs for regional Queensland.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.34 pm): The Labor Treasurer, Jackie Trad, is boasting that this is a 'record' budget—a record for this, a record for that, a record for all this. The one record that the Treasurer does not mention is that this budget represents a record debt for Queensland. In forward estimates it will be near to \$90 billion—\$19,000 for every man, woman and child. A Queensland family of five will carry a debt equivalent to \$95,000. The Treasurer put on her best voice as she spoke to the television news audiences last night when she said, 'This is an entirely manageable debt level for the state,' as if that means anything. Of course someone is going to have to manage it, and every thoughtful Queenslanders knows who. It is the regions. This debt started under Labor premiers Beattie and Bligh and it has not only continued but increased under the Palaszczuk Labor government. This record debt will continue to be a brake, choking our prosperity for our children and our grandchildren for decades to come.

The other promotional line being run by the government is that this budget is somewhat of a 'love letter' to the regions. As a member who represents a quarter of Queensland's land mass in the heart of the state, let me tell members that this budget is more of an 'IOU' note than a love letter. Just looking at some of the announcements in Gregory, the Black Gully Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade was first announced at the beginning of May 2017 and was meant to be completed by June 2018. As it is only getting \$1 million of the required \$5 million, completion may still not be in sight. Take that as an IOU. In terms of passing lanes on the Capricorn Highway between Gracemere and Emerald, the department has been talking about this since anyone can remember. It was actually announced in last year's budget and was due for completion in November this year, but the till must have been empty even though the federal government is contributing to the cost and, again, in this budget the allocation is short of the full spend. Take that as an IOU note.

The Emerald Saleyards upgrade is another reannouncement of partial funding. It was first announced in March this year as part of a successful application by the Central Highlands Regional Council in round 4 of Building our Regions grants to local government. The construction of Rookwood Weir will absolutely have a positive impact on the most eastern part of Gregory, but the locals had a good laugh reading the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* when the minister and the member for Rockhampton visited on a tour of inspection the other day. They were having a good old bout of mutual admiration when everyone knows that the federal government had to drag the Palaszczuk government kicking and screaming to the table on this one. It is reassuring to see it in the state budget, but its allocation of \$83 million out of the \$352 million project total is a major IOU as well. That is four regional IOUs and counting, and we have not even crossed the great divide!

In the western part of the Gregory electorate top of the list is the Blackall Hospital redevelopment. This was a \$17.9 million project. It was always a bridesmaid and never a bride. Announced in 2017, it was allocated \$5 million in the 2017-18 budget, but the IOU was considerably more than \$12.9 million because the Palaszczuk government only delivered \$361,000 of the \$5 million allocated. That is the first IOU. Then in the 2018-19 budget the Treasurer gave a further \$1.3 million and said—

... whether you live in Brisbane or Blackall. Labor is doing the things we said we would do ...

That is the second IOU. Now the project starts in its third budget, but will it get the over \$16 million needed to complete the project? One would hope so, but no. In 2019-20 we get an allocation of \$2.7 million, an IOU of \$13,609,000 and the Treasurer's flattery that 'when the regions are doing well, Queensland is doing well'.

The Boulia community hospital is in the same position, with an allocation of \$3.9 million for a \$7.2 million refurbishment—another multimillion IOU. This is all in just one regional electorate. That pretty much finishes the funding for Gregory in this budget.

There is a road pavement and widening project between Longreach and Winton, but this project is part of the partnership with the federal government's Northern Australia Roads Program, so the contribution is unclear. There is \$100,000 allocated out of the \$3.1 million that is needed to replace the Longreach Fire Station and roughly half of the \$7.6 million needed for the upgrade of the Barcardine Power Station and substation. That is one electorate IOU note from the Treasurer. That is not investing in our regions and certainly does not address our true infrastructure needs.

The real story of this budget is one of wasted money and poor priorities. In the portfolio of road investment, we see \$240 million put into building cyclepaths in Brisbane while our regional roads fall apart. In a record Health budget, we see the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service described in the budget paper as suffering from ageing infrastructure, poor IT capacity and a difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff. Where is the investment in these areas? The total budget increase for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service is only \$12.5 million for a hospital budget of \$622.8 million. The Blackwater Hospital gets nothing. I ask members to google an image of the Blackwater Hospital. That facility is supposed to cater for a town that is a major contributor to the Treasurer's record take from coal royalties.

Springsure and Woorabinda have also been neglected. I am told that renal dialysis patients are being transported to Rockhampton for regular treatments. They are slightly better off than the dialysis patients in Emerald and Longreach. For \$500,000, we could have had renal dialysis chairs in both of those towns. I remind members of the \$240 million for bike paths. I think of what these patients would say. They pay their taxes, they work, they contribute to our state's revenues, yet we are literally losing lives over a relatively small investment in renal dialysis in Longreach and Emerald.

When Lawrence Springborg left the office of health minister, he left elective surgery waiting times of 27 days. Last financial year, the median wait time for elective surgery in the Central West was 259 days. Other KPIs have suffered similar blowouts and nothing seems to change. Queensland Health staggers along from crisis to crisis. There is no money to address the pitiful funding of patient travel for regional patients. I ask members to try to find accommodation close to a Brisbane hospital for anywhere near \$60 a night.

The Treasurer cited record investment in education, but except for the replacement of air conditioners at Emerald State High School, which is maintenance, all the schools in the Gregory electorate seem to have missed out. School infrastructure in my electorate is ageing, but nothing is done. Since I was elected I have been advocating for the bus infrastructure at Emerald State High School to be massively upgraded. The campus acts as a school bus interchange for every child who travels to school by bus, so even the preppies must visit the campus twice daily to change buses. Yet the infrastructure there is 50 years old. I fear we are putting young lives in danger. We need to fix that.

Students who live most remotely in the Gregory electorate are among the small handful who receive assistance from the state government to attend boarding school, because there is no other way to ensure their access to a quality senior education. Yet again, this budget does not address the growing gap between the subsidy and the actual cost. The subsidy needs a one-off increase to catch up with reality and then CPI increases annually. Instead, families, many of whom have had no income for years due to drought, are somehow expected to fund the gap of thousands of dollars per child. This is not equality of opportunity for remote students. We have to remember that there are primary schools in these areas for these students but not high schools. We need to be able to send them to a high school to receive a high school education.

I will now move to regional cost-of-living issues. Electricity costs in regional Queensland are crippling. The publican at the Barcoo Hotel in Blackall has found that installing a diesel generator proved to be a sensible investment. Similarly, irrigation farmers are screaming out for a food and fibre tariff, but I can see nothing in this budget indicating practical plans for relief.

The other issue is transportation. Of the over 40 towns and settlements in my electorate, none has public transport. Ownership of private vehicles is the only option and most households have to register multiple vehicles just to get to work. Increasing the cost of vehicle registration well above the rate of inflation and with none of those funds coming back in the form of better roads and public transport is a double insult to those Queenslanders. Although the Treasurer might have said the word 'region' nearly 40 times in her speech, this budget is not about the regions at all.

I turn to the portfolio of Fire and Emergency Services. In this year's budget we have seen a more than 70 per cent decrease in the number of rural fire brigade trucks to be constructed compared to the number last year. The latest building of rural fire trucks has simply replaced the 20-year-old, aged fleet rather than providing trucks to those brigades that do not have them. Although the overall fleet of the Rural Fire Service Queensland has grown slightly, according to the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland there is still not enough trucks to meet community defence needs.


One such example is the rural fire brigade of Mount Ossa, which is located just north of Mackay. Although that brigade is not as big as some, there are 52 members, including 18 active members, who look after an area covering 175 square kilometres. This brigade does not have a truck, but it has five slip-on trailer units that are used to fight fires. This brigade has no fire shed, and would benefit from one, and no truck, and would benefit from one. During the recent fires in the region, the members of this brigade had to use their own vehicles to fight fires at their own personal expense. The brigade has had to rely on the support of local farmers to complete its fire hazard reduction program and we know how important it is to be able to do that properly. In fact, recently, the Mount Ossa brigade applied for a communication grant and the supporting letter from the local RFSQ inspector truly demonstrated the need for a fire truck.

This is just one story of the many fire brigades throughout Queensland that require trucks so that they can respond to and manage fires in their local areas. This is just one brigade of many in Queensland that needs a fire truck. We also know that there are brigades in Townsville, Charters Towers and areas around Cairns that urgently need fire trucks to ensure that they can service and protect their communities. Our rural fire volunteers deserve proper and adequate equipment so that they can be safe and properly protect our communities.

This brings me to something a little bit closer to home that I have just mentioned. In the budget, the new Longreach Fire Station has been allocated only \$100,000 towards its construction. It needs \$3.1 million to complete construction. Basically, the government has given that community \$100,000. What are they going to do? Put down the cement base, buy a couple of ladders and maybe a kettle for the kitchen? They need to have that fire station now. For the government to put that measly allocation of \$100,000 for the construction of the Longreach Fire Station into a shiny brochure and say that it is delivering for regional and outback Queensland is an insult and that community will see through that. I have been past the land where that fire station is to be constructed. It has been marked out. It has been surveyed. The project is ready to go. Why not give the community the \$3.1 million they need so that we can get this fire station up and going now? The people of Longreach need to have the best services out there so that they can fight fires. We need to give them the facilities to do that. I call on the minister to give the Longreach Fire Station the full amount it needs of \$3.1 million. Last year during estimates I asked the minister about this allocation and he said to me that it was coming. One hundred thousand dollars is not enough.

In relation to marine rescue funding, there remains no reprieve to solving the questions that the Blue Water Review unearthed and brought to light. The minister and the department have failed to provide certainty to the two marine rescue operations and the thousands of volunteers. The future of marine rescue in Queensland should have been solved and funded by this budget but, once again, thousands of boaties along the Queensland coast rely on our volunteer marine rescue organisations. When the Blue Water Review was instigated by the minister, there was confidence that we would have had this issued solved well before this budget came down because of the allocation that we need to give to the coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue. Right now, the Blue Water Review is not clear. We do not know what direction this government is going in. Is the government going to bring together the coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue service? What is the future for these organisations?

The coastguard and the Volunteer Marine Rescue are first responders. If a person is out at sea and their boat is leaking, or has run out of fuel, or they have hit rough seas and they cannot get to shore, they need someone to pick them up. The only people who can get to them are the coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue. We have to treat and fund the coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue like they are first responders. Many Queenslanders are boaties and go out to sea. They need to have the assurance that they have the best possible coastguard and Volunteer Marine Rescue service available to make sure they have first responders when there is an emergency. I call on the minister to move on that now.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.50 pm): The Palaszczuk government has delivered a budget for the regions, one that delivers jobs, jobs, jobs, but one that invests where it matters: in Health and in Education. That is certainly evident in the electorate of Gladstone. This budget delivers a record \$13.8 billion for education, including in the area of early childhood education. This budget delivers 185 extra teachers and 71 extra teacher aides which we know are so critical in our Central Queensland schools.

There are eight new schools opening in 2020 across the state, including one that I have fought hard for, the \$62 million Calliope State High School. Recently I visited the site with the Premier where work is proceeding full steam ahead. There will be students walking those halls next year and, importantly, no longer travelling on a packed school bus for a half-hour journey along the highway into Gladstone as those opposite would have had the kids continue to do, saying there was no need for that school. They had it up for sale. It was great to see that across the worksite there were over 100 people from local contractors such as local company Cutuli Electrical. In my electorate we will see a \$270,000 refurbishment of the science block at Tannum Sands State High School—I know how important that will be to those kids—and \$190,000 to upgrade the existing hardcourt at Benaraby State School and install a roof cover over it.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to education is unwavering. We know that a quality education for our kids is paramount to the future of our great state and, more importantly, for their futures. This means we need to provide premier facilities and premier resources, we need to put enough teachers and teacher aides in our classrooms, and we need to recognise and appropriately reward our accomplished teachers. Our government is not just delivering record education investment in this budget, we are delivering investment in education all year round.

Right now in Gladstone at Toolooa State High School there is construction of a new building at a cost of \$4.2 million. At Clinton State School, where my nephew and nieces go, there is construction of more classrooms at a cost of \$1.3 million. There is also construction at Kin Kora State School at a cost of \$1 million to upgrade their hall to an all-weather-use facility. In fact, since I have been elected to this parliament the total investment in education infrastructure is just shy of \$100 million. We have supported our local schools and kindergartens through their P&Cs with close to half a million dollars in grants, including Gladstone West State School's refurbished tennis courts—which I know Rod Laver would be so proud of—and a new roof at Birralea Kindergarten to name only a few.

Labor budgets deliver for communities where it matters most: in education, in health and in jobs. During the coming year we will see the completion of the \$42 million accident and emergency department at the Gladstone Hospital. I acknowledge Minister Cameron Dick, who helped kick off that wonderful upgrade to that facility. Last week I was there checking out the progress. We are seeing the massive footprint of this new ED taking shape. The pylons are rising up out of the ground, the new car park is complete and things are really starting to happen. The biggest share of our budget is invested in Health because all Queenslanders, no matter where they live, deserve access to good quality health care. We are seeing an increased demand on our public health services as health premiums continue to rise, pushing private insurance further and further out of reach for everyday Queenslanders. We cannot rely on the federal government to pay its fair share. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is making the necessary investments in Health to meet this demand.

We are employing an extra 168 nurses and 95 extra doctors in Central Queensland and we have committed to making our nurse navigator positions permanent. This is great news for the two nurse navigators we have at Gladstone Hospital. These positions have made the world of difference to many patients and their families across Queensland but especially in regional communities like Gladstone. Often complex medical needs involve travel, time away from other kids and time off work. These are families who are desperately seeking answers. Having a nurse navigator to assist them in understanding the system, to streamline their case management and to, importantly, be a supportive ear is truly invaluable. Sue and Jan at the Gladstone Hospital are saints in my book and deserve the security that making these jobs permanent brings.

This budget is also delivering a massive \$62 million investment in suicide prevention. This is something I feel passionate about, as does every Queenslanders whose life has been touched by this kind of tragedy. Every death is one too many and Queensland's statistics are far too high. I recently met with my local Queensland police sergeant and discussed the prevalence of suicide in my region. To say the least, I was alarmed. It involves someone's father, sister, parent, child, friend or loved one. It is simply devastating. We need to be doing much more to make a dent in these high rates that we now see. This package includes many things, such as a new crisis care option being explored through the service reform project. I look forward to the outcome of this project to see if this is something that could be rolled out in Gladstone. We need to move this issue from our EDs and give the patient the specialised mental health support that they need at the time of crisis and beyond.


We have been fortunate in Gladstone to have the step-up step-down facility operating for six months now. This is a positive part of the mix, but it is only one part and we need to do more, especially in our response to acute critical presentations in Gladstone. I will continue to work with community members, mental health professionals and Minister Steven Miles to find a solution that fits the needs of the Gladstone community.

This package also allocates \$28.1 million over four years to enhance coverage over and above current investment for people living with severe and persistent mental illness who are ineligible for the NDIS. There is a gap here and patients have been falling through the cracks: being told by the public mental health system that they need to access support through their NDIS plans, but having no NDIS plan or a plan that does not cover their needs. I have had many people raise this concern with my office and I am thrilled that this budget will help to support those people.

Since the Palaszczuk government came into office 199,000 jobs—even more now—have been created. We on this side of the House are unashamedly pro jobs. Our government is continuing its investment: in programs that support unemployed Queenslanders getting a chance and in programs that provide incentives to businesses to take on a new employee. We are creating jobs in Gladstone, with 790 people employed under the successful Back to Work program through funding of \$7.2 million to date, with at least \$799,250 committed in 2019-20 to continue this program. I acknowledge Minister Fentiman. She has been a big driver behind this program. Three hundred and fifty-one employers have given hundreds of jobseekers in our region the opportunity to get a foothold in the local job market. We are building opportunities for people in Gladstone with the biggest changes to the payroll tax system in over a decade. Queensland already has one of the lowest payroll tax rates of any state in the country and these changes will make it even more competitive to do business, especially in regional Queensland.

We are investing in the industries of the future. My electorate of Gladstone is at the forefront of the global energy revolution of energy supply and reform. We have it all: coal, solar, gas, biofuels and now hydrogen. In Gladstone we are primed to capitalise on our assets: existing gas infrastructure, a deep water port and access to state development land. Our greatest asset is a visionary government with a strong and clear message. A clear energy policy gives business confidence to invest and they are doing just that. Members have heard me say it many times in this House: only Labor governments have the vision to invest in jobs for the future. I back coal, it has a place—it built my electorate—but we need to look forward. We need jobs in construction and industry that can bring the local people back to Gladstone. The \$19 million Hydrogen Industry Strategy sets out a five-year plan to drive development of an economically sustainable and competitive hydrogen industry in Queensland, creating more highly skilled jobs and export opportunities, with Gladstone being a key focus for hydrogen development. Global demand for hydrogen is increasing, with the market expected to reach US\$155 billion by 2022.

Finally, a word on our biggest employer and the driver of so much that is great in Gladstone, without which our town simply would not exist: the Gladstone Ports Corporation. This year's budget has seen investments in expansion at Auckland Point wharf for increasing containerisation and securing our cruise ship industry. The port of Gladstone is truly a multicommodity port, driving our resources sector, our tourism sector and our agricultural sector. Everywhere one looks in our region, community spaces are created and maintained by Gladstone Ports Corporation. The Palaszczuk government is investing in this profit-making, job-generating asset, an integral part of the economic prosperity for our region and our state.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to speak on the 2019 budget. This is a budget covered in Labor Party DNA. It is a traditional Labor budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. This is a budget and a government that lacks leadership, lacks vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive.

This week we have heard of a long line of Labor luminaries who have recently been tipping the bucket on this government, but it is the architect of the once-strong Queensland economy, former Treasury and investment boss Sir Leo Hielscher, to whom we should be listening. Last year he raised serious concerns when he said that this Labor state government had no strategy, no plan and no program to pay down their debt, which at that time was forecast to hit \$83 billion. He lamented the loss of our AAA credit rating at the hands of our current Treasurer's mentor, Anna Bligh. He said that our cash reserves and superannuation surpluses had been raided and debt was still rising. He said that our recent budgets have been balanced by the reallocation of our cash reserves. What the most respected Treasury boss of our time was saying was that this government was robbing Peter to pay Paul. Unfortunately, nothing has changed.

As most Queenslanders who regularly have to balance a family or small business budget will tell you, one day eventually the tide might go out and you can get caught with your pants down. That is exactly what all of Queensland witnessed on Tuesday when this budget was handed down. The government has been swimming with its pants down, the tide has gone out and Queenslanders are pointing and laughing. Unfortunately, it is no laughing matter.

Since Sir Leo Hielscher's dire warning one year ago, our state debt bomb has blown out to \$90 billion, that is, \$9,000 million. The yearly interest bill alone is \$3.5 billion, that is, \$3,500 million every year. That \$3,500 million could be spent on more nurses, more teachers and more police. That \$3,500 million could air-condition every classroom in the state more than twice over and it could deliver every infrastructure need, not only in my electorate but also across the whole of the Sunshine Coast. One year's interest bill alone could pay for fast rail to the coast, six-laning of the Bruce Highway and the duplication of the Sunshine Motorway.

This is the second budget handed down since I have come into this place and once again it is a budget that avoids tough decisions. This is a budget that shirks the hard work. This is a budget from a government content with standing still rather than building Queensland's ambition and prosperity. We have had more than a century of Labor administrations addicted to debt and taxes. Since Federation, Australia has had 10 Labor prime ministers and every single one of them has left our country in more debt. This state government is following lock step in that tradition.

When Labor run out of money they come after yours, but the people of Queensland are starting to see through the charade. This is not a budget to build; it is a budget to bail out. The government has now introduced nine new taxes. Those taxes will rip \$3.4 billion from the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. That \$3.4 billion will not even cover the state's annual interest bill. Next summer when the kids in my electorate are sweltering in 40-degree classrooms and the Premier tells them that the government cannot afford air conditioning, I will be reminding them that it is because we are paying \$400,000 an hour in interest, which is more than enough money to air-condition a number of schools in my electorate. Only a Labor government could get a massive coal royalty windfall, bring in nine new taxes and still have to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole, while racking up more and more debt.

Labor always talks big on infrastructure but never delivers. The reality is that Labor is borrowing more and building less. Infrastructure spending across the forward estimates has actually decreased by \$23 million compared to last year. In an interstate analysis, in this country Queensland has the lowest capital expenditure as a percentage of revenue at 10.27 per cent. In the past financial year, the LNP government in New South Wales spent over \$24 billion on infrastructure. In Queensland, this government spent only \$6 billion. On nearly every recent economic indicator, Queensland is battling it out for the wooden spoon.

In my electorate and across the whole Sunshine Coast we are feeling the pain of a generation of Labor failure. For far too long the Sunshine Coast has been starving for infrastructure. Indeed, it is facing an infrastructure crisis. The government, as it consistently does, has tried to pass the buck and accept no responsibility for the crisis, but the people of the Sunshine Coast know better. They have watched consecutive state governments recklessly waste their money. History shows that in this state 25 out of the past 30 budgets have been delivered by Labor treasurers. There is no shying away from the fact that our infrastructure crisis and our alarming debt bomb are thanks to the recent 25 years of Labor rule in this state.

Just what are local residents of the Sunshine Coast receiving in exchange for their growing tax bill? This week's budget has failed to deliver any reprieve from cost-of-living expenses, car registration is going up and there is still no real plan to reduce hospital wait times and improve access to health services on the coast. There is no boost in police numbers to combat rising crime and deal with a youth crime epidemic. One of our most critical needs, local road infrastructure, continues to be underfunded

while more and more of our taxpayer dollars are funnelled into big-ticket projects in the south-east, such as the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. This budget is nothing more than an exercise in creative accounting, robbing Peter to pay Paul. It fails to recognise those who are doing the hard yards, dutifully paying taxes but not receiving the benefit of investment in critical infrastructure projects to help keep the Sunshine Coast moving.

Two top priorities that residents of the Sunshine Coast rightly demand are the north coast rail duplication to Nambour and the six-laning of the Bruce Highway to Caloundra. The LNP federal government has put on the table 50 per cent funding for both of those projects—\$1.25 billion—but this government is playing games and refusing to pay its fair share. The people of the Sunshine Coast are sick of the blame shifting and want results. Squabbling over who is responsible for what percentage is irrelevant to them.

That is why I am glad Deb Frecklington and the LNP have stood up for the Sunny Coast and confirmed our commitment to the six-laning of the Bruce Highway and the duplication of the rail line. The LNP understands that the north coast rail duplication and Bruce Highway upgrades are vital infrastructure projects, not just for the Sunshine Coast but for all of Queensland. It is not just commuters who rightly demand better. Connectivity and more reliable and efficient transport options to Brisbane are also imperative for freight and businesses across the state.

Local infrastructure investment is also an absolute priority across the Ninderry electorate. At the last state election the good people of Ninderry spoke loud and clear and endorsed a number of infrastructure upgrades across the electorate. Unsurprisingly, most of the infrastructure projects I spoke about this time last year are the same ones I will speak about again today. I spoke about projects such as the roundabout at Yandina Coolum Road and South Coolum Road, and a failing intersection that can no longer accommodate the 8,000-plus residents of Coolum and the thousands more tourists who visit. Each day, parents, teachers and kids from the Coolum State School need to negotiate that intersection as they travel to and from school.

It is not just a bottleneck but a serious safety concern as the backlog of vehicles tails back onto the Sunshine Motorway causing the motorway to fail. This has caused many accidents over the years, some fatal. I acknowledge the meeting I had on site with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and thank him for authorising the ongoing safety audit. I look forward to the results of this audit and I continue to fight for this important local road upgrade.

I am happy to finally see funding allocated in this budget to build a new police station at Coolum. Our local police work around the clock to keep our community safe and they have worked out of a temporary donga for the past 13 years.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you. This long overdue facility will no doubt help them properly perform their important role in keeping our community safe.

In Eumundi many kids and families need to cross the North Maroochy River near Seib Road to get to and from school every day. Currently, they have to run the gauntlet and shimmy across the bridge on Eumundi Noosa Road, sharing the roadway with cars and trucks travelling at 80 kilometres an hour. This pedestrian bridge has a price tag of only \$550,000.

I appreciate that pedestrian access and connectivity of communities is a council responsibility, but I am pleased to advise that since my last speech about this bridge in parliament the Sunshine Coast council has agreed to fund 50 per cent of this bridge and has now allocated \$275,000 in its most recent budget for a joint venture with DTMR to see this vital piece of local infrastructure built. I have previously met with senior executives from DTMR on site at this location. I urge the minister to prioritise this project.


Also in Eumundi, another one of my election commitments back in 2017 was to provide funding for a new undercover area and upgraded facilities at Eumundi State School—a school that outgrew its current facilities a long time ago. After years of lobbying by the school principal, P&C and school community, I was pleased to see \$7 million allocated in this budget for these upgrades.

The electorate of Ninderry borders the Sunshine Coast airport which is undergoing a \$350 million expansion. We must leverage off this expansion and improve intracity interconnectivity so businesses, visitors and locals can move around safely and with ease. One of the main thoroughfares from the Bruce Highway to the airport is through Bli Bli. The residents of Bli Bli and the surrounding suburbs are daily negotiating dangerous, narrow bridges. The single-lane bridge over Caboolture Creek on Yandina Bli Bli Road has seen its fair share of accidents. I welcome the \$750,000 in funding recently allocated by DTMR to design a new, safer bridge at this location.

Similarly, the narrow David Low Bridge across the Maroochy River at Bli Bli is a constant safety concern. This bridge was originally built over half a century ago as a cane train bridge and is now the main arterial for the 8½ thousand residents of Bli Bli and many others travelling to and from the airport. These numbers will continue to rapidly grow with residential expansion continuing in Bli Bli and the planned increased capacity at the new Sunshine Coast airport.

Arguably, one of the coast's worst intersections is at the intersection of Killick Street and Maroochy Road in Kunda Park, right in the heart of our region's industrial hub. Despite community petitions and DTMR's own detailed investigations, the Labor government has once again failed to commit any money to upgrade this dangerous intersection.

In closing, in the words of this state's most respected Treasury boss, Sir Leo Hielscher, when talking about this Labor government's debt bomb and economic incompetence, he said, 'Sorry, kids. Sorry, grandkids.' Only the LNP has the plan, the motivation and the capacity to return our state to the economic powerhouse it once was. Only the LNP will get this state back on its feet. Only the LNP will unite this state. Only the LNP will help every Queenslanders get a job and get ahead.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (6.13 pm): The Palaszczuk government has been rebuilding Queensland since 2015 to the tune of 207,000 jobs in that time. That is 40,500 infrastructure jobs and 26,800 construction jobs—jobs for workers rebuilding this state, brick by brick.

Labor is also continuing to provide housing for critical front-line service workers in the most remote corners of the state. Investment in 2019-20 into government employee housing creates a further 510 jobs for regional Queenslanders. Our commitment to regional Queenslanders in this budget is plain to see, with further construction and jobs growth where it counts. Tradies will carry out maintenance, upgrades and the construction of 113 new homes for our front-line service workers in remote and regional Queensland, including our teachers, paramedics, nurses and more.

I want to take this opportunity to address some of the remarks made by those opposite, including the opposition leader, particularly in relation to waste. The Palaszczuk government is building confidence in the state's construction sector, which supports 207,000 Queenslanders in their employment. I think earlier today Queenslanders saw one of the worst budget replies in history. It was not a plan for economic management; it was a loosely hatched together collection of unrecyclable waste.

For those opposite to say that Queenslanders will pay more to build their home—up to \$1,500 more—because of the introduction of a waste levy is nothing more than a baseless scare campaign. It is simply, flat out wrong. If a builder has to choose between paying a levy to dump material or sharpening up their ordering, it is pretty clear what they will decide to do. Those savings will flow on to Queensland mums and dads and subcontractors.

I know that some of Queensland's largest builders are already designing processes that significantly reduce overordering to reduce the overall costs for their clients. Companies like Mirvac, Lend Lease and Master Builders have already worked this out. In fact, Master Builders have even produced a guide outlining the benefits of waste reduction and setting out some handy hints about how to do it for their members.

Mirvac, one of Australia's largest builders, has worked this out. In the 2017 financial year they successfully diverted 95 per cent of their building waste from their new developments from landfill and are looking for ways to close the final five per cent gap by the year 2030. Companies like Lend Lease worked it out as well. On their \$6 billion multiaward-winning urban regeneration project Barangaroo South they have reduced construction waste going into landfill by 97 per cent. These levies save mum and dad home owners money when they buy their house.

I want to speak about the importance of housing for all Queenslanders. Funding announced in the 2019-20 budget will build more homes for Queenslanders who need it most. Labor believes in every Queenslanders having a secure, sustainable place to call home. We think it is essential to have a secure, sustainable place to call home if people want to hold down one of those 207,000 jobs we have created so far.

As part of the 10-year Queensland Housing Strategy, the Palaszczuk government is continuing to invest in social and affordable housing through our Housing Construction Jobs Program. In 2019 the budget saw the largest investment yet to the \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy, with \$215.8 million of additional funds committed this year. That investment into the construction of new social housing is expected to deliver 512 new homes. Even better, this is going to add to the 26,800 new construction jobs with a further 600 jobs created under that program.

Housing is about more than just shelter; it is about people. It is about how we live, how we connect with one another and how we build better neighbourhoods that support social cohesion. Housing independence is also important to Queenslanders. Queenslanders do want to stand on their own two feet. Labor is giving them a helping hand to get setup in rental properties. This is often the pathway out of homelessness to their goal of home ownership.

Those pathways out of homelessness need to be so sophisticated. That is why we are continuing our investment in this year's budget to provide Queenslanders with private market products like bond loans, rental grants, no-interest loans and head-leasing options. That is over \$35 million to help Queenslanders build good rental histories and help them get ahead and stand on their own two feet. That is in addition to \$180 million which includes investment into 87 organisations that perform a dedicated duty to deliver homelessness services right across Queensland.

I want to speak about the importance of homes for first nations Queenslanders. As the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said herself this morning, 'The Palaszczuk government continues to champion Indigenous people's basic right to accommodation.' Our government is forging ahead with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan in the federal government's absence. It gives life to our decision to respond to the unique housing experiences and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. It recognises the cultural requirements that impact on housing and the importance of housing in closing the gap for first nations Queenslanders. That is why this budget allocates \$228 million of a total \$1.08 billion over 10 years to work on closing the gap through the provision of housing in remote communities. I look forward to launching that action plan with the Deputy Premier tomorrow.

There has been a lot said today about ICT. The easiest job in the world is to sit back and criticise. The member for Nanango should know; she is an expert at that. Queenslanders do want to hear a plan from their politicians about how to make things better. Queenslanders will not cop sham policies. Here is the thing when it comes to ICT: I have to address the member for Nanango's misleading and creative number-crunching claims on the Digital Projects Dashboard. She announced this week that she would like a rigorous mandatory code for new technology. I have news for the member for Nanango: it exists. It is called the portfolio program and project management policy.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Southport, your interjections are not being taken. I call you to order.

Mr de BRENNI: She said that she wants an ICT enforcer. That roles exists. It is called the Queensland government Chief Information Officer. The current role and responsibilities of the Queensland government Chief Information Officer were established by the Liberal National Party when they were in government.

The member for Nanango says the LNP wants to hold the department to account for every dollar spent. What she could have done was go to the Palaszczuk government's Digital Projects Dashboard—the most advanced in the nation. She could have looked at the Auditor-General's investigation and at estimates hearings. She could have asked a question on notice. There she would have seen the accountability. What the member for Nanango cannot do is just add up one column, take away the other column and call that waste. That is wrong and it is not how it works. As the Leader of the Opposition, she ought to know that. At least the shadow minister ought to know that and ought to advise the leader of the party. The whole ICT sector in this state knows it. Her comments make a mockery of her budget reply speech.


I want to talk about sport. Queenslanders speak a common language: it is the language of sport. That is why this budget will support sports players, volunteers, kids—you name it—from local community clubs to our elite world-renowned athletes and our venues. As part of our up and coming Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, Labor is investing \$40 million in at least 150 community infrastructure projects across Queensland. Local sporting communities will be able to come together as we unlock school sporting facilities for everyone to use.

I want to conclude my remarks by making some comments about the outcomes in the 2019-20 budget for the community that I am fortunate to represent. In the communities of Logan and Redland, young families are benefiting from this Labor government's investment in schools, whether it is because they send their schools to our local state schools or they commute to work on the M1. Kids thrive when they have a quality, safe and supportive environment in which to learn and their parents are home from work in time to be able to support their education.

Our government has been listening to the needs of our local community. We listened to the Mount Cotton P&C, whose community will benefit from a new prep and administration block as part of a \$1.56 billion investment in Queensland schools—a record investment in classrooms, teachers and teacher aides. The Palaszczuk government believes in delivering a budget that all students will benefit from. We will build new classrooms in the Redland District Special School—an investment to ensure the best educational opportunities for all local kids regardless of their ability.

As I said, it is critical that families get to spend time assisting their kids when they get home from school. This Labor government is making sure they can get home to their families sooner. The \$749 million M1 project will reduce travel time and congestion, and the extension of the South East Busway to Springwood will give commuters more reliable public transport options.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in the future of our community, it is investing in a growing workforce and it is delivering the services that local families deserve. I am proud that our Premier and Treasurer have backed in the families and businesses that call our community in both Redlands and Logan home. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the cognate debate of the 2019 budget bills. As the representative for the people of the Southern Downs, I would say that the greatest expression of a government's ability to deliver is their ability to manage the budget. No amount of civic conscience or social conscience alone will allow a government to deliver for the state of Queensland if it taxes highly, buries us in debt and makes a poor business environment for small businesses in Queensland. This is the view taken by the people in my electorate. It is the view of the bush. It is pragmatism. It is real-world, feet-on-the-ground practicality that drives that view. Therefore, this budget is not one for the people of Southern Downs.

I think that the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, put it very well when she said this is a budget that delivers higher taxes, higher debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. What would we expect from a government that has backflipped so spectacularly on the Adani project and the opening up of the Galilee Basin? We saw the spectacle of a government that in the last few days of the last sitting, was quite proud of the fact that we were going to have a Bill Shorten government. I remember well that government members were in here tripping the light fantastic, lecturing us about what life would be like under a Bill Shorten government. When they failed to sniff the wind but realised the day after the election that they were not so popular, this project which the government said could not possibly be approved without letting it go through an independent process was flashed through in a matter of weeks. There is an example of the hypocrisy and the disingenuous talk of the government before and after. The people of Queensland understand that. They see it and they are not going to tolerate it.

On the economic front, our economy has stalled. Economic growth is flat at less than three per cent, which is substantially less than the long-term average of four per cent. Because of this, there are 26,000 fewer jobs expected by 2021-22 compared to last year's budget outlook. That is an example of the effects of poor economic management. Because of this perpetually high predicted unemployment rate, wage growth has been revised down every year across the forward estimates by as much as 0.75 per cent compared to last year's budget. I recall hearing numerous members to my left talking about how the lack of wage growth in our state is the fault of the Morrison government, like everything else they say. There is your reason. It is the local economic management in this state which is suppressing wage growth.

While the national unemployment rate remains low, the Palaszczuk Labor government has managed to buck the trend and keep Queensland unemployment consistently high. As of April, almost 160,000 Queenslanders were out of work. That is a massive economic and social problem. When Labor flogs the economy and wastes our hard-earned dollars, what do they do? They come after more. They come after our money—that is, the money of ordinary everyday Queenslanders. As sure as night follows day they will never ask, 'How can we spend the money we have better? How can we deliver more with the same money we have?' They always come after more. That is not what the people in my electorate of Southern Downs can do. If you are a farmer or a small business person or a worker, your wages are not going up. Your takings are not going up. In fact, they are going down with the terrible effect of the drought at the moment. They have to make do with what they have. Why can't this government do the same with their money?

We have seen increased debt, land tax, vehicle registration, electricity dividends—they have reaped extraordinary dividends from the state owned generators which push up electricity prices—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Order, member for Chatsworth! You are interrupting your own speaker.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not an invitation for members to laugh at that statement. It is a statement of fact.

Mr LISTER: We have seen increased mining royalties. We have seen the infamous waste tax—the \$1.3 billion impost on all of Queensland to fix the waste problems around Ipswich which were largely the fault of the old Labor mates in the old Ipswich City Council. It just goes on and on. This is a millstone around the productive neck of Queensland. It is taking money from ordinary productive Queenslanders and giving it to a government that spends the money poorly, and it is just wrong. We are heading to a massive debt bomb of \$90 billion. That is about \$19,000 for every man, woman and child in Queensland.

You have to ask: why is this necessary when Labor is benefiting from a massive coal royalties windfall and from having brought in new taxes and tax hikes? Why does this Labor government still have to increase debt to plug the budget black hole? We cannot live now without increasing debt. It begs the question: how are we going to live on the same amount in the future and pay the increased interest? It is a dilemma that ordinary Queenslanders understand very well, but this government does not seem to.

In terms of taxes, we are facing a higher payroll tax rate of 4.95 per cent for businesses with taxable wages of more than \$6.5 million a year, raising about \$544 million over four years. Again, this is taking money from the productive part of the economy. The modest cuts to the payroll tax for smaller businesses, whilst a step in the right direction, do not make up for this. Again, that is a millstone around the neck of the economy.

Total new taxes, which were not promised at the last state election, amount to \$1.25 billion over four years. This is on top of the \$2.2 billion from the last budget, so there is a staggering \$3.4 billion in more taxes since the Palaszczuk government was elected. That is \$3.4 billion taken away from Queenslanders, and it hurts. Debt is on track to hit over \$90 billion over the forward estimates.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Mr LISTER: Before the break I was talking about debt. I would like to move on to roads, which are a very important thing in my electorate of Southern Downs. I have been trying, to little avail, to get this government to recognise the very poor state of the roads in Southern Downs. On a number of occasions I have raised the condition of the New England Highway, the Cunningham Highway, the Gore Highway—not named after Al Gore, but something we should spend our money on—the Accommodation Creek bridge, the Eight Mile overpass near Warwick, Stanthorpe Texas Road and Stanthorpe Inglewood Road. Most recently I visited the regional director in Toowoomba. I have to say that it was very kind of her to let me visit. I expressed my concern about the undulations in these roads, the cracking surfaces and the effects these have on the—

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr LISTER: I can hear an interjection to my left from someone talking about the Emu Swamp Dam. I do not think I have heard a member of the Labor Party talk about the Emu Swamp Dam. I will get to that, but I will not be taking any further interjections.

The roads in my electorate are very poor, and I know that my honourable friend the member for Scenic Rim shares my concern about the Cunningham Highway in particular. Many of the roads have very large undulations in them, which makes it very dangerous and expensive for heavy vehicle operators to run trucks along them. Heavy transport is a very important part of the economy in my electorate of Southern Downs.

When I looked at the glossy budget bauble published by the government I saw that there is nothing, nada, zip. There is absolutely nothing in extra funding to fix the roads in my electorate of Southern Downs. Whilst the regional director has done her job to prepare plans for maintenance and repairs to the roads, this government has not funded them to do anything about it. That does not surprise me because, as I said before in this House, in the eyes of the Labor Party the bush starts at Bald Hills.

We still do not have any tolling information on the second range crossing at Toowoomba. This is a very important matter for the heavy transport operators in my electorate of Southern Downs. I also see remarkably little funding for the Gore Highway, which is going to see considerably increased traffic

as a result of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. Where is the money? What are we going to do about that? I think this government has completely turned away from the bush and is focused on saving South Brisbane—which, after today's result, I think is probably unlikely.

Electricity is another major issue in my electorate. Labor continues to use electricity as a secret tax. I hear the minister wax lyrical about subsidies and new electricity deals for people, but it does not cut any ice in my electorate of Southern Downs because we have many people in towns like Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Texas, Wallangarra, Toobeah and Talwood who do not have access to competition and are paying exorbitant rates from the New South Wales grid, even though much of the electricity from New South Wales was generated in Queensland because we are a net exporter. This has a massive depressive effect on economic conditions along the border. I have tried at length to get the minister to come to some sort of arrangement to make sure that the people in my electorate of Southern Downs are not disadvantaged, but I have heard nothing but silence. It is another example of the bush being systematically left behind by this Labor government.

When it comes to agriculture, I did not know whether to laugh or cry when I heard the minister for agriculture, Minister Furner, say that the Labor Party is the only party that looks after farmers, declaring himself to be 'Furner, the farmers' friend'. What an egregious distortion of the facts. We are talking about a minister who is a token at the cabinet table. He is a minister in name only. Where does this minister stand when primary producers are demanding certainty on electricity prices? Where does this minister stand when this government imposes disgraceful vegetation management laws on the hardworking primary producers of this state?

Government members interjected.

Mr LISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, may I ask for your protection? I am struggling to hear myself think over the interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): I will say to all members that, if you want to talk, take it outside or get on the list.

Mr LISTER: Where does this minister for agriculture stand at the cabinet table when his colleague, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy—

Dr Lynham: A great bloke.

Mr LISTER: He may be a great bloke—I would agree with that man to man—but as a minister he has failed my electorate. Where is the money for the Emu Swamp Dam? That is a viable project for my electorate. It is a state responsibility to provide money for irrigation. The federal government has contributed \$47 million towards the construction of that dam. The growers themselves are contributing \$23 million towards that dam. All that is required is for this government to produce \$13 million, and the minister knows this. It is only \$13 million, and that will buy the cheapest 700 jobs they have ever bought. I can tell you that they are buying some very expensive jobs with the pork-barrelling they are doing around the areas where they suffered badly at the hands of the coalition at the federal election.

Emu Swamp Dam is a totemic issue. It is an example of how this government has absolutely no interest in the bush. They are prepared to ignore a major economic project which is going to safeguard the production, livelihoods and economy of the Granite Belt part of my electorate. It is the lowest hanging fruit that you can possibly get for \$12 million, but we have seen nothing. There is nothing in the budget. We can tell it is another example of this government, run by Jackie Trad for the convenience of the radical left—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr LISTER: I will tell you one thing: it will not be forgotten. The arena is wider than just the Southern Downs. This state expects the government to invest in infrastructure. This government or any government worthy of its name ought to be able to spend money on a vital irrigation project like Emu Swamp Dam, but we saw absolutely nothing in the budget. When we look at the priorities of this government, why would that surprise anybody?

Look at the \$111 million takeover of the private prisons: \$111 million to appease the union movement; \$111 million for no other reason than to make the union bosses, the paymasters and puppeteers of the Labor Party, happy. What could we have bought with \$111 million? We would not need to blame the federal government for our economic woes. When they look at the way this government spends its money, I am not surprised they are appalled. They are not setting a good example.

Before my speech is over I thought I might refer to a few comments from an excellent journalist, Mr Steven Wardill. I often sit here in my seat and look up to see him reclining on his stool in the media gallery, gazing at the ceiling. I think his observations show that ceiling gazers can be very astute watchers of politics. He says—

But what happens when this merry-go-round stops, when the windfalls are no longer delivered and when the price of excess must be paid?

Well Queenslanders are about to find out.


More than \$1.8 billion in new taxes over the next four years were unveiled yesterday by Treasurer Jackie Trad which will hit big business, the property sector and gas producers.

For an economy struggling with stubborn unemployment and falling house prices, the payroll and land tax imposts in particular could not have come at a worse time.

On top of these will be \$1.7 billion that the Government will rake in from its new waste levy over the same period, which will, in one way or another, hit everyone.

That waste levy is a disgrace: \$1.3 billion across the whole state to fix the odious waste problem caused by those Labor mates in the old Ipswich City Council, and only 10 per cent of the take is going to go back to environmental initiatives. It is all being swallowed up by that massive bloated bureaucracy and all of the wasteful spending this government specialises in.

This government has produced a very poor budget. Queensland will not forget the budget that this government has handed down, and I urge everybody in this House to oppose it.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.39 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the appropriations bills, the 2019-20 state budget before the House. This is Macalister's second budget and it is one that continues to deliver for the people of Macalister. Before I delve into the pages of budget goodness, I would like to close off on elements of last year's budget. The previous budget for Macalister delivered funding for two of my 2017 election commitments—namely, field lighting for the Bishop Street Park in Eagleby and a brand-new trade training centre in Beenleigh. I can proudly report to the House that I switched on the lights for the Eagleby Giants earlier this year and that the \$8 million trade training centre at Beenleigh is only months away from opening its doors, with the first trainees and apprentices to commence their training in September. I highlight these two examples of delivery because I do not believe in promising things you cannot deliver on, and I am pleased to see a number of items in this year's budget that I have been working on with the community since I was elected 18 months ago.

One of the key features of this budget for Macalister is the delivery of a \$4.4 million upgrade to the Beenleigh Redland Bay Road and Kruger Road intersection at Carbrook. On this intersection is Carbrook State School, with just over 450 students. Also on Kruger Road is Kimberley College, with just under 750 students. Located some distance away from the amenities many schools take for granted, like public transport and footpaths, almost all of these students travel to their campuses via car, all entering and exiting via a T-intersection that even during school zone times is 60 kilometres an hour. Within a 500-metre radius of this intersection is also another school with over 700 students, an aged-care facility and a childcare centre.

In my first meetings with TMR about this intersection in January 2018, I raised the issue of the needs at this intersection and I was advised that, whilst it had been looked at, it did not meet the threshold for an upgrade at that time. For me and the hundreds of families that use this intersection, as well as the hundreds of residents and commuters who travel along this key corridor between the Redlands and the M1, this was about safety. Parents already stressed from the school pick-up and drop-off area must face the gauntlet of pulling out onto a 60-kilometre zone state road with traffic backed up in both directions and vehicles parked everywhere. Every child deserves to be able to get to and from school in one piece, and this budget commitment will deliver for the families who attend these Carbrook schools and other facilities. The Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, as I mentioned earlier, is a key commuter corridor and the upgrades do not stop at Kruger Road, with further intersection upgrades along Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, including at Brindabella Street and Riedel Road, with upgrades totalling \$4.35 million to commence this year.

While roads in Macalister have had a big win in this budget, it is the roads to and from Macalister which have the biggest impact on Macalister commuters and how much time they spend in traffic. Firstly, I acknowledge the fantastic progress occurring at the M1-Gateway merge. Driving past it is almost a daily occurrence for me, and it is great to see the sound barriers coming up out of the ground and the realignment stretch nearing completion. As soon as that southbound lane work is complete, the northbound lane work will commence next year. Closer to Macalister, the business case for the M1 upgrade between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway continues.

One of the biggest employment areas for the workers of Macalister is just to our south over the Albert River in the Yatala Enterprise Area. The funds that this government has committed to upgrading M1 exit 41 will be welcomed by Macalister commuters and northern Gold Coast businesses. These exits attract a 50-50 split with the federal government, and this budget delivers Queensland's 50 per cent of that commitment to start the work now. I guess we can only vainly hope that the federal LNP will see fit to commit more than the 25 per cent they have offered to date. Until they commit their full 50 per cent, I guess we will continue to see queueing along the M1.

While all roads do seem to lead to Macalister or at least through it, it is the spending on schools in my area that I am particularly proud of. The preparation work has started on new classrooms at Beenleigh Special School, and this year's budget tips in the final \$5.5 million to build 12 new learning spaces. Numbers at Beenleigh Special School have grown sharply as it continues to draw in students from across Logan and the northern Gold Coast. The finishing touches are now being applied to five new classrooms at Windaroo Valley State High School, and the final \$270,000 will see the classroom operational by the end of this year.

In Eagleby, \$3.4 million will see the groundwork start in the next few weeks on four new classrooms for Eagleby South State School. This will be the first new permanent build at this school for over a decade. I have to say that the plans for the build are impressive—a two-storey building with air conditioning and insulation, which is a concession to its location near a busy Eagleby Road intersection. It also features an undercover play space as part of the build. Given its prominence to the road and the fact that it will be on show to the community, a key component of the build will be the murals to feature Indigenous art—a great reflection of this school in the community.

On top of the work that is about to be completed at Beenleigh State High School with their new build, the investment in Macalister schools is again something I am happy to crow about. There is funding in this budget for not only major capital works for Macalister schools but also refurbishments and facility builds at schools like Carbrook State School, Eagleby State School and Beenleigh State High School. This year's funding of almost \$10 million in capital works for Macalister schools sits easily alongside last year's \$10 million spending on new builds in my schools. That is \$20 million since I was elected, and I will continue to fight for more as my electorate continues to grow.

Whilst last year it was the Eagleby Giants Junior Rugby League Football Club that benefited from a Palaszczuk Labor government funding for facilities upgrades, this year it is the Beenleigh Little Athletics that competes at the Oliver Sports Complex in Eagleby. I am proud to be standing here to yet again back junior sports in my electorate—this time to the tune of \$150,000 for the Little As to undertake some much needed field upgrades to their tracks.


While these amounts large and small make a difference to those in my electorate, the bigger spends in Logan are overwhelmingly in health. Much has been said about the record spend at Logan Hospital, but I want to focus on just a few aspects of this spend. The first is the \$18.9 million refurbishment to the maternity unit. Once completed, this refurbishment will add an additional six maternity inpatient beds, five extra berthing suites and an expanded special care nursery with an additional 10 cots. This is a much needed increase in capacity for those families going through the traumatic experience of having a child in a special care nursery. This means that families that have to leave their little ones at the hospital overnight will be able to daily visit their nearest hospital and not have to travel to Brisbane. On top of this work at the maternity unit is an additional \$3 million to be spent on creating a dedicated maternity access road and entrance for the hospital to allow pregnant patients direct entry into the maternity ward.

The other centrepiece of the Health spend in Logan is the \$6.5 million allocated to adolescent mental health facilities. This includes \$4 million to construct a six-bed subacute mental health facility for Logan adolescents and \$2.5 million to provide a youth mental health day program facility, as well as education programs throughout Logan.

The budget also provides just under \$10 million to update some of Macalister's not insignificant public housing stock. There will be \$9.73 million spent this year constructing 53 new units of accommodation throughout my electorate. Last year I attended the opening of one of the new housing complexes in Beenleigh, and can I say that the residents are absolutely rapt. I spoke to one resident who had been a long-term public housing resident in Beenleigh and she said it was the nicest place she had ever lived in, never having lived in a newly constructed residence. There is no reason why residents of public housing should be denied dignity in their homes.

This is a positive budget for Macalister. It is about jobs. In fact in my electorate alone the Back to Work program has led to 91 jobs, and a further \$374,000 committed this year to Back to Work will continue to deliver more jobs for Macalister locals. On behalf of the residents of Macalister, I would like

to congratulate the Treasurer on her budget. It is one that delivers schools, roads, health, jobs and training for my area—core things that voters can rely on a Labor budget for. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.48 pm): I thank the House for the opportunity to respond to the 2019 Appropriation Bill. I would like to commend the government again on its difficult task—though, as I said last year, regardless of who is in government, fault will be found. This budget appears to seek a balance between coast and country—firstly, by addressing the needs of growth corridors through the provision of essential facilities, including hospitals and schools. These communities are no doubt appreciative they can alleviate the stressors of population growth through new developments.

With the Noosa electorate happily not aspiring to grow in numbers, our search within the budget papers was for increases in the realm of maintaining, sustaining and improving what we already have. It was good to see funding of works for our schools, sports facilities and national parks, a host of programs through organisations such as United Synergies and Pomona Community House, as well as the opportunities offered through increases in grants, including Building the Regions and Back to Work. However, the devil is in the detail and I look forward to unpacking these during estimates.

Our big-ticket items sought last year have seen some progress, and we have been advised that the Beckmans Road upgrade will be staged and funded from the unallocated bucket within TMR. A bid for stage 1, the roundabout at the Cooroy Noosa Road end, will be submitted shortly, hence it was not sought as part of the budget announcements. The upgrade or replacement of the Six Mile bridge No. 7 is our outstanding concern, and we continue our lobbying to get this prioritised and onto QTRIP. In the meantime the focus is on urgently making this dangerous bridge safer, and we are waiting on a response to our recommendations regarding this.

Secondly, there has been a focus on our regional areas with new infrastructure for long-term job creation. I had highlighted in my recent newsletter the importance of providing an alternative to short-term and FIFO positions that are prevalent in these communities and reducing the reliance on controversial projects. It is of concern though that funding does not appear to have been sought for many years by rural regions for water catchment projects such as the Hells Gates Dam, which would assist in growing long-term jobs as well as droughtproofing these regions and cities such as Townsville. Queenslanders would be questioning why we are not getting these projects off the ground given the ongoing traumatic impacts of drought.

Protecting and guiding Queensland's economic growth is essential. However, it is important that it is done in a logical way that looks to the future. There is a question that needs to be answered: is our economic future dependent on a continually increasing population, and what is that target? We cannot sustainably fund new infrastructure if those assets we already have are not being maintained and operated efficiently, unless we have a strategy that is not heavily reliant on population growth. This is demonstrated throughout many electorates where historical issues are still unresolved, including in Noosa where dangerous bridges that were prioritised on QTRIP some 10 years ago are now not even in the running. The daily accidents and near misses involving our families and tourists have become of such concern that questions are raised surrounding our methodology of prioritisation, commitment to road safety and accident prevention strategies. With over 30 per cent of deaths on our roads not attributed to drink-driving or speed, we must look at our process of prioritisation as I have no doubt that this is contributing to these statistics.

Whilst I commend the government for providing new and expanded hospital services, in turn creating jobs for nurses and doctors, regional communities cannot fill existing positions. In the Noosa hinterland, we have been desperate to fill 10 GP positions as well as attract more home doctor services that are currently absent in servicing these areas. Noosa is not as disadvantaged as rural areas, and I wonder, if we are having these difficulties, what do our country cousins face?

Furthermore, the expansion of facilities does not address issues that cause an overload in demand in the first place. As has been identified, there is often nowhere to go to be seen after hours, such as 24-hour clinics or the home doctor service. Not only does this increase the strain on our emergency departments, it costs the government significantly more. When a patient is seen at a bulk-billing doctor's surgery, it costs the taxpayer \$37. When seen in a casualty or emergency room, it costs \$507. Do the math.

Attending to the symptoms of problems rather than the cause extends into community corrections as well. This budget has funding for an expansion of a corrections precinct due to the overcrowding of prisons, which were operating at 37 per cent over capacity as at September 2018, and led to our youth

being held in watch houses. Is this overcrowding contributing to early releases of those violent offenders that should remain incarcerated? Before building more facilities, we need to look at new, sustainable ways to resolve old, unsustainable issues.

Data from the draft report from the Queensland Productivity Commission shows that prisoner internment has done little to decrease reoffending rates, which in Queensland are the highest in Australia and continue to rise. Government should concentrate not only on the symptom but also on how to reduce demand on prisons and the issues causing the increases in prisoner reoffending. As has been done in other countries, we could look at why we utilise incarceration of no-risk, non-violent offenders as a method of punishment. These offenders, who would be much more productive—and at less cost to taxpayers—could be working on essential projects in our communities that continue to go undone, such as in Noosa where there is a need for safe bikeways so that residents can make the modal shift away from cars. Contribution is a key element in building self-esteem, whereas incarceration contributes to the labelling of an offender, making it difficult for them to integrate back into their communities, obtain work and have a better chance of rehabilitation. Every day that we incarcerate a tax evader, drug abuser or thief is costing taxpayers approximately \$180. Yes, that is \$1,260 per week. Could the appropriation of taxpayer funds be better utilised? I think so.

The building of schools and the creation of new teacher positions is essential for our children to obtain a good education. However, this does not address the causes of teacher discontent, with 50 per cent leaving the profession within five years. It is of great concern that the reasons they are leaving are not being addressed, though I do acknowledge that the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019 offered a small component of relief. I hope that during estimates we find what funds are available to analyse the failings that we are experiencing to ensure that these new schools have teachers available to them.

To continuously build does not make sense in a world where we are seeking to renew, repurpose and recycle. To keep adding to our debt without considering how to better use what we already have, diminish demand through greater education, opportunity, self-responsibility and accountability, and change how we are perceiving the world is a no-win situation, especially when we are unable to adequately maintain our existing infrastructure. This is not sustainable in any language, under any government or ideology.

There are numerous examples for better utilisation of the hard-earned taxpayer dollar. The current replication of sporting facilities, with government needing to fund both school and community sports fields often just down the road from one another, could be improved. Facilities that are shared and that are utilised on multiple days versus only once or twice a week makes both economic and communal sense. This would alleviate the pressure on those organisations that sausage sizzle their way to survival and free up taxpayer dollars to utilise on other priorities.

The Queensland Audit Office have identified flaws in the monitoring and accountability of departments, programs and funding, with entire strategies developed to address an issue but are not then utilised. One example is the biodiversity strategy for Queensland 2011, which cost we do not know what and which was abandoned on completion. This lack of implementation meant that we did not have a framework regarding our endangered species and plant life, and we are now trying to pick up the pieces as a result at greater cost. This is not an isolated example, and it must be extremely frustrating for all involved to see years of hard work left to gather dust on a shelf. We need to be held accountable as MPs for this waste.

Overall, one concern from my electorate is the increasing debt. Understandably, questions being asked include: what is the strategy to reduce that debt, and how are we going to get back a AAA rating in order to access greater discounts on the loan rates? Their fears are not without warrant. Many have lived through depression, recession and the global financial crisis and seek a position of security and sustainability that can only come when we live within our means. There needs to be some assurance around this and how, in the face of another global crisis, Queenslanders will fare.

On a positive front, it has been good to see increases in a number of arenas that we have advocated for including QCAT, QBCC and other resolution agencies that were overloaded, creating delays. However, I have not found extra resources for our community legal services which are desperately being sought by our low-income workers who are confronted with a system that has become increasingly complex. As well, the extra funding for grassroots organisations which are delivering essential frontline services, including to our growing numbers of homeless, and tackling our alarming abuse statistics—physical and otherwise—is appreciated. There is a growing frustration as there is no need for anyone to be homeless. As I have experienced in working through the challenges

to develop affordable accommodation including co-housing in my own electorate, it is totally achievable. This can be resolved by all levels of government revising archaic beliefs and regulations and moving to be as innovative as they ask Queenslanders to be.

The frustration of our volunteers and organisations grows. They cannot understand why they lobby for emergency accommodation without success. It is time for us to have a serious parental talk on why we are seeing increasing homelessness, child poverty and financial duress. We need to subscribe to a culture of 'how we can' versus 'why we can't'. I applaud the increased funding for Foodbank that, in conjunction with Waves of Kindness, provide breakfast to around 1,200 children per week in Noosa. However, ultimately what we are doing is bandaiding until a solution is found. This is shame on all of us and does not respect the incredible works of those volunteers, who work so hard in this and many other realms and who are seeking relief in a job they are not paid to do, whereas we are.

Since my first budget, I have seen numerous examples of the frustrations of Queenslanders in dealing with the various levels of government. I give one example as it demonstrates why the taxpayer dollar is not going as far as it should. A constituent's property was impacted by a department doing works next to his fence line. That seems simple enough—it would have taken roughly \$300 to fix the damage—however, it has now taken five years, two MPs, multiple state departments and local government and the matter still is not resolved. The cost in time involved would now amount to thousands. This is shameful and, as an MP, I am highly embarrassed that residents should go through such a process and that there was nowhere for this case, or an MP, to go, demonstrating a severe failing in our accountability and systems.

Having listened to speeches from members on both sides, I can understand why there is little trust in us and our systems. I am often asked, 'Who can be believed?' As an Independent I seek objectively to research and consult all sides respectfully. Credibility is very important to bring forward the thoughts and concerns of our communities and broader Queensland without engaging in the denigration of others or their efforts.

As both sides are aware, crossbenchers are disadvantaged in not having available the parliamentary staff of major parties. In Victoria, crossbenchers receive an extra 1.5 staff, on top of their electorate staff. They utilise these resources to the benefit of their parliament, bringing forward diverse views and options vital to keep the chamber in a healthy state and ensure all are heard equally. I trust that within the next budget equity for crossbenchers and the Queenslanders they represent not only is considered but also is addressed.

In closing, I appreciate the government's efforts in this budget and thank all who worked so hard on this. However, unless we listen more closely to what our regions, communities and constituents seek, unless we allow Queenslanders to accept responsibility for their actions and what they are requesting and unless we are honest and speak plain English on what sustainability really means, we will continue to provide bandaids to fulfil the demands of a growing me-now culture and short political terms. I trust and hope that in the next 12 months we have an open and honest look at what is transpiring and focus not on politicking but instead on what is essential for the wellbeing of Queenslanders and their future.



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (8.01 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2019 Appropriation Bill. I acknowledge the independent member for Noosa's fair and balanced analysis and hope that other non-government members exercise the same mature observation. Very well done. Thank you very much for that. It was more or less a lesson for half the chamber today.

Budgets are about an expression of values, about making choices and setting priorities for the future, particularly for the state. It is no secret that during the last financial year Queensland was badly affected by flooding, drought and fire. A top priority of this government was to rebuild communities that were badly affected. This has not been an easy task. I commend the Treasurer on her first-class job in targeting support for both individuals and industry sectors most in need. This is a Labor budget that delivers for all of Queensland. It is delivering more opportunities for jobs, a secure Cairns through more police, an updated base for our ambos, a better educated Cairns with new classrooms and specialist learning hubs, and a healthier Cairns community through record funding for our hospital.

We know that being a regional community means we need to invest in delivering infrastructure and services so that families access quality education, health and transport services, just to touch on a few points. The Palaszczuk government can always be trusted to deliver on health care. This year's Health budget for the far north was \$63.6 million more than last year, an increase of nearly seven per cent. The focus of this budget is strengthening front-line services and delivering jobs. We cannot have a strong health system without hardworking front-line staff.

The Palaszczuk government is continuing to create jobs right across the far north for doctors, nurses and paramedics. This year's budget will see a further 130 staff employed locally. Jobs will also be created through the delivery of capital works and infrastructure. Demand for health care continues to grow and on an average day in Cairns and hinterland health services our hardworking doctors and nurses provide inpatient care to 769 patients as well as deliver 2,334 non-admitted patient services, 766 specialist outpatient services and accident and emergency services to 432 people. Building new facilities will create jobs while helping us take care of our growing and ageing population. This is a win for the entire community.

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's 2019-20 budget also includes \$70 million for a new mental health precinct at Cairns Hospital; \$900,000 to provide a new Breastscreen van for Cairns and the hinterland region; \$5.6 million to upgrade Cairns Ambulance Station, and just as importantly the operations centre; \$8.8 million to upgrade the chilled water system which is essential to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems at the Cairns Hospital—and members can imagine that working in the tropics this is pretty important; and \$3.7 million to construct a state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatre in Cairns Hospital to ensure best practice and increase the surgical capacity.

Mental health issues affect one in five in our community. We all know somebody who is dealing with a mental health issue. This budget has put a spotlight on mental health, with \$61.9 million of new funding committed to support the new cross-agency Shifting Minds flagship *Taking action to reduce suicides in Queensland*. The new \$70 million Cairns Hospital mental facility will have more capacity to treat more patients and will provide a better environment to help in the recovery of mental health patients. The whole building will be designed to help people recover from mental illness. It will include a modern, culturally appropriate design, family-friendly spaces and of course the latest in technology.

Cairns and the hinterland region will become the permanent home of a Breastscreen van. Every week in Australia, 343 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. We know that early detection gives women a much greater chance of successful treatment. Our government does not believe that a postcode should determine the level of health care received; as this announcement reaffirms. The government is also investing in statewide health initiatives for all Queenslanders such as an additional \$77.4 million to tackle waiting lists and by improving patient access to specialists through our specialist outpatient strategy. We are making permanent our 400 nurse navigators and 100 midwives committed to at the last election with a \$147.5 million funding boost.

Having two school-age children, education is close to my heart. As Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' That is why I was delighted to see in this year's budget the Palaszczuk government once again investing an overall record of \$13.7 billion across early childhood schooling and further education. We make this investment because we know and recognise the importance of education and the significant contribution it makes to the betterment of our community.

In Cairns, some of this investment means that the Whitfield State School will receive its long-awaited \$500,000 new playground. Edge Hill State School will get \$200,000 for painting blocks B, C and D and prefabricated buildings. Cairns State High School will build a new multipurpose sports hall as part of a multi-million dollar renewal at a cost of \$11 million. There is \$9.5 million for a new building at Trinity Bay to accommodate that school's growing population, which will exceed 1,800 students. This is in addition to money being allocated across eight schools in the Cairns electorate for maintenance and works throughout the 2019-20 financial year. Cairns TAFE will also receive \$2.8 million for training infrastructure.

Again, this is not just about education; it is also about good quality jobs in the local area. The Palaszczuk government is listening to community concerns and working hard to respond to local priorities. We must ensure that our local communities have a strong voice in government and that we deliver what the people of the far north need and deserve. I am pleased to see more funding for the Captain Cook Highway and the Western Arterial Road. I know how busy these roads can get so it is great to see additional Palaszczuk government funding to further reduce congestion and increase safety.

More than 230,000 people are expected to call Cairns home in the next two decades. That is why we have secured \$71 million to match federal government funding for the Cairns Ring Road project from the CBD to Smithfield. This will enable planning to start straightaway for a solution that cuts travel time during peak hour, improves access to major motorways and means heavy vehicles no longer have to navigate our CBD.

The Palaszczuk government also recognises how important small business is to our economy. It is a big business, hence the important development which is absolutely fundamental and will impact on over 100 businesses in our community—that is, the increase to the payroll tax threshold for small businesses from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million. At this stage I acknowledge that Advance Cairns and the Cairns Chamber of Commerce have both welcomed, with very positive statements, this and further initiatives by the government.

In addition there is a \$2.3 million investment in our successful Back to Work regional employment package, and it is specifically for Cairns. This is a very positive initiative for our small businesses, which make up 80 per cent of the commercial entities in Cairns city. In addition to this, the port expansion will begin in the next several weeks. This is an issue that has been discussed for many years. The second tranche of funding for that has been around \$71 million.

Mr Power: A lot of money.

Mr HEALY: It is a lot of money. I take that interjection from the member for Logan. Also, the expansion of the economically vital Cairns Convention Centre is well underway. There will be further announcements. We expect to see building take place early in the new year.

It is important that the people of Cairns know that the Palaszczuk government is investing in jobs, delivering in health and education, and easing cost-of-living pressures while building essential infrastructure in our community. I thank the Premier and the Treasurer and their teams, and all ministers, on behalf of the people of Cairns. I reassure the people of Cairns that I will continue to work and be an advocate for what we need in our future.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise to address the 2019-20 Queensland budget in my capacity as both the member for Glass House and the shadow minister for state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning. I want to start, as I should, with what this budget means for the electorate of Glass House. First and foremost, I serve as the member for Glass House. I am very honoured to have done so now for four terms. I am very keen to ensure that that community of communities continues to receive what it rightly deserves in budgets from both sides of politics.

Over the past couple of days I have been talking to a number of my constituents, primarily on social media, about what the budget means. I have had the comment that they would like me to start with the positives in terms of what this budget means for the electorate of Glass House. The good news I can give members of the Glass House community is that \$956,000 will be spent over the next two years at the Woodford P-10 State School. That will go towards refurbishing learning spaces. This is particularly important for two reasons. Firstly, those learning spaces have not really changed since my father attended the school in the 1960s. Nearly a million dollars worth of investment is well overdue and will go a long way at that fantastic educational facility in the electorate of Glass House. Secondly, as members of the Woodford community and the broader community know, for some time now we have been pushing to make that a P-12 school or a college campus. The excuse that is always given is that the facilities are not up to scratch to accommodate senior students. It is my hope that after two years of \$1 million worth of refurbishment we may get that school into a position whereby it can then accommodate years 11 and 12.

Another aspect that I am rather pleased to see—I note that the Minister for Education raised this yesterday morning in a ministerial statement—is around early childhood development programs. They are a fantastic service that provides intensive multidisciplinary services to kids who suffer from a range of disabilities. We are talking about things along the lines of autism, intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments, physical impairments, speech language impairments and vision impairments. There is one such service based in Caboolture East State School. These services identify kids who are at risk of not being able to progress through normal schooling or even special schools because of their disabilities. They get these kids into the program and wrap a whole range of intensive multidisciplinary services around them to ensure that they are ready, when they take that step into school, to excel. Having visited the service in Caboolture East State School I can say that it is a wonderful opportunity for these kids. That there is \$63.6 million worth of funding over four years to continue that, not only in Caboolture East State School but also across the state, is great news. Also, I welcome the half a million dollars that will go towards professional development for the staff there. I know that that will be well received and I look forward to sharing that news with that service.

Members in the Glass House electorate will hopefully finally see the first sod turned on Labor's commitment to build a new QFES, rural fire brigade and SES complex in Maleny. Money is in the budget for that. Hopefully they will also see, as you and I have been fighting for for some years now, Mr Deputy

Speaker McArdle, traffic lights being installed at Beerwah State School, at the intersection of Kilcoy Beerwah Road and Old Gympie Road. That is an election commitment that has been a long time coming and that hopefully we will see some action on soon.

That is where it stops. I hope that those from the electorate who are listening will continue to listen as I explain what is not in the budget and why it is not in the budget. One of those things is subsidised bus services from Mooloolah Valley to Maleny State High School, from Peachester to Maleny State High School, and from D'Aguiar and Delaneys Creek to Woodford P-10. Another is traffic lights at the intersection of Campbells Pocket Road and the D'Aguiar Highway in Wamuran. There is nothing for the Mount Mee Road between Ocean View and Dayboro, something that the residents of Ocean View have been calling for for many years under consecutive Labor governments—an area I picked up in the last redistribution. Sadly, there is nothing for Maleny Kenilworth Road—not north of Conondale, not between Maleny and Witta and not between Witta and Conondale. The minister should hear this not from me but from 13-year-old Olin Stratford. On 5 June he wrote to me and said—

My name is Olin Stratford. I am 13 years old and sending you this email because I feel strongly about the safety issue on Maleny-Kenilworth road. I live on Maleny-Kenilworth road and roughly every 3 weeks the Maleny Emergency service crews rush passed my house to a MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident). I would like to know if the government has any future plans to do something about this? I think these crashes occur because people are enjoying the view of the valley and not paying attention to how many bends, curves and vertical drops there are on this road.

I made my own slogan as I continue to research this local issue.

"Enjoy the drive, come home alive."

Sincerely,

Olin Stratford

Local State Emergency Services Cadet

I am sorry, Olin, but there is nothing in this budget. There are no plans. There is nothing in QTRIP for Maleny Kenilworth Road. Know this: I will continue to lobby and do what I have to do to ensure that upgrades are made to that road as soon as possible and that plans are not left to languish longer and longer so that emergency services vehicles continue to go past Olin's house.

It is not surprising that these things are not in the budget when we look at how the Premier, the Treasurer and the Labor government have structured and prepared it. People should not take my word for it. Let us look at what some of the media commentators have said about this budget. I start with Sarah Elks from the *Australian*. In an article of 12 June 2019 titled 'Try as Trad might, she can't hide the reality' Sarah states—

Queensland Treasurer Jackie Trad yesterday delivered a Band-Aid budget.

It did little to address the serious systemic challenges that face the state's bottom line: a skyrocketing debt bill, struggling economic growth, a ballooning bureaucracy and rampant government spending.

...

Trad tied herself in knots yesterday, insisting she was still trying to cut state debt, which is now forecast to surpass \$88bn in 2022-23 (plus \$2.6bn in long-term leases).

But here's the kicker: there is no debt reduction anywhere in the budget papers. The helpful bureaucrats from Treasury confirmed as much.

Finally she concludes—

A Band-Aid only works on superficial cuts but yesterday's budget suggests Queensland's economic problems are much deeper.

On 12 June Sarah Vogler in the *Courier-Mail* in an article titled 'Debt bomb is ticking' said—

Queenslanders will soon be shelling out \$3.5 billion a year in interest repayments, enough to fund thousands of extra teachers, nurses and police as the State's debt marches towards \$90.7 billion.

Treasurer Jackie Trad unveiled the massive debt bomb alongside almost \$2 billion in new taxes—including \$476 million in increased gas royalties—in her second Budget ...

A bit tongue in cheek is Michael Madigan's 'Reading between the lines of Trad's speech', which also appeared in the *Courier-Mail* on 12 June. This is a take on what the Treasurer said and what she actually meant. The article states—

What she said:

'Today I deliver a Queensland budget unashamedly focused on our regions.'

What she meant:

'I want to make a formal apology to regional Queensland for the Australian Labor Party's entire 2019 Federal Election Campaign.'

What she said:

'I do so because Queensland is the most decentralised state in the Federation.'

What she meant:

'I keep forgetting you still wield extraordinary political muscle.'

What she said:

'A state that relies ... on the character and resilience of its regional communities.'

What she meant:

'I don't want to harp on this theme but, seriously, I am deeply sorry about that campaign—unforgivable.'

...

What she said:

'Mr Speaker, this is a budget for regional Queensland.'

What she meant:

'And if Bob Brown leads a Green convoy up north during the State Election campaign, I swear to God I'll sic a flock of black-throated finches on him.'

The commentators have been brutal in their assessment of this state budget. After five years in power, all Labor is delivering, despite what it is saying, is higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. You cannot afford Labor because, when Labor runs out of money, it comes after yours. It says it is borrowing more to build. It is not borrowing to build. It is borrowing to cover its wasteful spending. New taxes—I think we are up to the ninth or 10th now—are going to be ripping another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy. We are more than \$90 billion in debt and there are almost 26,000 fewer jobs forecast. That new \$1.25 billion worth of taxes is on top of the taxes that Labor has already inflicted on Queensland since being re-elected. We are now at a total of \$3.45 billion in taxes. As I said, you cannot afford Labor. When it runs out of money, it comes after yours.

It has taken Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor only four years to strip Queenslanders of their confidence. The March Sensis Business Index ranked the Palaszczuk government as the least popular government amongst small and medium sized businesses for the fourth consecutive quarter. The March CCIQ survey revealed that business conditions and profitability are still rapidly weakening in Queensland. The April CommSec State of the States report ranked Queensland in sixth place nationally—not first, second or third but sixth. The economy is grinding to a halt under Labor. Building approvals in Queensland have fallen every month since February 2018. Queensland's construction work volume is now at its lowest level since December 2006. At a time when the Premier should be delivering jobs, all she has delivered is higher tax, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure investment.

Earlier this week I spoke about the fact that \$9 billion has been slashed from infrastructure during the first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government, and she is at it again. In the 2019 budget papers there is half a billion dollars less than stated in the 2018 budget. The government is not even spending this year what it said last year it would spend this year. A big part of this is that mature governments do not argue about the toss over funding splits. Mature governments get on with the job and get projects built. I can guarantee that the cost of congestion to Queensland businesses far exceeds the amounts the Premier and her ministers are squabbling over with the federal government. The only reason that projects like the second M1—or the M1, for that matter—the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 and the Mackay Ring Road stage 2 are not being built right now is because the Premier chooses petty politics over outcomes.


Not only is this government infrastructure investment down; Labor has killed off job-creating private sector projects worth billions. That is why Queensland's roads are congested and getting worse. That is why Queensland schools are overcrowded and students' results are in decline. That is why Queensland's public hospital waiting times are blowing out and ambulance ramping is increasing. That is why crime is on the rise and our prisons are at breaking point. Labor's idea of delivering infrastructure is delivering a great big bureaucracy in Brisbane.

In government the LNP got on with the job of investing in Queensland infrastructure. It did not matter whether we worked with a federal Labor or Liberal government. What was important was delivering projects for Queensland. As part of an \$8½ billion, 10-year action plan, we funded upgrades

to the Bruce Highway, including when the then federal Labor minister for infrastructure Anthony Albanese came to us with an offer of a fifty-fifty split on Cooroy to Curra stage A and we took it. We funded and started the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. We put \$600 million into the Warrego Highway upgrade. We funded the long-awaited Moreton Bay Rail Link, constructed the Gold Coast Light Rail, completed the rail extension to Springfield, finished the Northern Busway extension, fast-tracked construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and delivered 11 new schools, and we will do it again as announced by the Leader of the Opposition in her budget reply speech today.

Turning to planning, we have all heard what the Property Council has said. Not only are Labor's crippling taxes and economic failures ruining the value of existing family homes; they are also stopping the building of new ones. The value of residential building work has dropped every single quarter since September 2016. Labor has lost nearly half a billion dollars worth of residential building work.

I want to conclude by talking about manufacturing because, while those opposite will pay to bring a Scottish brewery to compete against our local breweries here in this state, we are going to back Queensland manufacturers. We will back Queensland manufacturers and market them not only in Queensland but across this nation and indeed across this world. We do not want Scottish breweries here in Queensland. We want our breweries operating in Scotland. We will ensure through our \$20 million fund that we will back heavy engineering and manufacturing in this state. We will use that money to help those firms develop new markets, as I said, in Australia and overseas. This is a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure and there is only one party to blame for it, and that is the Labor Party.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (8.26 pm): This week we announced record spending of almost \$1.5 billion for the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women as part of the 2019-20 state budget and we confirmed the second tranche of the youth justice reform package which brings our commitment to changing the story for our young people and our community to a total of over half a billion dollars when it comes to youth justice. We will be supported in our endeavours by the over 5,400 people who are employed by the non-government organisation sector—the magnificent people whom we work with—and by our amazing staff who day in and day out work their hearts out, literally. They are faced with the depths and the heights of humanity and they keep on doing it because they care and they want to make a difference, and they do make a difference. I want to give a big shout-out to them as I speak about our budget for this year.

The LNP has indicated pretty clearly that it does not consider my portfolio areas a priority. It goes without saying that it does not put women high on the agenda. When it was in government it cut 225 Child Safety staff and over \$200 million from the child safety system. It went to the last election without even having a child safety policy and with an intent to cut \$4½ million from the domestic violence budget. From the promises that the opposition leader made today there is no other way she could fund all of those promises she made except by cutting more staff, so I do worry that if those opposite ever got back into government they would cut more Child Safety staff. I noticed that today the opposition leader did not even mention in her budget reply speech anything to do with child safety or domestic violence. She did not mention anything about supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our state, so I think it is pretty clear what a priority this is.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has made a huge commitment and we continue to make a huge commitment to strengthening the child protection system, to tackling domestic family and sexual violence head-on, to improving gender equality and to creating a better future for our children and young people. We are already seeing the results of our significant investments in Child Safety with a 5.2 per cent increase in the number of investigations commenced on time since 2017 and a decrease in case loads, down to 16.8 cases, which is the best result for about 10 years.

As a result of our investment into family support services, we are seeing a 10 per cent reduction in the total number of children notified who need to be taken into care. Since 2015, we have funded more than 450 new staff. With this budget we are going to see another 116 front-line positions coming in the next three years.

Sadly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children remain overrepresented in the child safety system. Funding will be directed to help address this issue. This year, after 14 years of continuous growth in overrepresentation, we have seen the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in our system stabilise. This is very encouraging. However, there is so much more to be done. That is why \$99.8 million over three years is being invested into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family

Wellbeing services, making it easier for those in communities across the state to access culturally responsive support. We have a further \$14.6 million over four years to implement our new and enhanced initiatives under Our Way. We will progressively replace the integrated client management system through the Unify program in my department and \$51.1 million will be invested over four years to deliver and support stage 1 of this transition.

We are going to continue to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse with additional funding of \$22 million over four years. We are going to put \$2.3 million into supporting young people transitioning from care to independence. We have additional funding of \$11.9 million over four years for new and expanded services to prevent and respond to youth sexual violence. We will continue our commitment to implementing the *Not now, not ever* recommendations. The government has completed 98 of the 121 recommendations.


This year, we will complete the construction of our two newest women's shelters. They are on track to be finished by the end of the year, bringing the total number of shelters in this state to 54. Pushing gender equality forward is another key element of this year's budget as we back women to overcome challenges and disadvantage to secure the jobs they deserve. Everyone benefits when women and girls fully participate and contribute to all aspects of Queensland society. The budget for the Office for Women tells the story of our commitment to make sure that that happens.

An area of deep and persistent disadvantage lies in the many young people whom we see coming into contact with the youth justice system. When it comes to reforming the youth justice system and keeping communities safe, the 2019-20 budget is historic. We know that we cannot keep doing the same thing that we have been doing in youth justice for decades and expect the results to be different. The community expects our young people to be accountable for their actions, and so do we. However, we know that we cannot keep locking up young people and throwing away the key, because, if we do that, they will just keep on reoffending. We have to do the things that work.

I want to tell the story of a young woman who I will call Vanessa. Vanessa had dropped out of school at 13 and had a history of shoplifting and drug use. She was showing signs of an undiagnosed mental health disorder. When she was 16 she met our Stronger Communities Action Group in Townsville and they organised a health assessment. That led to the right medical support. Vanessa was connected to youth workers at the Lighthouse and to alternative education away from mainstream schooling. For the first time in years, Vanessa is now in stable accommodation, has graduated from year 12 and is studying at TAFE. Hooking up with youth justice workers completely changed the way Vanessa will now live her life. More of that: that is what we are funding in this year's budget.

People like Vanessa need leadership from the government. They do not need the LNP members' way of what they say depends on the way they think the wind is blowing: one minute these young people are thugs who need locking up and the next minute they need early intervention. These young people need leadership and the community needs leadership on youth justice. That is what this government is doing. This budget delivers on our commitment to women, children, families and young people to provide the help they need when they need it and to keep families safe.

Before I finish, I want to talk about the magnificent people of the Bulimba electorate. I thank the education minister for the wonderful commitment that she made to Morningside State School in helping that school community recover after the big fire last year, to helping Seven Hills State School get along the way to a new hall—and that community is so excited—to money for the Morningside Panthers and to upgrade the Cannon Hill Railway Station, which the community has been lobbying for. I thank them for their efforts. I thank them for their people power and I thank the transport minister for everything that he has done to support us. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate on the 2019-20 budget, which was presented on Tuesday. I represent the Coomera electorate, which is a huge growth area. Pimpama is growth central in Queensland. It is the fastest growing region in the state and, indeed, the second fastest growing region in Australia. There are so many issues, including infrastructure issues, that I need to talk about but there is precious little time.

I am calling for a police hub for the northern Gold Coast. There is absolutely nothing in the budget for it. My electorate needs an additional 35 police to man that police hub. There is nothing in the budget for those extra police either. Currently, 1,562 people have signed an electronic version of a petition on this matter. I can tell members that when I present the paper petition it will have many thousands of signatures. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has yet again another story about crime and the lack of police on the northern Gold Coast. The people of that area are absolutely fed up.

Let me make it very clear that the police on the northern Gold Coast are doing an outstanding job, but the issue is the lack of resources. That area is meant to have 68 police officers. The reality is that so many of those officers are off on secondments in other areas. About 10 are on leave at any one time. That means that there are fewer than 50 police on the northern Gold Coast. Additional police are needed desperately.

I turn now to the upgrades of exits 41 and 49. There is nothing in the budget about exits 41 and 49. I am told from an answer to a question without notice from the member for Macalister in which the minister took up three-quarters, if not more than three-quarters, of his answer talking about the northern Gold Coast, specifically the Coomera electorate, that there is a \$96 million commitment. There was no mention of the fact that these numbers were not in the budget. In fact, the answer states that the money is in the budget. It is not there. Yes, it is in QTRIP, but on page 41 of QTRIP under the heading of 'Other work'. That is how important this issue is for this minister. This is a \$96 million investment in the northern Gold Coast.

The minister was dragged kicking and screaming by the people of the northern Gold Coast to finally say, 'Yes, we are going to tip the money in,' but that funding comes in under the heading of 'Other work'. That is how important this funding is to this minister. The funding is under that heading because \$50 million was committed by the federal government. By the way, the Labor candidate in the last election matched that \$50 million commitment. Yet this minister is calling for the federal government—the 'ScoMo' government—to tip in a further \$46 million to match his contribution. It is interesting to note that it would have been okay for a federal Labor government to tip in \$50 million but, because it is a ScoMo Liberal National government, that is not good enough. I say to the minister to go after that funding. I hope he gets it from the federal government, because all I want is exits 41 and 49 fixed.

For under \$20 million we could resolve the problems relating to exit 45. Is there any funding from the minister? Absolutely not. For years now I have been told that there is planning going on for exit 45. That is what I have been told for exits 41, 45, 38 and 49. The planning is there. This minister continues to plan to plan, but he does not plan to build. I wish he would get his act together and do something about fixing these exits. For less than \$20 million we could have a solution.

Upgrades to exit 38 and to Stapylton Jacobs Well Road are desperately needed. There is no mention of building a second M1. It is desperately needed. The first M1 is already at capacity. The second M1 gets \$10 million for planning. Yet again, this government is planning to plan.

I ask the minister to get on board with building the new railway station at Pimpama. In a recent letter he told me that it is fully funded. I ask him to bring it forward because we are the fastest growing region in Queensland. We need that railway station now, not in 2024. There are hundreds of signatures on the electronic petition and Les Hargreaves, the principal petitioner, has close to 1,000 signatures on the paper petition that he has been running. Les is doing a wonderful job and I thank him for the work he is doing.

In relation to commissioning and opening the existing railway bridge at Pimpama, the electronic petition has 907 signatures on it already. I believe there are well over 1,000 signatures on the paper petition. It is a no-brainer. There is a developer prepared to do the work on both the new railway bridge and the Pimpama Railway Station and get the money back from the government in 2022 or 2023—whenever it has the money to pay for it. I do not get it. The minister says it is fully funded but he tells me that it cannot be delivered until 2024. With the amount of pressure that is being put on the minister from the residents on the northern Gold Coast to open that railway bridge in Pimpama I am tipping that he will soon announce it is being opened. By the way, when is the minister going to duplicate the railway bridge on Yawalpah Road? That bridge is the only two-lane part of the whole road that in a couple of months time will be four lanes.

The minister told me several months ago we were going to get 70 car parks at Ormeau Railway Station which was to replace 110-plus car parks that we were using informally. I told him 70 is not good enough, there is room to do a lot more than that. A few of weeks ago the minister snuck into the electorate without letting anybody know he was coming. He got the media down there and announced the other 40 car parks.

Mr Power: He did not!

Mr CRANDON: Yes, he did, he snuck in and did it. Next time the minister comes down I invite him to call into the office. I will make him a cup of coffee. I will take him for a drive around the electorate. A couple of years ago I invited the minister for a drive around the electorate and he said no thanks. It has taken \$15 million from the federal government to do the work that has to be done at the Coomera Railway Station. A multistorey car park is being built. Another 400 to 500 cars will be parked at Coomera

Railway Station, which is a fantastic result. I thank Bert van Manen, Stuart Robert and the ScoMo federal government for delivering that \$15 million. The Labor candidate kept matching every election announcement because he knew full well there was no more money.


The Ormeau Railway Station and the Coomera Railway Station have two bus services running between them, the 722 and the 721. One of them runs a little bit longer because I put forward an argument for that to happen and finally the minister and the department listened to me. We are the fastest growing region in Queensland and we have two bus services running between the two railway stations that service it. It is absolutely ludicrous. Building a railway station in the north will probably mean not having to deliver those as quickly.

There are already 161 electronic signatures for a desperately needed PCYC in Pimpama. There was nothing in the police budget for a PCYC in Pimpama. There was nothing in the police budget for the police hub or additional police. Coomera is the fastest growing area in Queensland but there was nothing from Gold Coast Health in relation to a hospital. The Gold Coast University Hospital is already under massive pressure and the northern Gold Coast has no hospital. There is nothing on the horizon from this health minister about a new hospital in that area.

I thank the minister for the fire and emergency services station in Pimpama. It is absolutely fantastic. It is acknowledged that we need a fire and emergency services station. It is acknowledged—bring it on now—that we need more schools. In the time I have been in my electorate 10 new schools have been built in 10 years. It will be 11 new schools in 11 years and 12 new schools in 12 years—that is for the fastest growing region in Queensland. We have the fire and emergency services base. We have the new ambulance station that was upgraded from the training station. How many police do we have? We need all of these other services but we do not need the police? It does not make sense.

Jacobs Well is a fast growing region. We have never had a full-time bus service to Jacobs Well to bring people in to the Ormeau Railway Station. Once again, there is nothing in this budget. I ask the minister where is the special school for the northern Gold Coast that was promised prior to the last election? I have spoken to my principals and they tell me we need it. I thank the minister for continuing the Schools Planning Commission that was put in place by us when the member for Surfers Paradise was the minister. I will never forget the member for Surfers Paradise performing the sod turning for the Pimpama State Primary College. He looked around and said, 'Here we are in the middle of nowhere.' There was nothing around us. There were no houses around us while we were there turning the first sod, but the planning commission knew we needed it. Members should see it now. The growth in the area is absolutely mind-blowing. As I said, it is the fastest growing region in Queensland; I have more than 40,000 electors. It is hundreds if not thousands ahead of anyone and certainly thousands and thousands ahead of the average. Some members have something like 31,000 or 32,000 constituents.

I have referred to schools, emergency services and ambulances but where are the police, where are the roads and bridges, where is the hospital? Why is the northern Gold Coast not getting the recognition it needs to the extent that this minister did not even bother putting one word in the budget papers about the desperately needed \$96 million investment in exits 41 and 49? It only appeared in QTRIP. I would suggest that the minister was dragged kicking and screaming to deliver that because he knew that if he did not do it now it would be too late for him in June 2020. There is nothing for the second M1. It is absolutely diabolical that is happening. As I said, I tip that we will see that railway bridge opened in the not-too-distant future. In conclusion, this budget delivers higher taxes and more debt, fewer jobs and absolutely less infrastructure in the northern Gold Coast seat of Coomera, the fastest growing region in Queensland, the only one that this minister keeps in the slow lane on.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.48 pm): I rise to support the budget bills introduced into this House by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 11 June 2019. Just like the budget of 2018, this is a Labor budget that delivers on the infrastructure, skills and services that Queensland needs. Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia and, therefore, the budget needs to cater for the needs of the regions that last year bore the brunt of bushfires, cyclones and floods.

When introducing the 2019-20 budget, the Treasurer told the House that budgets are about choices and that the Palaszczuk Labor government has chosen to stay on course, continuing our strategy of investing in jobs and in front-line services to meet the needs of a growing state. As the Treasurer stated in her budget speech, the Palaszczuk Labor government has made the choice to stay on course—I repeat: to stay on course—to prepare our state for the future by investing in new industries and new skills. The Palaszczuk Labor government made the choice not to cut, sack and sell. That choice was made because the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan to create jobs is working.

I will now deal with the new initiatives contained within the budget that directly benefit the constituents in my community. In relation to education, I thank the Minister for Education for the interest that she has shown in my electorate and for the new buildings that are coming our way. There is \$1.55 million of a total \$6.2 million in funding to build 10 general learning spaces at Warrigal Road State School; \$500,000 to refurbish the administration block at Coopers Plains State School; \$800,000 to refurbish block E at Moorooka State School; and \$500,000 to upgrade the science lab and two general learning spaces at Sunnybank State High School. Within the Toohey electorate, \$710,000 has been allocated across 13 schools for maintenance and \$320,000 has been allocated across 14 schools for minor works throughout the 2019-20 financial year.


As everybody knows, the QEII Hospital is located in the electorate of Toohey. I use this opportunity to acknowledge the budget initiatives for health services in the electorate, which will go a long way to enhancing the lives of my constituents. As part of a \$1,112,648 commitment over three years, there is \$379,605 to provide mental health funding program services.

I will now deal with the new initiatives contained within the budget for continuing road works and upgrades. I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for those road works, which will make my community safer. They will mean a reduction in the time it takes for people in my electorate to travel to and from home and work, as well as the different venues on the south side that this government has provided for sport and recreation. In 2019-20, there is \$12.6 million to continue design activities for widening busway extensions along the Pacific Motorway.

Sport is important to my constituents and my electorate is home to the Griffith Moorooka AFC. The club has a female team that plays hard and can party hard. The team is committed to keeping fit and supporting each other. The club has a strong sense of community, so I was pleased to see that the Griffith Moorooka AFC is to receive \$443,241 to construct an amenities block that will include toilets and change rooms to support female participation in Australian football at Moorooka.

I close my contribution in support of the budget bills on this note: the budget will allow for upgrades to stations on the south side. Those upgrades are part of a \$57 million boost to the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$300 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program. Cross River Rail already includes plans to build additional platforms at south-side stations, so it makes sense that at the same time an investment is made in upgrading the existing station platforms. The package of station upgrades will include new overpasses, lifts, kiss-and-ride infrastructure and bike facilities. The upgrades will make it easier for commuters with a disability, parents with prams and travellers with luggage to use our public transport system. The upgrades will occur at Moorooka, Salisbury and Rocklea stations. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to ensuring that it delivers a transport system for all Queenslanders.

I take this opportunity to again thank and congratulate the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations. I commend the budget bills to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (8.54 pm): As enjoyable as it has been listening to Labor's revisionist history of Queensland, I rise to address this irresponsible and ill-conceived state budget. It is a budget delivered by Anna Bligh's apprentice Jackie Trad and it shows. It is a budget of waste and mismanagement. It is a budget of higher taxes, more debt and less jobs. It is a budget that shifts the responsibility for paying down Queensland's massive state debt to the next generation, or the one after that. It is a budget that shows that when Labor run out of money they come after yours. It is a deceptive budget that gives with one hand and takes with the other.

The most concerning aspect of this budget is the government's addiction to more debt and taxes. There will be nine new taxes in this term alone, despite a promise not to introduce any new taxes. As I said, this is a budget that gives with one hand and takes with the other. The government's land tax changes are a case in point. In many cases, the beneficiaries of the government's changes to payroll tax are the exact same entities that will be hit with a higher land tax impost. The tourism industry is the perfect example. Many of those investing in new accommodation capacity in Queensland will be hit hard by the increases in land tax. Given that the Treasurer tried to paint this budget as a jobs budget, it seems a little curious why she would choose to impose a punitive, job-destroying tax on the very businesses that will create the jobs that this budget supposedly champions. It is perverse logic.

The biggest concern for residents within my electorate is the crippling cost of living. It is a concern for residents because they have to live within their means. Families and retirees are breaking under the weight of escalating electricity, water, food, fuel and housing costs. Despite that, Sunshine Coast

residents have been sluggish with even more new taxes under this Labor state government. Those opposite will contend that the taxes they have imposed will not impact families and retirees, but the facts do not support their argument. Chris Mountford of the Property Council said—

It is simply not accurate to suggest these taxes won't be paid by Queenslanders, or won't affect job creating investment in the state.

Almost all of the properties that will be impacted by this tax hike are home to businesses employing thousands of Queenslanders in industries like manufacturing, tourism, logistics and trade.

Under this government, Queensland families now owe \$67,000 each. That is their share of this Labor government's skyrocketing debt. That is their reward for working hard and supporting this 'good' Labor budget. The government contends that the increase in debt is required to fund investment in infrastructure. However, the facts tell a different story. Across the forward estimates, the budget delivers \$23 million less infrastructure spending compared to last year's budget.

We all know that Labor is fond of blaming the federal government for all of their failings. They say that the Feds do not care about Queensland and that they cannot work with them. Clearly Queensland voters think otherwise given their recent condemnation at the federal election. Let us look at what the facts say. The facts show that Queensland has the second lowest infrastructure spending as a percentage of gross state product in the country. The facts say that the New South Wales state government contributes 93 per cent of all infrastructure spending, with the Feds picking up only the remaining seven per cent, while this Queensland Labor state government contributes only 79 per cent of infrastructure spending, with the federal government committing 21 per cent. The Feds are pulling their weight; it is time for Queensland Labor to pull theirs.

In delivering this budget, the Treasurer has even abandoned any pretence of trying to stabilise and pay down debt. Treasurer Jackie Trad has given up on trying to restore Queensland's AAA credit rating, which her master Anna Bligh lost. Contrast this with the measured and considered approach articulated by the leader of the LNP, Deb Frecklington, in her budget reply today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Buderim, I would counsel you to keep on referring to people by their correct titles. I know you have done that, but I would again remind you to do that.

Mr MICKELBERG: Our objective of regaining the state's AAA credit rating is what is required. By ensuring that we maintain a fiscal balance over the economic cycle, we will stabilise Labor's debt and begin repaying it. We know this will take time, but we will achieve this without divesting assets and without forced redundancies. It is responsible management for the people of Queensland. It is the plan that Queensland needs and it is the plan that Queensland deserves.

Since Jackie Trad became Treasurer, Queenslanders have seen expenditure growth outstrip revenue by 3.9 per cent.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. You have given the member very generous guidance and he has in fact done the exact opposite to the guidance you have just given when he corrected himself.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I said—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I have silence, please. Can I remind members to address people by their titles or by electorates. There is no need to add in their name. We are very direct about that and everybody knows that rule. I counsel everyone to adhere to the standing orders.

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Can I just clarify this? If the member mentions the correct title and adds their name that is still correct under the standing orders, as we understand them. I take it your direction is actually that they firstly mention their title?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that. I have given fairly specific directions on that. I will have some consultations in a moment, but please continue.

Mr MICKELBERG: Since the inept and incompetent member for South Brisbane became the Treasurer, Queenslanders have seen expenditure growth outstrip revenue growth by 3.9 per cent. It is the Labor way—rack up expenditure now and deal with the problem later—but it is not right.

In this budget Labor has failed the Sunshine Coast yet again. The Sunshine Coast is a great place to live, but this Labor state government needs to do more to support the massive population growth we are experiencing. It is time for Labor to put aside the political pointscore and invest the money to solve the problems that affect locals every single day—issues like traffic congestion, community safety and providing better health services.

The Sunshine Coast population is expected to grow by almost 200,000 new residents over the next two decades. Traffic congestion on the Sunshine Coast is getting worse and we need to plan much better for the future. This budget was an opportunity to solve some of those challenges, but yet again the government has dropped the ball.

This is a budget that goes part of the way to addressing some of those issues, but what we have seen announced is simply not enough. Many of the funding commitments contained in the budget are recycled announcements with no new money. Projects like the six-laning of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra and Caboolture and the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line need to be a priority for Labor, not just the Sunshine Coast community. It is time for the Labor state government to stop playing politics and commit to fully fund these projects, just as a future Deb Frecklington LNP government will.

Traffic congestion and road safety is a massive issue on the Sunshine Coast. Locals tell me they are sick of sitting in the parking lot that is the Bruce Highway. They tell me they are sick of seeing accidents on the dangerous Mooloolah River interchange at Mountain Creek. They tell me that they worry about the safety of their children on local roads at school pick-up times.

At Chancellor State College in Sippy Downs we have Scholars Drive, which is a gridlocked and dangerous mess. Parents, teachers and students have to deal with Scholars Drive every single day, but despite countless calls for the state government to work with the Sunshine Coast council to solve this issue, the Premier and her ministers continue to ignore the problem. The safety of our kids is paramount and this is sadly being compromised by the current government's lack of funding to address this critical issue.

The Bruce Highway between Caloundra and Caboolture remains a congested and dangerous stretch of road that results in people not getting home to their families at the end of their work day. On a Sunday afternoon locals and tourists alike know that the Bruce Highway will be a crawl all the way back to Caboolture. For those who choose to do battle with the traffic jams, the congestion sometimes doubles the time it should take to drive between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. That is not good enough. Tourism operators on the Sunshine Coast tell me that the parlous state of the Bruce Highway results in fewer overnight stays from the drive market, which is so important to our local economy.

More needs to be done to ensure that the Bruce Highway is safe, flood resilient and able to cope with population growth already happening on the Sunshine Coast. The government will say that they are working on upgrading the highway up to the Sunshine Motorway, which is true, but more needs to be done. The problem is there for all to see and so too is the solution. The LNP federal government has already committed to funding the vital works needed to widen the stretch of road between Caloundra and Caboolture to six lanes, but still the Labor state government stalls. All that is left is for them to take the offer that is on the table.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of this budget is the failure to fund the urgently needed upgrades at the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road interchange, otherwise known as the Buderim-Mooloolaba interchange. This is an important issue that my community and I have campaigned on since 2017. I recently met with the minister and Transport and Main Roads staff on site and they recognised the problems which need urgent remediation. I am concerned that every day we waste on starting construction of these vital upgrades is another day closer to a motor vehicle accident and a death that could otherwise have been prevented.

I know that funding is projected for some time between 2021 and 2023, but we need action now. After the minister took the time to inspect the site and now obviously understands the issues, I was hopeful that he would make fixing the problem a priority. I ask the minister to work with me to rectify this significant road safety risk in a timely fashion.

While on the subject of transport, I was disappointed, but not surprised, to see this Labor state government is still playing politics on duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line. The 39 kilometres of track that runs between Beerburrum and Nambour is a single track with poor alignment that results in limited services and all too often considerable delays for commuters. The LNP federal government has already committed 50 per cent of the funding for this project so it is appalling that Labor continue to hold Sunshine Coast commuters to ransom by not stumping up its share.

As rail advocate Jeff Addison recently identified, Queensland Labor continues to spite the Sunshine Coast through its failure to fund its fair share for duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line. This is despite the fact that both the LNP and Labor at a state level have previously committed 100 per cent of the funding for the very same project.

Let us not forget that the amount of money that the state government is arguing about is less than five per cent of the cost of Cross River Rail. Let us also not forget that the state Labor government committed to passenger train services all the way to Caloundra by 2015 and to Maroochydore by 2020. A Labor government document from May 2007 identified—

As the Sunshine Coast grows in popularity and size, so too does the demand for public transport and infrastructure. To meet this growing demand, the Queensland Government is committed to building a new rail line that will service the Sunshine Coast and provide a direct link to Brisbane.

Apparently that commitment was one of those that Labor gives when it does not really mean it. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, dated May 07, titled 'Transport Planning on Sunshine Coast—Caloundra South CAMCOS Realignment Study' [982].

As the leader of the LNP, Deb Frecklington, observed, the only way Sunshine Coast residents are going to get decent rail services is to up sticks and move to Jackie Trad's electorate of South Brisbane or—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I have said this a number of times.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have silence while I continue to counsel the member for Buderim. I emphasise it is in the standing orders to refer to members by their title or their electorate.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you for your counsel, Mr Deputy Speaker. As the leader of the Liberal National Party, Deb Frecklington, identified, the only way Sunshine Coast residents are going to get decent rail services is to up sticks and move to South Brisbane. Alternatively they could vote for an LNP state government in October 2020. We will get the job done, unlike Labor, which is only interested in propping up its jobs in this place.


The one positive light for the Buderim electorate in this budget is in the area of education. This budget acknowledges the need for more schools on the Sunshine Coast. I am pleased that the minister has listened to the community's voice in that respect. I, along with my community, have been calling for new schools in Palmview and the commitment to building a new primary and special school is an important step to support the explosion in student numbers we have seen.

The commitment for these two projects of some \$34 million this financial year is a good start, but the job is only half done. We need a new secondary school sooner rather than later so that existing schools like Chancellor State College are not placed under even more pressure than they currently are.

The allocation of funding for early stage works is not enough. It is time to stop talking about a new secondary school in Palmview and time to start building it. The minister has indicated that a new high school in Palmview is planned to open at the start of 2023. Given this fact, I am concerned that we will have year 6 students graduating from the new Palmview primary school at the end of 2021 who will then need to attend another school for their first year of high school. This may see Palmview students attend three different schools in three years. I know from my own time at school that moving to a new school is challenging and disruptive. With timely investment, the government can ensure that any new Palmview secondary school is ready to open at the start of 2022, ensuring that the first graduates from the Palmview primary school are able to enrol in their first year of high school.

Residents on the Sunshine Coast tell me that they are losing sleep over the increase in youth crime in our suburbs. This state government's first obligation is to ensure the safety of Queenslanders everywhere. Our local police do an amazing job with the resources they have, but more needs to be done. I was hoping to see an increase in funding for local police in this budget, but it is clear that again we have been let down on that front.

I will continue to fight for the Buderim electorate. I am pleased that the community's voice has been heard on some of the local issues that we are facing, but much more needs to be done. I remain committed to working to deliver the investment that is required to support the growing needs of my community and to ensuring that a future LNP government is able to stem the rising tide of debt and mismanagement currently afflicting this great state.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.10 pm): Each morning I get up and enjoy an early morning walk sharing a 'good morning' or a nod of a head with locals—mums and dads; grandparents; young and old; people walking their dogs, riding their bikes, fishing on the rock wall—all of us taking a moment before our busy day starts. Perhaps they might be heading back to care for their elderly parents or children with a disability, to get kids off to school or to get ready for work—each of us enjoying a little piece of paradise that we call home, the bayside.

Apart from living in the bayside, which is perhaps or should I say definitely the best place in the world to live, we all share much more. We all want the very best education for our kids, we all want the very best health care, we all want a decent job and we all want to be able to pay our bills and to have some money left over. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government gets. We understand how important providing access to good education is, setting our kids up for a great start in life.

That is why I am absolutely thrilled, as is each and every student and worker at Darling Point Special School, to be receiving \$1 million in the budget to build new classrooms, which are so well deserved and so needed at that wonderful school on the bay; Wondall Heights State School will receive \$300,000 for an outdoor learning area; Lota State School will receive \$350,000 to refurbish learning areas; and more than \$800,000 is allocated across 11 schools for maintenance and minor works. That is on top of the \$4 million that Wynnum State High School received last year for new classrooms and refurbishment of rehearsal spaces. These investments mean so much to our local schools, our local students, our local parents and our community and, importantly, they are giving our kids a great start. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does, and I thank Minister Grace Grace.

I have spoken often in this place about my passion to ensure that in the bayside we all have access to great public health services when we need them, now and into the future. This budget sees an allocation of \$1.6 million in health grants for mental health, dementia respite and palliative care services. We are building on the clinics and services that are already being provided at our fabulous Gundu Pa, which is giving access to world-class public health services close to home. We are providing more doctors, more nurses and more paramedics right across the state. We are building on our public hospitals and our health services. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.


Baysiders who want to study nursing will be able to do so closer to home at the brand-new world-class facility at the TAFE Queensland Alexandra Hills campus. The campus will undergo a \$10 million upgrade to offer more courses and more learning spaces. This is a game changer, combined with the double subsidy for a diploma of nursing, making it \$4,000 cheaper for eligible students. The new and enhanced state-of-the-art facilities and equipment mean that our bayside will be the best place to gain the necessary skills to work in the growing sector of nursing and aged care.

Improving the Lindum level crossing is one step closer, with a \$400,000 investment into the planning stages for this important upgrade. I have been working with our community. I have been listening to the community and, might I say, to the experts to ensure that the best possible and positive solution is available for all baysiders, providing safe carriage for all users of the intersection. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

We will be developing a progressive management plan for Manly harbour to help Wynnum Manly reach its potential as a tourism hotspot, generating jobs and tourism in the bayside. Raising the payroll tax free threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million will be a boost to businesses and further support job creation. We will also support payroll tax rebates of up to \$20,000 for businesses that increase their number of employees each year, and we are continuing the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees. This budget backs in local jobs by supporting local businesses, building infrastructure and building a skilled and future-ready workforce. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

Our commitment of \$5.66 billion to Queenslanders to help with household budgets sees an increase from last year and is equivalent to more than \$1,000 for every Queenslander. These concessions will ease the cost of living for pensioners, students, apprentices and trainees, low-income families, people with a disability and people needing access to specialist medical services that are not available in their area. Helping to take pressure off families' household budgets is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does.

This budget will deliver to those people I see each morning when I am on my walk. We are investing in education and training, giving our kids a great start. We are delivering world-class health services. We are investing in jobs, and we are easing the cost-of-living pressures. We are creating opportunity. We are taking care of those in our communities who might need a hand, and we are investing in the growth of this great state. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (9.17 pm): It seems that the only way you get any attention from this Labor government is if you are a prisoner who wants lobster at your wedding or a black-throated finch, because once again there is barely a nickel for Nicklin in this budget. Once again, Labor finds money for its pet projects in its own seats and thumbs its nose at the rest of Queensland. It is no longer good enough that the people of Nicklin have Labor's hands in their pockets, taking billions more in tax and spending it saving the Deputy Premier's seat.

Queenslanders though have worked Labor out. Three out of four Queenslanders voted for anyone but Labor in the federal election a couple of weeks ago. Federal Labor's high-taxing, class warfare, divisive election platform is mirrored here in this year's state budget. This high-taxing regime was rejected by the people of Queensland and the people of Nicklin who want the government to get its hands out of their pockets and manage the economy of Queensland in a way that provides opportunity, in a way that attracts investment and in a way that provides the services and the infrastructure that they need.

Failure No. 1: Nambour Police Station. Yes, I am still talking about it. It was announced by the minister in July 2017, and still we wait. Now I want to take the time to respond to the disgusting comments made by the Minister for Police on ABC Radio, who called my integrity into question and suggested that I have been briefed all along by senior police on this project. That is a complete falsehood. I want to make it clear that, despite hearing anecdotal rumours about a possible move to the council chambers in Nambour, no-one—I repeat, no-one—has formally briefed me on anything to do with the new Nambour Police Station project other than the non-answers I have received from the minister's office to questions on notice. For the minister to get on radio and suggest that I somehow breached a confidential process I have not even been privy to or involved in in any way was outrageous. I call on the minister to publicly apologise for this unwarranted slur on my character.

All I know about the Nambour Police Station is what this government puts in the budget. The announcement in 2017 was for \$9 million. It was then not included in the 2018-19 budget but it was put in the column for this year's budget. I opened the budget papers yesterday, and alas it has been pushed out another year with only \$100,000 in the budget for God knows what. Of course the people of Nicklin and the hardworking police officers of Nambour deserve answers to this. They deserve to be kept in the loop about what is going on. They deserve to be part of the process. If negotiations are going on as the minister said on radio, then why didn't he just come clean and brief me on it? The secrecy, the misinformation and neglect in this process has been a disgrace and the people of Nicklin, the people of Nambour and the hardworking police know it.

The budget says that about \$400,000 of taxpayers' money has already been spent on this project. That is great money if you can get it, but I am not sure what we got for it. The minister could not even answer that question on radio. I look forward to an answer from a question on notice about this issue. The people of Nicklin deserve to know what you have spent their \$400,000 on. What exactly have we got? I have not seen any detailed planning. I have not been briefed on what appears to be a complete waste of money again by this government. They are very good at pulling money from the pockets of Queenslanders but they are terrible at managing it. The Nambour police need new accommodation urgently, and I am calling on the minister to get on with it or come clean to the people of Nicklin instead of hiding behind some alleged confidential process. I see that my friend, the member for Ninderry, has a new police station announcement in Cooloom. Unfortunately, all I can say to the member is, 'Don't hold your breath.' This government is great at announcements and slow on delivery, but the delivery is the important part.

Failure No. 2: the slow progress of the Nambour Hospital redevelopment over the last four years. As I have outlined to this House previously, in 2015 the Labor Minister for Health, the now member for Woodridge, announced that the Nambour Hospital upgrades would be finished by 2018. Here we are in 2019 and they are only just commencing. The removal of 1,800 staff and the breakdown of services in the hospital has damaged Nambour beyond recovery, with a number of small businesses around the hospital closing down. These businesses relied on the advice of the government as to the timing of the hospital upgrades but they were left to fend for themselves for years, with a large portion of their customer base taken away by this government.

Failure No. 3: lack of funding for our worst roads. Obi Obi Road is the gateway to the thriving township of Kenilworth, which is famous for its cheese, dairy, show, food and wine festival and one-kilogram doughnut. This community relies on visitors for its economy.

Mr Purdie: How good are they!

Mr HUNT: How good is Kenilworth! Visitors have the choice of coming along the treacherous Eumundi Kenilworth Road to get there, braving all the trucks and potholes, or braving the dirt track of Obi Obi Road. I have written to the minister on these issues, and it is time to fund a detailed plan for Obi Obi Road. The indication from TMR is that this road could be fixed in stages over four years at \$9 million a year. It needs to start so that this tourist gateway can be open for caravanners and campers.

Failure No. 4: our schools. Nicklin is home to 21 schools. I recently did an audit of what our local schools need and I forwarded these to the minister's office in the faint hope we might get some funding, but once again there is not a nickel for Nicklin. Some of the bigger ticket items we were hoping for

include a performing hall for Burnside State High School and Nambour State High School and an undercover basketball area for Cooroy State School—but no, there is nothing for us; nothing for Nicklin. We watch other areas get new schools, new classrooms and new facilities while Nicklin's schools struggle just with the maintenance of their old buildings. It is nowhere near good enough. In fact, it is insulting and our kids deserve better.

Failure No. 5: the biggest game-changing project for our region—the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail. Our federal LNP colleagues did a fantastic job getting unprecedented federal funding for this project at 50 per cent of the total cost. Labor then spent the next couple of years arguing that that was not enough and they should be putting in 80 per cent—all whilst funding the Deputy Premier's pet project to save her seat at 100 per cent. Even Bill Shorten agreed that 50 per cent funding was the appropriate level, and that is all they offered as an election commitment.

People do not believe Labor anymore with their political games and blaming. The people of Queensland spoke loudly at the recent federal election and overwhelmingly supported the LNP coalition government in Queensland. Labor needs to heed this message, but I doubt they are listening. Labor needs to realise that they are going to have to work with the Morrison federal government and get this project moving. Fifty per cent is all they are getting from either side of government, and that was made clear during the federal election. I fear, however, that the stubborn arrogance of this government will see the project stall once again, and only a Frecklington LNP government could deliver this for the people of the Sunshine Coast, as we have committed to.

As well, business cases are currently underway for fast rail due to the excellent work of our federal LNP colleagues. That is another great reason I was so pleased to see the return of the Morrison federal government with huge support here in Queensland. There are great opportunities for us into the future, but if this government keeps dragging its heels on the duplication process it puts it all in danger. The people of the Sunshine Coast—and, indeed, the people of Nicklin—know that Labor is intentionally neglecting them. Their insulting alleged governing from the Sunshine Coast in recent months—with no new announcements for Nicklin, I have to add, with ministers heading home early—show the people of the Sunshine Coast what Labor really thinks of them, and they will remember.

The Minister for Police, who you would think would be interested in meeting police in the area he is visiting, declined an invitation to come and look at the worst police station on the Sunshine Coast: the previously mentioned Nambour Police Station. He declined to face those officers and tell them the truth about their station.

It is not a surprise that the people of Nicklin are neglected by Labor. We are neglected because we are a regional area and not inner city. There are higher taxes and less infrastructure for Nicklin. As my colleagues have pointed out, you cannot tax your way to prosperity, but that is Labor's go-to strategy. The Treasurer, who is the apprentice of former premier Anna Bligh, goes straight to the Labor manual of economic management—chapter 1, tax; chapter 2, see chapter 1. As my colleagues have said, Queenslanders know that when Labor runs out of money they come after yours.

I am not surprised that the Premier, the Treasurer and their divided cabinet are scrambling to try to pretend to care about the regions. They got straight to the talking points this week in the budget about jobs for regions. They only start listening though when their own jobs are at stake. For all the talk, there is no delivery. The people know the truth that this government is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs.

Despite Labor's spin and talk, the people of Queensland and the people of Nicklin see the truth. They see the truth when their rail project is underfunded yet billions are spent on rail in South Brisbane. The people of Nicklin see the truth when a new school is announced in South Brisbane yet ours have not received a cent in capital funding. The people of Nicklin see the truth when the police minister can build a new state-of-the-art policing facility in his own electorate while ours is pushed into the never-never once again. This divided, incompetent government is lost. The knives are out and they are governing for themselves and not the people of Queensland and certainly not the people of Nicklin.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr HUNT: Our schools, our roads, our police station, our rail transport and our hospital—

Honourable members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HUNT: They are all suffering under the neglect of this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is three times I have called for order.

Mr HUNT: That is what they think of the people of Nicklin—they are heckling from the sidelines. They could not care less. Only a future LNP government can turn things around for the people of Nicklin and deliver the infrastructure and services they need. Only a future Frecklington LNP government will ensure the Sunshine Coast rail duplication project will finally be realised. Only a future Frecklington LNP government will manage the Queensland budget in a way that benefits all Queenslanders, not just those in the inner city.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.32 pm): State schools are great schools. In my contribution to the budget reply today, I will be focusing on the funding for my amazing local state schools, because at the end of the day these students are the future of Queensland. A few weeks ago, I was a speaker at the leadership forum for the Centenary Learning Alliance of State Schools, or CLASS—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms PUGH: It was very exciting, member for Buderim. I hope you have such wonderful state schools in your electorate. The schools involved were Jindalee, Middle Park, Darra and Jamboree Heights State School, which hosted the event. I shared with the kids that I began to consider a career in politics not long after I left primary school when I came and did work experience at Parliament House under the guidance of the wonderful Roylene Mills, who still works in the parliamentary team today.

The student leaders and I spoke on a number of issues, including why I became a member of the Queensland parliament and not the federal parliament. I told the kids it was because I am so passionate about Queensland that I think I would have a really hard time giving funding to anything outside Queensland as I think it is the best state in Australia bar none. If I were in federal parliament, I would pass legislation to only ever play State of Origin right here in Queensland. I cannot wait to see it played at the new Townsville stadium.

I talked to the kids about the changing world view of leadership and how more feminine qualities, such as empathy and collaboration, are on the rise in political leadership thanks to female leaders such as Jacinda Ardern and of course our own Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk. I think the world is a better place for it. The children at the leadership event told me that they thought kindness was the most important trait in a leader and I could not agree more.

My role came just a few weeks after the Premier's visit to her former primary school, Jamboree Heights. The kids were beyond excited when the Premier came to read to the class and kick off this year's Premier's Reading Challenge. She told the nervous student leaders that she used to study at Jamboree Heights. In fact, she was in the second intake of students, so she started there just the year after it opened but she would not tell the students what year she started. The Jamboree Heights kids are no fools. They had done their reading and they knew exactly what year she had started and they sang it to her in unison.

It is with these students in mind that I have reflected on the critical importance of education to young people in shaping their values, their ambitions and their belief that truly anything is possible for a Mount Ommaney state school student—you can even become Premier of this state. That is why I am so excited about the education budget bounty that my electorate has received because I know that every single dollar spent on our kids is money well spent.


Our fantastic Centenary State High School will receive \$900,000 for seven new buildings. That is more room to showcase their brilliant music and arts students under the tutelage of Fiona Harvey. We have got \$3 million for new buildings at Mount Ommaney Special School, led by new principal Wayne, deputy Mike as well as Chrissy, Kerry and Karen. They are a really special and passionate bunch at Mount Ommaney Special School and the school is growing every year. We have got \$300,000 to refurbish C block at Jindalee State School which Minister Grace visited last year to see their STEM program in action. We have got \$100,000 to fix the preppies room for Mrs Ngyuen and Gayle Healey at Darra State School—my tiniest but arguably my mightiest state school. For the Premier's former school of Jamboree Heights, we have got \$450,000 of a total \$2½ million for additional classrooms.

Like I said, state schools are great schools, and I am proud that in my relatively short 18 months as a member no fewer than three of my local schools have had ministerial visits. When I was at Jamboree Heights just a few weeks ago, I spoke with principal Cam Wallace and deputy principal Natala Crawley during the Premier's visit and they did not miss the opportunity to press the case for their students and their need for increased infrastructure. I am so pleased that this budget delivers.

When Minister Grace Grace became the education minister, the very first school she visited was the mighty Corinda State High School, and I know she was incredibly impressed by the staff there. In fact, I reckon just quietly that this visit would have been hard to top. A few months ago I attended an International Women's Day event at Corinda State High School where I was a panellist on issues around gender equity and the challenges that women face in the workplace. I am pleased to report that our future leaders absolutely understand the benefit of having gender equity in leadership roles. I can only hope that enlightened attitude can rub off on some of those opposite. It was incredibly exciting to see almost \$10 million going to Corinda State High School for new scoped works, including a new multistorey resource centre and student services centre. Corinda school is bursting at the seams because of its excellent academic results, and these new classrooms cannot come soon enough.

Every dollar spent in our state schools is money well spent. I am so proud of my local schools, my amazing teachers and principals and the spectacular students and parents who make up the Mount Ommaney community. I am thrilled to be able to deliver for them in this budget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Just before I call the member for Chatsworth, I have to say that there are an awful lot of conversations happening in the chamber. If you could take them outside, that would be really good.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.38 pm): 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today'—so said Abraham Lincoln. I rise tonight in response to the Palaszczuk government's 2019-20 budget. Throwing ever increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as transport and main roads, health and education is not a measure of success. It is about the effectiveness of outputs, not just input efficiencies. Simply put, it is what you actually do with resources rather than just throwing money at an issue. This budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair intergenerational debt will continue under Labor.

I will now comment on the budget in my capacity as the shadow minister for transport and main roads. The Transport and Main Roads portfolio is all about, obviously, delivering an efficient and responsive statewide transport system that will connect people right across our vast state, both now and into the future. Unfortunately, Labor's incompetent approach to the 2019-20 budget, particularly for this key portfolio, means this worthy goal is a long way off. At a time when we need to get the transport system really moving for this growing state all we are seeing, regrettably, is higher taxes, more debt and less infrastructure.

The government wants to talk up their transport and roads budget; they tell us it is a record! In effect, it is more a smoke and mirrors exercise than a credible financial document for the future. Under Labor, the Queensland Transport and Roads Infrastructure Program, QTRIP, which outlines the current transport and roads projects, resembles a lay-by agreement: outlaying a dollar today, a few more next year with the rest off in the never-never.

Budgeting for future capital expenditure is one thing, but what about the existing assets? In the 2017-18 report on integrated transport planning, the Auditor-General concluded that the transport network had approximately a \$4 billion renewal backlog for the road network as at 30 June 2017. At that time, it was estimated that the renewal gap will increase to more than \$9 billion over the following 10 years. There is very little in this budget that shows a preparedness to address this mounting shortfall. Overall, we are not keeping pace; under Labor we are going backwards with our asset base. If the Labor government wants to talk about records, they are certainly well on track with this massive underfunding. This will compromise service standards and affect TMR's ability to meet minimum performance targets. This is an area of major concern.

In terms of more taxes, the RACQ said—

... it was also disappointing drivers would be slugged with tax hikes on vehicle rego and licence fee increases ...

From 1 July, Queenslanders will be ... worse off than they would've been if increases were capped at the actual CPI rate, and not a hypothetical forecast—this will see registration go up by 2.25 percent ...

It should not be forgotten that this increase comes off the back of four years of consecutive 3.5 per cent rego hikes. Members will recall that the LNP actually froze registration fees for three years when we were in government.

Let's delve further into the budget itself starting with Labor's flagship project, coincidentally in the Treasurer's own electorate of South Brisbane, the Cross River Rail. It is noted that Cross River Rail underspent \$12 million of the \$733 million it was allocated in 2018-19. Already, delays have placed serious doubt over this government's ability to deliver their main infrastructure project by 2024 and on

budget, as stated in their own business case. When it comes to major infrastructure projects, Labor has a track record of budget blowouts and delays, costing taxpayers millions of dollars of waste in the process.

The LNP has always acknowledged the need for a second rail river crossing in Brisbane. However, we hold concerns about the lack of transparency by Labor regarding Cross River Rail's cost and benefit assumptions and their funding model. In terms of budgets, the true costs of the Cross River Rail project are at least \$14.4 billion and that does not include the recent changes involving the additional \$250 million underground bus interchange. These costs include: \$5.4 billion for capital costs, approximately \$4.5 billion for operating costs and a further \$4.5 billion for auxiliary projects. With a re-elected Morrison federal government, the Treasurer can no longer rely on her federal colleagues to make up for her budget's deficiencies, and now it is to borrow for recurrent blowouts and not capital expansion. Labor have committed to delivering Cross River Rail, so now they need to get on and build it.

To be clear, the LNP will not tear up any contract signed by Labor should we win office in 2020. What we will do is hold the Palaszczuk Labor government to account for delivering Cross River Rail and monitoring project milestones, funding and land acquisition issues. Importantly, Labor should not be using Cross River Rail as an excuse to delay much needed congestion-busting projects like the second M1, Brisbane Metro or stumping up their fair share of the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. The Department of Transport and Main Roads infrastructure budget has been cut by \$853 million at the same time that another \$758 million has been poured into Cross River Rail. Labor are cutting road and rail projects across regional Queensland to pork-barrel the Deputy Premier's seat, whichever one that might be according to recent media speculation.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Hold on, member for Chatsworth. Member for Miller, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr MINNIKIN: Comparing the 2014-15 LNP budget to the 2019-20 budget there have been cuts to infrastructure spending—capital purchases plus capital grants—in the following regions: Brisbane North, \$108 million; Brisbane West, \$41 million; Gold Coast, \$159 million; Moreton Bay South, \$223 million; Outback, \$1.797 million; Sunshine Coast, \$132 million; Toowoomba, \$453 million; Wide Bay, \$463 million. Their investment in infrastructure is less than any other state on a percentage of revenue basis.

Looking to the regions, there is no money in this year's budget to build the Rockhampton Ring Road project and only \$25 million next year. As I indicated earlier in my remarks about QTRIP, \$900 million to build this project—a total project cost of a billion dollars—is beyond the 2022-23 financial year, meaning it will be years away. There is no money for Mackay Ring Road stage 2 from Labor in the actual budget document—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you will be warned if I have to call your name out again.

Mr MINNIKIN:—despite \$280 million from Canberra being on the table. All they could say is that they are going to get on with stage 1. We have previously called on the Palaszczuk Labor government to provide funding for stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road project in the state budget and there has been radio silence from Labor ever since. Stage 2 is a vital investment as it will provide a strategic connection between the port and the Bowen Basin and Galilee Basin mining regions. The federal LNP have committed to funding 80 per cent of stage 2, which will cost \$350 million. The 20 per cent funding gap is \$70 million. We need the Palaszczuk government to step up and fund this much needed project. The LNP has committed to building the second stage and the federal government has already stepped up to the plate in terms of relieving congestion.

In relation to congestion between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, Labor has made a token gesture for the second M1, a paltry \$10 million of new money over two years, which has been allocated in the budget for project planning. This is the Clayton's approach to funding, where you allocate a miniscule amount for show when you really do not want to fund it in the first place. By contrast, the LNP is keen for this congestion-busting project to proceed and it made an initial commitment to invest \$500 million to give the project a serious boost.

The Labor Treasurer asked how we would fund this. While the LNP already has an economic plan which includes a second M1, we only need to look at Labor's wasteful record to see that many options to fund infrastructure are available. The \$460 million cost overruns for Labor's ICT projects, the \$111 million prisons deal or the \$1½ billion spent on consultants and contractors is just the start.

Working closely with our federal colleagues, the LNP will secure the necessary funding to progress this and other major transport projects. We all know the M1 is at capacity, with congestion and travel times worsening with each passing year. Labor had to be dragged kicking and screaming, despite the federal government committing over \$1 billion in 2018, to fund—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are now on a warning.

Mr MINNIKIN:—the next two stages of the M1 and the LNP urging the Labor government to get on with it. Labor delayed the process by playing political games rather than doing a deal to fix this major road. Then we have the Labor 2017 election commitment for the Bruce Highway Trust, where Labor announced the trust would receive an annual \$200 million contribution from the state government as part of a \$1 billion-a-year program to lock in Bruce Highway funding. However, surprise, surprise, the trust has yet to hold one meeting, it has no charter and they do not have any agreement with the federal government about a road that receives 80 per cent federal funding. Major projects like the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A have been ignored and, again, there is no funding from the state government for this project. What is available, however, is the \$112 million contributed by the federal government, which was a commitment from both sides at the recent federal election that was won by the Morrison government.

The budget lacks tolling information for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. This has been a major undertaking initiated by the LNP. While the project will be completed in the second half of 2019, no information about the toll charges has been announced, making it increasingly difficult for heavy vehicle operators to price future haulage contracts. There is \$119 million allocated towards the new next generation transport ticketing system. However, may I suggest that before the project progresses too much further, the government needs to properly engage with the consumer representatives to ensure that the planned fare products are designed with the end user in mind. The cost of public transport is consistently the number one complaint of commuters. They are crying out for innovative fare structures. When last in office, the LNP reduced public transport fares by five per cent.

How can I talk about public transport without referencing what is generally referred to as ‘rail fail’? Despite 32 months of rail fail, Labor managed to restore only 32 of the 472 weekly services that were cut at the height of the crisis in late 2016. On its current pathway, it will take Labor years to restore services that were cut in late 2016. These are not new services, as some backbenchers suggest, but just get us back partially to where we were three years ago. Labor confirmed it had paid consultants over \$335,000 between July 2018 and February 2019 to help implement recommendations of the scathing Strachan inquiry. By contrast, when in power the LNP had the best on-time running record of public transport in the nation.


Projects like the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line, Nambour to Beerburum, are also missing the mark under Labor. Sadly for the people of the Sunshine Coast, this project is only mentioned in the budget with an indicative allocation of \$50 million towards the delivery of a \$550 million project. However, this is heavily qualified—isn’t it always?—with funding arrangements subject to negotiations with the Australian government. This project remains in limbo and there is still a \$230 million shortfall from Queensland Labor. Once again, Labor has short-changed the Sunshine Coast and created uncertainty by not fully funding the Nambour-Beerburum rail duplication.

The Labor government’s allocation of \$160.8 million over four years for this vital project is well short of the state government’s share of the required \$390 million. The Sunshine Coast line has the worst rail frequency in South-East Queensland despite being one of the fastest growing areas, with the single-track line shared between passengers and freight. The LNP recognises the necessity to improve the situation significantly and will support this project.

In March 2019, Brisbane was named one of the most expensive capital cities in the world for transport, sparking calls for the government to reduce costs. Past behaviour is the best way to predict future actions. It does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go; they all share in their DNA an absolute inability to understand what expenditure constraint and debt control is really about.

All politics is local. In relation to my electorate of Chatsworth, the traffic congestion along Old Cleveland Road will continue despite a small budget token. Residents can ruminate on this as they pay extra for car registration. The Eastern Transitway is desperately needed to reduce congestion. This budget contains a vastly inadequate amount of money that will not go very far in providing bus priority measures along Old Cleveland Road. I note the \$5 million for the Old Cleveland Road and Gateway Motorway intersection upgrade. Disappointingly, there is minimal joy for my local Chatsworth schools.

In closing, this budget is disappointing on multiple levels. It lacks any sort of vision or an appetite for true economic reform. I repeat my words from earlier budget reply speeches: this sleight-of-hand budget will come back to haunt the government during the remainder of its time in office. Sadly, future generations will also be made to pay a price for this short-term economic sugar hit that has no basis of fiscal responsibility.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.53 pm): I rise today to give my fifth budget in reply speech as the member for Ipswich in this parliament. It is an enormous privilege to hold this position, and I will never take it for granted. This budget puts Ipswich on a firm footing to accommodate future population growth and its social and economic changes. I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on her excellent work with this budget.

Ipswich is a vibrant and growing city with a diverse population and economy. We face challenges similar to any city undergoing rapid change and growth. I know that people in Ipswich are worried about the challenges that lie ahead. I assure the people of Ipswich that this budget will not leave behind anyone. The Palaszczuk government has handed down a budget that will help Ipswich cope with future challenges that arise from fast-paced growth and change. I am excited and optimistic about Ipswich's future.

This budget puts Ipswich on a firm footing to manage our future growth. We are getting more learning facilities for our schools, more funding for our hospital and health services, more affordable housing, more funds to upgrade roads and develop public transport, and more funding to extend our court services.

One of the big wins for Ipswich in this budget is the reinstatement of the Murri Court. Seven years after the Newman government closed it down, Ipswich is getting it back. Since 2015 I have fought for the return of a Murri Court in Ipswich and know that this service will be welcomed by many who wish to see the rate of Indigenous incarceration reduced. Around 15 Indigenous people attend court every day in Ipswich. This number is far too high, and the Murri Court will be a step in the right direction to reduce recidivism rates and improve outcomes for Indigenous people in Ipswich. I respectfully acknowledge all the local elders in my community who fought long and hard for the reinstatement of the Murri Court in Ipswich.

The future of Ipswich is our children. The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in their education through quality teachers, classrooms, learning resources and facilities so that none are left behind in a rapidly changing world. Teachers and principals in Ipswich state schools do fantastic work imparting their skills, knowledge and wisdom to children. They do outstanding work in sometimes challenging environments to help students achieve their best. The volunteers on our school P&C committees also deserve a mention. They are out there providing support and resources to their school community, fundraising and lobbying for essential infrastructure upgrades and learning resources that improve the quality of their students' education.

Labor understands that a good education starts with good teachers. Since Labor was elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has employed an extra 556 teachers and an additional 221 teacher aides for our state schools. Labor also understands that we cannot provide a good education without proper investment in education infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$94.1 million into two new state schools in Ripley, helping to alleviate some of the enrolment pressures placed on neighbouring state schools, Raceview and Silkstone in particular. This comes out of a total statewide education infrastructure spend of \$1.564 billion.

This year's budget will also see several state schools in Ipswich get urgent and critical infrastructure funding to upgrade their school grounds and learning facilities. Raceview State School will receive \$750,000 in funding so that it can refurbish its existing learning areas, add a new outdoor learning area, provide an outdoor special education learning space, and construct bag racks for its demountable classrooms. Ipswich Special School will receive \$620,000. Bremer State High will receive \$190,000 to upgrade its junior oval. Another \$720,000 will be allocated to 12 schools in Ipswich for maintenance work, and \$250,000 has been allocated to 13 schools for minor works.

Another great measure to come out of this budget is the announcement of \$100 million for school air conditioning which includes air conditioning for schools outside the Cooler Schools zone determined to be of greatest need. I welcome the rollout of the Cooler Schools program throughout South-East Queensland and believe it will benefit Ipswich state school students who currently struggle through lessons during the extreme heat of our summers.

In more good news for Ipswich parents with young children, this budget delivers an additional \$30 million over two years to support universal access to kindergarten. This budget invests in the health and wellbeing of Ipswich people with West Moreton Hospital and Health Service receiving a record

\$642.8 million in this budget. It means more front-line staff, improved allied health services and more funding to continue the upgrade of Ipswich Hospital. Some \$790,000 will be delivered to provide services in dementia respite, mental health funding programs and palliative care programs. Some \$290,000 will be allocated for the delivery of alcohol and other drug services to provide out-client treatment, court diversion programs, residential rehabilitation and Connecting Care to Recovery programs.

Indigenous health funding is also set to be boosted with close to \$51,000 going to the Institute of Indigenous Urban Health for oral health services, and just over \$185,000 going towards Indigenous health services under the Making Tracks Investment Strategy. It is also great to hear that Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health will receive close to \$1.9 million to continue providing family services.

I am also pleased to see \$1 million in route planning for the Springfield to Ipswich rail line extension. I will never stop fighting for transport infrastructure to connect Springfield to Ipswich. This funding gets the ball rolling on this important project for Ipswich.

I am pleased to see funding devoted to domestic and family violence in our community. The Palaszczuk government committed \$232,000 for two additional Ipswich based district police domestic and family violence coordinators who will deliver specialist education and training to police.


I am saddened to say that there is a growing homelessness problem in Ipswich which is exacerbated by the lack of suitable, affordable housing for some parts of the population. This budget is tackling the growing housing crisis by allocating an extra \$2.7 million towards commencing construction of 21 units of accommodation in Ipswich.

Services are delivered by dedicated men and women who are working for government and non-government organisations to keep children safe, and I welcome the continuation of funding in the budget for child safety and protection services. The budget delivers a total of \$16.5 million to non-government organisations in Ipswich so that they can carry on doing important work protecting children and supporting vulnerable people.

Youth in Ipswich will also be supported through the continued funding of the exceptional Ipswich Community Youth Service and Project Booyah, which is turning around the lives of young offenders in Ipswich. I could not be happier to see this fantastic initiative get an extra \$3.173 million plus an additional \$982,000 under the Framing the Future initiative.

TAFE is a very important part of the Ipswich community. Some \$7.27 million has been allocated for that. They do amazing work. On this National TAFE Day I want to give them a really big shout-out. Another big thing in our budget is getting rid of red tape for small businesses by increasing the payroll tax free threshold to \$1.3 million. This is terrific for Ipswich business confidence and great for local job growth.

I know that Ipswich people have been doing it tough, particularly over the last couple of years. Our city has taken a few knocks and suffered a few setbacks, but Ipswich is a city worth fighting for. I want to assure the people of Ipswich that, along with Labor, I will continue to deliver for this great city.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. This is a budget of missed opportunities, ignorance of regional Queenslanders, the shackling of Queensland's major industries and proof positive that this government has absolutely no intention of addressing the issues that are most important to all Queenslanders. The Premier and the Treasurer have illustrated yet again that they believe that anyone who lives and works in regional Queensland is nothing but a cash cow.

In the Burdekin electorate there is little to celebrate in this budget. Despite this Treasurer's claim that this is a budget for the regions, Queensland's powerhouse electorate has been ignored. From Alligator Creek and Nome in the north to Bowen in the south, there is little return on the contribution of my constituents. From the coast to Clermont in the west, there is nothing but lip-service. Not one project in the Burdekin electorate has been fully funded in this budget. Instead, my constituents are expected to be grateful for reannouncements. Take for example the Haughton River Floodplain Upgrade Project. This project is already underway, thanks to a contribution from the LNP federal government and due to a hard-fought campaign to bring the project forward—a campaign, I might add, that I was glad to lead because my constituents deserve safe, decent roads and this section of highway includes what I have termed the most dangerous bridge on the entire length of the Bruce Highway.

In the Burdekin district itself, a golden opportunity to diversify the economy, an opportunity to create much needed jobs, was ignored when this government overlooked the Ayr Industrial Estate. In Bowen we saw no action on the often flooded highway in the Delta area. In the Collinsville region we

will see much needed work on the Bowen Developmental Road, but, once again, this is a project that needs to be fully funded. Let me explain why. Today the Adani Carmichael mine project was finally approved. The majority of the workers who will work at that mine will travel via the Bowen Developmental Road, a road that still comprises some 98 kilometres of unsealed road. That is right: it is a dirt road that is about to become a motorist's nightmare.

As we head further west into my electorate we finally see real action on Pasha Road and the Moranbah State High School hall. I offer my thanks to my constituents in that area for their passionate support of my lobbying for those projects.

In Nebo we see a further commitment to the water supply project. This is welcomed, but I offer the following advice to the Treasurer: the residents of Nebo will hold you and this government accountable if you break that promise. After all, the residents of Nebo deserve a reliable water supply.

Heading further west to Clermont, there is finally a small commitment to the Peak Downs Highway. Again, this is long overdue. It is worth noting that, despite the name, this work is a long way from Clermont itself. I drove this road last week and I have to tell you: it is nothing but a goat track.

What do we need in the Burdekin electorate? The list is long but it includes a new police station at Clermont. We need a Bruce Highway upgrade south of Townsville from Killymoon Creek to Vantassel Street. That particular section of highway has been the subject of three fatal traffic accidents in the past 12 months including a horrendous fatal traffic accident this week. We need the construction of a food-processing plant at Bowen, funding for the sealing of May Downs Road and further pavement work for Clermont Alpha Road, construction of the Phillips Creek high-level bridge on the Moranbah-Dysart road, a medical imaging facility at Bowen Hospital, an upgrade in the Bowen sports precinct and, of course, new multipurpose halls at Collinsville, Dysart and Clermont state high schools.

I move on to my shadow portfolio of natural resources. It is clear that natural resources are in fact under-resourced in this state. Will the Treasurer explain how they support the resources sector when they are cutting 25 per cent of the department's budget? That is hardly a ringing endorsement for this portfolio. Again, we have seen those opposite claiming to support the resources sector when they are in the regions whilst doing their best to hamper the industry that accounts for one in every five dollars within the Queensland economy. It is blatant hypocrisy and a play straight out of the Bill Shorten playbook—and didn't that end well?

It is not just cuts to resource management. When water infrastructure is needed to provide jobs in regional Queensland and maximise the benefits of our agricultural sector, the only mention in the Budget Measures about dams is the possibility that the election promise of hydro-electricity on the Burdekin Falls Dam may not be delivered. There is no funding for the Nullinga or Urannah dams or for the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam. In the same week that the North Queensland Agricultural Market & Supply Chain Study identified the opportunity to create more than 2,000 jobs in North Queensland we saw this government drop the ball on water. With over \$270 million on offer from the development of primary industry in the north, the report identified water as a key requirement to create those jobs, but this government is either incompetent or ignorant when it comes to water infrastructure. But there's more. To paraphrase the *Cairns Post*, some of Far North Queensland's projects are stuck on waiting lists while this government drags its feet on the business case for the Nullinga Dam.

Unlike the current government, the LNP has a plan for water security. Unlike Labor, we know that dams create jobs and improve job security. We know that when you have water you have jobs and you have the opportunity to truly unleash the potential of regional Queensland. I reiterate: the LNP will get the Nullinga and Urannah dams shovel-ready and we will raise the Burdekin Falls Dam by 14.6 metres to realise the full potential of Australia's largest river by discharge volume. Unlike the current government, we will stop playing politics with water and the potential that water provides. The LNP will make the Rookwood Weir a reality. Why? Unlike those opposite, we respect regional Queensland and we want regional Queensland to finally get a fair go.

The resources sector in Queensland is worth almost \$63 billion to the state's economy, employing some 315,000 people. It is an industry that pumps almost \$5 billion into the state's coffers. It is, without question, the saviour of this state at present. This government, this Treasurer and this Premier have broken a promise to Queensland in this budget. A 25 per cent hike in royalties on gas and petroleum, according to the Queensland Resources Council, will cost investment and jobs in Queensland. The APPEA has said that the hike in royalties will push gas prices up and put yet another burden on our manufacturing industry. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies says that this government has little or no understanding of the impact on industry and that this decision threatens future investment which creates jobs and fuels the Queensland economy.

This broken promise has sent a shockwave through Queensland's largest industry. Instead of planning to invest and create jobs, the industry is now fearing a future increase in coal royalties. Like they have with the Carmichael mine project, this government has again increased sovereign risk, has again put upward pressure on energy prices and has again confirmed its anti resources agenda. What the Premier called 'a little bit more' is in fact a \$476 million revenue grab. Instead of leading the way in natural gas development, Queensland is now a victim of what the *Australian* rightfully calls pigheadedness.

This Treasurer and this government have threatened to shatter business confidence in this state. A Queensland gas industry pioneer said that this hike was akin to killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Even after the Treasurer got the facts right, it did not take long to realise that the little bit more was \$476 million for the south-east and that the little bit more is a \$476 million millstone around the neck of industry that does nothing to reduce power prices, nothing to boost infrastructure in the regions and nothing to reverse the utter contempt that this government holds for the people of regional Queensland. This obscene hike in gas royalties is another failing for the gas industry. Just like the failure to deliver the Gas Supply and Demand Action Plan, this hike threatens regional Queensland jobs, investment and exports. Despite costing millions more than predicted, we stand here today still waiting for a plan that was due in 2016.

Unlike those opposite, the LNP has a plan for a thriving resources sector that increases job opportunities rather than destroying them. We have a plan to realise the \$50 billion potential of the Galilee Basin. Rather than playing politics and using Queenslanders as cannon fodder in the fight to get Bill Shorten elected, we will open up the Galilee Basin and we will welcome the jobs that those resource projects provide. Those 15,000 new jobs are so crucial to this state. When we think that 19,000 people have applied for jobs with Adani for the Carmichael mine project and there are only 1,500 jobs on offer, we appreciate the scale of unemployment in regional Queensland.

The LNP has a plan to give regional Queensland its fair share of royalties. While Labor claimed an extra \$1 billion in coal royalties and spent little of it on infrastructure, the LNP will take every single cent from the Galilee Basin and invest it in projects across the state. Schools, hospitals, roads and bridges will be built right across this great state thanks to the royalties of the Galilee Basin because, unlike Labor, we believe that all of Queensland should benefit from the resources sector. Despite the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy proclaiming today that Labor supports the resources sector, it is the LNP that has stood shoulder to shoulder with the industry. I was proud to stand with Clermont residents only a month ago and send Bob Brown's convoy packing because we do not need some southern greenie activist coming to Queensland telling us how we should live and what jobs we should have.

I want to move on to my portfolio as the shadow minister for Northern Queensland. I wish I could reply to a ministerial counterpart, but there is not one—another indication of the contempt with which this government holds the people of North Queensland. As we saw earlier this week, it does not even have a plan to include more regional MPs in cabinet let alone appoint a minister. It is obvious why there is no minister. After all, North Queensland has been abandoned. Wall to wall Labor MPs have failed to address the key issues that face North Queenslanders and I will leave it to the people of North Queensland to decide if this is due to Labor MPs being ignored or them simply turning a blind eye.

Every single day constituents tell me that the cost of living is one of their greatest challenges. Whether it is a small business, a household, an agricultural operation or a manufacturing business, the electricity costs that this government has overseen are causing significant distress. Despite the recommendations of the Queensland Productivity Commission, this government will not provide consumers with choice of electricity provider. Instead, it offers them an insulting 11 cents per day. The Productivity Commission's recommendation would save consumers in regional Queensland around \$300 per year, almost 10 times what those opposite are offering. Then to add salt to the wounds, this government pocketed an extra \$759 million for generating the electricity it sold to the regions. Where did that money go? It definitely did not find its way to regional Queensland.


Let me turn to crime in the north. Yesterday District Court Judge John Coker said that Townsville was in the midst of an 'epidemic' in relation to unlawful use of motor vehicles. In Townsville unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 53 per cent since 2014-15 and in April 2019 there were five times more robberies than there were in January 2001. Since the three sitting Labor members were elected, assault is up 12 per cent, serious assault is up nine per cent and dangerous operation of a vehicle is up by over 30 per cent. Today—just one day after the budget—the Queensland Police Union expressed concerns

over whether the officers that this government promised will actually be delivered to that community. And those opposite wonder why Townsville and North Queensland have had a gutful of their broken promises, their endless reports and reviews and their inaction.

Last Friday night one of Townsville's 24-hour police stations was closed due to a lack of staff. As a former police officer I have never heard of such a thing happening and it is a good indication of what this government has done on crime in North Queensland, and that is absolutely nothing. Instead of taking action on crime, this government will waste \$71 million on bail houses. While people were afraid of going to sleep in their own homes, those opposite failed to build prison and youth detention centres, and what a mess that has become.

Earlier this year we saw the Bruce Highway closed for days due to flooding, hampering the response to flooding throughout North Queensland. Was there any extra funding in this budget for flood proofing? The answer is no. Instead, the people of north and regional Queensland are promised a trust fund body that has not even met, has no charter and no money almost two years after it was promised. Instead of funding for roads in the regions, we have seen cuts to the Transport and Main Roads infrastructure budget and that money being poured into the south-east of the state and yet we are expected to believe that this is a budget for the regions.

The facts are that this government has overseen Queensland having the lowest level of capital expenditure as a percentage of revenue. The government is not just spending less; it is spending it wrong. While families and businesses struggle to pay their electricity bills, those opposite add more and more debt for our children and grandchildren to pay. This is an ignorant, insulting budget that ignores the chance to realise the true potential of this great state and everyone who calls it home. This is a budget big on words but small on action. If there is one thing that this budget has shown it is that you cannot trust Labor with Queenslanders' money.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (10.15 pm): It is great to follow the member for Burdekin's contribution because, after listening to the member for Burdekin, members probably would not surmise that this is another Labor surplus budget. We have delivered another Labor surplus budget. Of course, this is not the first Labor surplus budget. 2018—Labor surplus budget. 2017—Labor surplus budget. 2016—another Labor surplus. We are walking back in time now. 2015—another Labor surplus. That is five surpluses—five to nil, my favourite Ashes scoreline.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr PEGG: Let us compare that to those opposite, and of course we have the architect of some of those failed budgets about to speak, the member for Broadwater. Let us talk about the 2012 LNP budget—deficit, failure. What about the 2013 budget? You were on the CBRC weren't you, member for Broadwater? The 2013 budget—another deficit. That is two out of two. How did you go in 2014, member for Broadwater?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Stretton, I ask you to address your comments through the chair.

Mr PEGG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe the current member for Broadwater was part of a government that delivered another deficit in 2014, so 5-nil—my favourite Ashes scoreline. When we look at the LNP, it is none out of three—the worst State of Origin scoreline, no wins and three losses. The backbench went feral when I opened my remarks. The LNP has not delivered a budget surplus in this state for over 20 years. I am not sure the member for Buderim was even born when the conservative side of politics in this state last delivered a budget surplus, yet speaker after speaker from those opposite have stood up and purported to lecture us on fiscal and economic management.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr PEGG: That is exactly right. I take all of those interjections from the minister.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stretton. We will have a little bit of calm in the House.

Mr PEGG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I can understand why everyone is getting carried away.

When the Deputy Premier delivered her second budget, her second budget surplus and the fifth budget surplus in a row, we had all of those documents piled on our desks. We had kilograms and kilograms of documents. Earlier today, we heard the budget reply from the member for Nanango. It was heavy on criticism and very light on detail. It got me thinking—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Buderim and member for Nicklin, keep your comments to yourself.

Mr PEGG: My friends to my right will be very interested to hear this. I am about to table a document that I do not think either of them have read. I had to do a lot of research to come up with it. It is titled *Our economic plan* and it is by the Liberal National Party. Interestingly, there is—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Buderim. There is no mention of the member or Buderim in this document. I table it.

Tabled paper: Liberal National Party document, undated, titled 'Our Economic Plan' [\[983\]](#).

It was released on 14 June last year, which is quite curious because, effectively, that was at the conclusion of the debate on the budget.

For the benefit of those on this side of the House and probably for those opposite, I point out that this document is only 37 pages long and there are 37 pictures. There seems to be more pictures than there are words, but I read those few words. One would think that an economic plan would mention tourism. Guess how many times the LNP's economic plan mentions tourism?

Mr Stewart interjected.

Mr PEGG: The member for Townsville has got it. Not once is tourism mentioned.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. He must have had input into this document because he was still a member of the LNP back then. Guess how many times mining is mentioned in the LNP's economic plan—which, by the way, is still current? Two times—in 37 pages. Coal is also mentioned two times. Trade is a really important part of the Queensland economy. How many times is trade mentioned in the LNP's economic plan? It is mentioned four times. Trade unions are mentioned four times. Trade is not mentioned at all. That shows the LNP's priorities. We have heard a few diatribes from those opposite about being against renewable energy. The word 'green' is mentioned four times. The word 'green' is mentioned twice as much as the word 'coal' is mentioned and twice as much as the word 'mining' is mentioned.

I do not like to give too much advice to those opposite—it is not in my nature—but I have to say that it is almost a year since the LNP members released their economic plan. I have to tell them that there is a typo on page 17. When they talk about their commitment to the environment, they talk about how they support Queensland's 'renewal' energy industry. I have to tell the member for Broadwater that it is called the renewable energy industry.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Broadwater, we do not need cross-chamber quarrels.

Mr PEGG: Towards the end of this document, this economic plan, the LNP members tell us who they really do not like. This is who cops the most criticism in the economic plan: they do not like billionaire international movie makers and they do not like craft brewers.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you will be warned if I have to call your name again. You have been interjecting nonstop.

Mr PEGG: Quite clearly, if we read this document with the member for Broadwater's typos in it, which he has had a year to fix but has failed to do so, we see that the biggest threat to Queensland are international movie makers and craft brewers. I really do not know what to say. It is an unbelievable document.


In the time that I have remaining, I want to talk about some important issues in this budget, as opposed to some of the nonsense that is in the economic plan that those opposite have put forward. In this budget, there is fantastic funding for Stretton State College for infill of 10 spaces and for another new building. There is funding for a new building at Runcorn Heights State School—another fantastic school. There is funding for the refurbishment of block B at Kuraby Special School and a new library outdoor learning area at Kuraby State School. There is funding for a new sports courts upgrade at

Runcorn State High School. There is also \$530,000 allocated across six schools in the Stretton electorate for maintenance for the 2019-20 financial year. There are fantastic schools in Stretton and it is fantastic to see allocations in each and every state school in my electorate.

There is ongoing funding for a performing arts centre at Stretton State College. There is also funding for a new building incorporating 20 general learning spaces at Stretton State College and a new building incorporating 19 general learning spaces and one flexible learning space at Sunnybank Hills State School.

I am also very pleased to see in this budget funding for Acacia Ridge TAFE. Last week, I was at Acacia Ridge TAFE for its open day. There is a \$2 million investment in training infrastructure to create a heavy plant automotive centre of excellence at Acacia Ridge TAFE. There is a \$700,000 investment in training infrastructure for caravan training facilities at Acacia Ridge TAFE. There is also funding of over \$13 million in capital, safety and maintenance investment in training infrastructure at Acacia Ridge TAFE.

These are the things that matter. It is not about craft brewers and movie makers. It is not about silly typos. It is not about failing to mention tourism. It is not about failing to mention trade. These are the things that matter and I commend this budget to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (10.26 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2019. The first comment that I would like to make is in regard to the following statement of the Treasurer in her budget speech, 'This government was not counting on a federal Labor win at the recent election.' Is the Treasurer serious? This is a total confirmation and display of the arrogance and contempt that the Labor Party shows and has for the people of Queensland. It is plainly obvious that both the Premier and the Treasurer think that they can say anything and expect the people of Queensland to believe them. Not so. In relation to the Carmichael mine, the Premier has said that she is fed up with the process. Really? This is a process that she has implemented. If the Labor Party in Queensland is not interested in the recent federal election result, why the double somersault backflip on the Carmichael coalmine proposal?

Coal pays the bills. Royalties from the resources sector are forecast to rise to \$5.3 billion this financial year. The people of Queensland have spoken loud and clear. They want the coal industry to prosper. They want their jobs in the industry. They want the security this brings. They want reliable, affordable coal-fired power. The Queensland electorate has given two for the Valley to the Labor-Greens policy alliance. Yet the Treasurer and her assistant, the Premier, remain as arrogant as ever. This budget is about tax, tax, tax and more debt. In simple terms, the government is spending more than it is making and that is a recipe for economic disaster.

Without a doubt the big elephant in the budget is the Cross River Rail project—a project the Treasurer is pursuing with the will of the devil. It is a 10.2 kilometre rail line between Dutton Park and Bowen Hills and includes a 5.9 kilometre tunnel under the Brisbane River. There has been \$1.48 billion allocated to this project this financial year. It has been estimated that, when complete and operational, Cross River Rail may be somewhere in the vicinity of a \$15 billion project when we take into account the building of the tunnel, the rolling stock required, the control systems, the rail infrastructure, the train stations and the developments.

It is a public transport system that for any government will be a continuing cost impost—in operations, maintenance and subsidy. I bet the people of the Callide electorate do not know that the South-East Queensland general public transport concessions already amount to \$1.4 billion. That means that every time you get on a train or a bus in South-East Queensland you are subsidised to the tune of \$1,400 million. What pays for this? Coal! The risk is that a one per cent movement in the Australian-US exchange range equates to approximately \$74 million; a one per cent variation in metallurgical and thermal coal volumes would lead to a change in royalty revenue of approximately \$37 million; or a one million tonne production variation would lead to a change in royalty revenue of approximately \$19 million. The point is that to make huge commitments on non-profit infrastructure is a huge risk given the volatility of the resource export market.

This is a budget about Brisbane, tax, tax, tax and more debt and rural and regional Queensland can pay for it. The Callide electorate can pay for it. The Callide electorate resource sector contributes \$1.2 billion to the Queensland economy and yet the Callide electorate barely rates a mention in the budget. I note that there is a budget allocation of over \$21 million for bikeways in inner city Brisbane yet there is nothing in the budget that goes anything near addressing the forecast \$9 billion shortfall in road maintenance funding. There is a current \$4.2 billion shortfall. Bridge and culvert refurbishment is operating at 19 per cent of its budget need. Road resheeting is operating at 16 per cent of its budget need.

How can the government spruik about its road infrastructure program when it is doing very little to address the maintenance needs of the road assets throughout the state? The \$21 million allocation to bikeways in Brisbane could have gone to the Calliope-Monto Road where a constant stream of logging trucks, 50 a day, have smashed the road to pieces, so much so that recently the school bus had to stop operating because the state of the road is so bad. Incidentally, these logging trucks are carting timber from the Kalpowar plantation forest, a state government asset sold by the Labor government for \$600 million.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. There is too much noise in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation take it outside.

Mr BOYCE: This timber is taken to the Gladstone port and is bound for China. The \$21 million Brisbane bikeway allocation could have gone to the sealing of the 15-kilometre section of the Monto Mount Perry Road or the 17-kilometre section of Gayndah Mount Perry Road. There are dozens and dozens of bridges and culverts that need replacing in the Callide electorate, all on state owned roads, and what do we see? Very little in the budget as far as maintenance to these vital arterial and connection roads.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Again there is too much noise in the chamber. Take your conversations outside or I will warn you for disorderly conduct. Member for Gladstone, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr BOYCE: The Treasurer has allocated \$85.7 million to overhauls and refurbishment of the Callide Power Station at Biloela, a further \$84.6 million to the Kogan Creek Power Station at Chinchilla and \$1.8 million to the Kogan Creek coalmine which supplies the power station—a necessary expense—but there is nothing in the budget to enhance the capacity of our baseload coal-fired generating fleet. The AGL Liddell Power Station in New South Wales is due to close in a few years time. Liddell Power Station provides approximately 30 per cent of New South Wales' baseload power and when this closes who will they look to to provide the energy shortfall? More than likely Queensland.

If Queensland does not increase its baseload generating capacity then the future will bring load sharing and blackouts for Queensland. What will happen to the ageing coal-fired power generator at Gladstone which supplies the alumina smelter at Boyne Island with power? Under a 50 per cent renewable energy target implemented by the Labor-Greens alliance government it is likely they will both close. Renewable energy cannot supply reliable 24/7 baseload power. This has been proven in Victoria and South Australia late last year and early this year. Furthermore, if this scenario played out, Rio Tinto would then likely take its bauxite production to China to be smeltered into aluminium at the cost of thousands of Queensland jobs.

It is too late to fix this foreseeable problem when it happens. We need to look to the future and increase our coal-fired energy production now. The coal industry, the gas industry and the coal-fired power generating industry has been stifled, taxed and shot in the foot by the green Trad budget.

The Callide electorate is a huge agricultural producer and a major employer, but do we see any support in the budget for this vital industry? Precious little. What is being done to address the soaring power and water prices for irrigation farmers? The Callide irrigation scheme at Biloela has seen the largest water increases in the state of \$74 a megalitre. Power prices have increased 130 per cent over the last 10 years. There is no commitment to much needed water infrastructure to provide water security to irrigators in the Callide electorate. The Cooranga Weir on the Boyne River at Mundubbera has been ignored. The weir is a \$30 million project which would provide assurance and security to the \$100 million fruit and berry industry around Mundubbera.


Support for money-making industries has been overlooked in the Callide electorate in favour of things like more green space at South Bank, 10 more bureaucrats in the Premier's office and \$300,000 spent on the fraud Al Gore. This is bordering on criminal economic incompetence and, if I can echo the words of the member for Clayfield in his address, perhaps the Treasurer is looking for a crime led economic recovery.

The health system in the Callide electorate is failing, all at the hands of an incompetent, bumbling health minister, a man who would rather see the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars rather than address the rural birthing crisis at Chinchilla and Theodore in the Callide electorate. This is a man who has told me he has no power to overrule the decision made

by the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Board when the act clearly states he can give a written directive in the public interest, a minister who has implemented burgers and fries on demand rather than making sure rural women get the medical care they need.

This government has implemented nine new taxes and debt is forecast to reach \$90 billion. Tax, tax, tax and more debt. There is no mention of addressing this spiralling debt situation. The financial management of the business of Queensland is nothing short of appalling, led by an incompetent Treasurer and an out-of-touch Labor government. I wonder how long it will be before ACTU boss Sally McManus makes the phone call to the Palaszczuk government and demands the implementation of the death tax. That worked out very well for the 'Billary' Shorten camp—but of course those opposite are not interested in the federal election result. Bring on 2020 so the quiet Queenslanders can boot the Labor government and install a Frecklington LNP government so we can begin to repair Labor's financial mess.

I finish my contribution by commenting on the statements made by the Assistant Treasurer, the member for Gladstone, in the local newspaper, the *Gladstone Observer*, on 11 June 2019. The member for Gladstone and Assistant Treasurer said that he regards the budget, which is a plan for the state's prosperity, as 'putting your Christmas list out'. Obviously he is a financial child genius who thinks that Santa will fix it! The member for Gladstone has neglected to put in his Christmas list the much needed traffic lights at the intersection of Drynan Drive and the Dawson Highway at Calliope, which is part of the road safety requirements in relation to the new high school being built at Calliope. I cannot wait for him to explain that in his speech to the people of Calliope when he opens the new school later this year. Bring on 2020!

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (10.40 pm): On Tuesday when the Deputy Premier and Treasurer brought down the 2019-20 budget, she said that it was a Queensland budget that was unashamedly focused on our regions. Unashamedly, that is exactly what it is: focused on our regions and, specifically for me, focused on Townsville.

On Sunday the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and Minister Bailey travelled to Townsville to unveil a half-a-billion-dollar plan to boost mineral freight exports on the Mount Isa line. Freight charges will be discounted and a new container terminal will be built at the port of Townsville to support an already beefed up five-year line maintenance budget to support North Queensland's resource industry. This announcement of investment into Townsville will promote mining and exploration in the state's north-west. Queensland's north-west minerals province contains around 75 per cent of the state's base metals and minerals including copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold and phosphate deposits.

The port of Townsville is North Australia's largest commercial port and Australia's largest exporter of zinc, copper, lead and fertiliser. A number of mines truck minerals from the north-west to the port and the trains that carry minerals in shipping containers have to be unloaded at Stuart and then trucked 12 kilometres to the port at a cost of around \$5 per tonne. Building a new common user rail freight terminal at the port will make the Mount Isa line more attractive for exporters and take trucks off the Flinders Highway and Townsville roads.

The Palaszczuk government will contribute \$30 million towards the construction of the freight terminal, with the port of Townsville providing the remaining \$18 million. Minister Bailey announced \$80 million over four years to reduce rail access charges on the Mount Isa line to drive the shift from road to rail. Commercial operators pay access charges to Queensland Rail to use the Mount Isa line and industry has called on the Palaszczuk government to make rail freight more competitive. I have heard this firsthand from MMG Dugald River general manager Sam Rodda, as well as through feedback received from mining operators last Thursday at the Townsville mining forum. We have listened and we will provide Queensland Rail with \$20 million each year, starting from 1 July this year, to reduce rail access charges and we will work with industry on implementation arrangements.

I acknowledge the major repairs that Queensland Rail carried out on more than 200 sites across 300 kilometres of track following the monsoonal weather event earlier this year. That has resulted in cutting almost an hour off the travel time between Mount Isa and Townsville, significantly improving efficiency and increasing capacity. The time line for that work to be completed was around nine months, but it was actually done within 11 weeks. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$380 million over five years to maintain and improve the line, making the freight journey faster and more reliable.

While that was the first key point for improving our North Queensland economy and creating jobs in our region, perhaps the second key point on which I am getting feedback is the payroll tax reform, which will affect about 500 businesses in Townsville. After that announcement in the budget on Tuesday, I rang the Townsville Chamber of Commerce and I have to tell the House that they were very happy campers, to say the least. They have been talking about this to the three local members for quite

some time. To hear that announcement in the budget on Tuesday shows that the Palaszczuk government and, in particular, the Treasurer are listening to regional members. The announcement of payroll tax reform will assist many businesses affected by the flood event earlier this year. It will give them an extra shot in the arm.

Another thing that I saw in the budget, which I had a sneak peek at, was the announcement of \$2.4 million for the Magnetic Island Forts car park. That might not sound like a lot, but for 20 years Magnetic Island residents have been advocating to make that car park safer. From memory, Mr Deputy Speaker, you are well aware of the Forts car park, as you have visited Townsville and Magnetic Island.

One thing that gave me a lot of joy was talking to the principals of the Townsville schools that had a wish-list boost. I spoke to the principal of my former school at Pimlico, Joel Buckholtz. The school will receive \$570,000 for a covered sports court. The principal said that, directly after our conversation, he would take that information straight to a P&C meeting. He is a very happy principal, because they have been working on that for some time. In fact, they were working on it when I was there five years ago.

I had the opportunity to ring Rob Slater, the principal of Townsville State High School. It is another school where I was principal. I gave him the good news that his school would receive \$250,000 to refurbish the C block amenities, which I know have been old and dodgy for some time. He also had a P&C meeting on Tuesday night and was very keen to share that information. They have been working towards that project for some time.

For me, perhaps the best news of the day was shared with the principal of Railway Estate State School, Dan Broadfoot. The budget contains \$100,000 to replace playground equipment at the school. When I visited the school, the playground equipment had been condemned as it had been eaten by termites and, of course, it was finished off by the floods. The kids who had played on that playground equipment, which was located under a big shady tree, were really upset to see it removed. For almost five years the P&C had been fundraising to replace the equipment. The last I heard, they had raised \$9,000, so to get an injection of \$100,000 is certainly a shot in the arm for them.

Mayor Alf Lacey of Palm Island is extremely happy that the budget has allocated \$2.5 million for a splash park. He said he did not want a pool because they are too expensive for councils to run. He is absolutely over the moon to have gained the funding for that splash park.

Tennis Townsville is very happy to receive \$420,000 to demolish and reconstruct an amenities block to support female participation in tennis at North Ward. I am sure that after Ash Barty's French Open win, we will see an increase in girls taking up tennis, which is a great sport.


The Palaszczuk government is investing in Townsville to the tune of \$190 million for the Townsville stadium, creating 700 jobs. As we announced today, early next year Sir Elton John will open the stadium. That is great news and it sends a very loud message to the international entertainment industry that Townsville will have the capability and the capacity to host megastars such as Sir Elton. I encourage each and every member to come and see Sir Elton John. The last concert that he will perform in Australia will be at the Townsville stadium. Come along to my stadium.

The budget contains \$225 million for stage 1 of the water pipeline to supply Townsville with its water needs for decades to come. All the contractors working on the project are locals. Every time I visit the site, they thank me for the investment that the Palaszczuk government has made into that project. It has kept some of them alive and allowed most of them to employ more apprentices.

There is an allocation of \$118 million for the port of Townsville to widen the channel allowing larger ships into the port. Over 30 commodities are handled through the port and it supports around 8,000 direct and indirect jobs. The budget contains \$17.5 million to procure and commission a berth 4 ship-to-shore crane and continue the development of the associated cargo terminal areas to cater for further trade growth through the largest commercial port in North Australia. While we invest in the port of Townsville, those opposite wanted to sell it. We own it, we invest in it and we love it.

Some \$7.4 million has been invested in the pedestrian bridge to the stadium—to my stadium. That will link Reid Park to the stadium and allow for easier access. There is \$5 million to help Townsville City Council build a promenade linking the Townsville stadium to the CBD to help activate the CBD both before and after events at the new venue.

Every single one of us in this chamber knows that the Palaszczuk government is committed to Townsville. I know because members on my side tell me that time and time again. Why is it that Townsville gets all the money? It is because the Palaszczuk government is committed to Townsville. It is committed to local jobs. It is this budget that reflects that commitment to growing local jobs and enhancing the city's standard of living.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—Ind) (10.50 pm): I am delighted tonight to rise and speak on the appropriations bills—the 2019-20 state budget. This is my first contribution in that regard as the only independent MP in regional Queensland. I follow on from some of the comments made by my fellow North Queenslander, the member for Townsville.

With the greatest respect to the member for Townsville, it was interesting to hear the feedback from his local chamber of commerce. I am sure if I speak to my chamber of commerce members across Mackay and the Whitsundays I would hear similar feedback. It is very good to see reform to thresholds in relation to payroll tax to stimulate the economy and stimulate jobs.

I am sure the member for Townsville, like all the other Labor MPs up and down the coast, particularly north of Noosa, got a lot of feedback and a lot of heat—it has been well documented—in relation to Labor's position on the Carmichael mine and the development of the Galilee Basin. I am sure that is the case with their chambers of commerce—and the Townsville chamber of commerce would be no different. I know for a fact having spoken to people in my regional chambers of commerce—for example, the Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce and people like Victoria Gracie, if we listen to what she has had to say—have been banging on about the development of the Galilee Basin.

If we want a strong economy, jobs and economic prosperity for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland, those opposite have to give the green light to the Galilee Basin. That is why today is a pivotal moment in the history of this great state.

Mr Stewart: We did it.

Mr COSTIGAN: I hear the interjection from the member for Townsville—we did it. It was like waiting for snow to come back to Eungella.

Mr Stewart: It was worth it.

Mr COSTIGAN: I am not sure whether it was worth it. The member should speak to some of his federal Labor colleagues. I hear the interjection from the member for Townsville. He spoke about Sir Elton John opening the new North Queensland stadium. I cannot wait to see the Cowboys take up residence at their new home. Rocketman may well be coming to Townsville, but never forget the fact that the people of Queensland put a rocket up Labor on 18 May. That is why we have seen this rapid fire response. We have seen the acrobatics from state Labor because they are panicking. Regional Queensland is hurting. They are going to hurt more on the back of this state Labor budget.

I want to talk about the regional action plan that has been put forward—the glossy brochure. All governments do this. When I look at last year's regional action plan for Mackay and the Whitsundays it is so eerily similar to the current edition. There is so much cut and paste in this, it is not funny.

I will tell members what is amazing. Two days ago on the digital platform of the News Corp papers in the Whitsundays there was the headline 'Funding snub'—no money for a project that I have been banging on about for probably the best part of five years. That is flood mitigation works on Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains, just outside Proserpine. I am pleased to advise honourable members in the House, those watching through live streaming tonight and my constituents in particular that, unbelievably, late yesterday morning I got a call from the minister saying that that funding is there. I am grateful it has come. He has buckled to political pressure from me and community pressure.

Apparently he announced this funding on 4 June in Mackay. I am not sure what the spin doctor was doing that day. Maybe he was on work experience. I am led to believe that hardcopy press releases were handed out to local journalists. Nothing was sent electronically. We had not heard anything about this funding for Hamilton Plains until I got the call yesterday morning.

I cannot see it in the glossy brochure—the regional action plan. I do not see it there. It is not there. Looking at the Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, I cannot see it there either. I am led to believe that tomorrow's lead story in the *Whitsunday Coast Guardian* will be my successful campaign—a long-running campaign. V for victory; we got the job done.

Amazingly, we had to rely on Canberra to partly fund a state controlled road. We understand that happens with the Bruce Highway. There are longstanding arrangements for funding the Bruce Highway on an 80-20 basis. That has been going on for a long time. It begs the question why we even have state governments? It is a state controlled road. I am pleased to see that money come through. It is a great victory. It has not been for the want of trying on my part. There is no doubt about that.

The lack of a food and fibre tariff in relation to electricity has been raised by a number of members in this Appropriation Bill debate. I know that a lot of canefarmers in my electorate from Farleigh to Foxdale and from Coningsby to Koolachu are lamenting the absence of a food and fibre tariff. Ergon,

with a monopoly on the situation, are continuing to suck canefarmers dry. Whilst we welcome any electricity price reductions, they do not go anywhere near far enough. There are certainly no provisions, from what I can understand in this budget, to provide relief for irrigators. Canegrowers in Mackay and Proserpine deserve a fair go. We need to be investing in agriculture.

It is my vision to see us building dams. Without dams or water and affordable, reliable electricity where are we going as a state? That is why I keep banging on about cheaper power through state-of-the-art technology and high-efficiency, low-emissions, coal-fired power. The best place to do it is at Collinsville.

It is quite remarkable because 12 months ago tomorrow we heard the Leader of the Opposition get up in this chamber and ramble on about renewable energy like there was no tomorrow. I know there was a lot of backlash from that because I was a member of the LNP at that time. I did not even bother listening to the Leader of the Opposition's contribution to the debate 12 months down the track.

There are not too many people in this chamber who have an ironclad commitment to coal. Coal is king. There is oodles of it. We should not be frightened to burn it. We can burn it cleaner and smarter and provide affordable electricity not only to canegrowers but also to small business, heavy industry and mums and dads. We used to have it and we need to get it back.

I want to say something about the scourge of black lung. I went to an information session conducted by WorkCover in Mackay a couple of weeks ago. The member for Mackay was there. The member for Mirani was there. There were questions being asked. It is disappointing that again in this budget we see nothing to fund the establishment of the mine safety and health authority in Mackay. It was one of the key recommendations, a cornerstone recommendation, of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee that I proudly served on.

There was tremendous bipartisanship in relation to those matters and those deliberations. I see the member for Bundamba nodding. She chaired that committee. The former member for Southern Downs was the deputy chair. There was tremendous goodwill and tremendous bipartisanship. It was noted by mine workers, coal workers and their families, current coalminers, former coalminers, retired coalminers, the union, the mining companies—every Tom, Dick and Harry noted it. It was a team effort. It was good work that was done.

I quite often say when I get up to speak that we come into this place, no matter whether we sit on that side of the aisle or this side of the aisle, to make the system better. Again the system fails coal workers across Queensland. There is nothing in the budget to set up this new authority in the city of Mackay as per the recommendations of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee.

I come back to today's edition of the *Whitsunday Times*. I cannot believe the headline on page 10, 'Labor commits to the Whitsundays in state budget'. I want to come back to the regional action plan. There are so many projects listed there that were listed last year. There is the skate park at Blacks Beach in the southern part of my electorate which has been a tremendous project over a long period of time. There is no doubt about that. I have to pay tribute to young Flynn Bushell—he is a young constituent of mine in the northern beaches—and his dear friend Ethan Laval from across the other side of Slade Bay in the neighbouring electorate of Mackay. These are two young kids who have set a fine example to young people in Mackay and the Whitsundays in championing that sports park. It was in the regional action plan last year. It is the same story with the Whitsunday Sportspark at Jubilee Pocket and so on it goes.

I went through the projects. I think there were 24 bricks and mortar projects in the Mackay-Whitsunday region, which I count as the three local government areas of Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac. About a third of those would be in the Whitsunday electorate. They were so hard up for projects, looking to put dots on the map, that they actually put a dot on the border for the Burdekin Falls Dam project. They thought they would put a dot there. Don't worry about Hamilton Plains. Hamilton Plains was so important they forgot all about it! I call this regional action plan a 'regional inaction plan'. I think there are two letters missing, plus a bit more.

I will come back to that story in today's *Whitsunday Times* with the headline, 'Labor commits to the Whitsundays in state budget'. I laughed and laughed my head off when I picked up the *Whitsunday Times* in Proserpine this morning after going to Hamilton Plains to celebrate the great victory for our community on behalf of our community. I see the photograph there—the file picture. They must have been hard up—

Mr Russo: Was it a photo of you?

Mr COSTIGAN: It was not a photo of me. At the end the day, if they do not want sell papers that is their business. I take the interjection from the soon to be outgoing member for Toohey. The photograph and the story relates to the mayor and the deputy mayor at the Proserpine Entertainment Centre.

This is the third Labor budget since Cyclone Debbie, and we are still hurting in the Whitsundays. There is no money in this budget to, for example, rebuild the old pavilion at the Proserpine Showgrounds. The Proserpine show is next Friday and Saturday. I love a photo opportunity like all other members in here, and the current Treasurer and Deputy Premier of Queensland, the member for South Brisbane, is no different it would appear—no different whatsoever. She rolled into the showgrounds, posed for the cameras and we are still waiting for something to be done.

I was there the other day catching up with my mate 'chicken man' from Bloomsbury, Wayne Quantock. He had a few roosters in the chook house and they were not crowing about Labor. Let me give you that tip, Mr Deputy Speaker. They were not crowing at all. That was before the budget. The old pavilion across from the poultry pavilion is a scar from the cyclone. Yet we had the Treasurer come through Proserpine and the Whitsundays after the cyclone and still nothing has been done. I look at this photograph—this file picture—of the 'Mayor of Bowen', as I call him.


An honourable member interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: He is the official mayor. The de facto mayor, of course, is the failed Labor candidate for Dawson and Burdekin, Mike Brunner. We have Moscow's lapdog here, I would have thought, with the current deputy mayor. It took them two years to work out that the entertainment centre was stuffed. Can you imagine after Cyclone Tracey in 1974 the lord mayor of Darwin sitting back after two years saying, 'Yeah, I don't think the theatre is any good'? Can you imagine the lord mayor of Newcastle saying the same thing after the devastating and tragic earthquake of 1989? It took two years to work out that the entertainment centre was stuffed.

Apparently we have money now. It is in the budget, and that is a great thing. I am not convinced that the old girl is stuffed, but apparently we are getting a new one and it will have reduced seating capacity. There has been a lot of coin being thrown by members opposite, and specifically the Treasurer, to help our community, but it took two years to get the money to do it. Apparently the new entertainment centre will have reduced seating capacity. The fear is that performers and artists will bypass the Whitsundays as they roll into town. That has been something that has been lamented already. Irene Lemmon, who is a constituent of mine in Strathdickie, has contacted me about it. Key stakeholders have been canvassed by the council. This Labor government is going to be giving money to a project that I am not sure is going to stack up in the end.

I will finish up by talking about the debt—the debt bomb that keeps ticking away like the clock in front of me, the debt bomb that is pushing towards \$90 billion. The interest bill per annum will be \$3.5 billion. To put it in perspective for the benefit of my constituents, that is something like seven Mackay Ring-Roads or six new crossings of flood prone Goorganga Plains. With \$3.5 billion in interest payments alone, talk about burning cash like there is no tomorrow.

In summing up, Queensland does not have a problem with bringing money in; we have a problem with spending money. That problem starts with the member for South Brisbane. She should hang her head in shame because, whilst there are some good things in this budget, the bulk of it is a lemon.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (11.04 pm): I am delighted to speak on this job-creating 2019 budget tonight. As the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer have stated this week, this budget has one aim—backing Queensland jobs. These jobs will come from building the schools, roads and hospitals our state needs. There are new schools, there are refurbished schools, there is increased investment in hospitals and there is a record investment in roads and public transport. Since 2015 almost 200,000 jobs have been created under the Palaszczuk government. We have made job creation our No. 1 priority and we are making great progress.

A key part of this budget is a strong investment in infrastructure—investments in the right infrastructure at the right time. We have a \$49.5 billion commitment over the next four years. In 2019-20 this investment will directly support 40,000 jobs across Queensland.

One of the absolute primary goals of any government is to promote direct and indirect jobs growth through investments in infrastructure and through the right taxation and fiscal measures. One of the cornerstones of this budget is the \$885 million payroll tax reform package that provides incentives for businesses across the state to grow and to put on more staff. The increase in the tax threshold to \$1.3 million means that a business in Queensland can employ twice as many people as a business in Victoria before paying one dollar in payroll tax.

The LNP promised to do something about payroll tax when they were last in government, but their promise did not even survive their first budget—the 2012 cut, sack and sell budget, of course. The LNP deserted small businesses in their very first budget. In their budget reply this morning, we heard some hot air about them supporting manufacturing—but do not listen to what they say; watch what they do. What did they do to manufacturing when last in government? They decimated it. They sent train contracts overseas and left Maryborough to fend for itself. If they were still in power, we would surely not have any rail manufacturing left in Queensland.

Those opposite also mouth some support for the gas industry, but you could bet your last dollar that, if the nimby Nats were in power when this industry was in development in Queensland, it would have been killed dead before it started. They did it in New South Wales and they would have done it here.

Getting local, this 2019 budget is a great win for the Aspley electorate. When elected, I committed to work hard for the area to make sure that we secure our fair share and more of investment, particularly for transport infrastructure, for health facilities and services, and for education. This budget has some fantastic brand-new investment in a number of projects, some of which I have been pursuing funding for since before I was elected.

We are targeting traffic congestion on the north side as part of this record roads and transport budget, but these transport projects have not just arrived out of thin air. We have secured funding in this budget because I have listened to what locals have told me and, in turn, I have taken up their concerns with the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in particular, and they have listened.

I pay credit to locals like Louw from Aspley who came to me with one of the best community campaigns for funding I have seen with his campaign for noise barriers along Gympie Road. Louw took sound measurements, spoke to his neighbours, hosted his neighbours in his house and even got quotes to show how much noise barriers would cost. His campaign spoke so clearly to the need for noise barriers in his area that I was very happy to take up his cause, and I am very happy that we were able to announce in the budget \$4 million in funding for noise barriers along this stretch of Gympie Road.

Moving further north, anyone from Bald Hills can tell you that both the Strathpine Road interchange and the Linkfield Road overpass, both along Gympie Arterial Road, are congestion bottlenecks which need to be fixed. We are delivering \$15 million for the Strathpine Road intersection. This is a job-creating, congestion-tackling project that will make Bald Hills less of a car park during peak hours. We will now contribute \$15 million to building this interchange upgrade, creating 45 jobs and tackling peak-hour congestion. Through this innovative diverging diamond interchange design—and I encourage people to look that up—traffic is switched to the other side of the road, eliminating the need to cross the path of oncoming cars or wait for a green light to turn right. We will be discussing with the federal government the timing of their contribution to this project.

We also have \$5 million for the Beams Road overpass business case. The initial planning for the Beams Road level crossing is now nearing completion, and the business case will identify a preferred option for the level crossing upgrade and identify the costs to design and build the project.

In this budget I was also pleased to see that we are investing \$25 million in the jointly funded duplication of the Linkfield Road overpass. Locals know just how frustrating rush hour traffic is on this interchange, so we are taking immediate action to ease traffic pressures on Linkfield Road in the short term with the construction of a dedicated left-hand turn lane while we discuss with the federal government the broader project. We have matched the timing of the federal funding for this broader project, but we have also brought forward \$4 million of the funding into the forward estimates to ensure that we can do any early works that are needed before full construction. This is clearly shown in QTRIP, yet earlier today I heard the member for Everton claim that our funding does not start until 2024.

It is disappointing that the shadow Treasurer cannot even read the budget papers properly. Additionally, if the member thinks that the state contribution is not starting quickly enough, then he clearly thinks the federal money, which is entirely beyond the forward estimates, is definitely not happening quickly enough. The shadow Treasurer is both wrong and criticising his federal colleagues at the same time. The member for Everton really needs to pick up the phone to ScoMo, but of course he will not.

I am not surprised that the shadow Treasurer is terrible with numbers. We saw this during his failed 2016 leadership challenge. The member for Everton embarrassingly had only nine of his colleagues back him when he was duped into running against the former member for Southern Downs. The member for Clayfield duped him into running and then knocked him out in the first round. It would

be pretty embarrassing to be the bloke who instigates a leadership challenge and then comes third in the subsequent leadership challenge with only nine of your 40 colleagues backing you in. He needs to send himself to the video ref to have a long, hard look at himself.


Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members need to be in their correct seats if they want to engage in the debate.

Mr MELLISH: This budget is also a great win for local schools. For education we have: \$200,000 to create an outdoor learning space outside block L at Aspley East State School; \$250,000 to refurbish block B at Aspley Special School; \$180,000 to refurbish the existing quadrangle at Bald Hills State School; and \$450,000 to refurbish block K at Craigslea State High School.

I am pleased to see that our election commitment for new funding for Aspley State High School is flowing through too. This is up to \$12 million under the Renewing Our Schools program. Through this program Aspley State High School has already received a new covered outdoor learning area. In addition, under this initiative this school will also benefit from a new multi-purpose sports hall and a music and visual arts centre. Combined with the creek crossing over the pipe which I secured funding for earlier this year, this will be a brilliant lift to the facilities of a great school that is going from strength to strength—a school that will now have new facilities of its own which will also be linked across Cabbage Tree Creek to the \$5.5 million sporting precinct which is going in at Carseldine.

In relation to sports projects, I was very pleased to see in this budget that we have \$184,000 for the Aspley Hornets to upgrade existing lighting to support AFL at Carseldine. At the moment their night lighting is not up to standard, so this upgrade will allow the club to host more games at night and better use their facilities. I am very pleased that we are able to deliver this funding for a fantastic local sporting club. Well done to Dale and the team for pushing for this to happen. The rollout of the previously announced funding for the Geebung Bowls Club is happening, as is the new home for basketball on the north side in Zillmere. I cannot wait to see these projects delivered. Importantly, this budget is a great win for north side locals. I look forward to voting for this budget and I look forward to getting on with the projects that this budget will deliver in Aspley.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.13 pm): ‘Reckless, inappropriate and out of line.’ Those are not my words: they are in fact the words of Mr Steven Smythe from the CFMMEU. Whilst those words were used to describe the way in which the Deputy Premier spoke about those workers who show up every day in coalfields across this great state, they are words that could so aptly be used to describe this budget.

This evening in speaking to the Appropriation Bill I will speak in four parts: first, I will make some general comments; I will then move on to the portfolio responsibility that the Leader of the Opposition has given me the great honour to take on behalf of the LNP; I will talk about the Gold Coast; and I will speak about my electorate of Broadwater.

First, in general, if there is a headline for this budget that every one of us should come in and hang our heads in shame that we are not debating every minute of every day, it is the fact that for the first time in this state our debt level will go past \$90 billion. It will reach nearly \$91 billion. What is most disappointing about that is it is as though we have given up. It is as though we have given up on managing debt.

The Labor government said that they would work towards resolving the issue without selling assets, and I respect that mandate. That is the mandate of the Queensland people and it is something that both sides of this House have said very clearly. Only one side of this House has ever sold assets, and that is the Labor Party. The Labor Party has ruled that out, and I accept that. We have also said the same thing. The Labor Party said that it would embark on a debt reduction strategy, but it got too hard and so it has given up. It is easy to throw out numbers and say ‘\$90 billion’, but what does \$90 billion mean for everyday people?

Mr McDonald: \$90.7 million.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Lockyer, because it is in fact closer to \$91 billion where we are going, and that is the best case scenario. I will tell members what \$90 billion means. It means that every day before each one of our constituents gets out of bed this state has to find \$10 million in interest repayments. When members show up to a community meeting and tell them that they are not able to have that little crossing or small bit of infrastructure, something for their kids, they have every right to look them in the eye and say, ‘Really? That is only one day’s worth

of interest.' When our credit rating is not what it should be and at a time when interest rates are at record low levels, I spare a thought for what the next generation will have in store for them if both of those things go against us.

I received a letter this week from a constituent of mine. It was a handwritten letter. In it he explained how tough life was for him. He used to work in the electricity industry. In the electricity industry he knew what costs were involved. He looked at the budget and he worked out that electricity was being used as a cash cow. When the raids occur and when public servants' super funds are raided and when the tin gets dry, everyone has to pay. Despite the rhetoric from the member for Gladstone, who is a lion in here but a mouse when he is talking to the Deputy Premier—or whichever faction he is in this term, because it is different to the term before—this budget has less for infrastructure than previous budgets.

Despite all the rhetoric about the number of health and front-line services, our hospitals have not been this poorly run since Anna Bligh described them as dysfunctional and said that they needed to be broken up. Despite all the rhetoric about being tough on crime, things have never been worse. Just ask the people who are living in fear. Ask people in the cities that have 24-hour police stations which have been closed for the first time where crime is out of control. Ask them how much they care about a line item that says 'record number'.

They just want a bed for their kids when they go to a hospital. They want to know that when some little cretin goes to take their car there is going to be a chap or a lady in a blue uniform to come and do something about it. That is not happening at the moment. Numbers in budget papers are all great when ministers stand up and parrot about 'record this' and 'record that', but Queenslanders see through that. It does not feel like a record at the moment. It does not feel like a record for them because it has never been so tough, they have never felt less safe and they have not seen hospitals run this poorly for a long, long time.

I will turn to my shadow portfolio of tourism and environment. When I hear the tourism minister say how tourism is booming in this state, oh how it must be ashes in the mouths of those people in places like Far North Queensland where businesses are closing every week and people have seen the worst conditions in tourism since the pilot strike of three decades ago. Yet they stand up and parrot about numbers in budget papers. I will give the House some numbers. It is the numbers of accountability. If governments are giving money out, they need to be held to account.

There is a better way for tourism in this state, and the LNP has a better way. That better way is to make sure when money is given out it is given out to airlines for the long haul so they continue to service great cities like Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast. Ministers turn up for the press release to cut the ribbon and to pop the champagne, but when those airlines disappear and the flights go then there is no press conference. There is just a feeling of disappointment in those communities. We are better than that and we can do better than that.

I turn to the mixture of the two portfolios that I have the great privilege of representing as shadow minister. Again, I give great credit to the Leader of the Opposition for putting together these two portfolios. Nothing sums it up better than the Wangetti Trail. There is a great will and a great desire to see ecotourism in this state, but, unfortunately, there are those both within the government and certainly a noisy green army outside it who do not want to see a single thing happen in national parks. They will not stop campaigning until national parks have a big fence around them and the only people who can enjoy them are the feral animals and weeds, and I disagree with that. I believe the best thing we can do for a national park is to sensibly open it up and allow people to go in there and make a few dollars and put that money back into maintaining it. In doing so, people will fall in love and become great environmental champions for it.

In this budget, the jig is up. It shows just how little faith the minister has, even if she does want to see ecotourism occur. There is only \$200,000 in this year's budget for Wangetti, and they are not budgeting any revenue from it until 2023. That should give the House an indication of just how hopeful those opposite are of unleashing ecotourism after talking about it for 15 years.

Every time I speak about the environment in this place, I talk about the need for action on koalas. One line item on koalas is not going to change what is happening at the moment—that is, a massive decline in the koala population in South-East Queensland, particularly on the northern Gold Coast. We need action now. We need a sensible, balanced planning policy. We need a protection of people's land rights. We need money set aside to buy valuable corridor, otherwise we will continue to see the decline we have seen in koala populations.

There is no additional money in the budget to ensure that those rolling out the container deposit scheme can put it into places that are not currently represented, particularly in Western Queensland and the growth corridors like the northern Gold Coast. Despite raising \$1.3 billion over the next four years, there is so little money going back to the environment from the waste levy. Let me again put on the table that I believe there is going to be a sea of misery from 1 July when businesses realise just how much this tax is going to take from their hip pocket and when the minister realises just how poorly she has prepared the implementation of this scheme. We will again see another failed rollout. I shake my head at how poorly planned it has been.


In my remaining time, let me briefly talk about the biggest issue on the Gold Coast—that is, the missing next stage of the light rail. During the federal election, both sides of politics promised the same amount for the light rail. During the federal election, there was a lot of criticism about one side of politics because I had a feeling those opposite might have been backing the wrong horse. Having the election decided and having the money set aside for what is a state project, the greatest gift the minister could give us is to just get on and build it. There is money there. The council has put money aside. The council has a desire. If only the minister could have a bit of faith and get on and deliver it, it would be a great project for the city long term.

For my electorate, I want to make a couple of points. Firstly, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority has had its budget cut. Predominantly, that comes through lack of dredging. We have already seen not enough dredging. There will be a reduction of dredging in this budget. There is again no money for the duplication of Jabiru Island crossing. That is a vital project and I will continue to put that forward. I thank the minister for making his staff available to hear my concerns on that the other day.

I want to talk briefly about the two state schools in my electorate. They are great schools—Biggera Waters State School and Coombabah State School. I thank the minister for giving me a briefing ahead of the budget about some small amounts of money that have been allocated. Biggera Waters State School have been given a small amount of money to upgrade one of their buildings. I will continue to advocate because there is asbestos in some of those buildings at Biggera Waters and that needs to be done immediately. I am not convinced there is enough money to do that. It is a welcome upgrade but there is not enough. There is also half a million dollars for Coombabah primary to upgrade the library. Again, that is a great project and I am most grateful.

Those two schools, which are older schools, are in areas that are becoming more and more gentrified with young people coming in. Those schools need to be upgraded. The fact that we still have buildings that were brought in on the back of a semitrailer decades ago that do not have cooling or heating is a disgrace. Between those two schools, there are not three air-conditioned buildings. What the Leader of the Opposition did in her budget reply was put people on notice about what an LNP government will do. We have a plan and a vision—not to replace existing air conditioners that need a lick and a promise, but to air-condition every school because that is fair and reasonable. In a state where it is hot and getting hotter, kids deserve every opportunity to be their best and to learn.

I conclude by saying that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said in her budget speech that it was about choices. I will again frame those choices through the eyes of Stephen Smythe, who summed it up so well. The choice is those opposite who are reckless versus us who are responsible, those opposite who will be inappropriate with money versus us who will be measured, and those opposite who will be out of line with the LNP who will be in step every day with what Queenslanders need and deserve.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.28 pm): I rise proudly in this House today to support the 2019-20 Palaszczuk government budget. Numbers in budgets are great and they are great for Queenslanders in 2019-20 and they are brilliant budget numbers for Redlanders—in fact the best in over a decade. I promised to be a strong voice for our community, to listen, work hard and fight for the needs of our growing region, and that is just what I have been doing for the last 18 months. I have tap danced the halls of our departments in William and George streets. Like I said last year to the people of Redlands, they put their trust in me and our Palaszczuk government to deliver for our community and I am pleased to say we are doing just that. Again, I will repeat what I said in my maiden speech—that the measure of my success in this place will be determined by the legacy ultimately left behind. I am extremely proud to stand on my track record of the last 18 months to share what this budget means for Redlanders and what it is positioning us for.

In infrastructure and roads, the highlight is—and I really want to do a happy dance—stage 1 of the Cleveland Redland Bay Road upgrade, \$37 million. I know that everyone in this House is familiar with Riverway Drive, Thuringowa in Townsville. Let me tell honourable members that the \$37 million—that is right, \$37 million—for stage 1 of Cleveland Redland Bay Road is just that for me and my

magnificent Redlands community. We fought hard and we have won the much needed commencement of the duplication of this road. I cannot thank Minister Bailey enough. I say to Redlands: it is happening; it is on like Donkey Kong. I know that our councillor and deputy mayor is ecstatic, saying that it will vastly improve travel times for commuters and improve motorist and pedestrian safety. He said that this is one of the best road investments by the state government achieved in the Redlands in over a decade.

It just gets better for commuters on Cleveland Redland Bay Road, with design works well underway on the long-awaited Anita Street intersection with Cleveland Redland Bay Road. There is \$3 million in this budget out of a total of \$5 million to get this intersection underway. It was a project that was dumped and rejected by the LNP under the Campbell Newman government. Again, this work builds on our commitment to improving the roads in the Redlands like the completed Giles Road intersection, which has been very well received.

We are also well into the planning phase of the \$500,000 Victoria Point bypass feasibility study to ensure we deliver the right solution to address growth into the future. Consultation is complete and I am looking forward to the study being finalised next year that will continue to guide our region's road infrastructure requirements as we grow into the future. The new Victoria Point central bus station is well underway and coming out of the ground as we speak.

The announcement of the \$5 million Old Cleveland Road Gateway on-ramp, much championed by the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, is also a fantastic piece of news for Redlands commuters, as is the Eastern Transitway. We know that most of our employed residents who leave the Redlands for the city every day will be using these roads. I am focused on ensuring our Redlands community get to work quicker and are home with their families sooner.

For our island communities we are also delivering the much needed jetty upgrades—\$20.5 million on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra islands. This is on top of Minister Bailey's commitment to continuing the free interisland ferry fares for islanders. He knows how important our island communities are and he listened when we spoke about how important it was for them to remain connected.

This budget is about supporting success for all Queenslanders through jobs and growth—how we transition Queensland in a complex national and global economy. I can say that Queenslanders have not been helped by the Morrison government; its loyalties clearly lie with Victoria and New South Wales. I am proud to be part of a government that has invested, and continues to invest in our people through programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work, investing in organisations like Running Wild and the Bay Islands Community Services with more than \$1.2 million invested in reskilling and improving job opportunities for my community. This is one program that is truly delivering.

I also want to congratulate my neighbour the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, and say what a privilege it has been to work with him on our commitment to the \$10 million investment in TAFE. The refurbishment and expansion of these training facilities is just so important to ensure that our communities are skilled, trained and ready for jobs of the future. This budget is something that will also grow small to medium businesses. This is the lifeblood of our Redlands community. I have already had feedback on how pleased they are with our \$885 million commitment to payroll tax reduction. Our Advance Queensland agenda also continues to support local businesses in the Redlands.

Our government is also investing in renewables and, again, so much innovation is occurring as a result of our focused agenda. In the Redlands we are benefiting from our hydrogen strategy, with international investment in our region through a partnership forged with Japanese electric industry specialists, QUT and our government. I have been meeting regularly to discuss opportunities for the Redlands. I spoke recently with Professor Ian Mackinnon, and he said—

... the Redlands community is well positioned to not only become a model "smart and clean energy" city of the future but also an excellent focal point—via the Redlands Research Facility—to demonstrate the integration of new, and renewable, clean energy technologies as they develop into the future—

and that means more jobs for Redlanders. We are truly positioned and delivering in a knowledge based economy. This budget will continue to provide incentives for businesses to grow and flourish not only in the Redlands but right across Queensland.

Everyone knows our Queensland environment is spectacular—and I am a little biased; I think that has been clear—particularly when it comes to the Redlands. We are continuing to position our region to capitalise on our natural assets and tourism opportunities. We are committed to celebrating our Quandamooka coast with the magnificent Migaloo and Queensland whale migration experience that will run down our coastline. Along with investment in the interpretive centre, these projects will provide knock-on benefits for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and in fact all of Moreton Bay. They will provide opportunities in terms of river connections to the bay—enormous opportunities. It has been

a pleasure to work with the minister for tourism on growing the Moreton tourism opportunity. We are absolutely focused on growing job opportunities here in Queensland. There is so much happening up and down the Redlands coastline and the future is exciting for our region. This budget just continues to deliver.

On the bay I have also been honoured to chair the War on Wrecks Taskforce, which has continued to kick goals in the clean-up of abandoned vessels across Queensland waterways and, importantly, on our mighty Moreton Bay. I also want to thank the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, Hal Morris and the guys down there. They have been doing a fantastic job on this task force. I would also like to thank the balance of the committee members—we really have achieved so much in our first six months—and the team at MSQ.

It is only a Labor government that will invest in supporting our communities, our organisations, our hospital and our health services, and our front-line police and ambulance personnel. In the Redlands we are set to receive two new Queensland police officers for Russell Island and we have taken possession of new vessels that have increased capacity and speed of response across my unique island communities.

We promised to improve Redland Hospital emergency department and we are delivering, with new beds about to commence construction along with new birthing suites. We have \$20 million worth of capital improvements underway including the study that looks at the functional and clinical requirements for future expansion and also the business case for the new multistorey car park.

We have also been investing in domestic violence prevention in the Redlands, and it was fantastic to be with Minister de Brenni and Minister Farmer to announce the increased crisis accommodation at the Maybanke shelter—that has been awesome—along with additional child support workers to support families that are experiencing domestic and family violence. We are also providing additional supports through programs through the Centre for Women & Co., who are also doing an amazing job in our region.

Finally, I want to talk about education. Along with Cleveland Redland Bay Road—I think I just need to keep saying it again and again, just like the member for Thuringowa—education has been big in this budget for us. Our children are our future and a world-class education invests in our next generation. A great education is something that every child deserves. It has been a privilege as the member for Redlands to meet with and hear regularly from my principals, teachers, parents and students. Our government knows that facilities are important. The built environment and design that supports pedagogical delivery is key to a great education. Again, I am proud to be part of a team that is delivering in this budget focusing on our kids.

Earlier this year we completed the \$1.2 million Russell Island refurbishment. That has changed the dynamics of that school and that island. It is transformative. We are delivering on upgrades for Victoria Point State High School, and they are just over the moon—I cannot begin to tell honourable members how excited they are—with a \$600,000 investment in their library and resource centre refurbishment and the \$2 million multipurpose hall expansion included in this budget. Principal Steinhardt wrote to me today. He said—

The refurbishment and extension of this school's Resource Centre and Student Hall is outstanding news for this school and our community. This is a significant contribution to community assets which are heavily utilised by students, staff and community sporting and performance groups.

From one of our school parents Jose Cobos, said Our children will have inviting places to study and learn. As a parent I am looking forward to my children having access to the latest technology and a variety of classroom structures that the Resource Centre—

refurbishment—


will offer.

What I am also really excited about is our commitment to schools specialising in disability across Queensland. Everyone in this place knows how much I love Redland District Special School. I am so excited that through really strong advocacy—and I cannot thank Minister Grace enough; I offer my genuine and heartfelt thanks—there is \$9 million to upgrade that school's facilities. We cannot say much more than it is only this government in this place that will invest in early childhood development. Continuing that program makes a significant difference not only for my community in the Redlands but right across Queensland. Continuing to fund this—and it should have been something that was picked up by the Morrison government, let's face it.

The NDIS could have done better federally in delivering for our Queensland kids. We continue to see that our government in the NDIS space is doing the heavy lifting. Whether we are talking about the transport subsidy or early childhood development, we are going above and beyond and the Morrison

government seriously needs to pull up its socks and get the job done for the people who really need it the most. Principal Thompson said to me that early intervention is critical in ensuring that our children with disabilities have a successful start to their schooling life. He said that he is so proud that this government is backing our kids to get the best possible start.

Finally, I want my Redlands community to know that I will continue to be tenacious and unwavering in delivering for Redlanders. This budget delivers and positions my Redlands community for a prosperous future. I am proud of the work I have achieved in the last 18 months. Track record is everything and an important measure of success. I again promise to my community that I will continue to work hard every day on behalf of all Redlanders. I commend this fantastic budget to my Redlands community and to all Queenslanders.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2019. The 2019-20 budget was supposed to be a budget for the regions but, unfortunately, once again the regions have largely missed out. Whilst this Labor government is happy to take the natural resources of the regions and use the royalties gained from those resources to prop up its debt ridden government, there is little investment in return—not in infrastructure or employment, and certainly not in our youth. The unexpected increase in royalties with no consultation taking place will be damaging to the industry.

Royalties on the petroleum sector will increase by 2.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent. Comments by Ian Mcfarlane from the Queensland Resources Council are very concerning. He said—

This will make Queensland gas less competitive and we will risk jobs, future investment and the creation of new jobs.

This is very concerning for regional jobs. Further, Mr Mcfarlane stated—

In Townsville two weeks ago, the Premier said, 'There will be no royalty increase in this year's budget.' Today we discover that's not the case.

According to the Infrastructure Investment Report for 2018, Queensland has achieved the largest drop in investor confidence in the whole of Australia. Our economy has stalled, with growth at less than three per cent. Due to the economy flatlining, there are now 26,000 fewer jobs expected by 2021-22 compared to last year's budget outlook. Our two major state competitors, New South Wales and Victoria, are now almost three times more attractive for infrastructure investors than Queensland, with jobs in Queensland suffering. Business confidence in Queensland is at an all-time low, with the April CommSec State of the States putting Queensland in sixth place in the nation, on the bottom half of the economic ladder.

Queensland is spiralling headlong towards a massive debt of \$90 billion. Even with the massive coal royalty windfall, introducing nine new taxes and tax increases, Labor still has to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole while recklessly racking up more debt. Investment in infrastructure is a large component of any economy. With investment in infrastructure comes employment, directly or indirectly, and it increases the confidence of the business sector. Members of the Labor government are always talking up infrastructure but never deliver the goods. The cold, hard truth is that Labor is borrowing more and building less. This is demonstrated clearly in the forward estimates which have actually decreased by \$23 million compared to last year.

In Condamine, private enterprise is investing in infrastructure projects. There is the FKG Group with its large-scale intensive greenhouse project, the Qantas pilot training academy located at the Wagner owned Wellcamp Airport and the largest medicinal cannabis greenhouse facility in the world, located near the Wellcamp Airport. Once approvals required are given, these projects will provide permanent employment for approximately 1,869 people. That is what happens when investment is made in infrastructure.

The private sector approached the Labor government with more than 300 proposal ideas that either were knocked back or shackled by bureaucracy. The lack of investment by the Labor government is why Queensland's roads are deteriorating, creating road safety concerns. It is why our schools are overcrowded and academic results are in decline, while ambulance ramping has increased and public hospitals are back to the appalling state they were in prior to the change of government in 2012. When the LNP were last in government ambulance ramping was significantly reduced, and Labor's unacceptable waiting list for public dental patients was reduced to zero.

Roads are extremely important no matter where we live. However, in rural and regional Queensland almost everything travels on road. All of our agricultural and horticultural products travel on roads—grain, cattle, sheep, cotton, vegetables, fruit and wool—for most of their journey to their end marketplace. Rail freight is virtually non-existent. This means our roads have the constant weight of heavy vehicles traversing them, particularly at harvest times.

In the Condamine electorate we have some appalling roads, with some of these roads being reduced to a 60-kilometre-per-hour speed limit due to the dangerous condition of the surface. The notorious Bowenville-Norwin road, which I have spoken about on many occasions, was allocated \$4.32 million prior to the budget. This funding would supposedly completely rehabilitate 24 kilometres of the 27-kilometre road. This road runs across a floodplain, so after years of flood events it now has large humps and holes and a great deal of neglect. Recently I drove on the first section of this road that has been rehabilitated to what the minister thinks is an acceptable standard. I suggest that it remains unacceptable as there is already evidence of deep tracks on this section.

There was no funding in this budget for the Pittsworth-Clifton road, for Brimblecombe Road where a mother and daughter lost their lives in October last year, for the Oakey-Pittsworth road and the rail crossing at Davidson Street in Oakey or in fact for a simple pedestrian crossing in the main street of Pittsworth. The Department of Transport and Main Roads' infrastructure budget has been cut by \$853 million at the same time that another \$758 million was poured into Cross River Rail. Labor is cutting road and rail projects across regional Queensland to safeguard its members' seats in Brisbane.

Revenue from vehicle registration will rise from \$1.85 billion in 2018-19 to \$2.12 billion across the forward estimates on the back of above-CPI registration hikes. This is a broken promise by this government and another example of Labor treating Queensland motorists like cash cows. The Labor government has increased registration fees by 3.5 per cent four years in a row.

Under this Labor government, revenue from speed camera fines continued to escalate, from \$160.6 million in 2017-18 to \$189.4 million in 2018-19, and is forecast to rise to over \$206 million in 2019-20. There is well-founded growing community concern about the level of fines and the placement of cameras which indicates that the government is using speed cameras as cash cows and not exclusively for road safety purposes.

There are 35 schools in the seat of Condamine of which Wyreema State School is the only one to receive funding for the construction of additional classrooms. Bunkers Hill, Cambooya and Gowrie state schools received no funding, even though all have issues that require attention to ensure their students receive the best possible educational and social outcomes.

Community representatives and I requested the Minister for Education conduct a business case study for the purchase of land south-west of Toowoomba for construction of a secondary state school in the future. The area south-west of Toowoomba is experiencing particularly rapid growth and, with the current secondary schools in Toowoomba at or over student capacity, there will be a need for another secondary educational facility within 10 years or even sooner.

Queensland's public health system is at breaking point and yet we see a cut to the Queensland Health capital budget this year of \$203 million. This is yet another example of where there is more borrowing but less investment in infrastructure. The cut of \$203.5 million represents 630 full-time-equivalent jobs lost in construction alone. In March this year, major hospitals across the south-east had the 'no vacancy' sign up with a code yellow crisis. One of my staff's mother-in-law was one of the many patients left waiting in an ambulance for a bed to become vacant after suffering a major heart attack.

Once again, this government sees an increase in ambulance ramping and allowed elective waiting times to blow out. Once more, emergency departments are experiencing overcrowding. The LNP has a proud health record, for example doubling the subsidy to help patients travel to hospitals, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, enabling them to access services when needed. The LNP appointed the first ever Mental Health Commissioner and ensured the new Mental Health Commission received the resources it needed to improve mental health and to minimise the harmful impacts of substance abuse in our communities.

I have spoken inside and outside this House about the scourge of drugs in our regions, particularly ice. We heard members of the Palaszczuk government talk about the need for support and rehabilitation facilities, but we still await action. The lives of how many more families will be destroyed while they wait? These families need action, not excuses.

It is no coincidence that crime in these communities is on the rise as a result of this drug scourge. In the past few weeks in Condamine we have had two stores ram-raided and robbed in Gowrie and Kingsthorpe and last night at Zimms Corner. The general stores in Biddeston and Pampas have been robbed. On the Darling Downs, unlawful entry is up 22 per cent, from 1,398 in 2014-15 to 1,706 in 2017-18.

I have been campaigning for months for a second permanent police officer to be stationed at Cambooya, and still there is no relief for the one police officer. The Oakey Police Station has seven officers and only one vehicle. For months the Pittsworth community has had only one police officer for a community of over 3,200 people.

The racing industry remains in crisis in Queensland, with the government trying to tax racing out of existence. There is a large racing industry in Condamine, with some of the biggest breeders of thoroughbreds on my doorstep. The point-of-consumption tax is higher than in New South Wales and Victoria, yet their governments are investing much more into the racing industry. Racing has many wider benefits, such as employment, creating small businesses and bringing rural and regional communities together for their one or two race meetings a year. This money is invested back into small communities. Small business confidence is at an all-time low under the Labor government. It has made it more difficult to conduct business by increasing red tape while introducing new taxes.

Queenslanders are paying too much for their electricity as a result of Labor's poor investment decisions. The gold-plating of transmission lines and fat profit margins being collected are the key drivers of power prices that have seen household electricity bills surging over 60 per cent above inflation over the past decade. When I attended the recent Queensland Day celebrations in Oakey I spoke with several older residents who told me that they cannot afford to turn on their heaters. Last Tuesday in Oakey saw the temperature reach only seven degrees Celsius. What are people living on pensions supposed to do with these out-of-control electricity prices?

Our agriculture industry underpins our economy, being worth \$20 billion annually. The electorate of Condamine is a prime example of this. There is everything from broadacre farming to intensively farmed irrigation areas growing grains, pulses and cotton to one of the largest intensive livestock industries in Australia and a diverse horticulture sector. For farmers, electricity prices have increased by 130 per cent over the past 10 years.

The budget will see cuts of staff from the department of agriculture and from Biosecurity Queensland at a time when we have the real risk of biosecurity breaches with animal activists trespassing on farms. Eighty-five staff will be lost with the closing of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. This is the second consecutive year of staff cuts to the department, clearly demonstrating Labor's lack of commitment to agriculture. The response to the budget by AgForce CEO Mike Guerin was—

It is clear that Government doesn't value agriculture strongly enough nor understand its vital role in the economic, employment and social fabric of rural, regional and remote Australia.


He went on to say—

This government continues to demonstrate that it has no vision for the ongoing development and sustainability of broadacre agriculture ...

In conclusion, just when I thought it could not get any worse than last year's budget for rural and regional Queensland, this budget has beaten it by a country mile. It does nothing to encourage infrastructure investment, nothing to assist struggling families to pay their electricity bills, nothing to improve our economy and definitely nothing for agriculture.

Funding for three projects in the Condamine electorate was announced again, for the third year in a row: the ambulance station at Drayton, the upgrade of the Yarranlea substation and the upgrade of the QFES headquarters at Charlton. Still there is not a single survey peg in the vacant allotment at Drayton for the new ambulance station.

Unfortunately for the constituents of Condamine, roads remain in disrepair and safety is being compromised, schools are reaching capacity with no plan for any new infrastructure or land to be purchased, and water and electricity prices continue to rise. This Labor government has lost touch with the very people it was elected to represent. This Palaszczuk government is arrogant and out of touch. Only the LNP has a plan for the future of Queensland.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.54 pm): I rise to talk about the appropriation bills. What a great budget this is for the electorate of Maryborough. This is good news week for Maryborough. This is the fourth budget. Every time I look at the budget for Maryborough I do not think it can get any better, but we have beaten it again.

I would like to go through some of the great things in this Palaszczuk Labor government budget relating to the Maryborough electorate. I will talk first about schools, because education is very important to me. The only way you lift low socio-economic areas like mine is through education. Not only do we need great teachers; we also need great facilities. There is \$200,000 for a multipurpose court upgrade at St Helens school. St Helens is located in the Maryborough electorate on the way to Hervey Bay. When I was elected, one of the first things we did as a government was provide a new car park and traffic lights so that people could safely enter and exit St Helens school. We are continuing that good work. St Helens is a very good state school.

There is \$150,000 to upgrade outdoor learning areas at Maryborough Central School, one of the oldest schools in Maryborough city. Principal Lee is a fantastic principal. Maryborough West State School is getting a \$150,000 upgrade. Money will also be spent at Maryborough high. There is also about \$980,000 for upgrades at 17 schools throughout the Maryborough electorate. I thank the Minister for Education. I have had some great meetings with the Minister for Education. She has listened to everything I have said in relation to schools in my electorate. She knows the importance of education and knows what facilities we need in Maryborough.

I will now talk about roadworks. Maaroom and Poona are seaside communities on the Cooloola Coast road. I have been talking to the Minister for Transport about turning lanes into these communities. A lot of road users now use the Cooloola Coast road. A lot of people from the Maryborough and Hervey Bay areas take this back way to Brisbane. I see the member for Gympie nodding; he knows exactly what I am talking about. There are no turning lanes into these communities. Logging is a big industry in my electorate and there are a lot of logging trucks on the Cooloola Coast road. The money allocated in this budget for these turning lanes is very important. These turning lanes will save lives, as will the upgrade to the intersections to Maaroom and Poona. We have been fighting hard for that, and I thank the minister.

Riverside Christian College, on the corner of Biggenden Road and Royle Street, is a great college. It has grown to around 800 students. There will be an intersection upgrade there, as it is a very unsafe intersection for parents taking their children to school and picking them up, for teachers and for everyone who visits the college. The upgrade of that intersection will make it very safe for parents to take their children to school and pick them up and also for children to cross the road so they can ride their push bikes home. That is very welcome.

The Burrum Heads-Pialba intersection outside Hervey Bay is one of the busiest intersections in Wide Bay and one of the most dangerous. I have had great discussions with TMR regarding this intersection. There is money allocated for scoping works for the upgrade. This is a \$44 million to \$48 million upgrade project. The intersection is getting busier as it is in the fastest growing area in the Maryborough electorate—Craignish, Dundowran down to Toogoom and also Burrum Heads. This is very welcome news for people who use that road regularly. Because of the volume of traffic, I have been stuck on that road for up to 25 minutes trying to turn back to Maryborough. It is great news for the people who use the Burrum Heads-Pialba road daily.

The other highlight in the budget is the \$29 million increase in funding to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, the WBHHS. I want to thank CEO Adrian Pennington, the board, the staff, the executive team and everyone who works at WBHHS for the great service they provide for the people in my electorate. Earlier we heard the member for Condamine talking about ramping. The difference is that hospitals in my electorate have had a 40 per cent increase in the number of people going through the A&E thanks to the increase in private health cover. As an example, people with top cover went from premiums of \$485 to \$540 per month and they dropped out of private health and, as a result, there has been a 40 per cent increase in the number of people using the Maryborough Hospital. We are funding that very adequately and I want to thank the minister. That is what a Labor government does. It provides services in the main areas of life—education, transport, health—and we make sure that people have a roof over their heads and a job. That increase to the WBHHS is very welcome.

There is also money for mental health facilities in the Maryborough electorate, and I cannot thank the minister enough for that because with this current federal government and the cutbacks it has made to the Maryborough health district the extra money is very appreciated. Once again, this is the Palaszczuk Labor government supporting these services.

Maryborough is a great sporting city and there is a lot of sport played in the electorate. I note that the minister is in the House tonight and I want to thank the minister for a grant to a soccer club in Maryborough. This is the first government money this club has received in many years—that is, a \$152,000 grant for the Granville Football Club to construct change rooms including toilets, showers and player seating to support female participation in the Granville Soccer Club. The other night when I went to see the ladies and the men at the Granville Soccer Club I have never seen happier people. I thank the minister for that because he listened to me when I spoke to him about this soccer club. Not only did he listen; he delivered, and that is great because female participation at the Granville Soccer Club is going through the roof and this will make it better for them. One of the ladies asked me to personally thank the minister, so I once again thank the minister.

This budget also looks after Works for Queensland, which is a Labor initiative. This is a tremendous program. With the Fraser Coast Regional Council I see the difference in my city with the footpaths, with the roadworks, with the parks. With the allocation of money in the budget we will see a

lot of changes in Maryborough city. One of the projects we will see from Works for Queensland in this budget is a water park, and I am going to take the minister to look at where the water park is going to go in Maryborough city next week. This water park will be a game changer for many citizens in my city under Works for Queensland.


I heard the Premier say that the mayor of Bundaberg said how wonderful Works for Queensland was. I can tell members that Mayor Seymour loves Works for Queensland because it has taken a lot of pressure off the regional council and it is providing services and upgrades that it would never have been able to provide without Works for Queensland. It is a fantastic program.

Another program is Back to Work, and many people in my electorate have got work from Back to Work. The other day I was talking to a couple of young women and men in my electorate who have been given a chance by Back to Work. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is another great program.

This is a top budget, no matter what those on the other side say. There is a bit of envy there. The member for Stretton said that it is 5-nil. That is a really bad score—

Mr Mellish: Thrashing!

Mr SAUNDERS: It is a thrashing. I take that interjection from the member for Aspley. It is a thrashing. The reds have beaten the blues again 5-nil. I want to say thank you very much to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and the whole of the cabinet that has been involved in this budget. I thank them because they listened to members like me. I have been talking about the budget to many cabinet ministers for the last four or five months. They have listened and they have delivered in spades. On behalf of the people of the Maryborough electorate, I want to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the cabinet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.04 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills and commend the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tim Mander, for their budget reply speeches in this House. I welcome the LNP opposition leader's plan that will enable Queenslanders to breathe easy at budget time—a plan for no new taxes under the LNP. Let us contrast this with the Palaszczuk Labor government, which has brought in nine new taxes and tax hikes on Queenslanders.

The Treasurer said in her budget speech that this is a budget for regional Queensland. This is rhetoric and nothing like the reality. I do not welcome this budget. This budget has proven that the Palaszczuk Labor government is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs. The 2019 budget delivers higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. About the only tax that was not in this Labor budget was a death tax—

Mr Janetzki: That's coming.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Cairns, return to your seat or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms LEAHY:—but Labor has gone after anything else it can tax. The LNP on the other hand has outlined a positive future plan for Queenslanders. The LNP plan is to introduce retail price competition across the whole state for electricity. Under the LNP's plan, regional Queenslanders, like everyone who lives in my electorate, will be able to enjoy the choice of electrical retailers, just like those who live in the south-east corner. Contrast this to the state Labor government which continually uses electricity as a secret tax at the expense of regional taxpayers. Labor refuses to introduce retail competition for regional Queensland which is costing households around \$300 a year in added electricity bills despite in 2016 the Queensland Productivity Commission recommending increased retail competition.

We in the LNP have a plan to back our farmers and get behind agriculture, a plan to build new dams because where there is water there is wealth and where there is wealth there are jobs. Contrast this to the comments about the Labor budget from one of Queensland's peak agropolitical groups, AgForce—

When the headline program in the agriculture portfolio is a shark netting program, that tells you everything you need to know about the government's attitude towards primary production.

They are the words of Mike Guerin, the CEO of AgForce, when describing this Labor budget.

The LNP plan is to deal with the scourge of ice in our communities and to build four new rehabilitation centres across the state, with more detox facilities to help people kick their addiction. I have no doubt that criminal bikie gangs bring illegal drugs into my electorate. Let us contrast this LNP plan to Labor's soft-on-crime approach where only two bikies have been convicted of habitually consorting since Labor introduced its new laws and not one has been sentenced to imprisonment. Labor is soft on crime.

The LNP plan is to give the resources sector the certainty it needs. The LNP will give the industry a 10-year royalty guarantee, ensuring that businesses can safely invest in Queensland such as those businesses that operate in my electorate. Royalties will be frozen for a decade. The LNP will not hold the mining industry to ransom like Labor or jack up the royalties on petroleum by 25 per cent out of the blue. The LNP will not squander this state's royalties like Labor has on its pet projects in the electorate of South Brisbane. Every cent from Galilee Basin royalties will go towards building a better Queensland into a new LNP Queensland infrastructure fund.

The fund will be used exclusively to pay for schools, hospitals, roads and bridges across Queensland and in my electorate. The LNP will ensure that the regions get their rightful share. I contrast that commitment to this budget's reduction in infrastructure spending by half a billion dollars in the Darling Downs region and the reduced infrastructure spend in the outback region.

A future LNP government will stand up for manufacturing. The LNP will create a \$20 million fund to back heavy engineering and manufacturing in this state. I contrast that commitment to what this Labor government is doing to the manufacturers in my electorate, who are worried about future increases in electricity prices. These manufacturers have contacted Ergon Energy and Energy Queensland. These businesses have said very clearly, 'The statement by the minister that our power bill would go down is not correct.'

I turn now to matters of the Local Government portfolio—an area that I am passionate about. There is no secret that the relationship between local governments and the state government in Queensland is at an all-time low. The people in local government—the mayors, the councillors and the staff who put in the blood, sweat and tears to achieve better outcomes for their councils and their communities—feel let down by this Labor state government. The so-called Partners in Government Agreement between the state and local government has been trashed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The lack of genuine consultation, or more likely the imposition of requirements on local government in Queensland, has frustrated and incensed local government members. We also know—and this budget has confirmed—of the higher costs for the 2020 local government elections. Since 2016, the cost to run the local government election has more than doubled. Ratepayers will bear this cost. The indications are that the cost will increase from \$13 million to \$27 million in 2020.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is both untrue and anticipates debate. It is not part of the budget.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Logan, I have been advised by the Clerk that your point of order is not a point of order because you cannot anticipate during a speech on the budget.

Ms LEAHY: The ECQ has already factored in the additional costs of the state government's proposed changes to the local government voting system. We can see that in the program statements. That is \$14 million of ratepayers' funds that will not be spent on Queensland parks, gardens, roads, water or sewerage because of the state Labor government's impost on ratepayers.

Previous Labor governments removed \$1 billion from the grants and subsidy programs for Queensland councils. That is now catching up with councils. We see the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program is being heavily oversubscribed with applications. Much of the water and sewerage infrastructure across Queensland is starting to reach an age where it needs significant repair or refurbishment. The LGAQ warned the following in its media release in relation to this budget—

Regional communities also face a looming water infrastructure challenge, both in terms of supply and treatment.

This budget does not address the looming infrastructure challenge that is concerning many councils. Labor's fifth tax—the waste levy—is impacting ratepayers. We read in the *Courier-Mail*, 'Levy forces dump fee rise' and that businesses in Brisbane will be stung with a hefty increase in their dumping fees so that the Brisbane City Council can recover the cost of the Palaszczuk government's waste levy. Again, in the *Courier-Mail*, we read—

Logan businesses will be hit with steeper fees to dump their rubbish so the council can cover the cost of the Palaszczuk Government's waste levy.

I now wish to turn to the higher debt, taxes and fewer jobs in the budget, especially in the Warrego electorate, which I am privileged to serve as the local member. In the Warrego electorate, the Palaszczuk Labor government has betrayed the trust of families, local businesses and workers in the resources sector across the Surat and Cooper basins. The petroleum royalty rate from the LNG and petroleum producers will raise \$467 million over four years. No business can afford to have an input cost increase by 25 per cent overnight without some consequences. If we couple the royalty increase with the increases in land tax rates for companies that have landholdings over the value of \$5 million, we find that the state government is doing a double tax dip on the LNG industry. From these tax hikes we can expect from the resource basins a reduction in local jobs; a reduction in investment in infrastructure, such as roads; a reduction in community sponsorship from the resources sector; and the contracts that benefit many local businesses to have even tighter margins. We can also expect to see a reduction in the compensation payments paid to landholders. For a government that does not like to talk about mining coal or gas, it has been willing to accept record royalties from the resources industry.

For five budgets I have looked for the words 'agricultural profitability' in the Treasurer's budget speech. In the first Palaszczuk budget, agriculture did not rate a mention in the Treasurer's speech. In the 2016 budget speech, there was an acknowledgement. In the 2017 budget speech, there was mention of agricultural assets. In the 2018 budget speech, agriculture was again punted. That shows how much this Labor government dislikes farmers.

In the 2019 budget speech, agriculture rated a mention. However, it is disappointing that this budget indicates that there will be 110 fewer full-time staff within the agriculture department. Regrettably, the budget allocates \$7 million over two years to support the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges to cease—yes, to cease—operations at the end of 2019. The people of my electorate are most disappointed with the closing of these agricultural colleges.

Labor's debt is on track to hit \$90 billion over the forward estimates. When Paul Keating left office, he left the nation with a \$96 billion debt. Queensland is fast approaching that massive level of debt, but we have neither the population nor the capacity of the nation to repay \$90 billion. A family of four's share of Labor's debt is a whopping \$67,000. To put this debt into perspective, the interest payments in one year would build a dual carriageway road from Brisbane to Perth. That is the length of road that cannot be built in Queensland every year because taxpayers' money has to be spent on interest payments to service the debt.

The Warrego Highway Upgrade Program is continuing, but I wish to make the point that this program was initiated by the former LNP state government and the former federal coalition government. There are numerous roads being neglected by the Palaszczuk Labor government in the Warrego electorate. Under this Labor government, every day single-lane bitumen roads are getting narrower and narrower. Many of these roads have school bus runs, such as the Meandarra-Talwood Road and the Jackson-Wandoan Road. Other roads, such as the Mitchell-St George Road, need widening to grow the tourism and agricultural industries.

While I am talking about roads, it would be remiss of me to not raise the rough surface of the St George-Bollon Road. I agree with my constituent Randel Newsham that this road must be one of the roughest roads in Queensland. Neither the budget nor QTRIP have road-widening allocations for these roads. I will continue to fight to have these roads upgraded at every opportunity. When it comes to regional roads, I will not rest like this lazy Labor government.

There are intersections such as on the Landsborough Highway at Augathella and the Jackson-Wandoan Road intersection with the Warrego Highway that need to have safety upgrades. I note that there is a planning project for the Jackson-Wandoan Road intersection with the Warrego Highway in QTRIP, but it is scheduled for 2021. I applaud the Augathella progress association for raising the safety of the Landsborough Highway intersection and its suggestions as to how to address these safety issues. Roads are the arteries and the veins for the Warrego electorate. I will continue to fight for better maintenance of my electorate's roads and widening and further safety upgrades at every opportunity. If you wanted to sum up this budget in a couple of lines, it would be this: when Labor runs out of money, it comes after yours. That is exactly what it has done in this budget.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.19 am): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills introduced by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the honourable Jackie Trad. This is a great budget for Central Queensland and I am pleased to be able to respond to another great Labor government budget. I feel great pride in the wonderful outcomes that this budget will bring for all Queenslanders, none more so than my constituents in Rockhampton. Again this budget will see record funding of \$622 million for health in

Central Queensland. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service and its staff do an absolutely amazing job. Good health is real wealth for our community and it is important to get good quality care when you visit your local hospital.

Approximately 444 businesses in Central Queensland will benefit from an increase in the payroll tax threshold and the regional discounts as part of the \$885 million payroll tax package. This is good for business and good for jobs growth. Rookwood Weir will receive \$88 million this year and will create approximately 250 jobs and 500 indirect jobs. The Rockhampton Regional Council will receive \$6.5 million for construction of the new art gallery. This is in addition to the \$2 million previously provided and a total commitment of \$15 million, creating 104 construction jobs.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. It is essential that our schools are maintained and upgraded with \$1.2 million in funding across the schools in my electorate. There will also be \$650,000 to upgrade the performing arts building at Glenmore State High School; \$300,000 to enhance the current basketball court to become a multipurpose court at Depot Hill State School; \$270,000 towards a quadrangle shade structure and resurfacing at the North Rockhampton Special School; and \$130,000 for external repainting at the Hall School.

It is so important to have quality facilities to encourage participation in sport. I am pleased to see \$301,000 in funding for the CQU Rockhampton Panthers Australian Football Club to construct a new clubhouse and upgrade existing change rooms to support Australian football in Rockhampton. The Rockhampton Regional Council will receive \$260,000 to finalise the construction of the toilets, showers and change rooms for netball at Jardine Park and Victoria Park Gymnastics and Trampoline Club will receive its final payment in its in excess of \$100,000 grant to upgrade its amenities to support gymnastics and trampolining in Rockhampton.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will see an investment of \$233 million for road infrastructure projects like the Northern Access Road which has already commenced, the Gracemere Highway duplication, additional passing lanes on the Bruce and Capricorn highways and the Rockhampton Ring Road creating approximately 1,300 jobs. The Capricorn Correctional Centre will receive \$88 million in the 2019-20 year of \$243 million over five years for an extra 348 cells to provide additional prisoner capacity at the centre. This funding will ease overcrowding and boost staff safety. It will provide 176 construction jobs and, once completed, an additional 232 permanent jobs.


Given my passion for the provision of housing services, it is great to see ongoing funding of services not only in the Rockhampton electorate but nearby electorates, with \$980,000 to the Rockhampton Regional Council to provide Home Assist Secure services. Organisations like Anglicare Central Queensland, Darumbal Community Youth Services, Girls Time Out, Ozcare and Rosemary Community Services will share in \$4.7 million in funding to deliver specialist homelessness services. The budget will also see \$5.6 million towards the completion/construction of 26 units of accommodation across two sites in Rockhampton for clients at risk of homelessness. We will also see an infrastructure and upgrade spend in excess of \$50 million on the Stanwell Power Station.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about training and apprenticeships with Skilling Queenslanders for Work assisting up to 785 people to get job-ready skills through funding of \$6.28 million in the Central Queensland region. The Back to Work Regional Employment Package in Rockhampton has supported 645 jobs through funding of \$6.39 million to date with at least \$707,000 committed in the 2019-20 financial year. The Palaszczuk government's support of local government has seen the Rockhampton Regional Council deliver projects like the Jim Webber Reception Room, various flood mitigation works, enhanced sport and community event amenities, the Gracemere streetscape and pathways upgrades to name a few. We have seen more than 1,200 jobs supported through this very important program across Central Queensland communities and we have also listened to our council, and the latest round again carries a two-year time frame allowing them to plan and budget for the workforce needed to deliver these projects for our communities.

There is an allocation of \$8.6 million to the Rockhampton Regional Council over two years to deliver projects such as riverbank stabilisation works, construction of amenities and an accessible entry ramp to the Fitzroy adventure play area, construction of fishing platforms along the Fitzroy River and other local community infrastructure like footpaths et cetera. These initiatives will continue to support jobs. We have already seen over 7,000 new jobs created in the past year in the Fitzroy region. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad on a budget for all Queenslanders and I commend the bill to the House.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As it is midnight, I can now tell you that Sir Elton John is opening the North Queensland Stadium.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I am not sure that is actually a point of order. Member for Thuringowa, the Clerk has advised that your actions were disruptive to proceedings and you are warned under the standing orders.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.27 am): I rise to speak in the debate on the appropriation bills. I will draw to the attention of the House some of the more positive aspects of the budget that relate to my electorate. There has been a concerted effort in relation to health and education spending in my electorate. There are 38 schools in my electorate. There is some \$10 million in schools funding for my electorate, which I appreciate. When there is money coming in for schools and hospitals I always try to give credit to whoever is in government.

Other residual items that are for outback Queensland include upgrades to the Gregory Development Road, the Lind Highway, the Gregory Downs Camooweal Road and the Hann Highway. That is residual money that has been fought for before. It is nice to see that spending. There is no new large infrastructure spends in the electorate which is something that I would like to talk about.

Clearly the government has decided to address the regions in the budget. It is trying to appeal to the regions after changing positions on the coal industry and the Carmichael mine. There has been a concerted effort to re-engage with the regions, which has brought a particular focus onto the north-west minerals province, with which obviously I am very familiar. It is interesting to see some new players starting to talk about the north-west minerals province, which has attracted some interest. It is an issue that I have often spoken about in this House over the years. However, it is pretty frustrating to hear some of the commentary around it.

As I have said many times before, the rail line on the north-west minerals province is unique in that the track between Mount Isa and Townsville, which is still owned by the taxpayers, is one of the only pieces of track in Queensland that is not subsidised by the taxpayers in terms of maintenance. It is all cost recovered by the customers. A couple of years ago, a customer reported that they had had a 70 per cent increase on their price. Over the past few years, large volumes of traffic have been going onto the roads instead of the rail. We do not make any money when freight goes on the road. We do make money when freight goes on the rail. In addition, enormous safety issues are raised when the road is congested. Over the past few years we have had many deaths associated with road trains and bulk haulage on the road network. That begs the question: if you have a rail line, why on earth wouldn't you try to use it more? There is a problem when a rail line is available and progressively more people use the road networks.

For many years I have said that the Queensland Competition Authority guidelines that govern the business that operates over that line need to be unpacked. As I understand it, a review will come out in 2020, but that does not necessarily mean that there will be any action. The rules that govern the pricing need to be unpacked. The solutions that sit there will not necessarily cost the taxpayer anything. We have not addressed the QCA charges or framework. A discount has been put on it, which I welcome and I have said that publicly. We welcome the discount. Finally we have addressed the fact that price is an issue, but we have not addressed the QCA charges. What concerns me about the \$380 million investment that has been talked about is that that could quite possibly all go back on the price. It would in fact raise the price, which would be entirely counterintuitive to the discount that is being applied. Members can understand my concern that the pricing issue has been addressed by offering a discount. When the system works, the cost goes straight back onto the user. Spending \$380 million might completely offset any discount being offered in the first place. There needs to be some clarity around that.

During my discussions with the major stakeholders and customers over the past couple of days, they have not been fist pumping the air or high-fiving themselves, because we do not know what the impact of the \$380 million will be. It is enormously frustrating to hear people commenting on this, because it would take only a five- or 10-minute phone call to the major customers and stakeholders on that line to gain an understanding of how the issues need to be resolved. It is very frustrating to hear people clumsily saying in the media, 'We support the north-west minerals province now', when a five- or 10-minute phone call would give them a greater understanding. My phone line is always open for anyone who wants to discuss this. It has been spoken about so many times in this place. I have had a number of meetings with the relevant ministers and department heads, so they are quite aware of how to solve the problems.

It was very disappointing to hear both LNP and government commentary about energy in the outback and the north-west minerals province. How anyone can talk about that but not talk about CopperString is beyond me. It is a ridiculous situation when someone talks about energy in the outback but does not mention CopperString. That project has the ability to bring the price of energy in the north-

west minerals province down by a third—I repeat: down by a third. If a mine is spending \$200 million a year, that would mean quite a significant discount and a great opportunity for growth in mining, if that can be done.

Here is the thing: that project would not necessarily require much funding from the state government. It could be funded by the stakeholders and the proponent, but it needs a little backing. In all the talk about the north-west minerals province, there has been a complete absence of discussion about CopperString. If you go out there, that is what all of the customers and major stakeholders want to talk to you about. It is very disappointing for people to be flying the kite or waving the flag and saying, 'We're here to support the north-west minerals province.' That is great and I appreciate the intent, but anyone who is serious should talk to the people out there. If they did, I think they would hear different commentary to what we have heard so far. That has been very disappointing.

There is a lot of talk about investment in infrastructure, but we want to see nation-building infrastructure. If you are talking about that, you cannot go past water storage. The federal government has committed \$180 million to the Hughenden Irrigation Scheme and there is another \$50 million for Hells Gate Dam and Big Rocks Weir in Charters Towers. In this House we should be talking about those sorts of projects over and over again. They are terrific investments for the state government, from which we would reap benefits for many years to come. If we can provide another 40,000 acres of irrigated farming land around Hughenden, we would do a wonderful thing for our state. That would be a great legacy in terms of investment.

The government talks about \$90 billion worth of debt and that is a huge problem. To repay \$90 billion of debt, you have to start to look at investments, but there is nothing about that in the budget. If I were a punter sitting at home and I saw a government investing in dams, transmission lines, rail and road in our large industry base areas, I would start to wake up and say, 'These guys are serious about turning things around in industry. They're not just trying to buy votes via social infrastructure in the larger metropolitan areas.' That is where I think the government could really win over the punters who are sitting at home and wondering whether this budget really will help them in the long run. It is not about buying jobs; it is about creating jobs and creating industry. That is where I think there is a real deficiency in the budget and where it has been very disappointing.

There has been a lot of support for tourism, but some critical areas in my electorate really need attention. This actually relates to the portfolio of roads. I note that again today the Premier mentioned the Year of Outback Tourism. About 50 kilometres of unsealed road leads to Lawn Hill, the Boodjamulla National Park and Adels Grove, which is the jewel in the crown of tourism in the north-west and the gulf. As I have said before in this House, the last time I drove in there I blew two tyres, because the road can get overused by the many people who love to go and see those places. If the roads in remote areas are not fixed, there is no point encouraging more people to go out there. The critical infrastructure that takes people to those remote areas must be fixed. The roads to Cobbold Gorge, Lawn Hill and Adels Grove need to be fixed. It is disappointing not to see that funding in the budget.

Another example of a critical road in the electorate is the Cloncurry to Dajarra Road. There is still about 11 kilometres of unsealed road to the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere, the Incitec Pivot phosphate plant. I have been chasing that for years and bringing it to the attention of the government. If it cannot do that then it is not really serious about helping the resources industry.

These roads are in critical need of assistance and they are not addressed in this budget. The Torrens Creek to Aramac road is an extension of the Hann Highway. That road can save trucks that are carting produce from the Tropical North and Far North to the markets in Sydney and Melbourne time. The banana industry is one of those industries. Produce could get down to the markets in Melbourne 13 hours faster if the truck drivers used the Hann Highway, but they will not use it until that sealing is finished.


We were pleased that we procured around \$20 million for the Hann Highway in the last parliament, but it still needs finishing. That means extending the sealing down the Torrens Creek to Aramac road. That is a strategic spend. If the government is serious about nation building then it would look at a road like that and say that that is where we can get good bang for our buck. By doing that it would not only help people in the immediate region but also help all the farmers in Far North Queensland.

Imagine the amount of diesel saved and how much more efficient it would be if a farmer could get their bananas to market 13 hours quicker. They would be going down the inland route and would be away from the high flood areas. It would get those B-doubles off the Bruce Highway. It would reduce the wear and tear and congestion on the Bruce Highway. That would be a wonderful thing to do. Again, that was not addressed in this budget despite many calls to fix it.

There are also issues like the imposition on councils of things such as the waste levy. I could talk about the impositions on water in Mount Isa. The Mount Isa Water Board pays a dividend to the state. There is about \$4 million or \$5 million that goes to the state every year which then gets put onto ratepayers and does not need to be.

The government in Queensland needs to ask itself whether it wants the rail, water and energy assets to be cash cows and treated like ATMs or whether it wants to treat them as industry enablers. Industries are buying water. Ratepayers are buying water. It is an indirect tax on these utilities. A lot of that money is best spent in the economy and put back into the pockets of householders or business. They will put that money to better use than the government will when they are going to build social infrastructure in vote buying areas. That philosophical approach needs to be changed when we are talking about utilities and the way government treats them in those areas.

If the government is going to talk about the north-west minerals province and rejuvenating or stimulating mining then they need to get serious about it and talk to the people on the ground because otherwise they are wasting everyone's time.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.42 am): I rise to speak to the 2019-20 budget. I start by offering my congratulations to the Treasurer for delivering a very smart Labor budget. Listening to the other side we are hearing a lot of whinging and whining about the budget—there is too much of this and not enough of that. Let me address some of the whinging and whining from the other side.

Those opposite have talked a lot about debt tonight. The LNP have a record of embracing debt and racking it up all over Australia. Exhibit 1 is their federal colleagues. Under the federal LNP government net debt has doubled over the coalition's two terms in government.

A government member: It's in their DNA.

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. It is in their DNA. It has gone up from \$174.6 billion in September 2013 to \$354.5 billion in October 2018.

Ms Grace: That's all right. Don't worry about that.

Mr WHITING: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Education. They are not going to worry about that. They are not going to remind us about that. I will remind them that under Labor in 2013 Australia's gross debt to GDP ratio was 16.8 per cent. Today's figure is 42 per cent under the Morrison government.

Exhibit 2 is the Brisbane City Council. We will not hear those on the other side of the chamber say anything about the Brisbane City Council's debt. Let me quote what Brisbane City Council Mayor Adrian Schrinner said about his debt. He stated—

You can't build a city without building infrastructure. This budget has good debt that funds long-term infrastructure. It's a fiscal responsibility to invest in infrastructure for the long term.

He has a \$3.1 billion budget servicing a \$2.6 billion debt. You will not hear the LNP talk about that. Raising debt is in their DNA. It shows their hypocrisy that they will never actually admit it or talk about it. They will just whinge and whine about what we are doing.

Those opposite talked a little about manufacturing jobs. They have outlined a proposal today for what I believe is a \$20 million fund. I point out that we already have a \$40 million fund—the Made in Queensland fund. That provides small to medium Queensland manufacturers with matched funding between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million. I will not even talk about Advance Queensland—one of the most spectacularly successful programs that helps all kinds of businesses, including manufacturers. That is leading Australia and helping transform our economy. We have not heard them make a squeak about manufacturing jobs until today. Once again it is an example of their hypocrisy.

They did not have a lot to say about climate change—not a word. As the Treasurer said the other day, there is no greater threat to job creation than climate change. Ten years ago in Melbourne I heard Al Gore say that we are going to be facing more extreme and costly weather events. In the last 10 years in Queensland we have had 84 disasters causing more than \$15 billion worth of damage to public infrastructure. As the Treasurer said on Tuesday, if we do not act now climate change will cut jobs and growth, lift prices and inflation and destabilise our insurance and banking systems.

If the LNP are concerned about debt and future budgets, they have to be concerned about climate change because the greatest threat to agriculture in this state is climate change. The LNP will never talk about it. They will whinge and whine about the need for extra dams but they will never address the reason there is less rainfall in Queensland. That is due to climate change.

Let me spell it out. We are facing more extreme days of heat that will kill livestock and crops, and our rainfall could decrease by up to 21 per cent by 2050. Drought will be followed by devastating extreme rain and floods, like the recent events.

Mr MICKELBERG: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to standing order 118(b)—relevance. The member is talking about climate change. I am not sure how that is relevant to the budget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): There is no point of order.

Mr WHITING: I want to turn to what this budget means for Queensland. This budget means more for Queensland—more jobs and more job security; more schoolrooms and more teachers; more hospitals beds, more doctors and more nurses. There will be less too—less payroll tax for small business; less time on roads for commuters; and less money out of people's pockets to pay electricity bills.

In terms of education, across the state we are putting \$1.46 billion into refurbishing schools and building new schools. That is a 55 per cent increase from last year. In Deception Bay, \$350,000 will go to Deception Bay North State School to build a play area and an outdoor learning area. In North Lakes, \$320,000 will go to Bounty Boulevard State School to upgrade classrooms and enclose the old assembly area. There is also a very welcome \$100 million commitment to help put air conditioning into priority schools. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has built and opened 26 new schools; 3,700 new teachers will be brought into our schools over the next four years; and there will be 1,000 new teachers and 200 teacher aides put on over the coming year as a result of this budget.

In terms of health, Redcliffe Hospital is undergoing a \$114 million rejuvenation over three years. That includes an upgraded maternity ward and birthing suites. I congratulate the Minister for Health for such a great achievement in our local area. They will be putting in 30 kilometres of new cabling as part of a \$6.8 million electrical upgrade at that hospital. At Caboolture Hospital there is a \$350 million new development going on that will see 130 new beds and a \$20 million upgrade of their emergency department. There will also be a \$41 million investment for a new adolescent mental health unit at Prince Charles Hospital. That will be a great addition to our area as well.

If you are from North Lakes, Deception Bay or Burpengary East, you can have the confidence that when you go to a local public hospital you will be getting care in the best local hospitals at the best possible service level. The doctors and nurses are superb as well. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has put on 5,988 new nurses, 2,020 new doctors and over 508 new ambos. Over the next year we will put on 800 nurses and 200 doctors.

In terms of energy, the good news from this budget continues. What we can say is that electricity prices are dropping for Queenslanders, and the Queensland budget this year will keep downward pressure on electricity prices. The Minister for Energy said this week that a typical household will pay \$62 less on average this coming year for electricity and a typical small business will be paying \$144 less. I want to congratulate the minister on that as well. There have been two \$50 rebates for each household to help reduce those electricity costs for Queensland families.

A government member interjected.


Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. Compare that to the 43 per cent rise under the last LNP government. We will never let them forget that. There are two reasons why Queenslanders are paying the lowest average electricity prices of any mainland state in the National Electricity Market. Firstly, Queensland owns our power assets, so the state can put money back into the pockets of power users. Secondly, there is a record amount of renewable energy—not 'renewal' energy—coming back into the network, and that is rapidly reducing the cost of producing electricity. The good news keeps on coming for Queensland.

Mr Boyce interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock. Member for Callide, resume your seat if you wish to interject.

Mr WHITING: The last bit of good news I want to give to the electors in Bancroft is that there is \$36 million going to the first stage of the Deception Bay Road overpass over the Bruce Highway. The member for Kurwongbah and I are very excited about that. The member for Murrumba and I are very excited about the \$5 million going to the Morris Road-Deception Bay Road intersection as well. That will greatly improve safety in our region.

I also want to point out a project that I have been chasing for nearly 10 years since I was a councillor, and that is the installation of a pontoon and the widening of a boat ramp at the end of Uhlmann Road in Burpengary East. That is a \$1.9 million project. It will secure the 30 to 40 jobs at the marine manufacturer that is based at that boat ramp. It is not only helping out recreational boaties but also helping to save jobs in our area. That is what this budget is doing. I commend it because it is saving the jobs of Queenslanders.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.53 am): Those opposite are delusional—delusional. This is a budget that raises taxes, debt is up, jobs are down and infrastructure spending is down. That just goes to prove that you cannot trust Labor. On Tuesday the Treasurer handed down a budget that is big on borrowing and short on deliveries with no plans to address Queensland's spiralling debt. For the first time in our state's history we are expected to reach a debt level of \$90 billion—\$90 billion. That is a \$67,000 debt for the typical Queensland family. Without proper planning, combined with wasteful spending, what did Labor expect would happen? Plain and simple, this could have been avoided.

As many of my colleagues have mentioned, this budget is disappointing for the Gold Coast. In the Burleigh electorate not a single dollar of new funding was announced for primary schools despite schools like Palm Beach State School being at 92 per cent capacity and about to run out of room. There is little or nothing to address the hospital and police crisis, and there is not one cent for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A to Burleigh after the federal government contributed \$112 million and council said they would maintain their funding up to \$98 million.

I initially thought that this might have been because all of the money had been siphoned off to Cross River Rail. Then I came across page 104 of Budget Paper No. 3, the Capital Statement, where it tells us that there will be \$1.479 billion worth of investment in Cross River Rail this year. Funnily enough, private finance contributions are \$1.479 billion. We have private financing contributions of \$1.479 billion, yet in this budget the government is going to invest \$1,479,707 million. This fully funded Cross River Rail project, which the Queensland government goes on and on about, actually has only \$700,000 worth of investment from the Queensland government. Where has the money gone? You would have to ask the question, wouldn't you? Where has the money gone?

There is \$45 million out of over a billion dollars worth of investment for widening the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. If only some of the members opposite would come down to the Gold Coast and get out of their limousines, their ministerial cars, and have a look around, they would see the issues that we have down there and maybe they would do something seriously to fix our issues.

I want to move on to the portfolio that I shadow in this House—Housing and Public Works. In the Deputy Premier's budget speech she mentioned construction once—once only. That has to give you an indication of what they think about manufacturing and construction in this state. The member for Springwood has stuffed up a number of pretty straightforward projects that should be happening in this state.

While they have allocated \$511 million in social housing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, what they have not done is negotiated in good faith with the federal government in the national partnerships agreement. We have mentioned that over and over again in this House. The Northern Territory government negotiated in good faith and got \$550 million, yet the minister and the Deputy Premier stand in here and constantly tell us that they cannot get a solution with the federal government. Maybe they ought to try going down to Canberra and actually talking to the federal government and negotiating in good faith. That would really help.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock. Members, it is very late. We are all getting to a point in the early hours of the morning. Let's try to move forward with a little less frivolous activity.

Mr HART: We are revved up, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have seen a complete waste of money in ICT, with projects \$447 million over budget. Now the minister comes in here and tells us that he is going to rework the whole dashboard: 'Quite frankly, it is not telling us what we need to know, so we will change all the colours. We will wash out the data and make up something completely different.'

Mr Last: They are going to wash the data.

Mr HART: They are going to wash the data. We have seen the stalling of phase 2 project bank accounts for the private sector after the government told us that these would be instigated on 1 January this year. Then it was 1 March this year. In today's paper it says—

A Queensland Government spokesperson said a review into its 12-month trial of project bank accounts on government projects between \$1m and \$10m was expected soon with the private sector roll out at some point after that.

So it is off in the never-never; here we go again. We have Stadiums Queensland with a capital outlay of \$56.3 million. That is just \$36 million worth of refurbishment at The Gabba, and we have seen how much they are spending in other states on their stadiums. You just have to wonder. The Townsville stadium deal is now costing \$292 million. It originally started at \$250 million, but the government or the minister has decided that that project needs to support his CFMMEU mates at a cost of \$40 million to the Queensland taxpayer. But never mind, we will just move on from that. We are finding that some of our stadiums cannot even make a dollar as it is, so how is the Townsville stadium ever going to make a dollar when the Cowboys have paid their rent 10 years in advance as part of this? Again you have to wonder.

One of the real issues that we need to talk about tonight is the problems that are happening with the building certifiers in this state. I will table some correspondence from the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors which was put out the day before yesterday, now that we have moved on past midnight.

Tabled paper: Australian Institute of Building Surveyors member communique, dated 12 June 2019, titled 'Professional Indemnity Insurance Update' [984].

That document is a member communique that was sent out to all of the members in that profession. The first paragraph says—

The situation around Professional Indemnity Insurance has reached crisis point. There is a real possibility that without government intervention in the next two weeks, private building surveyors—

that is certifiers—

may be forced out of work and the construction industry across Australia will be significantly impacted.

AIBS understands that the last remaining provider of exclusion free PI insurance policies will no longer guarantee this coverage from 2 July 2019 ...

That is in the next couple of weeks. As a result, what happens in Queensland in particular is that if these certifiers do not have full insurance cover without any exclusion they will lose their registration. I also table a copy of the Queensland Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce.

Tabled paper: Queensland government report, undated, titled 'Queensland Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce: Status report' [985].

How is that going to work out for the government when the state government has identified 71 government buildings that are at risk of having cladding that may be flammable? One of the recommendations in this document says—

The existing combustible test for materials under Australian Standard 1530.1 is not applicable for products that are coated, faced or laminated.

There are a lot of buildings that the Queensland government owns which have laminated cladding on them. One of those is the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital across the road which this minister spent \$500,000 to change the name of, but he left cladding on the building which apparently is a problem. What is going to happen is that when this cladding is tested it is going to fail the government's own standard. Apparently, 1 William Street has some of this on it as well. That just goes to show that there are going to be a lot of buildings that have this on it.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Minister for Health, you must be in your own seat to interject. If you intend to do so, please move back to your own seat.

Mr HART: This is going to turn into a major issue in the next couple of weeks for this government. From what I have seen so far, they have completely failed to recognise that this is a problem. It is going to completely blow up on them when certifiers are no longer in existence. Councils do not have their own certifiers, and even if they did they would have exactly the same insurance problem. This is going to blow up and the government needs to do something about it. The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors is really worried that the government will allow insurance that has an exclusion in it for the time being. That is not really going to fix the problem. The document I tabled before raises a lot of issues around that and offers some suggestions as to what could be put in place.


In the remaining time that I have I might talk about electricity as well. While this government tells us that electricity prices have fallen, when you go to the IEMO dashboard website and have a look at wholesale electricity prices in this state, in 2015 wholesale electricity prices were \$52.52 a megawatt on average for the year. In 2019 that has risen to \$80.73 a megawatt. Wholesale prices are up by more than 50 per cent. In fact, so far this month the average wholesale electricity price is \$106.94.

The day before yesterday I mentioned in my MPI that the foundry industries in Queensland are really suffering because of this. I have been to the Dalby foundry, the Currumbin foundry, the Innisfail foundry, the Bundaberg foundry and the Maryborough foundry. They are all struggling under 50 per cent increases in electricity prices. They are all worried about the future of their businesses and their employees. What is this government offering in return? The government had Ergon go out and audit these businesses. As a result of that audit Ergon said to them, 'We have nothing to offer you. Unfortunately, we cannot give you a tariff that makes sense to your business, so how about you go out and buy a diesel generator. Do not buy our electricity. Do not buy it from the state. Do not buy from the people of Queensland. Go and buy a diesel generator.' How does that work in with this government's climate change philosophy? If you want to stop people from using good clean energy and they switch over to diesel, you are going to be in a lot of trouble.

I have been travelling through the regions lately and I have taken an extract from a question that the minister was asked in parliament on 26 March in which he said, 'Regional Queensland is doing extremely well under the Palaszczuk Labor government'. I handed that press release to the people in regional Queensland and they fell on the ground laughing at what the minister said.

I am running out of time, but I would also point out that the Powering Queensland Plan called for a 400-megawatt reverse auction and a 150-megawatt solar scheme, and that has disappeared from the service. It has just gone completely. It is never going to happen. We have forgotten that. We have moved on from that. Apparently—

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (1.08 am): I heard the opposition leader earlier today say that the budget is about choices and I kept hearing 'strong choices'. That is right: Campbell Newman and the member for Nanango's Strong Choices program is alive and well.

We know the member for Nanango was at the table as the LNP team drew up the Strong Choices plan. It was a plan for cuts, a plan for sackings and a plan especially for sell-offs. We know the member for Nanango has never apologised for Strong Choices; in fact, I do not think anyone on that side has apologised for Strong Choices. They never criticised Strong Choices. Instead, she only tries to pretend it never existed but we remember and Queenslanders remember. We know that the cuts, the sackings and the sell-offs are the essence of the state LNP. In Logan we remember—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Order! Members!

Mr POWER: They do not like it, Mr Deputy Speaker. They do not like being reminded of what they were like. In Logan, we remember the bus services that were cut, we remember that the teacher numbers did not keep up with the growth of students.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr POWER: The member for Waterford knows this so well. We remember that they cut the maternity services from Logan West. We remember the failure to build classes. We remember the hardworking public servants who were sacked and of course the plan to sell off assets. We know that this LNP is just waiting to try to trick Queenslanders before they get straight back into the cutting, sacking and selling. Queenslanders know better. They will work you out.

We also know that there is a distinct contrast. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer put forward a different vision of security, support, stability and services. For a growing area like Logan we need support, not the service cuts; we need stability, not the sackings; we need to build our services and not have sell-offs. That is why I urge all members to support this budget—for its security, support, stability and services that Queenslanders need.

Earlier today, I heard the member for Scenic Rim make the totally outrageous claim that there was no spending on the Mount Lindesay Highway in this budget. I simply could not believe it.

Ms Fentiman: Because it wasn't in the media release and he's too lazy to read the budget papers.

Mr POWER: I think that may be right. I simply could not believe that he could make that claim with a straight face when he must know that the budget is delivering \$45.7 million this year into the Mount Lindesay Highway and it will continue to deliver. He must be thinking back to the LNP budgets. They were the ones that delivered absolutely nothing that exists today north of Jimboomba on the Mount Lindesay Highway. That is right. The only piece of services they delivered in investment between Browns Plains and Jimboomba—the \$800,000—is now being removed as we build the North Maclean safety project.

The member for Scenic Rim must pretend not to see the roadworks currently underway at North Maclean and South Maclean. He must drive past them somehow blind. If he does not get it, I will explain to him and the House what is going on. We are building the safe access road from Chambers Flat Road through to Greenbank Road and a safe intersection at Greenbank Road. That eliminates all of those service roads, especially things like the mushroom farm where at shift change there are so many cars turning right. We are investing another \$14 million to eradicate more side roads on the other side of the river in South Maclean, with short service roads through to Wharf Street and on the other side to the temple. On festival days, it is really important to eliminate that traffic and take them to the much safer intersection at Stockleigh Road so it is much safer on the Mount Lindesay Highway as you come across the bridge.

We have also budgeted for construction soon to start on the four-laning in Park Ridge South between Rosia Road and Stoney Camp Road. Twenty per cent of the traffic gets off at that point, so it is vital that we keep the four-laning through there. We also have four-laning budgeted to be built between Camp Cable Road and Johanna Street, lifting the road on the right hand side to reduce the incidence of flooding that can occasionally cut the Mount Lindesay Highway at that point. If the member for Scenic Rim missed all of that, he also would have missed the \$14,391,000 for improving the intersections between Jimboomba and Beaudesert. That is new investment for improving safety that the LNP are simply blind to. That is more in investments alone than the LNP put in in their seven years when they had control of the budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: That is right—three years and the four years out. I will be kind. I am sure the member for Scenic Rim just missed it. I welcome him to let me explain the budget documents so he cannot miss it. I have got them here. I also need to mention the ongoing construction at North Street, building the new four-lane intersection that I am told by engineers will reduce congestion by 80 per cent. This is vital as currently with the small roundabout the traffic can frustratingly back up all the way to Stegman Road.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will come to order yet again. Member for Scenic Rim!

Mr POWER: They do not like the fact that for the three years they were in they added nothing, and in the four years in their outward budget they told Queenslanders they planned to do nothing. That is seven years of inaction on the Mount Lindesay Highway. We know that. They do not like it but we know it. There is also planning for the remaining sections and I will be pushing to get them built as soon as possible.

I also need to mention the \$1.8 million investment in improving the intersection of Edelsten Road and Camp Cable Road. Camp Cable Road is a vital east-west connection, and I will continue to push to make it safer and easier to drive on. This budget continues to fund for public transport—things like the Demand Responsive Transport, which is an innovative initiative, and also the car parking space at the Greenbank RSL park-and-ride, which is such a vital part of getting people to use our public transport through to the city.


Our improved roads will help families get to work and school. They will also help our local police and other services be delivered quicker. One example that might be of interest is the new ambulance station in Munruben that was announced in this budget to be built on the corner of the Mount Lindesay Highway and Chambers Flat Road. This adds to the 24-hour station that is soon to start construction in Yarrabilba. I thank the Minister for Health for his support for getting these vital services to our growing area. There is funding for the police station that will transform the Logan Village police facility into a police station, having an officer in charge there to serve the Logan Village and Yarrabilba.

As a former high school teacher, I can say that the schools in our area are so vital. One of the things I value is the new Yarrabilba State High School that will open next year, building on the new Yarrabilba State School. We have the new classrooms for Park Ridge. The member for Waterford and I share the Logan Reserve State School, where we are building new classrooms. We are also pushing for new schools south of Logan Reserve and also in Greenbank. These are tasks that we have to keep going for.

We are backing our sports clubs with many examples. There are the Redbacks and their new amenities block where we have continuing funding. There is the Park Ridge Panthers Football Club where my son plays where we are getting continuing funding for the lights. There is funding for the

Mustangs Rugby League team and the Shaw Street facility in Yarrabilba. We are also getting funding for the Logan Hospital that others have spoken about. This is vital investment that the LNP simply were not going to deliver and we are.

The budget of the Deputy Premier and Premier is one that delivers. It delivers security, support, stability and services for Queenslanders. I commend the budget to the House and I ask all those to support it for the services that a growing area in Logan needs.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (1.18 am): I rise to speak on the 2019-20 state budget. It would seem that we are bleeding. Whether it is to do with tunnels or the Public Service, Queensland looks to be bleeding. It is a body that is left with half its blood, but it is trying to give itself a transfusion with its own blood to stay alive.

Firstly, I will commend and thank the taxpayers for giving the Queensland government the opportunity of funding a number of important new and continuing projects across my electorate of Mirani. The budget papers indicate that both state and federal contributions have been secured to begin the Walkerston bypass, an important project that has been delayed by both major parties for well over 40 years. I am sure the local community will be looking forward to the day that hundreds of heavy vehicles bound for the Bowen Basin are removed from the main street of town. Notably, a year or so ago a B-double rolled over right on the edge of the school kerbing. Luckily, it was before school finished for the day.

I must question why this budget needs to reannounce significant allocations for Eton Range and the Mackay bypass stage 1. These projects are nearing completion after previous election promises and several years of construction. I will concede that these projects have provided a solid amount of local employment. This being the case, new projects will be needed to sustain employment and retain skills and capability. The budget offers a scope of roadworks across the 63,000 square kilometres of my electorate that is underwhelming. I will give thanks for smaller allocations for several works on the Capricorn and Bruce highways and support for some of the rural roads in the upper Pioneer Valley. However, these roadworks are a proverbial drop in the very large bucket of need in the Mirani electorate. I am very disappointed—and I would suggest the member for Burdekin would share a similar view—about the May Downs to Clarke Creek road including a flood resilient bridge across the Isaac River. It is a real pity that this project has been delayed for another year.

I have a lot of dirt roads across my electorate. With the pending growth in the Bowen Basin, a construction start on Rookwood Weir and the renewables project set to begin in Marlborough and St Lawrence hinterland, the opportunity to better facilitate resident employees from the surrounding communities and boost tourism in general is lost through inaction and delay. Speaking of delays, Rookwood Weir, the project getting a start, will be a huge opportunity to expand agriculture in the lower Fitzroy. However, it is a shame that the present government appears unwilling at this time to put the shovel-ready Upper Connors Dam and pipeline project back on the agenda. The Connors Dam project actually started construction in 2012 until it was abruptly mothballed by the Newman LNP government. The Bowen Basin is in the midst of a new upswing and is set to provide decades of high-value foundation commercial customers. Additionally, there is widespread recognition that we need more water storages and agricultural development. Finishing the Upper Connors Dam would provide a superb battery five times larger than Rookwood to ensure that the Lower Fitzroy and the coalfields never suffer water insecurity again.

Speaking of matters security related, might I address the military expansion at Shoalwater Bay involving the Broadsound, Stanage Bay, Port Alma and Bajool. I do respectfully suggest that the Queensland government shows due regard to managing transition of land uses. The expanding footprint of the military reserves and explosives storage bunkers will involve the potential loss of prime grazing acreages and significant social displacement with a number of small rural communities. This budget offers little compensation or opportunities towards offsetting the pending loss of productive land. Might I suggest future budgets consider support for feedlots, high-value irrigated export cropping, expanding biofuels production and aquaculture but in doing so it should respect the continuing interest of the existing landowners. I certainly do not want city based bureaucrats callously handing out opportunities to multinationals that in turn will drain away profitability. That profit should go directly back into the pockets of the long-term local families and resident workforces of the dozens of local communities across the Mirani electorate.

This budget does little to offer cost-effective water and electricity, and sensible land and environmental management. I know we have the reef bill coming forward, and recently I spoke with some of the environmental minister's staff. We do have an opportunity, hopefully working with all the

ministers, that might provide for farmers action towards reducing the cost of water and also reducing the cost of electricity, considering that the Teemburra Dam in my electorate only used four per cent of its water allocation last year. We did not have the gas to burn in the cogeneration. We also had reduced amounts of molasses to feed our cattle, and a lot of the farmers are suffering very badly because of that. The government is kidding itself that we have any future in pursuing agricultural opportunities unless illogical financial and legislative impediments that exist currently are sorted out immediately.

Speaking of regional opportunities, I seriously hope the government can get its act together and facilitate a plan to re-establish mining and environmental rehabilitation at Mount Morgan. This budget offers nothing to get the mine tours happening, nothing for the fireclay caverns to open for business, nor any measures or in-kind support for any attractions in this historic town. Queensland owes a debt of gratitude for the huge economic contributions the Mount Morgan community has made for over a hundred years and more. We should look back to that community and actually give them a hand. It is a shame that we have stemmed the tourist flow by shutting down any of the attractions they might have had.

At nearby Stanwell, I recognise the reinvestment in capital maintenance at the power station. Whilst many may well malign the fact it burns coal, the plant is still young and has decades of life remaining and will keep providing hundreds of jobs for constituents and businesses of all kinds across Mirani, Gregory and Callide as well as the ALP held seats of Rockhampton and nearby Keppel.

My seat is obviously huge, and the list of needs being answered by this budget is still a long way from getting a pass mark. In Sarina, whilst there is money granted in this budget towards the redevelopment of the hospital, it is most annoying that this important health facility has been treated like a football across numerous elections. As recently as last month, the federal ALP was promising to contribute towards the full \$43 million needed, but yet again Sarina misses out. This sort of rubbish has to stop. It is not fair that a genuine critical need exists but is subject to silly politics for over a decade.

Speaking of matters illogical, the budget offers nothing towards the Sarina community's request for pedestrian safety upgrades on the Anzac Street level crossing. The upgrades are the same as those put in place at the Central Street crossing. Over 600 kids use that crossing every week. There is a great risk. There are two different types of trains—locomotives and normal trains—and they go at different speeds, which places the kids at risk of being run over or hurt. We should do something about it such as installing safety fencing and automatic barrier gates to avoid the unnecessary tragedy of a group of schoolkids walking out in front of a Queensland Rail train or a Wilmar sugar tram whilst moving between campuses of the high school.

Talking about the school, I look forward to Sarina State High School finally getting a decent school hall, which will also double as an emergency shelter. However, like the hospital, I suspect the present government will seek to portray the small allocation as a start but will leave full funding to the mercy of future election outcomes. That hall is a very important part of the Sarina community not just for the actual high school itself but for the clusters that live around Sarina. At the moment everyone is having to drive to Mackay. That hall not only doubles as a place for the cluster schools to come—and I know the Minister for Education has put some money towards this. I know it will be good for the community going forward. It does not matter whether it is for an Anzac Day celebration or just to shelter people during a severe weather event.

Speaking of inclement weather events, much of my electorate is exposed to cyclones and big rain and storm events. Too often the coastal communities of Camilla, Koumala, Clairview, Ogmoo and Yaamba are first to suffer through unreliable electricity and loss of communications. This budget offers nothing of substance, although we do note that the Pandoan substation had some reclosures going in and some fault locators on the actual line. It is one of the longest lines and it is very problematic.

I now wish to reflect on the massive bushfires last November, when my electorate of Mirani was smack in the middle of the Central Queensland bushfires. Numerous fire grounds stretched from Dalrymple Heights and Eungella through to The Caves, Kabra and Alton Downs. The exact figure of how much ground was burnt out was about 200,000 square kilometres. It was huge, yet this budget offers very little to assist landowners recover from the lasting damage caused and, in many cases, the cost of fighting fires on state owned land. After personally visiting just about every fire ground over the two weeks, it was clear that rural volunteers and emergency services professionals, including QPS, that served at these events within my electorate were pure gold and they backed the community to no end. I am very proud of the way they performed their service. They were very professional. I certainly hope

the solid recommendations and directions stemming from bushfire and other disaster recovery review panels are delivered shortly and that respective ministers have resourced the 2019-20 budget in expectation.

I harbour deep fears that summer 2019-20 will be equally as bad if not worse. To add my two bob's worth, I again mention the continued absence of a state contribution to improve Finch Hatton International Airport so that it is ready to serve as a runway for future water-bombing evacuation efforts. The hasty rebuild of the emergency strip last year enabled 350,000 kilograms of water to be dropped on the Eungella area fires. I refer to the efforts of the pilots and their dedicated ground crews who were able to turn the planes around every eight minutes. They were in and out. I visited and dropped off drinks and ice to them. They did an amazing job. They saved a lot of houses and a lot of community assets. In some of my communities, it is very likely that lives would have been lost without those people doing what they did. I hope we get some funding to ensure it continues.

Speaking of tragedies, I reflect on the tragedy of the Queensland ambulance officer in my electorate who lost control of his vehicle while responding to an emergency call-out. It was a very sad and terrible event. I met this person when I worked in the mines prior to my life now. Whilst not seeking to attribute the cause of this accident to an absence of such, I have taken advice from many across the communities of the Pioneer Valley who have since questioned why there is a shortage of officers and why the growing towns of Walkerston, Marian and Mirani do not have their own ambulance station. Putting a new combined QAS and QFES at Marian affords a quicker response time for over 10,000 people. When frequent road accidents occur along the Peak Downs Highway and parts of the Bruce Highway, this should happen.

As a member representing a rural and peri-urban electorate for the last 18 months, it is crystal clear that to me my seat comes up well short on education, health and many community services. My seat contains three high schools, two of which will be bursting at the seams within a few years. One certainly appreciates the upgrade of K block at Mirani State High School, but my calls to think ahead and secure land for a new high school in Ooralea were not answered in this year's budget. Thankfully, I put it on the horizon for next time. What is patently absurd from reading the minister's knockback letter and reading through the GW3 regional projects list is that this government plans to spend millions on roads around the already bloated Mackay State High School. How ridiculous to be planning to expand Mackay State High School by another 500 to 600 children when we could build a new school right beside the Mackay Ring Road, Central Queensland University, and make much better use of the brand-new aquatic and athletic facility.

My seat has the burgeoning Paget industrial estate positioned right across the road, and thousands of acres of prime land for residential housing with soon-to-be-improved access to the Bowen Basin. Literally, there are local jobs on the doorstep. Why must we put everything into the south-east and then see budget after budget shell out tens of billions more on tunnels and 10-lane motorways? In many ways, the money that funds this folly comes from regional Queensland. The environmental credentials of the present government must be questioned as way too much environmental damage is caused through expanding the south-east corner metropolis.

Might the next budget look more seriously at decentralising our population into the communities across my electorate of Mirani? Neighbouring Gregory and Mirani would gladly see more people move back to the regions. Bowen Basin mining is moving ahead. The Galilee Basin, as of a few hours ago, is a go. Furthermore, local tourism would do better if the cost-of-living issues were properly fixed, freeing up people's time to have weekends away. Reflecting on the budget, I feel the electors of Mirani are not getting their fair share. I do thank taxpayers for their contribution, and I thank the Labor government for handing down the budget.

Debate, on motion of Mr Andrew, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Climate Change



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (1.34 am): Being 1.30 am, it is probably not the time to get into a contentious issue, but I am going to give it a crack by sharing some thoughts about the environment and climate change. I do not believe in climate change. Rather, I accept the science of climate change. These are two very different things. I am sick of politicians using the word 'belief' in this debate. I think they do it to make a fight or to posture, and that achieves nothing. The definition of 'belief' is the

acceptance of an idea, especially one without proof, but with this issue there is undeniable proof. Science relies on evidence, not belief. I am proud to represent at least one climate scientist, Labradorian Dr Johanna Nalau of Griffith University.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock, please. Members, there is far too much conversation. If you are leaving, please leave. If you are having conversations, please stop or take them outside.

Mr O'CONNOR: I refer to Labradorian Dr Johanna Nalau of Griffith University. We caught up earlier this year. Johanna got in touch after I posted about 30-year-old cabinet papers from the then Queensland National Party government discussing climate change, noting almost unanimous consensus that global temperatures were rising. She engages with young people who have concerns about our climate and reflected that they think those who are now making decisions and policies will be long gone before the worst impacts materialise.


We need sensible solutions, so I welcome the opposition leader's comments yesterday that the LNP will unlock the benefits of green energy by mandating our power companies to invest in renewables. Sadly, the government has overseen not a single dollar of investment by CleanCo into renewable energy capacity. It has blocked our electricity generators from competing with renewables. That has seen workers laid off and has even threatened CS Energy's credit rating.

We need reliable baseload power and, increasingly, that has to come from gas instead of coal. Burning gas does produce emissions but far fewer than coal-fired power. That makes the government's surprise 25 per cent increase in the royalty rate for gas even more disappointing. It slugs a fuel source that we need to cut our emissions.

We need to do more practically for our local environmental assets, the biggest of which of course is our beautiful Broadwater. I was disappointed to see a \$2 million funding cut in the budget for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. How does that keep our Broadwater clean? How does that protect Curlew Island and its unique wildlife?

I talk about light rail a lot, so I will add that it gave me great confidence to hear the opposition leader say that she will work with Canberra to finally get stage 3A to Burleigh built, after we did not see a cent in this year's budget. More people using public transport means fewer emissions. Light rail is what the Gold Coast has chosen and we need to roll it out across our city. We need cheaper public transport fares generally. The huge costs at the moment mean people drive their cars to Brisbane, causing extra congestion and doing nothing to lower emissions. Climate change is real. We need action from across government to make more sustainable systems and to safeguard our state for future generations.

Greater Flagstone Infrastructure Agreement

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (1.37 am): The Jordan electorate is growing. I am acutely aware of the opportunities and the significant challenges that this brings, particularly for the new development areas within Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone. As part of the designated Greater Flagstone Priority Development Area, these communities will grow substantially over the next 30 to 40 years as envisaged by Shaping SEQ, the South East Queensland Regional Plan. At the local level, my priority is very clear: to ensure our government is delivering the infrastructure and services that keep pace with these growing communities. I was therefore very pleased to join the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, along with the member for Logan, to announce that a landmark infrastructure agreement has been signed for both the Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba priority development areas.

This \$1.2 billion infrastructure agreement is the largest deal of its type to be executed by any government in Australia and will secure the subregional infrastructure needs to these growing areas over the next 40 years. The agreement, signed by the Queensland government, Logan City Council and the nine key developers within the PDAs, will provide the necessary funding and framework for new and upgraded local roads as well as water and sewerage facilities. The nine key developers, which include Lend Lease, Peet, Mirvac and Villa World, will fund the infrastructure through up-front charges at a significantly higher rate than if they were developing outside the PDAs. Why are we doing this? It is because we need to guarantee the local roads, water supply and wastewater infrastructure are ready and available to connect these emerging communities with the surrounding networks without placing an impost on existing ratepayers.

Residents regularly raise with me their concerns that they believe local roads and services will not cope as these new communities grow. This infrastructure agreement confirms that some 170 kilometres of council roads will be upgraded through these developer contributions, and over the next

six years alone we will see up to \$400 million in infrastructure investment which will also support more than 130 construction jobs each year. The agreement paves the way for a strong and growing community, not only benefiting new residents eager to move in but also bringing benefits to those pioneers who have lived in Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone for many years.

We are also working closely on delivering more services and facilities within Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba. Whilst Yarrabilba is more advanced in its development journey, I am pleased to now see an increased focus on Greater Flagstone, particularly in relation to the planning of new schools, community centres and health facilities as well as public transport, which I know is a significant issue for these communities. Over the next 30 to 40 years the Greater Flagstone and Yarrabilba PDAs will deliver a substantial portion of the new housing needed in South-East Queensland, and you are most welcome. However, what this historic infrastructure agreement will provide is the foundation for these new communities to become not only a connected part of the City of Logan but an increasingly important part of the South-East Queensland corner.

Prenzlau State School, Nature Based Play



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (1.40 am): Like many kids growing up in Queensland, I have fond memories of playing in the creek, building dams, climbing trees and building cubbyhouses. Imagine if your child went to school and came home and told you that he or she had just been playing in the creek, building dams, climbing trees and building cubbyhouses. You would probably think something might not be right, but tonight I want to pay tribute to the first gold level primary Nature Play education provider in Queensland. The Prenzlau State School is setting new standards in primary education by embracing a wide variety of teaching styles using outdoor play. Experts advise that access to active play in nature or outdoors, with its risks, is essential for developing a healthy child.

Once this principle was understood by the school, the hard work began. Great leadership was shown by Principal Lisa Noonan and her team—Stacey D’Andilly, Sandi Ogilvie and Rachael Virgo. Sandi is the Forest School Leader. The school implemented this exciting program in 2018 and this year the school will have full implementation. This sounds like fun, and it is fun. When kids are having fun and playing outdoors they move more, sit less, play longer, learn balance and risky play and respect their own and others’ safety. Apart from the health benefits, kids learn increased resilience and self-regulation. It did take a team to get this result. Principal Lisa Noonan paid tribute to the whole school for owning this new concept and embedding the outdoor learning program in the school. Special thanks to the P&C through president Tony Lehmann, treasurer Brendan McGee and secretary Kim Burn. The parents with expertise, particularly diggers, were very important.

What does this Nature Play look like? The gully was transformed into a real creek bed. The ground had trampolines dug in and the sandpit became a sand lagoon. There were trees and rock gardens to climb. Prenzlau State School has been recently showcased in the Childhood Summit in Brisbane. Prenzlau State School is doing great things in education, but the community spirit in Prenzlau is something to be inspired by. There are great things to come in the future.

Mansfield Electorate, Queensland Day Awards




Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (1.43 am): I rise to speak about the recent Queensland Day awards held at our Mount Gravatt Bowls Club and hosted by Club Southside. Formerly Southside Sport and Community Club, Club Southside is a key social and community hub that supports the diverse community of the Mansfield electorate. Held since 2003, the Queensland Day awards and morning tea are held in conjunction with our annual community benefits and beneficiaries donations. This year Club Southside donated more than \$520,000 to different community groups—a wonderful contribution to our community. Each year from 1 February to 30 April Club Southside opens its community benefits grants process whereby local organisations can apply for grants from \$500 to \$4,000. Special thanks go to the board members for assistance with assigning these grants to worthwhile community groups.

This year Club Southside donated to the following community organisations: Access Outreach Australia, with support for fuel costs to run their four street vans feeding our homeless people of Brisbane; Bestlife, which offers unique respite for children with disabilities and their families operating out of Mackenzie Special School; BKB Community Sports Mentoring and Coaching; C&K Mt Gravatt East Community Kindergarten; Easts Mount Gravatt Junior Rugby League Club to purchase items to upgrade their speaker system; the Lions Club of Brisbane, MacGregor; the Mount Gravatt Local Ambulance Committee; the Mount Gravatt Men’s Shed; and Tag 5.

I congratulate the following recipients of my 2019 Mansfield electorate Queensland Day awards. The Community Spirit Award goes to Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels and St Catherine's Primary School P&F. The Dennis Webb Neighbourhood Watch Award goes to Frank Smyth from Rochedale Neighbourhood Watch and Margaret Cameron from Wishart Neighbourhood Watch. The Sport Award went to Sergeant Mick Morier from Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station and basketballer Brian Kerle. The Environment Award went to the Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Development Action Group and Susan Jones from B4C. The Community Project Award went to Ken Mulcahy and Mackenzie Bushcare. Finally, the Southside Queenslander of the Year was awarded to Upper Mount Gravatt State School P&C President Tania Harman.

As the proud member for Mansfield, I would like to thank Club Southside for investing in my community and, in particular, president Stein Grodum; marketing manager, Peter O'Grady; the grants committee, Bernard Hatton and Debbie Ashworth; the group accountant, Renee Hatton; and the entire staff at Club Southside and the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club for making the Queensland Day awards for 2019 incredibly memorable.

Brightwater

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (1.46 am): A suburb where kids can throw a fishing line into the lake on the way home from school. A suburb that black swans and the odd wallaby make home. A suburb with a vibrant community association, Neighbourhood Watch and a high-performing local school. The perfect place to retire or to raise your kids. That suburb that I describe is Brightwater, in my electorate of Buderim.


Brightwater is a relatively new suburb that sits between the Sunshine Motorway and the Mooloolah River. It is a place that Australians and recent immigrants alike have set down roots. They are attracted by the sensational views, the laid-back atmosphere and a healthy lifestyle. Brightwater is a community that is designed around a lake—a lake that locals stroll around with the dog and is a great place to catch a mangrove jack or giant trevally for dinner. Brightwater is a suburb that has long walking trails and great parks. My family and I often head off to Brightwater to play on the excellent park equipment and we always have a great time.

One of the attractions of Brightwater for many families is the excellent schools that exist in and around Brightwater. Brightwater State School opened its doors in January 2012. Since then it has grown quickly. It is a modern independent public school that prides itself on teaching old-fashioned values of manners, respect, courtesy and self-discipline. Brightwater State School is ably led by principal Robyn Taplin and has a wonderful group of dedicated teachers. The school takes pride in maintaining strong links with the community and has an active P&C, which runs the tuckshop and contributes significantly to school projects such as the air-conditioning of classrooms and the building of playgrounds for younger students. Under the leadership of Conor Walsh, the Brightwater P&C is planning its second school fete, which will be held in September this year. I look forward to sponsoring the event and participating in school fundraising activities like the dunk tank.

Like all suburbs, Brightwater has occasional issues that need to be addressed. After community concern about youth causing issues in parks around the suburb, I was heartened to witness the community response coordinated by the Brightwater Neighbourhood Watch and the Brightwater Community Association. Under the leadership of Keith Buxton and Allan Rankin, the Brightwater community came together to discuss the issue with the Queensland Police Service and me at a community forum. The result has been a cohesive community response that, although a work in progress, is a testament to how much the locals care about the suburb of Brightwater.

I look forward to coming together with the rest of the community to celebrate Brightwater at the Brightwater Block Party on 21 July. Brightwater is a wonderful place with a deep sense of community. For the privilege of representing the good people of Brightwater, I say thank you.

Speed Cameras

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (1.49 am): As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I am acutely conscious of my responsibility for the safety of Queenslanders on our roads. Owing to strong political leadership over many governments, significant road safety improvements and enforcement have seen fatality rates fall from a height of 638 in 1973 to 245 last year—a drop, on average, of 11.1 deaths per 100,000 Queenslanders to 4.8 per deaths per 100,000 Queenslanders last year—but that fatality rate is still far too high. Random breath testing,

police enforcement, random speed cameras, road safety campaigns, safer vehicles and better and tougher road rules all play important roles in safer driving and fewer crashes, deaths and hospitalisations.

To be frank, although many people understand why these measures are in place, support them and drive accordingly, often due to being personally touched by the loss of a friend, workmate or family member, there are still some who do not. Last year we had 245 deaths too many on our Queensland roads. Until we arrive at zero deaths, it is clear that more reforms are needed on our roads. That requires strong, ethical leadership by governments to increase road safety, even if that means some may not like it. No-one likes getting a speeding ticket, but the fact is that speeding kills. We know that in 2018 more than 60 people died on Queensland roads due to speeding.

It was with astonishment and, I have to say, revulsion that I heard a senior Queensland politician say that if the LNP wins the next election it will completely get rid of all covert speed cameras in Queensland. Those words from the deputy leader of the state LNP opposition, the member for Everton, were most likely endorsed by the current Leader of the Opposition. Let me not mince words: this policy is irresponsible, reckless and coldly callous. After random speed cameras were introduced in 2009, Queensland's fatality rate on our roads fell. Speed cameras are an important part of reducing speeding and deaths on our roads. They may not be popular, but they are effective in preventing speeding and crashes because everyone knows they can be fined anywhere anytime. Speed cameras reduce the amount of speeding.

It is a total failure of moral leadership for the member for Everton and current Leader of the Opposition to basely trawl for votes by announcing they will reduce road safety measures that are already in place and have saved many lives on Queensland roads over the last decade. Let me be clear: banning random speed cameras would mean more speeding and more deaths on Queensland roads. That is a fact. The thought of that repulses me and should repulse every member. As the minister for over four years, I have read about too many tragedies not to stand up to this failure of leadership by the members for Everton and Nanango. I call on them to immediately repeal their stated policy to reduce road safety.

(Time expired)

Cyclone Ada, Memorial



Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—Ind) (1.52 am): This morning I would like to tell the House and the wider Queensland community about a little victory in the Whitsundays of late. This victory is not about building bridges, roads or schools; rather, it is a very symbolic and important victory for long-time locals. We have finally secured funding for a public memorial for those people who perished in deadly Cyclone Ada almost half a century ago. This call for a memorial is something I have held dear to my heart for quite some time. I am not alone. People like Kaye Cronan and Gloria Demartini and others who are survivors and who have a close connection to the victims and their families who perished in that terrible disaster have been fighting the good fight as well. Recently it was most pleasing to see the Whitsunday Regional Council finally succumb to pressure that I have applied over a long period but also community pressure to do something about it. We are not looking to build the Taj Mahal; we are just looking to have a dignified, respectful memorial erected in time for the 50th anniversary in January 2020.

For those people who are not familiar with Cyclone Ada, on 17 January 1970 Cyclone Ada, a deadly storm, took the lives of 14 people from Proserpine through to the Whitsunday islands, including one family that vanished without a trace on the *Whakatane*, which was never seen again. For all we know, that vessel could be at the bottom of the Whitsunday Passage, the same passage that Cook sailed through 269 years ago.

Former mayor Mario Demartini said to me once at Shute Harbour that after Cyclone Ada Shute Harbour looked more like Pearl Harbor than Shute Harbour. The damage was profound, particularly to our island resorts—iconic Daydream, South Molle, Hook, Hayman and Long. They all copped it. One family that was impacted is the Turners. They have been known to the Costigans for probably a century. Gib Turner was holidaying on South Molle at the time of Cyclone Ada. His first wife sadly died in that disaster and Mr Turner was lucky to live to tell the tale.

My grandfather used to deliver the mail to the Turners at Blenheim Station. I remember hearing him some time ago say, 'Mr Turner, I will do everything I can to get that memorial built,' and it is finally happening. It is memory of those 14 souls and to recognise the volunteers, the emergency services personnel, the concerned locals and the army, who all contributed valiantly to the recovery effort in the hours and days that followed deadly Cyclone Ada.

Redlands Electorate, Volunteers



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (1.55 am): Volunteers are at the heart of my Redlands community. Winston Churchill said—

You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

It was wonderful to celebrate National Volunteer Week, with this year's theme being 'Making a world of difference'. That is what our volunteers in the Redlands do: they make a world of difference. The week was made even more special in the Redlands with the Premier joining me and the member for Capalaba, Don Brown, to say thank you to many of our organisations. It was a wonderful afternoon and such a great opportunity for all our volunteers to get to know each other and share the great work they do in our community each and every day.

I want to go through the diversity of volunteers, because it was staggering to have them all in the one room. We had sporting groups of every code—from footy through to netball, sailing and boating. We had our hardworking school P&Cs, seniors groups, Rotary, Lions, Meals on Wheels, STAR Transport, resident and progress associations, men's sheds, dementia prevention, mental health and suicide prevention support groups, domestic violence prevention groups, the Night Ninjas, Volunteers in Policing, Crime Stoppers, our arts and creative alliances, bands, choruses, our museum, Coastcare, Bushcare, Guides, Scouts, Venturers, gardening clubs, Volunteer Coast Guard, Volunteer Marine Rescue, rural fireys and local ambulance committees. There are so many amazing Redlands organisations.

We also heard from some incredible individuals who talked about the importance of volunteering in their organisations: James Farrell, the general manager of the Queensland Cancer Council—our Redlands cancer council do an amazing job; Betty Taylor, CEO and founder of the Red Roses Foundation; Volunteering Redlands chair Nectaria Chronopoulos; and the incredible Garry White, chair of the Victoria Point Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank.

I want to close with a poem written by Garry particularly for the event. He spent a heap of time googling and finding words that rhyme with 'volunteer'. It reads—

We group together ... to volunteer We stand shoulder to shoulder ... Peer to peer
We stick together, we adhere And when we do ... we show no fear
When times are tough ... we shed a tear Then band together ... on a new frontier
So many of us here ... volunteer Time and again ... year after year
We are as one ... not just a veneer We form a fabric ... we deeply cohere
Some volunteers ... make it their career Others appear ... then disappear
For me I think, it's very clear We're here to give a hearty cheer
In a community that we hold so dear We cannot help ... but truly revere
With heartfelt thanks ... most sincere From pioneer to engineer
You love the feel ... the atmosphere When you give of yourselves ... to volunteer

To all the volunteers that day he gave his heartfelt thanks for making the Redlands coast a fabulous place to live. I do not think I could have put it any better; there is no better place to live than the Redlands.

North Stradbroke Island, Protests



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (1.58 am): The North Stradbroke Island community is outraged with the Palaszczuk government, with hundreds of people attending recent protests. With the government's economic transition stalling, many locals now refer to North Stradbroke Island as 'Trad-broke Island'. Deputy Premier Trad broke the island. The island was working well, but now it needs fixing due to the Deputy Premier's rush to shut down the resources sector without a plan.

QRC former chief executive Michael Roche predicted an economic and social disaster. The social consequences are already visible—rising unemployment, Aboriginal disadvantage and social disharmony. Labor's policies are producing a divided community between Indigenous groups and Quandamooka and non-Indigenous peoples and families.

A local publication highlighted this increasing social disharmony. On the cover page traditional owners and protest organisers Uncle Norm Enoch and Allison Myers led the Save Straddie 2019 protest against the state government and QYAC with signs like 'Your decisions are causing community trauma: stop'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Document, dated June 2019, titled 'The Friendly Bay Islander Monthly, Vol. 8, No. 9' [986].

The large protest of 300 to 400 people expressed their concerns about the lack of consultation by the Queensland government and QYAC regarding the economic transition strategy. Many local Aboriginal community members and non-Aboriginal residents are angry about the lack of consultation and engagement with the island community. Respected Quandamooka community elder and protest organiser Uncle Norm Enoch says—

Many local Aboriginal community members and groups have been excluded from the planning, consultation and authorisation processes.


Indigenous protest organiser Allison Myers expressed her concerns that the government is out of touch with the local Quandamooka people and ignoring the long-held aspirations of many traditional owners.

The location of the ETS initiative of a proposed whale interpretative centre being at the environmentally sensitive and iconic headlands area at Point Lookout drew a protest in late 2018 of 400 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members. Despite 20,000 people signing a petition and calls to locate the development elsewhere, the state government is ploughing ahead with its plans. Similar concerns of social disharmony were raised in the May editorial piece titled 'All is not well on North Stradbroke Island'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Friendly Bay Islander* online, dated 29 May 2019, titled 'All is not well on North Stradbroke Island' [987].

The Save Straddie 2019 group has called for an official, independent inquiry into what is currently going on. I call on the Premier to investigate her government's disruptive approach on Straddie and why Labor is not listening to island residents. I also support a federal inquiry to get the bottom of things through Ken Wyatt, the first Aboriginal Minister for Indigenous Australians. This may be necessary for the Quandamooka people to get fairness and justice if the Deputy Premier keeps selling them out to keep her job.

Yarrabilba State High School

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.01 am): In 2012 I attended the graduation at the Logan Village State School. At the end of that there was a sad moment when we saw the children divide up to go to five different high schools—all of them 20 kilometres away. When I ran for the seat of Logan in 2012 and lost, one of the things that disappointed me the most was that I would not be there to really fight for a new high school for the Logan Village and Yarrabilba areas.

Upon running again in 2015, I was gutted that nothing had been done to bring forward a new high school—nothing at all. In fact, despite strong growth and many young families moving to the area, not one new classroom had been built in the Logan electorate—not one classroom. Logan parents do not forget that no new classrooms or schools were built or even planned by the LNP. The member for Nanango sat at the CBRC table cutting and sacking but could never build for the Logan community.

As soon as we were elected I urged the then member for Ashgrove and education minister to build new classrooms. We built a new six-classroom block at Logan Village. Then we followed up by building the new Yarrabilba State School. It quickly grew. Even before it opened I moved on to pushing for the new state high school. When the Premier and the education minister came to Yarrabilba on the first day of school to meet the students and open the school, I was already pointing over the ridge to the site of the future high school.

At first the department said we would never get the \$60 million needed. Together with the community, we went door to door and went to the mingle markets in Yarrabilba with a petition calling for the school. We gathered the facts about growth in the area and emphasised how long students had to travel to schools that already had a large number of students. This was the community getting together. I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government listened to the community and acted.

We started construction on the high school earlier this year. On a visit from the new education minister we met for the first time the new principal, Belinda Traeger. She was the former principal of Loganlea State High School. Recently Principal Traeger ran the first information night for prospective students and parents. The kids were so excited to see the plans and meet their principal and, most importantly, see that they could stay together with their mates and be part of a local school community. It is great to work together with Logan Village and Yarrabilba to deliver services. I know that if we make the case then the Palaszczuk government will listen and act.

The House adjourned at 2.03 am (Friday).

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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson