



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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## FRIDAY, 14 JUNE 2019

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, from 8 to 11 July 2019 I will host the 50th annual Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference at Queensland parliament. The conference will be opened by His Excellency the Governor. There will be a keynote address from Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Deputy Speaker of the UK House of Commons. The conference allows Speakers, presiding officers and clerks from parliaments in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to come together to share knowledge and learnings. It is also an opportunity to foster our important interparliamentary relations and build capacity.

The theme of this year's conference is 'The practicalities of presiding' and covers topics including procedural issues, community engagement and the administration of parliaments such as balancing security and access to the people's house.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the conference, this year's conference will also include a panel of former Speakers and clerks. I also thank the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business for agreeing to be guest speakers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** They are not on the same bill. It would be very interesting, but we have international guests!

#### Hawke, Hon. RJL, AC



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today former prime minister Bob Hawke will be farewelled at a state funeral in Sydney. Bob Hawke was the quintessential Australian, a man who respected the views of others but was true to his own ideals and beliefs. His contributions to Australia through public office have secured his place in Australian history, but it is his good humour and authenticity that have secured his place in our hearts. Rest in peace, Bob Hawke.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 26 April 2019 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House during a statement made on 2 April 2019. The matter relates to a statement about the provision of do-it-yourself, DIY, birthing kits to expectant mothers. In his letter to me the minister contended that the Leader of the Opposition's statement was incorrect and misleading as birthing kits are not provided to patients but instead are provided to nurses in hospitals to assist patients. The minister advised me that he made this clear in his answer to a question without notice on this issue in the House on 28 March 2019 and that the Leader of the Opposition was present in the House at the time.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against her, in accordance with standing order 269(5). The Leader of the Opposition provided me with information from media reports which she used as a basis for her statement in the House. She also

advised me that her statement did not specifically refer to the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service area, which was the subject of the minister's answer to the question without notice on 28 March 2019.

On the evidence before me, I consider that the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation of the basis of her statement under standing order 269(4). I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. However, I wish to take the opportunity to remind members of their responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains and strengthens the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the parliament. Members are to take care when making statements in the House to ensure their accuracy, particularly when drawing on media reports or material from third parties. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 April 2019, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, deliberately misled the House [995].

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence, dated 7 May 2019, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, providing a response to an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [996].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tour



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Bernard's School, Upper Mount Gravatt, in the electorate of Mansfield.

## 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)—

[988](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (3099-19) sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Sorensen, from 67 petitioners, requesting the House to redesign and fix the Booral and Keen Road intersection at Bunya Creek and plan to upgrade all intersections along Booral Road between Maryborough Hervey Bay Road and Main Street

[989](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (3135-19) presented by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, and an ePetition (3088-19) sponsored by the member for Burleigh, Mr Hart, from 903 and 165 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to introduce a new bus service at Oyster Creek Road to enable residents of Old Burleigh Town to travel directly to and from a main transport hub such as Treetops Shopping Centre

#### MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[990](#) Nonconforming petition relating to proposed Peachester Park

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Hawke, Hon. RJL, AC




**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Today we mourn a great Australian, a brilliant mind, a fierce advocate and a genuine leader: Robert James Lee Hawke. Friends and admirers are gathering in Sydney to farewell a man who bridged the political divide without ever forgetting who he was and who he spent a lifetime defending. Even now, Bob's example shows us the right way to lead. He fought for things, not against them—for ideals, for his beliefs. He fought his whole life for working people but did it in a way that was less about 'us and them' and more about what we could achieve working together. He called it consensus.

He brought in Medicare, ATSIC, superannuation and APEC. He protected our Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. It was Bob's leadership in the union movement that marshalled worldwide condemnation and eventual defeat of apartheid. That was just for starters.

He loved Queensland and in particular he loved the Woodford Folk Festival and its celebration of ideas. I know that the Deputy Premier was there with him earlier this year. He told us to look after Woodford Folk Festival, and I know that we will. I last saw him in Barcaldine with Minister Dick and Minister Hinchliffe. He was not well enough to march that Labour Day, but he stood up from his chair, climbed onto the stage and held the crowded showgrounds spellbound, urging us all to keep fighting for working people. He told me at that time that it would be his last visit, and it was.


The sense of loss we feel today is a measure of how much Bob meant to all of us—a man of the people for the people. Vale, Bob Hawke.

### **Adani Carmichael Mine**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): The way is now clear for Adani to live up to its promise of jobs for Queensland. Barely a month after the federal government provided its approvals, I promised the timely delivery of our own processes. I have delivered on that promise. Now I expect Adani to hold up its end of the bargain. The company has promised 1,500 direct jobs and 6,700 indirect jobs, mostly in Rockhampton and Townsville. It has promised Queensland that these jobs are to be local jobs. I expect Adani to live up to that promise. It has promised to look after our environment. I am determined that it will. It said that given approval it could start work tomorrow. I have every confidence that the people of northern and Central Queensland will hold it to that promise and make it accountable.

My government has approved \$20 billion worth of mining projects. We have created more than 7,000 jobs. Adani is simply the latest of these. It will not be the last. This government has maintained the reasoned and sensible approach we started with and stuck to all along: this project would be approved as long as it stacked up financially and environmentally. The same is true of all other projects in this state.


### **Hawke, Hon. RJL, AC; Jobs**

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.38 am): Mr Speaker, I join with the Premier and you in acknowledging the passing of Bob Hawke and his memorial service, which is being conducted today. I am sure that many people on this side of the chamber would have attended had we not been here for the budget sitting.

This year's budget is about backing Queensland jobs, and yesterday's ABS data confirms our track record when it comes to job creation. Some 207,000 jobs have been created since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2015. Trend unemployment was stable in May and remains significantly lower than the peak of 6.7 per cent reached under those opposite. Job creation has been spread across regional Queensland. Since January 2015, 13,800 jobs have been created in Cairns and more than 10,000 jobs have been created in Wide Bay. Over the past year alone, nearly 3,000 jobs have been created in the Darling Downs and nearly 7,000 jobs have been created in Central Queensland. As we have been saying all week, this budget was about choices and we have chosen to stay the course and to back Queensland jobs. Some 207,000 jobs created is proof that our plan is working.

We also choose to continue our investment in front-line services. Since 2015, Queenslanders have benefited from an additional 4,800 teachers, nearly 1,400 teacher aides, over 2,000 additional doctors and nearly 6,000 additional nurses. Nowhere is our investment more obvious than in our regions. Some 96 per cent of the public sector workforce in Queensland's regions is in front-line and front-line support jobs—that is, police officers, ambos and firefighters—and this year's budget continues to back regional jobs. The Palaszczuk government's infrastructure investment in 2019-20 alone is projected to support 25,500 jobs outside greater Brisbane. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan, and it is working, and yesterday's labour force data proves it yet again.

### **Budget, Manufacturing**


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's fifth budget continues to power up the growth of manufacturing in Queensland. One of the greatest challenges faced by our state's manufacturers, though, is that they have to deal with the perception that manufacturing in our state is dead or dying. Hardworking business owners, manufacturing unions and the workers who contribute so much to the prosperity of our state have had enough of the nonsense and falsehoods,

much of it perpetrated by the LNP, about the decline of manufacturing in our state. The fact is that, because of our policies, the Palaszczuk Labor government is helping to strengthen manufacturing in Queensland.

Across the year ending in the March quarter 2019, Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that Queensland's manufacturing industry employed 173,400 people. That is an increase of 8,700 people over the previous year to the March quarter 2018. Manufacturing is the sixth largest employing industry in the state and contributed \$20.3 billion to our economy in terms of gross value added in 2017-18. That is an increase of \$1 billion over the previous year. Our government also has a plan to strengthen this sector into the long term through our Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan. We are establishing manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton to support local manufacturers and generate highly skilled jobs and we have secured and will deliver Rheinmetall's military vehicle centre of excellence in Ipswich.

The budget has boosted our Made in Queensland program to \$46 million to continue supporting small and medium sized manufacturers. This program has already funded 78 advanced manufacturing projects, of which 40 per cent were in regional Queensland. These existing projects alone are generating over 1,000 new jobs and approximately \$101 million in private sector investment. Together with industry, we are helping to improve productivity and competitiveness and generate more jobs. While some in politics will run down manufacturing, only the Palaszczuk Labor government will back Queensland manufacturers and back Queensland jobs.


### Budget, Innovation

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.43 am): We invest in innovation because we are committed to supporting Queensland companies and small and medium businesses to scale up and go global. Regional start-up hubs across the state, where we provide advice and administrative support for small businesses trying to grow, are vital to our economy and creating jobs in regional Queensland. Today I am proud to announce that 20 hubs across the state will receive a boost of \$1 million through our Regional Startup Hubs Support Program this week. Start-up hubs receiving support include Split Spaces in Mackay, Canvas Coworking in Toowoomba and the Gold Coast Innovation Hub in Robina on the Gold Coast.

**An honourable member:** Hear, hear!

**Ms JONES:** Hear, hear! Come on, member for Mermaid Beach! Regional mayors have been calling for additional support so they can back businesses in their local communities to grow. They understand that investing in their best and brightest will not only create jobs but keep jobs in their communities. That is why I recently attended the BIO conference on behalf of the state government with four regional mayors—Bundaberg Mayor Jack Dempsey, Gladstone Mayor Matt Burnett, Moreton Bay Mayor Allan Sutherland and Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson, all part of a strong Queensland delegation. That is why yesterday I announced that for the very first time since 2015 we have now cracked 15,000 jobs created through our Advance Queensland innovation fund. This stands in stark contrast to the previous government that cut millions of dollars in science and technology. As this week's state budget shows, we are committed to supporting Queensland companies to grow so we can create jobs right across Queensland.

### Human Rights Act


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.44 am): I am pleased to announce that the first stage of Queensland's historic Human Rights Act 2019 will begin on 1 July. On 1 July the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland will become the Queensland Human Rights Commission. Its functions to provide information, education and promote understanding, acceptance and public discussion of human rights will start. The current Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Mr Scott McDougall, will become the Human Rights Commissioner.

Queensland's first Human Rights Commission is a momentous achievement and one that every Queenslanders should celebrate. Our vision is for a modern, fair and responsive Queensland where we respect, protect and promote human rights. The act is a clear decision by the Palaszczuk government to realise this vision. We will also be joining Commonwealth and common law jurisdictions that have long protected human rights in legislation, including the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand as well as Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.



The remainder of the Human Rights Act 2019 is expected to come into force on 1 January 2020, fulfilling our election commitment. From 1 January 2020 public entities will have a responsibility to respect, protect and promote the human rights of individuals and act in a way that is compatible with human rights when delivering services and interacting with the community. This means fairer laws, policies and practices in the government's day-to-day dealings with the community. From 1 January the interpretive role of the courts will also commence and the Queensland Human Rights Commission will have the power to receive and conciliate human rights complaints. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved to protect the human rights of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will continue to champion the human rights of Queenslanders in all that we do, delivering fairer and more responsive services for the community.

### Department of Youth Justice


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.46 am): I am pleased to advise the House that the establishment of the new stand-alone Department of Youth Justice has proven its worth right from the beginning. Our new Director-General, Bob Gee, only started on 20 May—four weeks ago—and he and his team have hit the ground running. I see them every day hard at work rolling out the programs I announced on 30 April and overseeing the continuing implementation of all of the significant reforms we have been putting in place since the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system. One of my announcements was increased investment in Townsville's Community Youth Response and the new department has been working with service providers so they are ready to commence new operations from 1 July. These expanded services will operate after hours and see youth workers supporting young people to prevent crime.

The new team is working with Queensland Health to expand the Navigate your Health program from eight to 20 nurses, and it is on track for rollout. The department is currently finalising service delivery arrangements with 17 existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non-government organisations and we will be on track to deliver expanded family wellbeing services in 11 locations from July 2019. The roles and positions for our specialised multiagency response teams are currently being set up across multiple departments and we are on track for expansion from two to eight locations. Programs demonstrating reduced youth offending are being supported. This week funding was provided to the Gold Coast Youth Service to continue work with police and partners on the Gold Coast Street CRED program as part of the Community Youth Response youth justice reform activity.

The department is also hard at work supporting expansion of our very effective Transition 2 Success programs, including additional sites this year at Cherbourg, Cairns, Mount Isa, Atherton, Gold Coast and Moreton. On 7 June Youth Justice and the Queensland Police Service delivered a joint bail support hub, the joint hub, at the Brisbane North Youth Justice Service Centre in Bowen Hills. This hub significantly improves quality, quantity and speed of collaboration between bail support agencies, helping to ensure that young people are not in custody unnecessarily.

Of course, the new department is working closely with the government's Building and Asset Services in Minister de Brenni's department to deliver on time and on budget the 16 new beds at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and the new 32-bed youth detention centre at Wacol. I thank the Minister for Housing and Public Works sincerely for working so closely with us on these important projects. I am proud of the work done so far and so fast by our newest director-general and his department whose sole task is to deliver on these historic youth justice reforms.

### WorkCover

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is backing business in Queensland, especially small business. On Tuesday, the Treasurer announced a number of initiatives to support small business in Queensland, such as lifting the payroll tax threshold and introducing a new regional discount rate for businesses outside South-East Queensland and continuing the 50 per cent payroll tax discount for apprentices and trainees until 30 June 2021.

Today, I have even more good news. I am pleased to announce that WorkCover Queensland will keep its premium rate at \$1.20 per \$100 of wages for another 12 months. This is the lowest average premium rate of any state or territory's workers compensation scheme and keeping it the same for the sixth straight year provides much needed stability for employers in their business planning.

WorkCover will also continue to not charge premiums for apprentices employed by businesses. Since 2017, around 10,000 employers have shared in more than \$36 million in savings because apprentice wages have been removed from premium calculations.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** It is so pleasing to hear members on the other side of the House so excited about this great announcement. This year alone we saw 10,720 employers taking on at least one apprentice, saving \$18.7 million in premiums. It does not stop there. Employers paying their premiums early will continue to be eligible for another five per cent discount, which has saved business owners more than \$39 million since 2017 when the discount rate increased from three per cent. This discount will continue for any business that pays its annual premium in full before 16 September. Around 65,000 employers took advantage of this initiative in 2018-19. These initiatives, which were introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government, have resulted in savings for employers of over \$75 million in two years.

Queensland has Australia's most efficient workers compensation scheme. Safe Work Australia reports that Queensland has the highest proportion of total expenditure paid directly to or for our injured workers and the lowest proportion going to administrative costs. WorkCover is also investing in research and partnerships to improve return-to-work and rehabilitation support. That includes vitally important research for workers affected by silicosis and other dust diseases.

With WorkCover's support, the Palaszczuk government has taken a leading role in responding to the emergence of silicosis in Queensland. Our proactive health screening program for workers in the engineered stone benchtop industry has been crucial to diagnosing this disease and connecting workers with the support, both medical and other support, they need. WorkCover Queensland continues to deliver a strong, stable, fully funded workers compensation scheme delivering improved savings for employers and enhanced benefits for injured workers and their families throughout Queensland.

### **Budget, Public Transport**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.53 am): This week the Palaszczuk Labor government delivered its fourth record transport budget and one that will see \$23 billion create more than 21,500 jobs and deliver the public transport infrastructure that our state needs. Queenslanders are all aboard. After a record 182 million trips across South-East Queensland last year, Queenslanders are on track to take even more journeys on buses, trains, ferries and trams. The Palaszczuk Labor government knows how important public transport is to connecting Queenslanders with jobs, education and essential services. Over the past 12 months, we have rolled out 54 new generation rolling stock trains, opened the Townsville bus hub, started work on new park-and-rides and continued our Fairer Fares, saving passengers \$165 million.

This year's budget builds on our record public transport patronage that we have achieved, with confidence coming back to public transport. That includes \$250 million for a new inner northern busway, major overhauls for six southside stations and, of course, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail—a project that will unlock the rail bottleneck, reduce travel times and deliver more trains more often. We will also deliver more than 20 new bus stops for Mackay, a \$2.5 million investment for bus priority on Nicklin Way and \$4 million for the Ormeau park-and-ride upgrade.

As part of this budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government will also develop an Australian-first smart ticketing system. We are investing \$371 million over the next four years to roll out world-leading global technology that will make catching public transport easier than ever before. For the very first time, Queenslanders across the state will have the same public transport ticketing system. Soon Queenslanders will be able to use their smartphones or watches, their debit cards, or their credit cards alongside the choices of go card or paper tickets to take public transport. This system is being implemented successfully in Chicago, New York and Vancouver. It will give more options for the record number of commuters taking our public transport system.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's positive record on public transport investment is clear. We built the Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication, we built the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 in record time and we are now delivering Cross River Rail. It is time the federal LNP got on board as well. Victoria has received 80 per cent of federal funding for a \$700 million rail project, but in Queensland the federal government offers us only the scraps, with the lowest ever offer for light rail and a refusal to stick to its own funding rules for the Sunshine Coast rail upgrade.

While the Leader of the Opposition and those other members opposite refuse to stand up for Queensland and meekly agree with Canberra underfunding our maroon state, this Palaszczuk Labor government will always fight for Queensland's fair share and will also deliver new public transport infrastructure. We will always back commuters and passengers all the way.

## Police Service, Recruitment



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.56 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to grow the Queensland Police Service with more police. Today, I can announce that the Queensland Police Service is kicking off a new recruitment drive. This campaign is asking Queenslanders to seriously consider a career as a Queensland police officer. The campaign is called 'My story, what's yours?'

The campaign has been developed by the Queensland Police Service to attract a diversity of recruit applicants. It will be released today through the Queensland Police Service's social media channels. The campaign features three female and two male officers who have undertaken various duties in the Queensland Police Service in a diverse range of roles and stations across our great state.

The campaign addresses the recruit application process, academy life and varying career pathways available. The participants discuss their individual journeys, their reasons for joining the Queensland Police Service and the various roles they have undertaken since they joined. I give a shout-out to Constable Jasmine Rayner, Plain Clothes Senior Constable Christopher Cronin, Senior Constable Jaye Lilley, Sergeant Alicia Finigan and Sergeant Billy Li for putting forward their stories and sharing them with the Queensland community.

As an equal opportunity employer, the Queensland Police Service recognises that modern policing in a culturally diverse society requires recruits who reflect the state's gender, cultural, linguistic and regional diversity. That is why the Queensland Police Service is committed to diverse recruitment strategies to attract the best quality recruit applicants into the Queensland Police Service to contribute to the government's objective of keeping the community safe.

The Queensland Police Service offers people a career that is rewarding, presents unique opportunities to engage with the community, affords training and development opportunities and the chance to be part of an organisation that makes a difference.

## MOTION

### Amendment to Standing Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.58 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That schedule 7 of the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by replacing the schedule with that circulated in my name, effective immediately.

#### SCHEDULE 7—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

#### Entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply

Building Queensland	Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Gold Coast Waterways Authority
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Land Access Ombudsman
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Legal Aid Queensland
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Mackay Hospital and Health Service
Coordinator-General	Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Crime and Corruption Commission	Metro South Hospital and Health Service
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Motor Accident Insurance Commission
CS Energy Limited	National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Nominal Defendant
Electoral Commission of Queensland	North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited
Energy and Water Ombudsman	North West Hospital and Health Service
Energy Queensland Limited	Office of Inspector General Emergency Management
Family Responsibilities Commission	Office of the Governor
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Office of the Health Ombudsman
GasFields Commission	Office of the Independent Assessor
	Office of the Information Commissioner

Office of the Integrity Commissioner  
 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman  
 Port of Townsville Limited  
 Prostitution Licensing Authority  
 Public Safety Business Agency  
 Public Service Commission  
 QIC Limited  
 Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges  
 Queensland Art Gallery  
 Queensland Audit Office  
 Queensland Building and Construction Commission  
 Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)  
 Queensland Competition Authority  
 Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority  
 Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink)  
 Queensland Family and Child Commission  
 Queensland Human Rights Commission  
 Queensland Institute of Medical Research  
 Queensland Mental Health Commission  
 Queensland Museum  
 Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust  
 Queensland Productivity Commission  
 Queensland Racing Integrity Commission

Queensland Rail  
 Queensland Reconstruction Authority  
 Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority  
 Queensland Theatre Company  
 Queensland Treasury Corporation  
 Racing Queensland Board  
 Residential Tenancies Authority  
 Screen Queensland Pty Ltd  
 South Bank Corporation  
 South West Hospital and Health Service  
 Stadiums Queensland  
 Stanwell Corporation Limited  
 State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland  
 Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service  
 Sunwater Limited  
 TAFE Queensland  
 The Public Trustee of Queensland  
 Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service  
 Tourism and Events Queensland  
 Townsville Hospital and Health Service  
 Trade and Investment Queensland  
 West Moreton Hospital and Health Service  
 Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.00 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 20 August 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



**Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (10.00 am): I give notice that I will move—

That section 43 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 74 of 2019, tabled in the House on 11 June 2019, be disallowed.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 10.30 am.

### Resources Industry, Royalties



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.00 am): My first question is to the Premier.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, you are warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, apologies for the interruption. Would you like to start your question again?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My first question is to the Premier. I table a media release issued today from the Queensland Resources Council calling on the Palaszczuk government to delay its royalty hike until confusion with Labor's legislation can be resolved and an exemption put in place for domestic producers.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 14 June 2019, by the Queensland Resources Council, titled 'QRC calls on Palaszczuk Government to delay gas royalty increase' [997].

Given the Treasurer failed to consult the resources industry and cannot explain who will pay Labor's royalty hike, will the Premier finally listen to the industry and delay Labor's royalty hike?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I said in this House earlier this week, it was a Labor government that set up the LNG industry in this state 10 years ago and we believe that the industry can pay a little bit more.

In relation to gas we are reviewing our royalty regime. We will consult with industry and manufacturers on simplifying the system. This is the right thing to do.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I ask those to my left to listen to the answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is in line with other rates that are happening around the world. We know that Queensland gas exports will continue to grow and will outgrow Qatar.

**Ms Trad:** A 40 per cent increase last year.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection.

**Mrs Frecklington:** So you are consulting after the increase?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. We made it very clear that we would not increase coal royalties, but we believe that the gas sector can pay a little bit more.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you will put your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That money will go towards helping provide the roads, hospitals and schools that are needed for a growing Queensland. In stark contrast, the Leader of the Opposition stood up in this House yesterday and made a budget reply in which she said she is going to put a blanket freeze on royalties for 10 years. I think we now have almost \$7 billion of unfunded commitments and not one word on how the LNP is going to pay for them. We know that there will be savage cuts to the Public Service.

**Mr Ryan:** And an infrastructure freeze!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. There will be an infrastructure freeze. You will not be able to build anything. Those opposite will shut down Queensland. Those opposite have no idea. That would have to be the worst budget reply I have ever heard in this House. The whole backbench had their heads bowed. They were rolling their eyes. They were embarrassed because there were no ideas offered. There was no understanding of the budget and where the money will come from. We know what they did last time. To fund their unfunded commitments those opposite will have to sack—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** A note to all members, half an hour of question time does not mean twice the interjections in half the time. That is the last I will say on that today.

### Foreign Investment

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. The Property Council has said that when it comes to foreign investment the Queensland Premier and ministers are happy to fly around the world but what they seem to forget is that an investment needs to stack up. Why is the Premier more focused on getting passport stamps than keeping Queensland tax competitive?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The last time I looked my title was Premier and Minister for Trade. When one is the trade minister one has to talk to countries about growing Queensland jobs and growing our trade figures. It is very simple.

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What we have in this state is record trade figures: \$85 billion worth of trade. I make no excuse for talking to companies, representing them overseas or taking them overseas with me, because trade means jobs. The budget is a jobs budget. We back Queensland jobs. If you want an analysis of what this budget is about, it is about jobs, jobs and jobs.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Debt, debt, debt! Taxes, taxes, taxes!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take the interjection of the Leader of the Opposition. Last night on ABC News she did not seem to understand debt. She has to go and look it up. I think we have some budget papers we can hand to her so she can look at the figures.

In all seriousness, as I have said in this House and will say again, I will give you a clear example. I have had the opportunity, as has the Minister for State Development, to meet with Rheinmetall. They want to expand in Queensland. That will mean billions of dollars spent here and more advanced manufacturing. I have invited the head of Rheinmetall to Queensland and he is coming next week.

I sent Minister Dick to talk to Remondis. They want to invest more in Queensland. They want to engage in the circular waste economy. They agree with the government's agenda. In the US I have spoken with members of the US Navy. We want to establish a biofuels industry in this area. In Japan I talked about establishing a hydrogen industry. If the opposition think we should not talk to our largest trading partners like China, Japan and India they have another think coming.

International education is booming. Our agricultural exports are going from strength to strength. I had the opportunity to promote Queensland beef recovering after the north-west cattle crisis. I make no apologies—

*(Time expired)*

### **Veterans' Employment Pathway**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier and Minister for Trade update the House on the Veterans' Employment Pathway and where they have been employed?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Townsville for this question. We believe in jobs and giving people opportunities to have a job. One of the commitments I am very proud of is the commitment to get more veterans employed in our Public Service. There were people who doubted whether it could happen. We have worked very diligently to encourage as many of our veterans as possible to come and work for the Queensland government.

Our target was for 100 former service people to be employed within the public sector. We established a veterans' employment pathway, with seminars and other assistance to recruit those fine people. I am pleased to say that we have exceeded our target and, at the last count, as a government we have found work for 216 former members of the ADF. Every single person in the House should be absolutely proud of that.

Some veterans have stayed in uniform and have become firefighters and police. They have become teachers, builders, youth workers and some are beginning careers in Transport and Main Roads. Sixty-seven have joined Queensland Health as health professionals. The biggest concentration of veterans employed in the Public Service outside Brisbane is in Townsville, where 34 have found work. That is a great news story for Townsville. Veterans have also found work across the state, including in Cairns and the far north, the Gold Coast, Ipswich, south-west Queensland, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

I have met some former soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. They say the most valuable thing you can give an ex-serviceperson is the dignity of having a job. That is exactly what we are doing. We are backing Queenslanders and we are making sure that they are looked after.

I am also advised that private companies, including some in Mackay, having seen the success of our program have asked for our help to source more ex-servicepeople for the private sector. Once again, we are valuing our veterans. I intend to establish an office of veterans within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to give the program added priority.

Whilst I am on my feet, I say to the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa that Elton John's concert has been confirmed. That is great news. I know that they would love to have been in Townsville for the announcement. Elton John's concert has been confirmed as the first concert to be held at the Townsville stadium. I thank Minister de Brenni and Stadiums Queensland for facilitating that contract. I understand Elton John will also perform on the Sunshine Coast, so perhaps the member for Kawana will have a taste of that action as well. Congratulations to everyone, and it is great news about our veterans.

*(Time expired)*

### Climate Change Lunch

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the Labor government's spending of \$320,000 for failed US presidential candidate Al Gore to lecture Queenslanders on climate change, and I table a photo of the Deputy Premier and the failed candidate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please just table it, thank you.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting Hon. Jackie Trad and Mr Al Gore [998].

**Mr MANDER:** Is that not a wasteful use of taxpayers' money just for a photo opportunity for the Deputy Premier?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I note that again it is not a question about the budget, which is what we are here for this week.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Langbroek:** 'But I love him.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Surfers Paradise, I would like you to keep your affections to yourself.

**Ms TRAD:** I think he was, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, we have heard another question from the shadow Treasurer that is not about the budget.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the tourism minister: he does have problems counting, which is why the former member for Buderim and ex-One Nation politician had to do the numbers for the member for Everton for the leadership ballot, although he missed out, as we all know.

I am very pleased to talk about the former US vice-president's visit to Queensland. A number of national corporations, the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank and a whole range of Commonwealth institutions such as Infrastructure Australia came along to have a detailed conversation with the Climate Change Reality Project founder. They had excellent access and they engaged in some great discussions with lots of outcomes.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I am sorry. Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I would like to hear the answer.

**Ms TRAD:** Nine hundred members from the Brisbane business community attended the CEDA lunch. What we spent in terms of hiring the venue for this important economic event pales into insignificance when we think about the Queensland Plan.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Premier, please put that down.

**Ms TRAD:** I will table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, with former premier Mr Campbell Newman [999].

What we spent pales into insignificance when we consider that the member for Nanango, with the former member for Ashgrove, swanned around Queensland to talk up the Queensland Plan, paving the way for the Leader of the Opposition's entry onto the frontbench. We make no apologies for continuing the important conversation about climate change.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

### Budget, Jobs

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the budget is backing Queensland jobs and whether there are any alternative policies?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Macalister very much for asking a question about this budget and jobs. As the Premier said earlier this morning, this budget is all about jobs. I am not sure what the Leader of the Opposition is cackling about, but no-one else is joining her. I found it very interesting that, in response to a question in relation to paying down debt, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'Look, I'm not going to make any wild predictions about how to pay down debt. I want to wait until I win and I want to have a look at the books.'

I do not know where she was on Tuesday, but these are the books. This is the budget. I table it again for the benefit of the member for Nanango. These are the books, member for Nanango. Have a look at them!

Maybe the member for Nanango is on the same train as the member for Everton: 'It would be crazy to come up with a plan to fund our \$7 billion worth of commitments. We're just going to have to wait until we come in and have a look at the books.' Maybe she is thinking of a different book—the Costello Commission of Audit. Maybe that is the real book.

On this side of the House we are all about strong financial management, as confirmed by SMP this week. We are about delivering the infrastructure and the services that Queenslanders need, because we know that in Queensland the jobs that we are going to create from our infrastructure spending—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. It would not be complete without one.

**Ms TRAD:** We know that, purely through our infrastructure spend, 63 per cent of the 40,000 jobs created will be in the regions. This week has been a very illustrative display of the competency of those opposite. I encourage the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer to sit down and read the budget. They should get stuck into the books to find out how they are going to pay for \$7 billion worth of unfunded commitments. The commitment by those opposite—

**Mrs Frecklington:** How much more next year? How much more are you going to borrow?

**Ms TRAD:** Debt is lower under Labor than it was under you, and you know that.

*(Time expired)*

### **Adani Carmichael Mine**

**Mr LAST:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Over the past few years the Deputy Premier has refused to publicly support the Adani mine and stated coal was in decline, coal communities needed to reskill and that the Carmichael mine would only create 10 jobs. With the Adani Carmichael mine now clearing the final approvals, will the Deputy Premier state whether she supports the mine or not?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Burdekin for that question. I am just wondering whether or not the member for Burdekin is going to support the big resource project in his electorate—the one about which he wrote to the Premier and about which he asked the mines minister to take into consideration all of the very important environmental, water, land use and planning issues and—that is right—the threatened species.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the tourism minister. Who would have thought that the member for Burdekin was such a tree hugger? My position on the Carmichael coalmine has been expressed over and over again. It is only the Liberal National Party and their deal with the Greens—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Deputy Premier. I would have thought that you would like to hear the answer to the question that has been asked.

**Ms TRAD:** It is only those opposite who have done a deal with the Greens—the only party in this place—

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

**Ms TRAD:** Yes, Mr Speaker. It was only the Greens political party that put a bill into this place to stop the opening up of the Galilee Basin. It is the Greens political party that those opposite will be preferencing at the next election so that there can be more bills like that presented in this House.

We have made it quite clear that we think that approvals of this nature must be based on science and the law of the land. We have gone through all of the processes to date.

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being relevant to the question asked. I ask you to hear the answer.

**Ms TRAD:** They have been free of political interference. What is clear from those opposite is that they say one thing in their electorates and then come here and say exactly the opposite.

It is only the member for Nanango who wants to shut down coalmining in her electorate. The member for Burdekin does not want a big resource project in the Burdekin because of community concern. As long as it is not in their backyard they are all hunky-dory with it. As soon as it is in their backyard it is close the gate, lock the gate—no resource activities in our electorates—‘I’m going to hug some trees now. That’s what I’m going to do.’

Those opposite are absolutely ridiculous. This is budget week and their question time strategy reveals that they have not read one single page of the budget. I do not think they have even opened it. They have admitted that they still have to look at the books.

*(Time expired)*

### Budget, Jobs and Infrastructure

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on how the budget is backing jobs, infrastructure and the development of our state? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question and for his ongoing support for the government’s plans to strengthen and develop regional Queensland. There is no greater friend or supporter of manufacturing in this state than the member for Maryborough—other than me.

What do we see in this budget? There is \$70 billion for Building our Regions. Last year’s infrastructure spend in the budget—the biggest since the 2011 floods—was beaten this year with an infrastructure spend of \$49.5 billion over four years. Yesterday we heard another approach. I am asked by the honourable member about other approaches to state development, infrastructure and jobs and the budget. What a dismal effort from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. The budget reply speech by the Leader of the Opposition should not have started with ‘Mr Speaker’, it should have started with ‘Dear Santa’. I am surprised she did not finish her budget reply speech by saying, ‘PS: don’t forget the new bike and the Xbox’. The Leader of the Opposition is making a list, checking it twice and funding it never.

What a disingenuous list of unfunded thought bubbles. In the world of ‘Deb-onomics’ it is Christmas Day every day. It will not be a white Christmas; it will be covered in red ink. For Queenslanders under the LNP every day will be like opening the credit card bill in February. The Leader of the Opposition went in with her budget list worth \$5 billion and one hour later it had gone up to \$7 billion. There were \$7 billion of unfunded promises by the Leader of the Opposition.

We had the basin plan—the Christmas turkey from the Leader of the Opposition: raw, cold and not one dollar for regional Queensland. It will not happen.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** Do not forget the elves on the Gold Coast. Actually, that is a bit defamatory to elves on the Gold Coast because at least you have to do work if you are going to be an elf. They have a second M1, but just do not ask where it is going to go, how it is going to be funded and who is going to pay for it.

There are two words that could describe the budget reply yesterday—economically illiterate. It was a desperate attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to appeal to her backbench, and it failed dismally. There is only one way the LNP can fund \$7 billion in unfunded promises and that is to cut, sack and sell. That is the only way they can do it. That will be what happens under the LNP.

**Mr Sorensen** interjected.

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

### Youth Detention

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that this year’s budget does not fully fund the promised youth detention upgrades in the next financial year, will the Premier name the date when she will fix Labor’s human rights crisis and get kids out of watch houses?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As I have said in this House, and I will say again: record investment in youth justice. The best way to break the cycle of crime is to get young people into work. It is to make sure that we get them a job and we help the families so that they have a stable environment in which to raise their children.

It is disingenuous of those opposite to come in here and raise this when their answer to youth justice in this state was to send young people to a boot camp that failed. The Auditor-General said it was a waste of public money. It delivered nothing. I think the member for Kawana took a helicopter ride out there to inspect it. They axed youth justice conferencing.

We are putting in place the biggest injection in youth justice that this state has seen in a very long time.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** On top of that we have actually put in place a separate department headed by well-respected former deputy police commissioner Bob Gee. I have every confidence that the minister and the director-general will work with the service agencies, the police and all government departments. I know they will do that because I have sat down with them and told them to do that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I have said in this place, we do not want to see young people in watch houses.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will get on with the job of building the new detention centre and making sure that young people have alternatives to committing crime.

### **North Queensland, Ecotourism**

**Ms LUI:** 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 ecotourism to grow the economy in Tropical North Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to respond.

**Ms JONES:** That is all I need, Mr Speaker. Today I am very pleased to announce \$35 million to finish the Wangetti Trail—a game changer for tourism in North Queensland. It will generate \$300 million for the Queensland economy and create 150 jobs. This could not have happened without the amazing member for Cook. Can we all clap like we are allowed to in parliament?

Speaking of clapping like that, I have had a massive innovation idea. Treasurer, sorry to put you on the spot, but I have a great idea as innovation minister. Why don't we next year for the benefit of the opposition release the budget as an audio book? Then they can just listen.

**Dr Miles:** They don't have to read it!

**Ms JONES:** Then they do not have to read it. They do not actually have to go through the books. I am such a kind person. I am magnificent as a person.

**A government member:** What about a picture book?

**Ms JONES:** We could do a picture book. For the Premier's Reading Challenge we will set the budget! For everyone's benefit I have written, 'This is book 1. This is book 2. This is book 3.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired.

**Ms JONES:** If you cannot read those—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired.

**Ms JONES:**—we have glossies—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!


**Ms JONES:**—glossies galore!

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, you are warned under the standing orders. I asked three times for you to resume your seat because time had expired. The period for question time has expired. Before calling the Clerk, I would like to acknowledge that we have Jack, a 10-year old student from Wongai, and his parents in the gallery today.

## MOTOR ACCIDENT INSURANCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.31 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, the Motor Accident Insurance Regulation 2018 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [\[991\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [\[992\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 which makes important changes to Queensland's compulsory third party insurance scheme to protect vulnerable Queenslanders and the integrity of the state's CTP insurance scheme.

Members of this parliament may recall that at the estimates hearing in July last year I spoke about this government's commitment to stamp out the insidious practice of what is referred to in the insurance industry as claim farming. Claim farming involves anonymous persons cold-calling members of the public about whether they have been involved in a motor vehicle accident. They falsely identify themselves as calling on behalf of an insurer, the CTP regulator—the Motor Accident Insurance Commission—or another government agency, allegedly with the sole purpose of helping the individual make a CTP claim.

They use high-pressured tactics and deceptive behaviour to elicit the individual's personal information and agreement to submit a claim, often with the lure of quick and easy compensation. This information is then sold, for a fee, to a lawyer or claims management service provider to handle the claim. We have all seen the media reports about vulnerable members of our community being harassed, often repeatedly, and many of us here today have received these unwanted calls.

We have been consulting with key stakeholders and have been seeking feedback from people reporting claim farming. The results have been alarming. Some survey participants reported receiving up to 10 calls a week, despite being on the Do Not Call Register. Others report that they have had to go as far as changing their phone number. It is not just the breach of privacy that is of concern. These callers are targeting our most vulnerable people. Customer service data shows that calls are made to non-English-speaking people, the elderly and even children.

Indeed, my own son has been the target of anonymous cold-callers and their predatory, aggressive and threatening behaviour. Last year a claim farmer called our house and spoke to my 10-year-old son—he was 10 at the time. The caller immediately launched into very aggressive questioning without ascertaining whether or not my son was the intended recipient of the call or capable of being interrogated. I found that very, very intimidating and I want to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that other Queenslanders do not experience this conduct.

Based on customer survey data, it is estimated that over 1.5 million Queenslanders have already been targeted by claim farmers, with the number of complaints to MAIC continuing to rise. Claim farmers are making calls and targeting Queenslanders after the person has been involved in an accident and therefore at a time when they are particularly vulnerable and more likely to find the unsolicited and harassing nature of the call incredibly distressing.

More than 1,000 people have reported a car crash scammer to MAIC, with over 550 people lodging complaints since early February. This number is likely to represent a fraction of the total number of cold-calls received as many people never report these calls. Claim farming is not only a source of irritation and distress to the many people receiving these calls but without decisive action it is also a real threat to our otherwise well-performing CTP scheme. Without this legislative reform to prohibit the practice, claim farming is likely to continue and increase the risk of fraudulent behaviour.

Queensland has a fair and affordable CTP insurance scheme and we want to keep it that way. We have one of the few remaining schemes in the country which preserves an injured person's common law rights, while at the same time ensuring Queensland motor vehicle owners pay the second lowest CTP premiums in the nation. I made a commitment to stop claim farmers and their harassing and deceptive behaviours and protect the long-term viability of our scheme. This bill delivers on that commitment without affecting the entitlements of genuinely injured claimants or preventing lawyers from undertaking legitimate business practices.

This bill will be among the first in the country to ban the practice of claim farming through two major reforms. Firstly, this bill prohibits the act of cold-calling or personally approaching another person without their consent and soliciting or inducing them to make a CTP claim. This offence is squarely targeted at the cold-callers themselves with significant penalties for those who continue this insidious practice.

Secondly, the claim farming business model can only continue to operate if there is money to be made for the private details of Queenslanders. This bill will make it an offence, with significant repercussions, for anyone to pay claim farmers for the names of potential CTP claimants or to receive payment for a claim referral or potential claim referral. This will remove the financial incentive for claim farmers to operate and make it less attractive for legal practitioners to partner with claim farmers as a means of sourcing clients.

Lawyers who represent injured people in Queensland's scheme will also be required to certify at various stages of the claims process that neither they, nor their associates, have paid a claim farmer for the injured person's claim. Failure to provide the requisite certificate, or making a false statutory declaration, will attract significant penalties.

This bill also furnishes MAIC with special investigative and enhanced enforcement powers where a claim farming offence is suspected of having been committed. These powers will be tightly controlled and will focus solely on detecting and prosecuting claim farming activity and are an important part of the reform package.

The bill also strengthens MAIC's supervisory powers by expanding its functions to allow it to establish and revise standards about the management of claims by licensed CTP insurers and to publish these standards on its website. Enabling MAIC to issue claims management standards is consistent with the practice of regulatory authorities in other jurisdictions and is important in ensuring a consistent and firm industry response towards claim farming activity.

Importantly, this bill does not affect the common law entitlements of injured people nor their choice to engage a lawyer to represent them. Members of the public who are unfortunately injured in a motor vehicle accident caused by another party will be able to exercise their right to make a claim and they will be able to do so with the lawyer of their choice without the harassment and pressure of claim farmers. For those genuinely injured who find themselves inadvertently caught up in a car crash scam, they will be able to change lawyers and engage another law firm at no cost or detriment to themselves.

This bill is balanced—it does not prevent lawyers from informing people about their rights and entitlements, nor does it prevent them from advertising or promoting their services, sponsoring local sporting clubs or community groups or making bona fide charitable donations. What it aims to do, and what I believe it will do, is stop the harassing calls and intimidating behaviour, particularly toward vulnerable people, minimise the potential for fraudulent behaviour and protect the affordability and stability of the scheme for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.39 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Economics and Governance Committee**

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

## YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.39 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [\[993\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [\[994\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government has committed to an historic investment of \$550 million in the youth justice system since the transition of 17-year-olds from the adult system for a range of initiatives to reduce reoffending, better support our children and expand, build and staff youth detention centres. The bill supports the implementation of those initiatives and our commitment not to detain children in watch houses other than for normal processing and to reduce reoffending and maintain community safety. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to:

- reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised;
- remove legislative barriers to encourage more grants of bail to young people appropriately; and
- ensure appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail.

This bill supports the implementation of *Working together changing the story: youth justice strategy 2019-2023* and delivers on the commitment to commence a review of the Youth Justice Act 1992 this year. I thank all of those who provided input into the development of the bill including magistrates, legal practitioners, service providers and youth justice services staff.

Importantly, these amendments do not remove judicial and police discretion and aim to balance enabling the appropriate release of children from detention and maintaining community safety. A key component in addressing demand pressure on the youth justice system is reducing the period in which proceedings are finalised. When court proceedings cannot be finalised quickly a young person may remain on remand awaiting trial or sentencing for an extended period. The bill amends the Charter of Youth Justice Principles in the Youth Justice Act 1992 to emphasise the need to finalise all youth justice matters as soon as practicable and to treat young people who are in custody as a priority.

When a child is being sentenced the court may request a pre-sentence report from the Department of Youth Justice about the child. Stakeholders have advised that some requirements of the report process may contribute to delays in court proceedings. The bill introduces more flexibility by allowing further material to be provided to support a pre-sentence report previously considered by a court during the last six months. Given the preparation of a pre-sentence report takes some time, the bill also requires the court to consider, before ordering an optional pre-sentence report, whether it is the most beneficial and efficient method of obtaining information.

If a parent is not promptly notified when a child is arrested this can contribute to delays in a bail application being made and the child remaining in custody. The bill strengthens existing requirements in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 by requiring police to make all reasonable inquiries to promptly contact a child's parent. A record of the inquiries made must be kept when contact with a parent has not been made.

The bill also amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to insert a new requirement for police to notify a Legal Aid organisation as soon as reasonably practicable. Delays in legal advice and representation may contribute to delays in an application for bail being made for a child. This will not mean that police cannot question a child so long as they have a support person present.

The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to ensure that children who are arrested and remanded in police custody are brought before the Childrens Court as soon as practicable and within 24 hours of arrest. The bill also amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to provide that a notice to appear for a child must require the child to appear at the court the police officer is satisfied is most convenient for the child to access unless this would delay the ability of the child to appear before the court as soon as practicable.

The bill removes legislative barriers to support bail decision-making so children can be appropriately released. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to clearly state that there is a presumption in favour of release for a child. This presumption can only be rebutted when there is an unacceptable risk that if released on bail the child will fail to surrender into custody as required; commit an offence; endanger the safety or welfare of a person; or interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice; or where the child is required to be kept in custody under the Youth Justice Act 1992 or another act.

Stakeholders told us that the interaction between the Bail Act 1980 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 is confusing. To clarify the requirements the bill makes it clear that sections 7, 11, 16 and 16A of the Bail Act do not apply to children. The bill provides that when deciding whether there is an unacceptable risk police officers and courts may have regard to a number of matters, including: the nature and seriousness of the alleged offence; the child's criminal history; and the history of a previous grant of bail to the child.

Children and young people may be impulsive and less likely to consider the consequences of their actions. The bill provides that, when deciding if there is an unacceptable risk that a child may commit an offence while on release, the nature and seriousness of that offence and its likely impact on a victim or the community must be considered.

Children who have only been charged with minor and simple offences should not be remanded in detention, and they certainly should not be kept in watch houses. The bill retains the provisions in the Youth Justice Act that require a court or police officer to keep a young person in custody if satisfied there is a threat to the child's safety because of the alleged offence and there is no reasonably practicable other way to ensure the child's safety. However, the bill clarifies that a court or police officer must not be satisfied of these matters only because the young person will not have accommodation or family support if released.

The bill further enables a court or police officer to release a child even when the presumption of release can be rebutted. This applies only when release is not inconsistent with community safety and is otherwise appropriate having regard to certain additional child focused factors. These factors include: the need to preserve the relationship between a child and their family; the child's health, including any need for medical assessment or treatment; and the particular desirability of releasing children under 14 from custody due to their vulnerability.

Let me make it very clear: unless there is a clear and unacceptable risk to the community, children who are under the age of 14 should not be remanded in detention and they certainly should not be held in police watch houses. This is a significant new part of the decision-making process and enables decision-makers to take into consideration the particular circumstances of individual children.

The bill further amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to promote appropriate grants of bail by confirming that the principle of detention as a last resort applies to decisions about whether to remand a child in detention or to release them on bail.

Ensuring that any conditions attached to grants of bail for children are appropriate is an important component of the bill. For some children, intensive and onerous bail conditions are likely to be counterproductive and increase the likelihood of a young person breaching their bail conditions and being remanded in detention for the breach. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to ensure that bail conditions are sustainable, appropriate and targeted to manage the actual risks for an individual child while they are on bail and reduce the risk of the child breaching the conditions.

The bill requires bail decision-makers to be satisfied that a condition is relevant to mitigating an identified risk that the child in question will commit an offence, endanger anyone's safety or welfare, or interfere with a witness or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. Further, a bail condition must not involve undue management or supervision of the child, including having regard to the child's ability to comply with the condition.

The bill inserts a new requirement that when a court or police officer imposes a condition they must specify its duration. This period must be no longer than is necessary to mitigate an identified risk. This is intended to enable conditions to be in place to manage a risk and not restrict a child engaging with education, training or employment or other activities. The bill requires a court or police officer to give reasons about how a condition is intended to mitigate an identified risk.

The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to require police officers to consider alternatives to arrest when responding to young people who breach their bail conditions by inserting a new provision into the Youth Justice Act 1992 that provides a child focused, discretion based framework to guide police in their responses. The bill allows a police officer to: take no action; issue a warning; or make an application to vary or revoke the child's bail, depending on the seriousness of the breach.

A contemporary information sharing framework is needed to improve outcomes for children who come into contact with the youth justice system. The bill establishes within the Youth Justice Act 1992 a contemporary information sharing framework to facilitate a coordinated response to the needs of children charged with offences. The bill provides that, whenever possible and practical, a person's consent should be obtained before personal information is shared. The information sharing framework will enable government and non-government entities to share information so that assessments and referrals can be made for young people appearing before courts and to provide coordinated advice to courts that may be used in making bail or sentencing decisions; and to deliver service responses to the young person and their family.

The bill ensures that a tracking device cannot be used on a child. It is unclear whether provisions of the Bail Act 1980 that allow the use of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail apply to children. It is the government's position that children should not be subject to a condition that requires them to wear a tracking device. There are a number of practical and human rights concerns relating to imposing conditions of this type on children. For example, a child that wears a tracking device may be stigmatised and isolated by their peers or community, reducing their prospects of rehabilitation. That is why this bill provides that a condition requiring the use of a tracking device cannot be imposed as a condition of a grant of bail to a child, a community based order or early release from detention.

The bill makes amendments to increase the safety and security of children and staff within youth detention centres. In response to recommendations from the Queensland Ombudsman and the Independent Review of Youth Detention, the bill authorises the use of enhanced CCTV technology and body worn cameras in youth detention centres, as well as the collection of footage.

The bill makes amendments to require a court, when sentencing a child for manslaughter of a child under the age of 12 years, to treat the defencelessness of the victim and their vulnerability as an aggravating factor, similar to recent amendments for adult offenders. The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 implemented recommendation 1 of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child: final report* by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992. To align with this amendment, the bill inserts a new requirement into the Youth Justice Act 1992 that, in sentencing a child offender for the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, courts must treat the defencelessness of the victim and their vulnerability as an aggravating factor. Importantly, this amendment does not override the existing sentencing considerations in the act. For example, detention will remain a last resort and the current sentence orders that a court may make when sentencing a child for an offence with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment will continue to apply.

The Public Guardian Act 2014 is also being amended in order to maintain the Office of the Public Guardian's oversight and safeguarding function for children involved in the youth justice system. The bill enables the Public Guardian to perform child community visitor and child advocacy officer powers and functions in residential facilities provided or funded by the Department of Youth Justice. This will include supervised community accommodation services.

This bill is an important step in continuing the significant progress that has already been made in reforming Queensland's youth justice system. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.53 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


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

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

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

Resumed from 13 June (see p. 2103), on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.54 am): I want to talk about the issue of youth justice and engagement in my electorate. I listened this morning to the Premier and other members of the government talking about the Human Rights Bill. When the Premier was asked about the issue of kids in watch houses, she still did not guarantee that the completely shambolic mismanagement of this issue was going to be addressed. Children as young as 10 are being detained in watch houses for up to 40 days. The Premier's answer was for the children to get a job, implying that the answer was about getting a job. The mismanagement of this issue was clearly identified and the government were warned, yet their answers were inadequate when this really hit the fan. They have put vulnerable children in that situation. We believe in a law and order and justice and mercy model where we ensure that the community is kept safe, but we do not want to see vulnerable children being put at risk because they are alongside sexual offenders.

I want to address one of the hypocrisies of this government. They announced a budget for youth justice, yet we have seen a cut in the funding on the Sunshine Coast for the youth pathways program at Maroochydore high school and two other state high schools which offered individualised learning and support. This provided alternative pathways for some of those vulnerable children who we want to see kept engaged in school. As I understand it, the department cut about 50 per cent of their funding and the schools and others have been left scrambling to fill that gap. This government is completely inept because it has mismanaged this issue of youth justice, youth engagement, vulnerable children and public safety.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is interjecting and she is not in her seat.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Thank you. I was about to ask the minister to return to her seat.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I alert the parliament to the fact that this Labor government says one thing and does another. It says it cares about people and then it is inept in the way it manages those programs

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I want to see schools and education get the appropriate funding, not the situation where it was cut under this Labor—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It was cut under this inept, incompetent Labor government. We have a situation where Anna Bligh Mark II, the Premier of this state, Anastacia Palaszcuk, and her left faction Treasurer, Jackie Trad, are taking us down the road again of mismanagement of the economy. The real situation has been exposed—more taxes, bigger debt, fewer jobs, less infrastructure.

I want to talk about the Sunshine Coast rail and the petty politics that is happening there. It is the first time we have ever seen a federal government put on the table hundreds of millions of dollars to help advance the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line, but this state Labor government—with their petty politics—are throwing it back and saying they do not want to accept it. We did not see a better offer from their mate Bill Shorten, but the state Labor government do not want to take the opportunity to move forward. This petty spoiler politics we have seen from state Labor is seeing them reject a number of infrastructure funding pots that the federal government have offered across the state and certainly on the Sunshine Coast. I am really disappointed because the government are failing to



invest in infrastructure in a timely way. They continue to play petty politics, particularly with this rail duplication because Anna Bligh as Premier not only promised it in 2009 but briefed the marketplace on it and actually had companies on site from the last stage of the rail expecting it to continue.

It is time that this 1880s alignment was fixed and the rail duplication went ahead. Instead we see petty spoiler politics from Labor. Road duplications and upgrades to the Sunshine Motorway are also very much required as is the Mooloolah River interchange, which is an access point for our Sunshine Coast regional hospital. We also need to see a funding program response from this state government with regard to the council's exhibition and convention centre bid.

I want to address another social issue that really concerns me. This government has its priorities wrong when they can spend \$320,000 sucking up to Al Gore and yet the homelessness issue in my electorate is really concerning. They have their priorities wrong. I asked a question on notice of the housing minister—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock, please. Member, the term 'sucking up' is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw that.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. This government is grovelling with respect to Al Gore and yet they are failing some of the most vulnerable such as the homeless. I table question on notice 734 in which I asked the housing minister about homelessness funding in Maroochydore.

*Tabled paper:* Answer to question on notice No. 734 of 2019, asked on 2 May 2019 [1000].

Of the organisations that are listed in answer to this question on notice there are some very good youth housing providers and other agencies providing assistance for youth—that is great—and also for women suffering domestic violence. That is great, but there is nothing for men. Given that homeless men make up a very high proportion—higher than 50 per cent—of homeless people, this is a gross failure and it is an issue that needs to be addressed. It is unfair, especially when we see money wasted on something like Al Gore and yet homelessness programs are not mentioned in those documents in terms of a number of needs across the demographics. I alert the parliament to the fact that homeless men represent an area that is being ignored, and I certainly see it from that answer I received from the government. I would also like to table a library brief with regard to that which shows 58.4 per cent of the homeless people in Queensland were men and 41.6 per cent were women.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliamentary Library research brief, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Homelessness statistics' [1001].

All of them are vulnerable and need assistance. All of them need access to services.

I now want to go back to the issue of infrastructure. The Sunshine Coast wants a fair share of the pie as well as a bigger infrastructure pie. It has been noted that this Labor government has let down Queensland by cutting infrastructure spending in real terms. I table an article that appeared in the *Courier-Mail* last week.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Capital spending in 2018-19 as a percentage of ...' [1002].

That article provided a comparison that showed that the Queensland state government are spending a smaller proportion of revenue on infrastructure than other states; it is the lowest in the pecking order. This is a disgrace and this is why growing areas such as the Sunshine Coast and other areas throughout the state are seeing congestion and a lack of services, particularly in terms of timely infrastructure that has been properly planned to be delivered in an effective way. We are being failed. That is why I want to see my area and Queensland get their fair share of a bigger pie. It is disgraceful to see that \$9 billion less was spent on infrastructure spending in the first term of this Labor government; less money is being spent on infrastructure now than five years ago. It is a joke when they are raising debt to record levels—it is heading towards \$90 billion—and yet they are still patting themselves on the back saying aren't they great and aren't they wonderful. I do not believe Queenslanders are going to fall for that ruse anymore.

There is an extra \$1.25 billion in tax, more debt, less infrastructure and fewer jobs. We have just seen the latest unemployment figures, which unfortunately still show that Queensland is bucking the national trend. There are 168,000 Queenslanders in the unemployment queue, which is 10,500 more than last month. This is at a time when we see that our business confidence figures are some of the worst in the country as this government fails to understand that their taxes hurt everybody. Their taxes flow through the economy as the government put their hands into the pockets of businesses and everyday Queenslanders. One of those taxes is registration, and we have seen the cost of rego for the average four-cylinder car increase by about \$48 under this government since they came to power. The reality is that hurts everyday Queenslanders. The LNP government froze rego because we recognised that it was time to give people relief, and I table that document containing those figures.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Table 1 Queensland vehicle registration: basic annual fee, 2011-12 to 2019-20 (fee as at 1 July)' [1003].

I want to now address concerns with respect to small business. Along with the Leader of the Opposition I was proud to release some of our new policies in this area in addition to others we have announced previously. It was interesting to see the Labor government playing catch-up on ones we announced last year with respect to fair pay and the need to pay small businesses in particular but also service providers and contractors within 20 days instead of 30. We announced that payment policy last year. This state government is still failing to even pay them within the 30-day period. A number of departments still have quite a high failure rate. I would like to see them not only hurry up and implement the 20-day payment principle but also deliver it. We have also announced our policy to prioritise small business in the government procurement chain for those contracts up to \$250,000.

I was particularly pleased our leader announced our policy with respect to the Industry Skills Council. This recognises the need to ensure that the right training is available to help young people—and all people—gain access to those jobs in the region, and the marketplace has been involved in that process in a more active and less bureaucratic way. The feedback we have received from small business and the training sector throughout Queensland is that they want access to trained personnel who have the skills they need in the workplace so that that training matches the jobs. There is better recognition that market-facing training which equips people for opportunity and jobs is needed.

The nine new taxes and tax hikes under Labor reach into the pockets of all Queenslanders. In relation to the payroll policy, while I welcome lower payroll tax for small to medium enterprises, which was an LNP policy going to the last election—and I recognise this has been announced by this government—I raise concerns about the extra 6,000 larger businesses that will now also be stung with paying higher payroll tax under this budget. There is a disconnect here regarding the offshoring of jobs that is hollowing out the marketplace for people who used to be able to get quite good jobs. I speak of accountants, for example, and many other areas across a range of occupations who find those types of jobs are being offshored. The more barriers that this inept, incompetent and high-taxing government puts in place for Queensland based businesses, the more we are going to see jobs being sent offshore. I think that is the great tragedy this government does not get. Local people and their jobs will be lost because this government is putting its hand in the pockets of people who are employing people here.


I want to also address the substantial waste under this government with regard to the training sector at a time when there is a need to see training really ramp up. Under this government the former CEO of TAFE, who is reported to have resigned, was given a \$390,000 golden handshake. Then we saw TAFE spending more than \$100,000 on brand research and a situation where TAFE hospitality expenses had doubled over the last few years. As well, over the past three years TAFE has spent over \$2 million on international travel.

It is incredible to think that this Premier, once again, is playing petty politics. She is refusing the \$245 million for desperately needed vocational education and training funding from the federal government under the new national partnership. She is playing politics and throwing back that money at a time when we need to take the money that is on the table and invest it in desperately needed training for students so they can get the training for the jobs they need. This is at a time when there is such a shamefully high youth unemployment rate, as high as 12.6 per cent. Eleven thousand fewer Queenslanders are in training compared to 2015 and the number of Queenslanders completing trades has plummeted by almost 40 per cent.

It is petty politics when this government will not get on board and work with the federal government so these programs can be delivered. Other states are getting on with it. This government is still playing petty politics and does not get it. It might have thought Bill Shorten was the answer to its dreams regarding the tax black hole, but it certainly has not come up with a competent plan. This government should get on board and work with the federal government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I know that we all did not get enough sleep last night but I remind the House of members on a warning: the members for Cairns, Glass House, Kawana, Southern Downs, Burleigh, Everton, Hervey Bay and Cooper.

I also acknowledge in the gallery members of the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma, QPASTT. As someone who volunteers at the World Wellness Group, I have seen firsthand the great work that it does and I am sure many other members have constituents who have benefited from its great work.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.10 am): I rise in support of the 2019 appropriation bills. I am very fortunate to represent the incredibly vibrant and diverse electorate of Algeria where there are fantastic schools. I acknowledge the investment in this year's budget for schools in my electorate. In

particular, soon Pallara State School will have a brand-new \$7 million teaching block with 12 new classrooms. I congratulate the school community, in particular school principal Mark Johnstone, who has been a great advocate for his school, and P&C president Geoff Eggins, who displayed great leadership in bringing parents with us on this journey. Pallara State School will also receive \$150,000 towards an environmental outdoor learning area which will be very greatly received.

In other parts of my electorate, Algester State School and Calamvale Special School will receive funding for classroom upgrades. Browns Plains TAFE will receive \$528,000 for campus improvements including painting, air conditioning and maintenance. Browns Plains TAFE is a vital training hub in our community and I am proud to be part of a government that supports TAFE. I am also pleased to inform the House that Acacia Ridge Community Support, now known as Belong, will receive \$120,000 to continue empowering individuals and community groups by providing support through programs like financial literacy, generalist counselling and gambling help services. This organisation does great work for our community every single day, and I am delighted to see it receive further funding support in this budget.

The government's investment of \$898 million in 2019-20 for the Department of Environment and Science will continue to enrich the lives of Queenslanders. Importantly, this funding will contribute to the Queensland government's economic plan for the next decade. It will support job creation, resilient regions and the growth of new industries. This year's budget includes an injection of \$90 million into environmental initiatives that include national park revitalisation, koala conservation, crocodile management and fire management. This year the government will also deliver on its commitment to implement a new koala conservation strategy. Importantly, the government has also committed to continue funding for the important work being undertaken to eradicate yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. Some \$9 million over three years has been allocated to match a federal government investment to ensure that the Wet Tropics are safeguarded from this invasive pest.

This year's additional funding for the department also includes an extra \$10 million for national park revitalisation capital upgrades in 2019-20. There is \$6 million over two years for crocodile management and \$16 million over four years to enhance fire management in national parks. This further funding for fire management is particularly important following the unprecedented fire events we experienced in Queensland over the summer. Our government is providing more resources on the ground to increase our capacity to manage fires and safeguard our national parks. Looking after protected areas is a priority for our government, and that is why in 2019-20 we will continue to invest \$377 million in funding for parks, wildlife and conservation initiatives.

The arts and cultural sector also gets a boost in this year's budget, with the Queensland government continuing to invest \$177 million in our arts community in 2019-20. As we look to the future, the Palaszczuk government is investing \$2 million over two years to explore the development of a first nations cultural centre in Brisbane, a centre which has been touted for more than two decades but which the LNP scrapped when in office. A new centre would showcase first nations cultures from across Queensland and be a drawcard for local tourism. Australia is an ancient land with the oldest living continuous cultures in the world. Our government is committed to celebrating that fact. This year's budget also includes important funding for our existing cultural centres, including \$5 million over two years for energy-efficient LED lighting at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and new blockbuster funding of \$4 million over two years so QAGOMA can continue to draw exclusive exhibitions to Queensland.

In 2019-20 the Queensland government is continuing to invest \$177 million in our vibrant arts community. This funding includes \$5.2 million in 2019-20 as part of the \$125 million commitment to build the new Performing Arts Theatre at QPAC and \$4 million as part of the government's \$15 million commitment to the new Rockhampton Art Gallery. I know that the member for Rockhampton is very pleased with that.

We also are investing \$6 million in 2019-20 through the Arts Infrastructure Investment Fund to revitalise existing state owned arts and cultural facilities including the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts and the Cairns Centre of Contemporary Arts. Funding of \$7.82 million over two years will also go towards maintaining environmental conditions and meeting increased service demand at the cultural centre's central energy plant, and \$16.2 million over four years has been allocated for the Queensland Museum to deliver an expanded offsite research and biodiversity collection storage facility, ensuring the museum collection is maintained to the highest possible standard.

I also am delighted that the increasingly popular World Science Festival Brisbane, presented this year in Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Chinchilla, will build on its success next year with annual funding of \$3 million.

Last week the Palaszczuk government hosted Queensland's first ever Climate Week. The core message of the week was one of opportunity as new jobs and industries emerge. In 2019-20 the government will continue this important work, with over \$17 million to be invested in climate change initiatives. There is a groundswell of community support for better waste management in Queensland and the Palaszczuk government is leading the way. Our vision is for Queensland to become a zero-waste society where waste is avoided and materials are re-used and recycled to the greatest possible extent. The reintroduction of a waste levy in Queensland will support this as well as bring us in line with the rest of Australia. As part of this year's budget, \$1 million over two years has been provided for the development of a waste management data strategy for our state.

This year we will also see expenditure for key programs funded by the waste levy, including support for small businesses and the construction industry and grants for environmental projects. I note the member for Broadwater's claims last night about the amount of waste levy funding going back into environmental initiatives. I am happy to remind the member that, as I have said before in this House, \$6 million of waste levy funds have already been earmarked to expand the Community Sustainability Action Grants program to include waste, koala conservation and threatened species programs. In addition, \$1 million has been allocated towards a school based education program. That is on top of the other initiatives being funded by the levy, including support for councils, industry and businesses.

The Palaszczuk government's approach to environmental protection and better waste management is already delivering new jobs for Queenslanders. The container refund scheme has created 640 jobs in the seven months it has been operating. The introduction of the waste levy will incentivise a move away from landfill and help to curb waste coming into Queensland from other states. The levy will also provide vital funding for infrastructure investment and research and development into new technologies that bolster our recycling and resource recovery industries.


In the coming year the department will also continue to ensure that our approach to environmental protection and management is informed by science and traditional owner perspectives. In 2019-20 the department will deliver a new science strategy for Queensland. As the Minister for Science, I am constantly impressed by the calibre of scientific knowledge that comes out of Queensland and the depth of enthusiasm that exists in our citizen scientists.

The Palaszczuk government is backing our world-leading scientists, with \$25 million over four years of co-investment in cutting-edge scientific infrastructure in this year's budget. We will also invest \$4.8 million over three years to upgrade and extend our high-performance computer facility and modernise our critical scientific systems as part of our Accelerating Science Delivery Innovation program.

The department will also deliver an enhanced Statewide Landcover and Trees Study incorporating new woody extent and clearing mapping for 2018-19. We are supporting the complementarity and convergence of traditional knowledge with western science. This includes leading reforms of the Biodiscovery Act. The department is also developing an integrated first nations framework which will improve our partnerships with traditional owners, increase employment opportunities for first nations peoples and progress co-stewardship of the cultural and conservation values of our protected areas. This is backed by \$15.6 million over four years of new investment in the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program.

Our work for an enriched future for all Queenslanders cannot be successful if we do not preserve and treasure our past. That is why we will continue funding our heritage protection services to the sum of \$6.7 million in 2019-20, including \$1.5 million for urgent remedial conservation works to identify state heritage buildings.

The Palaszczuk government remains committed to boosting our economy, creating new jobs and industries and supporting vibrant and resilient regions. For my portfolio, this is a budget that is investing in the protection of our unique biodiversity today and acknowledging the needs of our communities, our cities and our state for tomorrow. I congratulate the Treasurer on an excellent budget and I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.20 am): I rise to speak in respect of the budget. I start by congratulating our leader on an outstanding response here in the House yesterday. I also want to make a few comments. I received a few text messages while our leader was speaking yesterday, complimenting her and asking for my opinion. Deb is an outstanding leader. She has worked to pull our team together like no-one else in the eight years I have been a member of this parliament. She is hardworking. She is engaging. She is committed. In fact, I would go so far as to say that she is a

top-quality, quintessential Queenslander. She understands the challenges Queenslanders face. She is well connected and well acquainted with both the city and the bush. I am very proud to be part of the LNP team in this House.

I turn my attention now to the electorate of Southport. I am immensely proud of what our local community has achieved in the eight years I have been the member for Southport. I am immensely proud of the progress that has been made in Southport. This in no small part goes back to the early declaration by our government at the time of Southport as a priority development area. That is thanks to the great work of Jeff Seeney, the then deputy premier, the planning department and people like Councillor Dawn Crichlow, our mayor and John Howe, who really saw the need to implement some very strong measures in respect of the revitalisation of Southport. I want to talk about some of those achievements.

Over the past eight years we have seen incredible growth in jobs and opportunity within the Southport electorate. We have seen some \$3 billion invested in the Southport electoral district by way of the light rail, the Commonwealth Games village and the new hospital. On top of that, there has been an incredible amount of private investment as Southport has released the shackles and opened the way for its redevelopment as a very chic urban suburb. According to the state government's own figures, over the next 16 years the population of Southport is forecast to increase by 60 per cent and will peak at about 80,000 people. That is testament to the hard work of so many good people within my electorate.

I was pleased to hear Bernard Salt's comments at the Future Tourism event yesterday. He recognised that Southport had the second highest number of new jobs in the last census and over the last period. There were 10,100 jobs—more even than Brisbane city, which is fantastic. I make the point that the Southport electoral district accounts for about 16½ per cent of all jobs on the Gold Coast. Some 38,507 Gold Coasters find employment there, and Southport continues to grow and thrive as the now recognised official CBD of the Gold Coast.

This morning the member for Cooper suggested that some of us had not bothered to read Budget Papers 1, 2, 3 and 4. I have read them. There is really not much in there for Southport. I will tell members just how much is actually in the budget for the 18 schools in my area. For Keebra Park State High School there is absolutely nothing. That school is continuing to grow and is in a strong growth area, but there is absolutely nothing. How much has the Minister for Education allocated for the schools in Benowa—Benowa State High School and Benowa State School? I have looked through the budget documents and can see absolutely nothing. How much is there for Bellevue Park State School? Again, there is not one cent. Ashmore State School is absolutely at capacity, has ageing classrooms and is in desperate need of a significant revamp and investment. How much is in the budget for Ashmore? Absolutely nothing.

We have heard from the education minister great platitudes about how great the children of Queensland are, how much we need to prepare for growth and how we need to be supporting our young people, but she completely fails to recognise the need for any infrastructure investment in schools within the Southport electorate.

There is still plenty of work to be done within the electorate of Southport. We certainly need continued investment in our local courts and courthouse facilities. As so many services are, they are under pressure. As I have highlighted, there will continue to be increasing growth pressure on our schools. Most of the schools are at capacity or approaching capacity. With so many people moving into the area through infill development and growth within the Southport electoral district, there will be an urgent need. I am putting the House on notice that there will be an urgent need for significant investment in our local schools.

It is not just the schools that need attention. Some 10 or 12 years ago the then member for Southport, Peter Lawlor, released a beautiful glossy brochure about the need to upgrade Southport Nerang Road, basically from Wardoo Street all the way through to Queen Street. If you drive that corridor you will see large parcels of land sitting vacant and businesses set back in anticipation. What has happened? Absolutely nothing. There is not even any money in the budget for that. There is nothing in the forward estimates. There is nothing in QTRIP. The Southport Nerang Road realignment from Wardoo Street to Queen Street is a priority. It needs to be looked at, along with significant adjustments to, or realignment of, the intersection at Edmund Rice Drive and Southport Nerang Road because of significant congestion issues around nearby schools. With the continued growth of Griffith University on the southern side of Smith Street, which also feeds into Edmund Rice Drive, that section of road is coming under more and more pressure.

I was pleased to see that our mayor has announced the realignment of, and improvements to, the old Sundale Bridge, the Southport-Main Beach bridge. That is a great step forward. I congratulate the mayor on that initiative. It is something that many of us have been talking about for a long time. The additional lanes on that bridge will certainly ease some of the congestion issues at Main Beach and The Spit.

This budget is disappointing. Many members have risen in the House over the past 24 hours to talk about the debt burden, the higher taxes and the lack of critical spending in important areas. One of the things that continues to concern me and my colleagues is the lack of responsiveness in relation to law and order. As I understand it, the Southport Police Station currently has 80 to 90 officers assigned. It covers one of the largest policing districts on the Gold Coast. It is in fact one of the busiest police stations in the state. It is a police station that is constantly under pressure.

I am told that around 30 per cent of Southport Police Station's workload deals specifically with domestic violence and family related issues. If we do the maths and work out what a typical seven-day roster looks like, we can appreciate just how stretched those resources are. My plea to the minister is that the government review policing numbers for the Gold Coast, particularly for the Southport policing district. We absolutely need to get these youth justice issues resolved. The pressure that it has put on the Southport watch house and employees of the Southport Police Station in terms of having to look after the overflow from Brisbane watch houses has been significant. We absolutely need urgent action to support our officers on the ground.

There has been a lot said in the budget reply speeches about health. While I am extremely pleased that we have one of the largest and most modern hospitals within the electorate or on the fringe of the electorate as a result of the boundary changes at the last election, that hospital continues to come under incredible pressure. It is just appalling to think that in just four short years we are back to the situation we were in under the previous Labor government with ambulance ramping at the hospital and many occasions where the hospital is absolutely stretched to the limits in terms of its ability to cope with the demand.


Our leader said it well when she said that the role of government is to help Queenslanders get a job and get ahead. Our leader also said it well when she made the comment that it costs a lot of money to be this bad at running Queensland. Along with my colleagues, I am absolutely appalled at the lack of response from the Treasurer on how she intends to manage the issue of debt. I am absolutely appalled and concerned about the legacy of debt that we are leaving for our kids. As a father of four grown-up boys and now a grandfather, the legacy that we are leaving for future generations is completely unacceptable. We heard the Leader of the Opposition talk about how Labor does things—that is, when it runs out of money, it comes after yours with higher taxes and charges. I can assure members that an LNP government will not spend more than it receives, just like every household—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I will take that interjection, because the commentary that I am hearing about sacking is coming from the same government which has announced a razor gang to reduce the Public Service by some 17,000 people over the remainder of this term. The hypocrisy of those on the other side of the House is breathtaking.

After five years in power, all the Palaszczuk Labor government has done is delivered higher taxes, more debt and fewer jobs. As a representative of the people of my electorate, all I can say is that I am incredibly disappointed with this budget. The government has failed to deliver on some of the fundamental needs of the electorate. It is failing our local schools because there has been no provision made for the expansion or growth of schools. It is failing in terms of dealing with some of the road issues. Those opposite have a lot to say about jobs, but while they are talking about creating jobs we have got on with the job in Southport. I am incredibly proud of the fact that we are recognised as the No. 2 jobs growth electoral district within the state. There are a great many hardworking people within my electorate who can be proud of the work that they have done to make that possible.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I just want to provide general guidance to members. Many members have been waving budget papers around while speaking. It is acceptable to read from the budget papers and it is acceptable to table things, but if members are going to simply wave things around we are moving close to those papers being used as a prop. I would ask that members either read from the papers or leave them on their tables.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (11.34 am): Today I rise in support of the 2019-20 budget and congratulate the Premier and Deputy Premier and Treasurer, the Hon. Jackie Trad, for handing down another phenomenal budget. The people of Cook want to know that they are being listened to, and this budget

does exactly that. I have said it before and I will say it again: Cook is unique in the vastness of the region and, as such, faces many challenges in achieving positive social and economic outcomes. Through my travels in Cook I get to experience firsthand the vast terrains—from island communities in the Torres Strait to communities separated by vast masses of land in Cape York and the Tablelands. For many regional and remote communities this is home, and I acknowledge the challenges people face living in their communities.


This budget speaks volumes for communities in my electorate and highlights this government's commitment to regional and remote communities not only in the Cook electorate but also in all communities of Queensland. The 2019-20 budget delivers for health, education and jobs—all of which are at the forefront of this government's priorities. When it comes to education, every child deserves a quality education wherever they are in Queensland, and having adequate infrastructure is vital for students' learning. I am thrilled with the record investment of new funding to carry out refurbishments for certain schools in the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York, Mareeba and Mossman. This new funding announcement in the 2019-20 budget will also fund amenities for schools at the Hope Vale campus, external painting to the primary campus at the Northern Peninsula Area State College, replace stairs and a veranda floor in Mossman State School and a new school set-down shade structure at Tagai State College's Thursday Island primary campus in Torres Strait.

In addition, \$2 million is allocated across 47 schools in the Cook electorate for maintenance and \$0.72 million for minor works in schools throughout the Cook electorate for this financial year. I felt extremely proud to recently accompany the Minister for Education, the Hon. Grace Grace, to the Tagai college high school campuses on Thursday Island, Badu Island, Saibai Island, Horn Island and also Lockhart River state school in Cape York. We met with locals, school leaders, teachers and students in communities to hear firsthand the issues in relation to education that are important to them. I can tell members that, when it comes to education, this government is listening because we only want what is best for all children, no matter where they live in Queensland.

In examining the budget for Health, this Palaszczuk Labor government is the only way to go. Some \$322,727 in new funding for a school dental service as part of a \$1.29 million package commitment over four years is just one component of how this budget is going to deliver. There is also a \$1.81 million investment to provide step-up step-down services, over \$150,000 for dementia respite services and over \$942,000 as part of a \$2.13 million package to provide mental health service programs. This new health funding is in addition to the ongoing funding to build, upgrade and adequately resource health service delivery in my communities. Funds to build a new clinic on Mer Island, the redevelopment of five primary healthcare centres in the Torres Strait and install a new CT scanner at Mareeba Hospital show just how serious this government is about supporting regional Queensland. As a former health worker, I feel proud to represent a government that is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

This government is listening to the people of Queensland. When the federal LNP government chose to turn its back on communities in my electorate, it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that did the heavy lifting for Queensland. Some \$228.3 million to improve housing for discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, \$20 million for seawall and flood mitigation works on five vulnerable islands in the Torres Strait, \$25 million for the Mossman mill and \$5.8 million in new funding for the Burke Developmental Road show that this government backs communities 100 per cent, even after the federal government refused to listen and walked away.

Taking into consideration the vast geographical landscape of the Cook electorate, it is clear that this budget aims to address social and economic disadvantage for regional and remote communities by investing in services, providing the right infrastructure and creating opportunities for local employment. This budget focuses on making a real difference for people and their communities through addressing barriers to enhancing people's livelihoods under challenging circumstances. This is a fantastic budget. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.39 am): Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended last night's Bundaberg celebration of all things good. It was a pleasure to be able to do that with the member for Bundaberg.

I have read this bill and it is clear: it is a big-borrowing, big-spending and big-taxing budget. It is a debt bomb for everyone. We will have more debt, more taxes and, we believe, fewer jobs. From what I have seen in the budget papers, this budget is 100 per cent squarely designed to shore up support for Labor held seats, particularly in regional Queensland. We know that total government owned corporations' debt is rising. The debt-to-revenue ratio is increasing to 105.5 per cent. It will be up to

122.5 per cent in 2022-23. I contrast that percentage to the percentage in New South Wales of 85 per cent and in Victoria of 76 per cent. Those two states have maintained their AAA credit rating. We would need to pay back approximately \$11 billion in debt to get our AAA rating back.

I guess Labor does not care. It certainly does not care that every man, woman and child in Queensland now owes \$67,000 as a result of Labor's fiscal mess. As we know, and as we knew in 2011, Labor cannot manage the budget. Do members remember Labor borrowing to pay its public servants? It is at it again. It is also clear that soon we will be shelling out \$3.5 billion a year in interest payments. I remind members that that is enough to fund many projects in our electorates, such as the much needed Bundaberg Hospital and flood mitigation in my electorate. Those two projects have no allocation in the budget.

From the 2019-20 financial year, the payroll tax rate of 4.95 per cent will apply to employees with total annual bills above \$6.5 million. Petroleum royalty rates will increase to 12.5 per cent. In July, the government will increase the land tax rates for companies, trusts and absentee owners for every dollar above the value of \$5 million.

I can advise the House that the preliminary estimate for Bundaberg Sugar is that its tax will double, sending it broke. From 2019-20 the land tax absentee surcharge will be harmonised with the rate charged in Victoria and New South Wales. In Queensland the scope will be widened to also include foreign corporations, trustees and foreign trusts. Local and overseas property owners have again been slugged with unjustifiable and uncompetitive land tax increases in the Queensland budget. Land tax has increased for all property holdings over \$5 million in value in Queensland, with some offshore investors potentially seeing a near doubling of their overall land tax bill.

We know that it is not accurate to suggest that these taxes will not be paid by Queenslanders or will not affect job-creating investment in this state. Almost all of the properties that will be impacted by this tax hike are home to businesses employing thousands of Queenslanders in industries such as manufacturing, tourism, logistics, trade and agriculture. It is the bottom line on an investor's spreadsheet that determines whether they invest in Queensland. This tax slug makes job-generating investment by offshore players in key sectors—and I mentioned tourism and agriculture as examples—less likely in Queensland.

I will highlight how much of an impact these new taxes will have. It is staggering when we consider that agricultural investment, such as in my electorate where there is significant investment in macadamias, agriculture and feedlots, will be crippled. Some iconic brands will be captured by this tax. I refer to Billabong, XXXX, Bundaberg Rum, Golden Circle, Weis Ice Cream, Kirks soft drinks, Pauls, MIM Holdings—Mount Isa Mines—and Defiance Flour. They will pay nearly double their taxable liabilities.

**Mr Nicholls:** Bundy rum.

**Mr BENNETT:** Bundy rum. I also remind members that 6.1 per cent of all land in Queensland is foreign owned, mainly by the British. Last year's rates increase on foreign investors was due to be brought forward—and it was brought forward—by two months. Last year, Bundaberg Sugar's bill increased by \$300,000 to \$1.27million. This year, with these new taxes, that amount will double. Bundaberg Sugar's bill will be nearly \$3 million—an additional \$1.1 million. This year, the increase in this budget for MSF Sugar is \$700,000. That figure will double that company's liabilities.

This week, it has also been raised with me that this tax increase could be in conflict with free trade agreements. For example, in the free trade agreement with Thailand there is a clause called most favoured nation. I understand that a foreign nation cannot be treated differently. Previously, I highlighted agricultural investment. I point out that most agricultural investments work on returns of between two per cent and five per cent. It is a tough industry. Members can imagine what a two per cent new tax slug on these big businesses will do. It will hurt and it will have a negative effect, contrary to what we heard this morning in ministerial statements and other speeches about how great investment in Queensland is.

Sadly, this tax increase is just the latest in a long line of tax hits for people who have chosen to invest in Queensland. Since October 2016, the Queensland Labor government has introduced a new additional foreign acquirer duty on residential property; increased that additional foreign acquirer duty from three per cent to seven per cent; introduced a land tax surcharge on absentee landowners; increased the land tax surcharge from 1.5 per cent to two per cent for absentee landowners; extended the land tax surcharge to include foreign companies and trusts; introduced a new land tax category for owners with holdings over \$10 million; again increased the rate of land tax for those holdings; and increased the rate of land tax for holdings over \$5 million. That is nine new or increased property taxes that have been introduced by this government.



Some obvious and overdue funding measures have been missed in this budget. There was talk about abolishing stamp duty on agricultural insurance. That was a big one for people in my part of the world. There was also backing for a holistic industry led schools engagement program and the better addressing of electricity and water affordability. We know that, as a result of Labor's poor investment decisions, Queenslanders are paying too much for their electricity. Over the past decade the gold-plating of transmission lines and the fat profit margins being collected are the key drivers of power prices that have seen householders' electricity bills surging.

Labor continues to use electricity as a secret tax with record dividends extracted from government owned electricity corporations to prop up its budget at the expense of taxpayers. Labor refuses to introduce retail competition for regional Queensland, and that is costing people in those areas more. We know that the big new tax on petroleum royalties, which takes those royalties up to 12.5 per cent, will make the state's gas industry less competitive and will probably cost jobs. We also know that that highlights Queensland's sovereign risk. As has been said many times, Queensland is the only state that is developing its gas industry. We should be concerned that this attack on this part of the resource sector could affect the gas supply for all Queenslanders and Australians.

Queensland is heading towards a massive debt bomb of \$90 billion. Only Labor could get a massive coal royalty windfall, bring in nine new taxes and tax hikes and still have to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole. It is important to not forget that revenue from vehicle registration will rise from \$1.85 billion in 2018-19 to \$2.12 billion across the forward estimates. That is a broken promise of the Palaszczuk government and another example of the Labor treating Queensland motorists like cash cows.

I remind the House how disappointed I am when I see big tax increases, particularly increases in registration, and no investment on local dangerous roads in the budget. For example, Rosedale Road, Isis Highway and many more roads have been highlighted as needing urgent upgrades. My region is not the only area to experience the recent tragedies on our roads. Certainly, the residents of my electorate are feeling the hurt. I remind the House that, after years of problems, Round Hill Creek at 1770 is desperate for funding.

I am glad the member for Gladstone is present in the House. We know that he is a strong advocate for the 250th celebration of Captain Cook's exploration of Australia. It is time the government stumped up and matched the \$1 million in funding committed by the federal government to make sure that this important historical event achieves its full potential. I look forward to working with the member for Gladstone, who can continue to lobby his side of the House for this really important project.

I know that new home buyers in the Bundaberg region will be worse off from this week's budget. The removal of the \$5,000 first home owner boost was a problem. To not reintroduce it has been devastating. I also know that, in my part of the world, the \$70 a tonne waste levy, which will increase to \$90 a tonne, will have huge impacts on the building sector and mums and dads. The increases in land tax will make it harder for new home buyers in my area to get a leg-up. Clearly, housing affordability is not a priority for this government. At a time when new work in the home-building industry is slowing and population growth is picking up, Queensland needs policies and programs that will support the future demand for housing, not more costs on the already overtaxed new home building projects. Regional Queensland towns such as Bundaberg are likely to be the hardest hit by these measures.

I welcome the continuation of funding for the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, but it is staggering to note that the budget for this centre is \$21.1 million. I am not complaining, but, as a taxpayer I would. When the former LNP government announced funding for that centre, it was \$8 million. It is taking a long time to get built and there are lots of problems. We look forward to the long-term outcome of R&D into the conservation of nesting sea turtles. This is typical of a project under Labor.

We welcome the new initiative that is the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, which is contributing to the cultural heritage of our region. This is a very important part of the coast. I welcome the commitment from the Leader of the Opposition to air-condition every public school in my region. I know that teachers look forward to that.

There is no good news for those looking for public housing in my area. Last month the waiting list for people who identified as very high need rose by 1,000. It is staggering that despite the rhetoric and the billions allocated in the budget we have a waiting list nightmare. In December 2012 when we came to government there were 24,000 people waiting. When we left government in March 2015 there were 16,000. We now have 20,000 people waiting who are being let down by this government. To give the House an example of how this government operates, in 2017, 34 houses were locked up for more than a year while tenants were incarcerated. How does that stack up when people are desperate, particularly around homelessness, and are looking for answers.

I take this opportunity to thank those people in my part of the world who fought for a genuine inquiry into the devastating bushfires last year. I welcome the announcement in the budget of money for bushfire mitigation programs. They have set a benchmark related to a 10-year-old Victorian report that sets a target of five per cent of our protected estate to be under management. Quite frankly, we were not doing it properly before. I encourage the minister to consider engagement with traditional owners around their expertise in dealing with fire mitigation.

**Ms Enoch:** That is already happening.


**Mr BENNETT:** I take the interjection from the minister. They fought us all the way when it came to discussing what fire mitigation would look like. I am paying respect to the government in that it has finally taken notice of the traditional owners and will engage them in what fire mitigation will look like. That is an important development.

Turning to the portfolio budget papers, the rate of children subject to protective orders per 1,000 children was supposed to be 8.5. Instead it blew out to 8.8. With record investment in child safety it is disappointing to see such poor results. The department's own targets are now assuming that Queensland's most vulnerable children will be worse off under Labor and this budget. Labor's child safety spending has nothing to do with the safety of Queensland's most vulnerable children and everything to do with waste in the department. We must look at how to better work with the department to deal with the issues in a way that is expected of it. Children's lives are at risk while urgently needed reforms to the child safety system are delayed. Over the last decade there have been 40 different reports into child safety and we continue to stumble from one crisis to another.

Failure of child safety data is continuing to put children at risk. We must ensure that we look after child safety staff. They are under increasing workloads and pressure. It continues to be a problem. I thank the member for Pumicestone for her vision on this. Every day in her electorate office she gets a terrific number of inquiries involving child safety. We need leadership and vision, not just money thrown at the problem.

It is distressing to see that domestic violence continues to plague communities in Queensland. It is becoming worse than ever. Unfortunately we are doing a lot of talking and there is not much action. I acknowledge the record funding, but clearly it is not hitting the ground where it is needed. To give an example of that, there were 28,323 breaches of domestic violence prevention orders. When one considers that those people are running amok in our community there is a real fear for the safety of those women and children who need the protection of the system. There were almost 30,000 times that victims of domestic violence were put at risk. They rely on this government to look after them.

In closing I want to talk about returning men and women who have done so much for our country. There is an allocation of \$1.5 million in the budget to continue the good work with memorials, monuments and other public sites. I note the line item to continue to implement policies, programs and initiatives. In Townsville there is money to continue the work of the Oasis centre. I acknowledge and look forward to the rollout of the new division within the Premier's department that will look after our veterans.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.54 am): The 2019 Labor budget is a budget that puts Queenslanders at its core. No matter who you are, no matter where you are from, this budget will support you. There is a clear contrast between the Palaszczuk Labor government's budgets and the three delivered by the LNP. When in government the LNP prioritised the sacking of 14,000 public servants. On this side of the House we believe that there is dignity in work. We believe that having a job is the cornerstone of everything else in a person's life, and that is why this budget, like Labor budgets which have gone before, is unashamedly focused on jobs for Queenslanders.

We have created approximately 207,000 jobs in Queensland since our election in 2015 and this has been done without cutting services, sacking public servants or selling assets. This budget invests more in education, health and the infrastructure Queensland needs. While there is strong investment in these important areas across Queensland, I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government's fifth budget delivers directly and indirectly for my community of Redcliffe. Our state is forever growing and the services that support it need to grow too. That is why I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's \$19.2 billion investment in health, which means that there will be more doctors, nurses and health professionals in our hospitals and communities supporting Queenslanders.

We have seen this money flow through to our local community. Since coming to government, an additional 180 nurses have been hired to support and care for patients at the Redcliffe Hospital. Over \$16 million is in this budget to upgrade the medical imaging services at the Redcliffe Hospital, which

includes the purchasing and installation of an MRI machine. I am pleased to also welcome a new CT scanner—this will be the second scanner for the Redcliffe Hospital, which is much needed—which the Minister for Health and I had the pleasure of announcing a couple of weeks ago. The amount of \$5.5 million has been allocated to construct an additional operating theatre at our Redcliffe Hospital and refurbish the recovery unit to support additional surgeries and improve patient experiences when they are getting the vital health services they need. This is in addition to the existing works already funded by the Palaszczuk government, including the construction of the new four-storey carpark, with construction to commence later this year, and the new special care nursery, birth suite and paediatric unit.

People who know me know that I am passionate about education and training. Having a strong education system sets an individual up for life. I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$1.464 billion in our school system. Locally, we will directly share in around \$2.5 million of funding to refurbish and undertake maintenance works at our local schools, including Woody Point Special School, Clontarf Beach State School, Redcliffe Special School and Humpybong State School just to name a few. I am sure this funding will be warmly welcomed by all our school communities and I look forward to getting out to see some of the works soon.

However, as we all know, education does not finish at the school gate. That is why the Palaszczuk government has continued its funding of our TAFE facilities, with over \$1 million for the Redcliffe TAFE to enable the construction of a nursing ward to help train locals to become qualified health professionals. Funding has also been allocated for vocational education and training, with over \$193 million budgeted to help year 12 school leavers obtain their first post-school qualification to assist them in gaining a job, along with helping many others in the community retrain and reskill.

I am also pleased to welcome over \$1.1 million of funding for our NGOs to continue to deliver specialist homelessness services, including Chameleon House and Open Minds Australia. Our local sporting and recreational clubs will also receive continued or additional funding to support their vital work, including the Newport Cruising Yacht Club and local football and rugby clubs.

Our government understands that some in our community may be doing it tough and we are committed to delivering concessions to assist families, young people, seniors and pensioners in our community manage cost-of-living pressures. That is why I welcome \$5.66 billion in funding to help household budgets via an array of different concessions. I encourage eligible residents in our community to visit [www.qld.gov.au/smartsavings](http://www.qld.gov.au/smartsavings) to find out more information.

While many in this chamber may get excited over power, I am excited to see the continuation of funding for power of a different kind. This year's budget sees nearly \$4 million allocated to continue the upgrade works at the Redcliffe power substation. These works include transformer replacement and upgrade works to improve network performance and reliance, which I know will be welcomed in our community, in particular at our local Meals on Wheels Association which relies on a consistent stream of electricity to power their appliances and oven—which I note was funded by a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant—to make thousands of meals for our community each year. I take this opportunity to thank them and all of our hardworking volunteers right across the peninsula who work tirelessly, day in and day out, for our community.

As the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice I am proud that this budget rules in favour of justice for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders will have better and faster access to justice, with the Palaszczuk government increasing funding to the operations of the courts by \$57.7 million over the next four years. As our state's population grows, so do the demands on our court system and that is why the 2019-20 budget will provide the courts and justice agencies with even more resources. This budget sees additional funding of \$14.2 million to deliver front-line services within our courthouses, which includes funding for 20 new front-line registry and leadership staff across our state.


For 2019-20, \$1.5 million has been allocated for 12 new prosecution and support staff at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, with \$42.8 million over four years to support our independent public prosecution service. An extra \$13.1 million will go towards the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal over five years to boost services and help deliver on the new lemon laws legislation to provide greater consumer protection for Queenslanders who get stuck with defective vehicles. A sum of \$2.9 million will also go towards the Coroners Court, which will help the establishment of a second temporary registrar unit.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of funding vital support and intervention programs and is providing an additional \$2.8 million to supplement current Community Justice Group funding, to allow them to continue their role in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander people involved with the criminal justice system. Increased funding of \$6.6 million over four years has been allocated to expand Court Link services to Maroochydore, Redcliffe and Caboolture and to integrate with the Queensland Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment program. Funding has also been provided to expand the Murri Court program to Ipswich, which is another important diversionary and intervention program. I look forward to opening the new Ipswich Murri Court next week.

This budget includes an additional \$2.5 million over four years to support the independent child death review panel as part of \$13.5 million in this financial year for child protection litigation services. This funding will establish a new model to ensure its independence, as recommended by the Queensland Family and Child Commission. An additional \$27 million over five years has also been allocated to the Office of the Public Guardian to deliver protection to children in care and vulnerable adults, and \$15.3 million has been allocated over four years to support victims of crime access financial assistance.

I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government that is delivering on health, education, infrastructure, community safety and social support services for Queenslanders and my local community of Redcliffe. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.02 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2019 and the state government budget for 2019-20. This budget has been handed down by the state Labor government in a bid to reconnect with regional Queensland. It looks after the south-east corner as usual, but at the same time we have been told that this will be the budget that reconnects with regional Queensland. One thing that the state government probably has not done well is to consult with regional Queenslanders and ask them what they want. The KAP connects very well with our constituents. We understand the needs of the people in our regions. People in our regions are looking for nation-building infrastructure. They are looking for infrastructure that will bring wealth back to the state. People in the Hinchinbrook electorate talk about dams. In Traeger they talk about rail lines. In Hill they talk about helping the agricultural industry and bringing down power prices.

In my opinion, this is a very good Labor budget. It has done very well in delivering funding for schools and roads. That sort of infrastructure is being maintained well. We will see some good money being spent in Hinchinbrook schools, which I will talk more about later.

What would we have done if we had the opportunity to spend some of Queensland's money in this round? The Adani project has just received the final tick of approval. We would love to see the government now jump on board and work with the people of Queensland to own the rail infrastructure that goes into the centre of the Galilee Basin. We want all mines and future mines to not only pay royalties back to Queenslanders for the opportunity to dig our coal out of the ground; we should also be benefitting from the cost of the transportation of that coal to port. We do that by following the philosophy that we build it, we own it—although if we built it and made some money, eventually both sides of the House would probably vote to sell it to repay some of the \$90 billion debt.

This budget does not allocate any money to building dams in Queensland. We have not seen any money allocated to Hells Gate Dam, for which we have been lobbying the state and federal governments for many years. It is part of the Bradfield scheme and would deliver prosperity to western agricultural regions that have some of the most fertile ground in Australia. All they need is water. The Bradfield scheme was set up to be a nation-changing piece of infrastructure. We understand that we are now in a different time and a different world and that smaller projects may get up, although not the whole Bradfield scheme. Hells Gates and Big Rocks Weir stage 1 are the first step in that project.

I want to highlight some of the budget windfalls for the Hinchinbrook electorate. Making phone calls to schools in my electorate has been one of the best parts of my week. I spoke with Michelle Donn at Bohlevale State School, which received quite a bit of funding—\$400,000—for upgrades to the D block classrooms and an extra \$60,000 for demolishing some old buildings. I had the opportunity to contact Ingham State High School and speak to Principal Judith Fenoglio, who is very happy that Ingham State High School will receive over \$2 million in funding to ensure that the school's air conditioners will be replaced. We will have cool schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate. Nearly \$400,000 worth of air conditioning will be replaced at Victoria Plantation State School. I imagine the students will accept that very happily. A little more than \$7 million will go to the North Shore State School, which is one of the newest schools in Queensland. Principal Patrick McDonnell is very impressed that the rest of his school will be finally finished.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I take that interjection, because eventually there has to be something worth listening to from the member for Thuringowa. I might even go back and listen to that again.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Congratulations, and I will get to you later.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I will not take that interjection. While the member for Thuringowa is once again mouthing off, I take the opportunity to address the dig he took at me last night. Firstly, I congratulate the Drive It board for doing all the hard lifting. For 10 years they have been trying to secure state government and federal government funding. It took Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party to secure the first \$5 million from the federal government.

**A government member:** You're in the wrong party, mate.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I am going to be nice to you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for Hinchinbrook will speak through the chair.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I thank the member for Townsville for the humility he showed in his speech and for the hard work that he has done in his electorate, especially to secure some money for the port of Townsville. That is the kind of nation-building infrastructure we need.

The member for Thuringowa said that the only thing I have done is to verbally support this project. Guess what? When you turn up to all the meetings and the rallies, you do not see the member there. You put out as much media as possible to get the member off his backside and doing some work on this, if that is all I have to do—

**Mr HARPER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member's language personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, you have been asked to withdraw.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I withdraw. I table the Drive It NQ business case, which was given to me by the Drive It board at one of those meetings. It was given to me to ensure that it went to the Minister for State Development, because they were a little unsure if the local member would do any work for them. I table that document and my letter to the minister's office.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 23 May 2019, and enclosed document from the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Nick Dametto MP, to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding the Drive It NQ business case [1004].

I will get off that subject because it looks like I have made my point.

**Mr Harper:** What did you deliver?

**Mr DAMETTO:** I will not take that interjection. What I have also been able to secure in Hinchinbrook, which I am happy about, is ongoing funding for roads. There will be some road widening along the Bruce Highway, which is great. That will help create a safer environment for people travelling up and down the Bruce Highway, especially between Townsville and Ingham.

One thing that came to my attention going through the budget papers is that there have not been any major upgrades to the Bruce Highway between the Cardwell Range and Tully. I bring to the attention of the House a tragic accident that happened along that part of the highway on 4 June. Two parents lost their lives and two children were orphaned as a result of the accident at Conn Creek. We desperately need to upgrade that section of highway. We need more passing lanes and wider bridges. With locals I will continue to lobby for upgrades to that section of the Bruce Highway.

There are a couple of projects in the Hinchinbrook electorate that we have not seen any money flow towards and which we will continue to fight for. There was no money for the dredging of One Mile Creek at Port Hinchinbrook. That is a longstanding problem. It has been over 10 years that we have seen this problem at One Mile Creek. We have seen the failed development of Port Hinchinbrook. Both sides of the House have had the opportunity in government but failed to help out the residents of Cardwell and reinvigorate the tourism industry by assisting with that development. I will continue lobbying for that.

We did not see any further money to help the North Queensland Bio-Energy Corporation get off the ground. That project, which has been 10 years in the making, has not been able to get traction. We have lobbied the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy multiple times and come up with

different ideas and different ways for that project to come to fruition. It is a clean energy project that will see electricity generated from biomass from the sugar milling process. We think it should get off the ground and be identified as a clean energy project. We could secure a pathway for that project if it received the same amount of funding as the Mossman mill. That would be a great way to reduce the amount of money they need to borrow to get that project off the ground.

Another issue is the dredging of Enterprise Channel. Last year a hot topic for the state government was invigorating ecotourism in the Hinchinbrook electorate, incorporating Thorsborne Trail and Hinchinbrook Island. I understand things have slowed with that project. If we are to reinvigorate or kick off an ecotourism business or economy in the Hinchinbrook electorate we need to ensure that vessels can get out of either One Mile Creek or Dungeness, which is at Lucinda.

**Ms Trad:** The mayor texted me he is very happy.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I will take that interjection. The mayor of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council is very happy at the moment. Thank you very much for that interjection.

One thing we need in future is a rock wall. If we are going to do any dredging work there in the future we need to create a rock wall so that the dredging is not futile and the point is not eroded away.


One thing I have been lobbying for for quite a while is the reintroduction of the first home owners grant. That grant has not been extended in this year's budget to existing homes. The reason I have been lobbying so hard is that I live in the Hinchinbrook electorate which has Ingham, a small country town, smack bang in the middle of it. We have lost a fifth of our population from the last census to the current one. The community are worried that they are not only going to lose their youth but also not attract anyone new to the town.

If the first home owners grant were reintroduced and applied to established homes in rural and regional Queensland that would be one way of attracting people back to the regions. They could step into a market that is saturated with cheap houses. The building market has pretty much stalled because no-one is moving there. If we provide incentives to people to move to the regions that is one way we could rebuild our towns.

We have seen a great spend for health in this budget. I applaud the minister for spending a lot of money at the Townsville Hospital, and especially on dialysis machines. At the Ingham Hospital we need at least one or two dialysis machines. People have lobbied for them for a long time. We have people with a life-threatening condition on the highway three times a week. Three days a week they are travelling backwards and forwards to Townsville. It is a 12-hour round trip once the bus drops off people here, there and everywhere and the patients go through their lifesaving dialysis treatment.

If we had a couple of machines or at least one machine at the Ingham Hospital we would be able to get those people off the road. We have been told that a number of people who qualified for satellite dialysis do not actually live in the Hinchinbrook electorate. The problem is that people who are at this stage where they need this lifesaving treatment are moving to Townsville and we are losing them from the regions. That is another reason I will be fighting to get this important health service in the Hinchinbrook electorate.

All in all, this is a budget that I believe has given Queenslanders enough. Has it been bold enough to actually win over voters come the next state election? It will be up to the people of Queensland to decide that. We in the KAP believe we are about to step into a \$90 billion debt hole. I would support more debt if we built the nation-building infrastructure that would help bring income to the state. If we are only going to rely on the resource sector and taxes to create revenue then I think we are in a bleak place.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.16 pm): In the wake of a record season of bushfires, cyclones, floods and monsoonal troughs, it is with pride and honour that I stand before the House and back a record \$740 million budget allocated for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. It is a budget that backs to the hilt the Palaszczuk government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe. It underscores this government's commitment to ensuring that our fire and emergency services from Cape York to Coolangatta have the capacity to do their jobs professionally, safely and with the equipment and vehicles they need.

On Tuesday we announced \$50 million for another 75 new fire appliances across the state. Of those, 25 are slated for the Rural Fire Service. I am immensely proud of our government's investment in our rural fire appliances. In the three years those opposite were in power, they delivered an average

of 27 trucks a year to the rural fire brigades. The Palaszczuk government, on the other hand, has delivered an average of 60. Last year it was 119 in one year—that is, double the average. It does not matter how one does the numbers, the result is the same. We recognise and believe in the work, support and commitment of our Rural Fire Service personnel—staff and volunteers.

As an aside, when we are committing money and resources to our rural fleet, there is nothing but the utmost support from the men and women of the fire and rescue service, our urban fleet, who staff our urban trucks. They know our rural fleet needed help. They supported us to deliver it. As loyal and committed members of QFES, our fire and rescue personnel recognised when and where QFES resources needed to be delivered.

We must now address the urban aerial fleet, our type 3 pumpers, our absolute front-line staff trucks, and steer our resources in that direction. QFES is a team and a team backs its teammates. I request everyone in the Rural Fire Service and RFBAQ to back the team and back QFES.

I point out that when the Palaszczuk government came into power our Rural Fire Service was completely dependent on sausage sizzles and chook raffles to put fuel in the tanks of our remote and regional fire trucks and to keep them maintained and on the road. That is because the LNP gave our rural fireys zero dollars for fuel and maintenance. Since 2016 this government has committed ongoing \$3.8 million a year to ensure that our rural fireys have exactly what they need to keep their communities safe. Today I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government meets all their costs and those sausage sizzles and raffles are no longer necessary.

Our Blue Water Review into the voluntary marine rescue services along Queensland's coastline is going great guns, so the member for Gregory need not worry. There has been fantastic progress, with community meetings at Southport, Redcliffe, Townsville and Gladstone and two more scheduled for Tin Can Bay and Cairns. It is a project led by volunteers from the coast guard and Voluntary Marine Rescue—the two groups determining their own direction. It is not about me. It is not about what our government believes. It is about them. They have my full support in determining their support and what their organisation will look like. I can announce to the House that they have already made one clear determination, and that is that they want there to be one single marine rescue organisation for the state of Queensland.

With this budget we are continuing to deliver brand-new career firefighters across Queensland. We committed at the election to deliver 100. We are well on track. Nearly 50 of those have already been allocated to stations and another 25 will be allocated this year. That is because this government backs jobs across this great state.

This budget also has \$104 million in new capital expenditure and capital grants for QFES for new stations, for upgrading stations, for refurbishments, for continuing the work that has already been started—and that includes Longreach. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the member for Gregory that the Longreach fire station is on track to be completed by mid-2021, as it was when he asked me last year at estimates. When I replied that it would be completed in June 2021, his response was, 'That sounds good.' I reiterate that, in line with the Palaszczuk government's commitment to regional Queensland, we are still 'good' to deliver the Longreach fire and rescue station by mid-2021. What a fantastic complex it will be for Longreach when I hand over the keys to the \$3.1 million complex that will be a new home for the Fire and Rescue Service, the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service.

Our State Emergency Service has been allocated almost \$5 million for communications, for facilities, for flood boats and for vehicles. This is in stark contrast to those opposite. When they were in power, they proposed to sack almost 60 Rural Fire Service staff. They cancelled a whole recruit course. They stopped recruiting. They called off-duty firefighters who were fighting for their rights 'strippers'.


I will turn for a moment to the electorate of Barron River. Roads are the arteries and veins delivering our children to their schools and our workers to their jobs and taking them all home again at the end of the day. Roads are quite literally the lifeblood for the families and the neighbours in my community. Ground has been broken on the highly anticipated Smithfield Bypass, and I am not the only resident to breathe a sigh of relief. I recognised the need for the bypass. I fought for it. Now it is with a great sense of pride that I can see it literally coming out of the ground.

In this budget the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1.435 billion to the entire Far North Queensland region for roads during the next four years. Of that, \$144 million has been committed for four major Cairns projects—the Cairns Ring Road, the western arterial road duplication, the Harley Street intersection upgrade and stage 5 of the southern access upgrade.

This budget also delivers for our schools, with \$59.5 million across Far North Queensland. Of that, more than \$25 million is coming to my electorate alone for three major school upgrades at Redlynch State College, Smithfield State High School, Trinity Beach State School, as well as Kuranda District State College.

For QFES, this budget is an investment in our people. It is an investment in our vehicles. It is an investment in our bricks and mortar. During this financial year we will see new aerial fleet arriving into Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—state-of-the-art aerial firefighting appliances, the kinds of trucks that you had as a child. You know the little fire trucks you buy? We all had them. I had them. We are buying them for real. These are world-class. They will be stationed in and around Brisbane. They will be replacing a lot of our fleet which is ageing. I know that our crews are desperately looking forward to receiving them. These appliances, trucks, will be at the largest of the largest fires, but they could also be doing something as simple as rescuing a cat out of a tree. It is something that we are very, very proud of.

This is a fantastic QFES budget. It is a fantastic Palaszczuk government budget. I congratulate the Treasurer, and I congratulate the Premier and all of my cabinet colleagues. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.24 pm): This is certainly a Labor budget—higher taxes, record debt and absolutely nothing for the Sunshine Coast. After 4½ years, Labor's legacy for Queensland is a massive debt bomb of \$90 billion, nine new taxes, one of the worst unemployment rates in the country and a youth jobs crisis all over regional Queensland. This is a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and certainly less infrastructure.

Under Labor's new tax-everything-that-moves regime, \$1.25 billion will be ripped out of our economy over the next four years. This is, of course, on top of the \$2.2 billion ripped out by the government's last budget. These new taxes on top of the previous five from the last budget will hit households and businesses in every corner of this state. After 4½ years in office, Labor has no economic plan for Queensland other than to tax Queensland families and businesses. Queenslanders, however, are a smart bunch of good people and they will easily see through the rhetoric of this government.

Members would recall that the 2017 budget was trumpeted as a 'jobs bonanza' and then we ended up with the highest unemployment rate in Australia at 6.5 per cent. Still, as at April this year, almost 160,000 Queenslanders were out of a job and looking for work. Last year's budget was promised as an 'infrastructure bonanza' but then, as reported through the media, in 2018-19 Queensland had the second lowest infrastructure spend as a percentage of gross state product at 1.75 per cent, ahead only of the ACT. When the Treasurer comes out crowing that we have had to 'borrow to build' in this budget, you would forgive Queenslanders for choking on their Weet-Bix, particularly when the 2019 budget papers show infrastructure investment next year will be more than half a billion dollars less than stated in the 2018 state budget.

Labor always talks big on infrastructure but never delivers it. The Premier likes to talk about infrastructure, but we know that she has invested less in infrastructure than any premier in living memory. We know that Treasurer Trad is the worst Treasurer in Queensland's recent history—

**An opposition member:** Ever in history.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Worst ever in history. Treasurer Trad is worse than former treasurer Anna Bligh. She is worse than former treasurer Andrew Fraser. Treasurer Trad is the worst Treasurer in Queensland's history, delivering the biggest debt bomb that Queenslanders have ever seen. That is what you would expect with Queensland's worst ever Treasurer. It will be forever etched in the history books of Queensland that Treasurer Trad, the member for South Brisbane, is Queensland's worst ever Treasurer. It will take years for Queensland to recover. It will take years to pay down the debt that Treasurer Trad, the worst Queensland Treasurer ever, has presided over.

The good people on the Sunshine Coast, and in particular my constituents in Kawana, know exactly what this government thinks of them. For years the Labor government has refused to deliver any significant infrastructure project, despite the fact the Sunshine Coast is one of the largest regional communities and economies in the country and the second highest performing regional economy in our state. Yet past and present Labor governments continue to arrogantly thumb their nose at the residents of the Sunshine Coast.

In contrast, the LNP has a record of delivering for the Sunshine Coast. We funded and we delivered the \$2 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital after years and years of delay by Labor.



**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The members squawking over there, particularly the Minister for Main Roads, were not here when Queensland's second worst treasurer Andrew Fraser delayed the Sunshine Coast University Hospital in his budget only months after the election. The Sunshine Coast community fought back, and in 2012 when the LNP were elected the first thing we did was get the deal done and start building the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We got it finished on time and ahead of budget.

At the most recent state election we committed to delivering the Mooloolah River interchange and the Caloundra Road upgrade—two critical road infrastructure projects to support the hospital, ease congestion on Nicklin Way and better connect Caloundra, Kawana, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The only party that has sold assets in Queensland is the Labor Party. The only time assets have been sold in Queensland was when the member for Inala sat at the cabinet table with Queensland's third-worst treasurer Anna Bligh and did the deal to sell assets. We are not going to cop the member for Miller coming in here and talking about assets when he is part of the only party in Queensland that has sold Queensland's assets. The only party that sold assets was the Labor Party.

This budget delivers nothing—no infrastructure plan or deliverables—for the Sunshine Coast by way of funding critical infrastructure projects to bust congestion on the Sunshine Coast. We also promised to deliver our 50 per cent share of the Sunshine Coast rail duplication which we know the federal government agreed to fund 50 per cent of. Labor's failure to commit their share has meant there is now a \$230 million black hole, putting the whole project at risk. Sunshine Coast commuter advocate Jeff Addison said yesterday in the *Sunshine Coast Daily*—

\$50 million would be lucky to build you 1.5km of a rail line.

He went on to say, 'We're deliberately being strangled with our infrastructure' by this Labor government. 'The people of the Sunshine Coast deserve better.'

Too right we deserve better than the minister that the CCC called a fool, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I am sure we will hear more crowing from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about an 80-20 funding split, but if that were the case why did federal Labor only commit to matching the Morrison government's 50 per cent funding promise? So it is okay for federal Labor to do it but not state Labor. As Jeff Addison said yesterday, 'Enough of the games. You have no more excuses left in the locker.'

Rather than securing the funding package this government has left a \$230 million black hole, putting a question mark over this project. It is an absolute disgrace, especially considering Labor first promised to build the rail duplication way back when the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, was the transport minister in the Bligh government. We know that the only rail project this Treasurer—the worst treasurer in Queensland's history—ever cares about is Cross River Rail in her own electorate. The worst treasurer in Queensland's history is happy to fund 100 per cent of the rail projects in her backyard, but the people of the Sunshine Coast are not as worthy of that commitment as the people of South Brisbane. The people of the Sunshine Coast and regional Queensland will not forget that from the worst ever Queensland treasurer.

This government has time and time again demonstrated their absolute contempt for the people of the Sunshine Coast. There was no announcement of funding to six-lane the Bruce Highway between Caloundra and Caboolture despite the fact that once again the Morrison government has put the money on the table. There was no money to fast-track stage 3 of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, meaning that more patients will not be seen within clinically recommended times. There is no money for a Sunshine Coast convention centre and no money for the Sunshine Coast stadium revamp. With Elton John coming in March next year, it would have come in handy. They expect 20,000 people at our stadium, and guess how many seats we have in the Sunshine Coast stadium. There are 1,000. We are expecting 20,000 people to turn up to the Elton John concert in March 2020.

Quite clearly this is no infrastructure budget. Quite clearly this is not a budget for jobs. This is not a budget about the cost of living because it increases the cost of living and introduces new taxes to Queenslanders and businesses right across the state. It is a disaster budget for the Sunshine Coast. It is bad news for health, bad news for jobs, bad news for opportunities and bad news for congestion on the Sunshine Coast.

If you look at the Education portfolio that I oversee as the shadow minister for education, it is again failing young Queenslanders. Ten out of 12 NAPLAN targets were missed for all Queenslanders, with just 66.4 per cent of all year 9 students meeting national minimum standards for year 9 writing. Ten out of 12 NAPLAN targets were missed for Indigenous Queenslanders, with just 41.9 per cent reaching the national minimum standards for year 9 writing. Whilst this government and this minister simply try to blame the test, NAPLAN—a test they introduced at a federal level in 2008—the LNP recognises that we need to give more support to our teachers and make learning easier for our kids.

Teachers are under more and more pressure with a crowded curriculum, and student results are suffering as a result. We should be learning from New South Wales and Victoria and giving our teachers the best opportunities to excel. We need to get back to the basics, making sure that our kids know the fundamentals. That is why a future LNP government would ensure a greater focus on language, literacy and numeracy. A future LNP government would partner with teachers, parents and principals to develop more guidance for teachers through the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority. Our plan to get back to basics and declutter the curriculum will give our kids a better chance of acquiring the skills they need while taking pressure off teaching staff.

We understand that getting the right education and training foundation will ensure more jobs and greater job security for future generations. Unfortunately for Queenslanders, Labor is not planning for the future schools that Queensland needs and many of our current schools are bursting at the seams. That is because Labor again scrapped the LNP's nation-leading Schools Planning Commission and is ignoring our 20-year demand mapping report which was released in 2013.

The only plan Labor has for new schools is pork-barrelling the education minister and the Deputy Premier's seats. We are going to have a 100 per cent funding commitment for rail in the Deputy Premier's seat and we will have schools delivered in the Deputy Premier's seat. Over one-third of the money for new schools is going towards the education minister and Deputy Premier's electorates in inner-city Brisbane. If only the Deputy Premier had known that the decision on Adani was going to be made yesterday, she would have put money into Toohey or Stretton and not South Brisbane. I think she has chosen the wrong electorate to be pork-barrelling.

The LNP fundamentally believes that through the independent public school program principals, P&Cs, parents and stakeholders are best placed to make decisions about what will provide the best outcomes for their schools and their students. Since the introduction of independent public schools we have seen innovative partnerships between schools, universities and industry groups and expanded music programs through partnerships with nearby schools and primary schools working with kindergartens to ensure school readiness.

More than 250 school communities have seized the opportunity to take more control of their own affairs. In my electorate of Kawana every single state school made the decision to become an independent public school. We know that this Labor government hates the idea of independent public schools because it means less power for their union masters. That is why this government has refused to guarantee independent public schools beyond 2020 and, in doing so, have waged war on these principals, P&Cs, parents, teachers and students of the 250 Queensland independent public schools. We know that the union never supported the policy, which is all about letting local principals, teachers and parents run their schools with more autonomy and less central bureaucracy from Brisbane.

Investing in education and our students is critical to the future of our state. We want our kids to be the smartest in the nation, and that is our goal. We know that cool kids are smart kids. That is why we have made a commitment to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland. Over the past 12 months I have travelled to many regions in Queensland, visiting schools with students and teachers sweltering their way through 40-degree temperatures in the classroom. As a father of three myself, I cannot recall the number of times my kids have come home complaining about the heat in their classrooms. Labor's announcement of an extra \$100 million of new money to air-condition additional classrooms is nothing more than an 'air-con con'. The Premier stood up and claimed it was new money for regions outside the Cooler Schools Zone, but that is ridiculous. It is not.

If we look at the industrial relations portfolio, we might as well get rid of the title 'industrial relations' and just call it the 'Department of the CFMMEU' because what the CFMMEU wants, the CFMMEU gets. There is currently an investigation by an independent body in Sydney into the minister's industrial relations department and Office of Workplace Health and Safety in terms of influence from the CFMMEU. That is concerning, because the CFMMEU should be working with business leaders, companies and project managers, not trying to shut their projects down, rip off businesses and send businesses bankrupt.

We know when the pay masters come to town that is what the Labor Party do. They legislate and ensure that their union pay masters are dealt with. I want to table copies with all of these headlines about education. They are negative headlines about how bad the education minister is handling her own portfolio. I table copies of those newspaper articles.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *ABC News* online, dated 16 October 2018, titled 'Education Minister's office working on school union program weeks before Premier denied it' [1005].

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 13 December 2018, titled 'Teachers threaten strike action in bid to ditch independent public school system' [1006].

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Brisbane Times* online, dated 25 October 2018, titled 'Queensland's independent public schools "destined for the scrapheap"' [1007].


*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 10 June 2019, titled 'School land grab too late: Bleijie' [1008].

*Tabled paper:* Article from *ABC News* online, dated 17 April 2019, titled 'Queensland Education staff embroiled in more than 100 cases of fraud' [1009].

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 29 March 2019, titled 'WorkCover claims for teachers abused at school on the rise' [1010].

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 29 April 2019, titled 'Queensland schools bursting at seams as student numbers boom' [1011].

As I said earlier, this is nothing more than a debt bomb, with the \$90 billion that Queensland taxpayers will be forking out over the next generation. This was all caused by Queensland's worst ever Treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad. She should be ashamed of her high-taxing, less jobs budget.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.39 pm): I am committed to creating jobs. Work brings dignity. Work brings prosperity and the capacity to control your destiny. Work creates new skills and builds self-esteem. Work can even bring new friends. It certainly provides valuable goods and services for our community. When I speak to people in the electorate of Greenslopes, they are focused on making sure they have a decent job and they want decent jobs for their kids.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that has created over 200,000 jobs since being elected in 2015. We have done this by diversifying the state economy, by backing small business, by building infrastructure, by investing in skills and training and by focusing on creating jobs right across our entire state. Economic diversification into areas like advanced manufacturing and the film industries are creating new job opportunities.

Small businesses, as we know, create jobs. The grants and the tax cuts are helping small businesses to grow and employ even more people. New infrastructure like the Cross River Rail and new classrooms at Holland Park State School and Nursery Road State Special School are creating jobs during construction, but they are also delivering economic and social benefits after construction. We are focusing on developing skills for all people. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program focuses on people who need assistance to enter the workforce. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to creating jobs right across our entire state, because when you create jobs in the resource, tourism or agriculture sectors people who live in my electorate also get jobs. I am pleased to say this is a budget focused on the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government—that is, creating jobs.

Any decent financial adviser will encourage a strategy of diverse investment. Why? It maximises the chances of obtaining long-term financial goals while minimising risks. Similarly, a diverse economy gives the state the capacity to change and respond to changing economic circumstances. The Premier should be rightly proud of the work she has done to create the film and television industry in this state. Just this week, I was speaking to a professor of film and television who told me how many of his students were now walking straight into good jobs in the industry and that was not happening five years ago. Advanced manufacturing businesses like Rheinmetall and Tritium—by the way, Tritium started in Coorparoo—are bringing job opportunities to our state.

Small businesses create jobs. I spoke earlier in the week about visiting health and fitness businesses during Small Business Week and talking to the owners about the grants that are available to help those businesses to innovate, to improve their performance and to grow. A recent Productivity Commission report said that not enough businesses are focused on innovation, nor are they focused on the very important task of monitoring performance. The Palaszczuk Labor government's small business grants target just these things—innovation and building the capacity of business owners to manage and grow their business.

CCIQ are certainly out there spreading the good news of the payroll tax cuts. I know they will be welcomed by small and medium businesses in the electorate of Greenslopes. I know that businesses like the Greenslopes News, Books@Stones, Lady Marmalade, Apple Loans, GMS Accounting, Wil-Tow, Snotty Noses, MissFit, Studio Pilates, Lady Brock, Unitray and Supplement City all understand that I am focused on supporting small businesses and will welcome the measures in this budget aimed at supporting small and medium businesses.

Investing in long-term, sensible, economic infrastructure is good for our community. Cross River Rail, the Veloway and the Eastern Transitway are all creating jobs but are getting people to work faster and safer with significant economic and social benefits. I am really excited about the investment in infrastructure in our local schools. I committed to backing our local schools. We are supporting the teaching and school staff by increasing numbers.

This year Holland Park State School and Nursery Road are receiving funding for new classrooms. This builds on recent infrastructure investments at Greenslopes State School, Coorparoo Secondary College, Coorparoo State School, Whites Hill State College, Mount Gravatt State High School, Cavendish Road State High School and Marshall Road State School. Not only do we create the jobs but we are focused on creating a workforce capable of filling these jobs. This budget's continued investment in the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus is welcomed. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program continues to assist people who have been unemployed for long periods of time to gain the skills and confidence they need. I see the good work of this program at Vision Australia, where people with low or no vision are part of programs that lead to jobs. That is welcome news, as the unemployment rate among people with low and no vision is well over 50 per cent but it is the Palaszczuk government that is working to bring this down.

I am really pleased that our government is focused on creating jobs right across our state. When I am doorknocking or speaking to people at bus stops on their way to work, I constantly meet people who have jobs that exist because they are supporting projects in the resource, agriculture, tourism and logistics sectors. They are accountants, lawyers, HR, marketing, IT professionals and many other roles. When I hear of our government creating jobs anywhere in this state, I know that will have a flow-on benefit for the people who live in my electorate.

I want to deal with some of the issues being raised by the LNP. I have to say it is fairly easy to do this because the same issues are raised over and over and over again. I would just make one appeal to the person who writes the LNP speeches. Please, could we just have two versions? Would it be too much to ask that we do not hear the same speech 38 times?

**Mr Janetzki:** We don't need a lecture by you.

**Mr KELLY:** Let us talk about lecturing. I will take the honourable member's interjection about lecturing. Let us talk about lecturing on infrastructure. Let us go for a drive around my electorate and look at all the infrastructure that was built by the LNP during the mercifully short time they were in office. In fact, I cannot see any. There was something that was supposed to be built. I think the member for Mansfield who is next to me would remember that. It was a hall that was supposed to be built at Cavendish Road High School. The hall was built but it was built at a school in Ashgrove. That money was taken so it is not correct to say that no infrastructure was built.

I know it is the convention during the delivery of the budget speech and budget reply speeches not to interject and not to call frivolous points of order, but I thought what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday in relation to jobs and Labor politicians was absolutely disgraceful. I think she should withdraw those comments. I have nothing but the deepest respect for people who own, manage and work in small businesses. They work extremely hard and they provide valuable services to our community. Those people that I know in small business also have deep respect for the sorts of jobs that I have chosen and many other people in this House have chosen to do over our careers. When the Leader of the Opposition slams people like me and says, 'Well, your job doesn't count. Nursing doesn't count,' she insults every nurse, every teacher and every paramedic. She should withdraw those comments and apologise.

**Mr Brown:** Pathology scientists.

**Mr KELLY:** Yes, pathology scientists. I cannot wait to get back to my electorate. I will be talking to people about what this budget means for jobs. It is a great budget for jobs. I am going to talk about jobs so much that I am going to have to take the 'e' out of my name and change it to 'Job Kelly'. That is what I am going to do. I would like to congratulate the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the ministers. This is a job-creating budget. This is a budget for all Queenslanders.



**Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.47 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate today. As I have said many times in this chamber, the northern Gold Coast continues to experience unprecedented growth. I do not blame residents for wanting to move to the northern Gold Coast and the Gold Coast. We have the most beautiful beaches in the world. We have world famous beaches down at Surfers Paradise and Main Beach. We have the emerald mountain ranges in the Tamborine Mountains.

**Mr Stevens:** Great for growing avocados.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** That is great for avocado growing. They have some of the best soils for growing avocados on the planet. Residents are flocking to the northern Gold Coast in their droves because it is close to the beaches, the tourism attractions, the services and the jobs on the Gold Coast.

**Mr Stevens:** It is relatively cheap too.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, it is relatively affordable. This highly desirable lifestyle is causing an enormous amount of pressure on the infrastructure we have on the northern Gold Coast. I am sure members from all sides of the chamber have traversed the M1 Motorway but we all know what can happen on the M1 Motorway with one single accident, even outside of peak hour. This happened just recently at Beenleigh, and the traffic queued all the way down to Pimpama and Coomera.

Driving at 100 kilometres an hour that equates to 10 to 15 minutes of travel time. People were sitting in that traffic jam literally crawling along, and I can say I was stuck in that traffic jam for two hours. The problem for the northern Gold Coast is that we have one single north-south arterial link, and every time there is an accident my whole traffic network goes into meltdown. That is a concern to a lot of my residents and the residents of Coomera, Bonney, Broadwater and Surfers Paradise. Anybody who is travelling that highway in the morning, especially in peak hour, knows that if there is an accident they can kiss their appointment goodbye.

In my electorate of Theodore the most easterly point to traverse the Coomera River is the M1 Motorway and the service roads that straddle it. That is the most easterly point to drive a car over the river. We desperately need a second roadway to take pressure off this one roadway.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): The member for Miller will cease interjecting. The member is not taking your interjections.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Whilst we welcome the additional money which has been allocated to exit 57, which was promised by both major parties at the last state election because this needs to be done, my residents will avoid travel at certain times of the day. They do that because they know for a fact they are going to be stuck in queuing traffic which, if this exit were properly addressed and fixed, would be greatly limited.

I turn to exit 54. I remember back in the day working with Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, I now warn you under the standing orders.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Along with the then federal member for Forde and the then federal infrastructure minister, the member for Coomera and I had a meeting at the Upper Coomera Community Centre to discuss the issue and to lock in some type of funding package from the federal and state governments at the time and Westfield. Since then we have locked in that funding package. One of my main priorities that I have continued to voice in this chamber, whether through petitions or speeches, is the importance of upgrading exit 57. The problem is that my residents feel that this concept design has lacked consultation with the community about what they want. They are deeply concerned about the removal of the right-hand turn lanes from Old Pacific Highway and Heathwood Drive. Let's think about Old Pacific Highway.

Traffic from Global Plaza flows onto Old Pacific Highway. Global Plaza—Old Pacific Highway—has industrial sheds, retail outlets, Bunnings, Kmart, multiple service stations, fast-food restaurants and multiple shopping centres all converging on one road, which is Tamborine Oxenford Road, or Old Pacific Highway in that area. There are three roundabouts there, two of which were local council roundabouts, and they were never designed to take the additional traffic. The problem with the design that Main Roads has put forward is it will force vehicles—local motorists—to travel along that already congested road.

My residents will tell honourable members that on a Saturday or a Sunday Global Plaza and Old Pacific Highway is traffic mayhem. We cannot keep forcing more and more vehicles onto that already congested road. Therefore, my residents are pleading with the department and the minister to listen to

their concerns, get rid of that idea and also put in slip lanes, including a slip lane from Tamborine Oxenford Road—my residents have been most vocal about this—to provide direct access to the northbound M1, therefore bypassing the second set of traffic lights. This will make a huge difference. Quite a number of residents have expressed that opinion; they cannot all be wrong. It is an easy, little fix we can make to that road. We can increase the capacity going across it, which residents are happy about. However, if we put in those slip lanes to bypass those traffic lights and therefore provide direct access and increased traffic flow, that will go some way to pleasing the majority of my local residents.

Whilst fixing that issue is one part of the equation, building the second north-south arterial road is becoming more and more urgent. We have a massive amount of growth on the eastern side of the highway up through Pimpama, Coomera and Ormeau. The growth there is unprecedented. Just recently I went there and saw the Pimpama mall, a shopping centre which appears to have come out of a field overnight. Every time I drive through that area more housing estates have appeared because it is a great place to live. It is so close to the beautiful beaches and the emerald hills of Mount Tamborine and the Gold Coast hinterland. It is a desirable place to live. In saying that, we need to start pushing this and putting funding in place to start construction of this arterial link. It is becoming more and more urgent. As I said, the most easterly crossing of the Coomera River is the M1 Motorway and the two service roads that straddle it.

These are not the only issues in the northern Gold Coast. I know the member for Coomera and I have spoken many times about the lack of police and the desperate need to increase the number of officers on the northern Gold Coast.

**Mr Stevens:** Fifteen thousand new people every year.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection. There are 15,000 new people moving to the area every year. Our local officers work extremely hard and they are extremely passionate about their jobs. Residents do understand the issue they are experiencing, which is that their workload is extreme. Residents actually pity them; they feel sorry for them. They understand that they may not be able to come out to them straight away because they have other jobs to go to.

We need to allocate the necessary police numbers to provide good service and make my residents and the residents of Coomera and the northern Gold Coast—Gaven, you name it—feel safer in their homes because they know those officers in blue are only a short distance away. We have to ensure we have the necessary police numbers to cater for our population growth. To give members a bit of an example, it takes 45 minutes to drive from one side of the Coomera police district to the other. It is a huge area and the number of officers we have at the moment cannot properly service it.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my local school P&Cs for the unbelievable hard work they have done in funding school air conditioning. They are very, very passionate about it. It is their priority for their children to have a cool learning environment. Therefore, they certainly do welcome the LNP's initiative to air-condition state school classrooms. However, the issue is that Labor is not willing to stump up with the same policy that the LNP has put forward. Therefore, those school communities will have to wait until the next state election.

Considering the passionate plea in her speech that the Leader of the Opposition gave only yesterday, I can certainly say Queenslanders will finally feel that there will be a government that is going to listen to their needs and hear their concerns. We can no longer keep going down the debt path we are on at the moment because with projected interest payments, we as a state will be paying—

**An opposition member:** \$67,000 a family.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:**—\$67,000 a family, or \$3.5 billion in interest on forward predictions. That would pay for the Coomera connector.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



**Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.00 pm): This is my eleventh budget as the member for Cleveland and Oodgeroo and I am sad to say it is the worst budget I have experienced and worst in the history of Queensland. It is a budget of high taxes, big spending and unsustainable debt. In my time, Labor has set 72 per cent of those budgets, and over the last 30 years has been in power 83 per cent of the time. Queensland's long-term financial position, like Labor's unsustainably high state debt, is the direct result largely of successive Labor government budgets. Under Treasurer Trad, debt levels soared to the wuthering heights of \$90 billion or \$16,000 per Queenslanders. The *Courier-Mail* got it right on page 1 the other day when it said, 'Owe No'. Labor's debt is so high and debt is climbing. If Labor is returned to government in October 2020, the debt is likely to break the \$100 billion mark in the next parliament.

Further, Labor has no plan to pay down or even stabilise its \$90 billion of debt. Even Labor's \$15 billion asset 'sale of the century' under premier Bligh and treasurer Fraser did not bring down debt. Labor does not even pay down debt when it sells assets and has the opportunity to do so. Imposing debilitating Labor debt is a shocking act of theft from our children and grandchildren. It is wrong to load future generations of Queenslanders with unsustainable debt. As such, the government is guilty of stealing from a child, stealing their future lifestyle and prosperity, jobs and opportunities. The Treasurer is loading them up with the burden of unbearable debt so that she can try to shine as Treasurer and position herself to be Premier.

This is a big-spending budget on the state's credit card, a budget of record high levels of tax with nine new taxes and, no doubt, more to come. Labor's \$1.3 billion waste levy will also add significantly to the cost of a new home. Redlands Coast young couples wanting to buy their first home will pay more. This budget was a chance to treat all Queenslanders fairly, to bring down rising state debt, to get the budget back into the black for real surpluses over the forward estimates, to bring down the cost of living and doing business and to bring down unemployment, especially in regional towns. Instead of being fiscally responsible, the Treasurer has blown out the debt to spend big on herself to save herself from the Greens.

In terms of Redlands Coast, it should have been a fair budget for the people of Redlands Coast and for the Cleveland district in the seat of Oodgeroo. In particular, the government had a chance to deliver a fair share of the infrastructure funds to the people of the Redlands, but it has not. The Redlands fair share of the infrastructure budget is over \$1.5 billion. Sadly, we see little invested in major road duplication, no rail duplication, no major hospital upgrade and no new significant funds for Straddie that will benefit Redlands any time soon.

Redlands Hospital, like Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture and Nambour hospitals, needs a major upgrade. Labor had five budget years to do something but has not. It took five years to master plan the hospital even though the master planning had been done in 2014. After five years, it is just starting on a business case. What about a new ward of beds to stop a bed block and to stop sick patients being stuck in ED for up to three days? The government could have expanded the palliative care service, which is a need, into a full 10-bed unit and in-home care. The government could have constructed an ICU. There is the car parking need. We need to stop ambulance ramping. So much more could have been done if we had received our fair share.

The reannounced maternity water birthing suite and ED maintenance funding of less than \$2 million continues to be welcomed but, contrary to Labor claims and a taxpayer funded billboard at Redland Hospital, there is no \$20 million project nor any hospital upgrade in this budget. If there were a real \$20 million project or upgrade, as Labor claims, why is there no new building footprint, no new general ward beds and no new unit such as an ICU? Redlands residents will continue to experience among the longest ED waiting times—up to three days—before being admitted to a general ward bed and among the worst ambulance ramping in the state.

This Labor government is doing nothing but studies and cases and in fact misleading the Redlands community into thinking that it is upgrading the hospital. In fact, the member for Capalaba claims that \$20 million is being spent on the ED and birthing suites. Soon I will table the *Monthly Bulletin Don Brown MP* which reads—

As well, Kim Richards, member for Redlands and myself, as part of the Palaszczuk Government, have delivered over \$20M in funding to upgrade the emergency ward and the birthing suites at Redlands Hospital.

No such \$20 million upgrade or project has been invested in the emergency department or the birthing suite; it is less than \$2 million. I call on the member for Capalaba to correct the record and to publicly retract his false claim. In contrast, the LNP federal government and member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, have committed to provide a very real \$30 million to upgrade Redland Hospital. The Redland Hospital tells the story of two governments—the LNP government that delivers and does while the ALP dithers and dallies. Sadly, Labor's dithering and dallying puts Redlanders at risk.

In terms of transport, if Redlands Coast got its fair share much could be done in transport and roads. In terms of rail, sadly the Cleveland line continues to be called the 'misery' line. Labor's rail fail resulted in the slashing of over 40 services, and to date only one service is confirmed as being restored. Once again, the member for Capalaba claimed something different to the facts. The member for Capalaba said that 32 services were returned on the Cleveland line whereas a ministerial statement published by the government says that that figure applies across all lines. So again I call on the member to correct the record and publicly to retract his false claim. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Monthly Bulletin by the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, dated April and May, titled 'Delivering for Capalaba' [1012].

The rail duplication from Cleveland to Manly continues to be needed to create greater capacity. Park-and-ride car spaces for Cleveland and Birkdale stations are also needed. A form of eastern busway-metro to Redlands Coast continues to be important to the LNP at all levels after Labor withdrew funding for the project in its 2011 budget.

In term of roads, funds continue to be needed for major arterial roads such as the duplication of Mt Cotton Road, Duncan Road to Mackenzie, duplication of the northern section of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road—Cleveland and Thornlands—and even the much smaller project of upgrading the Shaw and Wellington streets intersection. I am glad to report one small win—the Gateway Motorway Old Cleveland Road on-ramp upgrade. While outside my electorate, many Cleveland commuters use this on-ramp and will benefit from our campaign. I was glad to join with the member for Chatsworth to lobby the main roads minister successfully for this project. I also acknowledge the help of federal members for Bowman, Andrew Laming, and Bonner, Ross Vasta. I should refer to the last-minute support of the member for Capalaba, even though it was very late in the piece and after the project looked like proceeding. I guess better late than never, even if it is an afterthought and seemingly initiated by the minister.

This is a disappointing budget for the people of North Stradbroke Island, with no new substantial funding commitment, other than previously announced, to get the stalling ETS back on track. Labor's paltry package was too little and too late to plug the economic crater its laws have created that prematurely end the resource jobs on Straddie this year. The way the Treasurer and government have treated the resource industry and community of Straddie is instructional with respect to this Labor government's attitude to the resources sector and jobs across the whole state. In fact, one of the local soon-to-be-unemployed sandminers wrote a poem titled *Trad-broke Island*. It reads—

She graced our little island, with her entourage in tow.

With beer in hand she took the stand, 'There's something you must know.

'We've come to a decision, my union friends and I.

'This mine of yours will be no more, and let me tell you why.

'You see my job is on the line, the Greens demand a prize.

'I told them I have just the place, close to home and perfect size.

'It's big enough to save my seat and small enough to fly.

'Fly right under the radar, they'll barely hear you cry.

'I'll keep my role as deputy,' she said amongst the boo's.

'I'll keep those greenies happy and it will hardly make the news.

'So, spare your worthless questions, as I quite dislike your tone.

'I am not here to negotiate, my decision's set in stone.'

You could hear the venom in her voice, 'How dare you question me!

'Your jobs are not of my concern, look at this politically

'We'll say it's for the Indigenous, Labor's gesture of goodwill,

'Talk national parks and land rights, surely that'll pass the bill.

'A safe seat for me in back Brisbane, but alas my motley crew

'There has to be some casualties, and unfortunately that is you.

'Call this your consultation, there's my obligation done!

'Your mining days are numbered, the countdown has begun.

'So forget that environmental award my government gave to you,

'As a self serving politician, it's just something I must do.

'This bill will pass, you mark my word, Labor thanks you as do I,

'For being just the scalp I need to keep my green vote high.

'Don't leave today and think too hard, about the reasons why.'

So, she left our little island, with her entourage in tow.

A web of non-facts left in her wake, a real-life circus show.

(Soon to be unemployed Sand miner)



I table the poem.

*Tabled paper:* Poem titled 'Trad-Broke Island' [1013].

As a contrast, on North Stradbroke Island recently it was good to attend a chamber breakfast with David Crisafulli as the speaker. The small business men and women were stoic. We listened to all they had to say. They tried to be upbeat about their prospects, but we know that many are doing it tough. They were grateful that someone was still interested in their plight now that Labor does not care.

The recent master planning of Dunwich provided an opportunity for the government to do more to invest further in legacy infrastructure, but once again it squibbed it. While the work done by the department team on the ground is appreciated, the inertia of the government towards North Stradbroke Island is such that they are not ready to go with anything substantive from the master plan. I agree with the Minister for State Development when he says of Dunwich—


As sand mining on the island is phased out by 2019, we need to explore options for the future viability of the town ...

I agree, but the time for exploring is well past. New commitments were needed out of this budget, like a redevelopment of Dunwich harbour, to stimulate the Dunwich economy and hopefully save the shops and small businesses that are doing it tough. In my adjournment speech yesterday I spoke of not only the economic impact but also the social impact of Labor's laws and about the social disharmony and division they are causing in the community. I tabled some relevant documents.

In terms of education, the investment in the learning centre at Cleveland District State High School is welcomed. Further decisions will need to be taken about the long-term future there. Maybe a second campus will be needed. We need an upgrade and refurbishment of the old and tired hall at Wellington Point State High School. In terms of STEM classrooms at Ormiston State School, I again ask the minister to rule out removing the classrooms that are dedicated to STEM for girls and boys. I appeal to the minister to be consistent and not temporarily put them back but rule out their removal altogether.

In terms of water, we saw the Leslie Harrison Dam work finished but without the gates put back on as per the original plan. That has reduced the capacity and the potential recreational use of the dam. There are concerns about drought readiness should there be another drought and the potential to be overly reliant on the Straddie aquifer for future water needs. Fishers and boaties continue to want to see the artificial reef program rolled out through Moreton Bay. Wellington Point could use an artificial reef. There is also a need for some protection and upgrade of the Wellington Point ramps.

In conclusion, there are many things I could talk about in terms of needs, but this is a bad budget that does not balance across the state and does not deliver a fair share for the people of the Cleveland district and Redlands coast.

 **Hon. CJO'Rourke** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (2.15 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills 2019. Through this state budget we are providing funding that will enable Queenslanders, regardless of their age, ability or where they live, to participate and be included in their communities, to be resilient and to enjoy social and economic wellbeing.

My portfolio's biggest investment is where it is needed most: in Queenslanders with disability and the NDIS. We are providing up to \$1.48 billion as part of our contribution to the NDIS. Some 47,300 Queenslanders have an NDIS plan, and that number is growing each day. We know that the NDIS is delivering jobs today and into the future in the growing disability services sector, along with a range of other industries and sectors across the state.

We have stepped into the transport space to make up for the deficiencies of the NDIA. This is because the Palaszczuk government understands how important it is for all Queenslanders to have safe, affordable and reliable transport. A further \$6 million is being committed in 2019-20 to continue the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. We are also funding \$7 million in 2019-20 to continue to provide community transport services across the state. This means certainty for community transport service providers and their clients right across the state.

Peak bodies such as Deaf Services Queensland, Epilepsy Queensland and Carers Queensland will benefit from a share of \$5.6 million in this budget. Disability advocacy services will also share in \$8.7 million over the next two years to continue to stand up and advocate for the rights of Queenslanders with disability.

The other part of this budget that I am really excited about is that we are bringing the benefits of place based approaches to regional Queensland. Place based approaches are the way of the future, because they allow for responses that are unique, flexible and meet the requirements of the community.

Because of these benefits, this year we have earmarked \$3.9 million over five years for the expansion of place based approaches to Gladstone and Rockhampton. We have worked hard with the Australian government to agree on these locations and are matching its funding. Funding of \$3.8 million over five years has also been committed to the continuation of Logan Together.

Funding in this state budget will allow us to continue to support the delivery of vital community services right across the state. A critical part of our Thriving Communities agenda are our neighbourhood and community centres. In 2019-20 we will continue to build on our investment in neighbourhood and community centres across Queensland, providing certainty for the future of community connect services in 12 high-demand communities. In 2019-20 we are providing \$3.3 million to continue the delivery of safe-night precinct services across Queensland, a key feature of the Queensland government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence initiative.

We are providing \$2.87 million this financial year for the construction of the Townsville Women's Centre. This was in addition to the \$330,000 provided last financial year for this project. In keeping with our focus on giving all children a good start, the successful school breakfast program will be further expanded, with a further \$1.5 million over five years. When it comes to standing up for the rights of older Queenslanders, our commitment remains resolute. Through \$3.5 million in funding we will continue to support seniors legal and support services in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg and the Gold and Sunshine coasts.

Statistics from the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit show that financial abuse is the most common form of elder abuse reported in Queensland, and that is why we are providing \$400,000 to ensure that our Seniors Legal and Support Service can provide specialist financial protection services for seniors. We are continuing to support UnitingCare to deliver vital services through the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, including the Elder Abuse Helpline, with \$750,000 in 2019-20. The cost of living is another issue affecting Queensland seniors, and that is why we have provided more than \$280 million in concessions for Queensland seniors to help with everything from electricity bills to rates, gas and water bills. We are also continuing to deliver cost-of-living and transport benefits and discounts under the Queensland Seniors Card scheme. There are currently more than 900,000 card holders in Queensland.

This past year has been trying for many Queensland communities which have been impacted by devastating bushfires, cyclones and floods. Our commitment to helping communities continues with our ongoing support of GIVIT, which has received funding of \$1.2 million for three years up to October 2021. As part of this Community Recovery Fund, the Queensland government will provide \$21.5 million in flexible funding grants for community led recovery and resilience programs, including \$6 million for fire affected communities and \$15.5 million for flood affected communities.

This budget has also delivered for my local electorate of Mundingburra and I am delighted that more than \$497,000 has been allocated to construct an amenities block to support female participation in Australian football at Annandale. The investment of \$1.8 million into schools in my electorate will make a difference to each and every child who attends, all whilst creating local jobs. There is \$3.9 million in 2019-20 out of the \$10.4 million total spend to redevelop clinical services at the Townsville Hospital to improve patient flows now and into the future. I fully support and am so pleased by the \$3.173 million in ongoing funding to continue the successful Project Booyah initiative, a project that I have backed for a very long time for the outcomes that it achieves.

The more than \$5 million for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services is significant and will make a real difference. While it has already previously been announced, I am pleased that this year will see the completion of the \$4.3 million new Oasis Defence hub in Oonoonba and I look forward to cutting the ribbon on that one. To the residents in Annandale who have been so incredibly patient, I am so pleased that we now have a commitment to replace the very old, outdated, low-level noise barriers that currently do nothing to reduce noise from the high traffic use of University Road.

I know just how much Althea Projects Inc. contributes to our community and am pleased at the \$1.6 million it is receiving for its services. The contribution of \$2.6 million in 2019-20 to construct an 11.15-kilometre rising main pipeline through the suburbs of Annandale and Idalia to Cleveland Bay will make a huge difference. Of course, Mundingburra will benefit enormously from the \$225 million spent on Townsville water security and the \$193.5 million on the Townsville channel port expansion project. Finally, I am pleased that the Back to Work regional employment package in Mundingburra has already supported 447 people, and the program will continue with \$339,250 in 2019-20. Through this state budget we will continue to build on our efforts to create thriving communities in Mundingburra and all across Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.23 pm): We know the economic headwinds facing the Australian economy. There are growing downside risks to near-term growth given that recent data shows considerable weakness in domestic demand. The Reserve Bank has just dropped the cash rate to a record low, and that is with the Morrison government. Can members imagine what monetary policy levers would have had to be pulled had we been gifted a Shorten Labor government? The problem for Queensland is that its budget position, even by the most optimistic commentators, is weakening inexorably and, I think, fatally for the Labor Palaszczuk Queensland government. It is a perilous road ahead and Labor's management has left us dangerously exposed.

Last year the Treasurer's surplus budget reflected an unexpected surge in revenue from coal royalties of \$1 billion. This year Treasury is anticipating higher coal and petroleum royalties relative to MYFER, so again the Treasurer's budget has been rescued by coal, with royalties revised up to \$4.3 billion from \$3.5 billion. To highlight how sensitive the Queensland economy is to coal price fluctuations, a one per cent change in the price of export coal has an impact of \$54 million in coal royalties in Queensland. That means if there is a 10 per cent change in the price of coal exports that will be half a billion dollars of impact to the Queensland budget. That highlights what an important role coal plays to our budget and also the long look on the Treasurer's face as the environment minister was detailing the Adani approval process yesterday afternoon.

Downside risks last year also included a weaker housing market and lower sales volumes from tightening credit conditions that would negatively impact transfer duties and land tax revenue. Of course, the new taxes introduced in the Treasurer's first budget added to the budget's downside risks. Foreign landowners were hit with an additional 0.5 per cent in land tax for properties worth more than \$10 million and there was an increase in the foreign transfer duty from three per cent to seven per cent. Both taxes were pledged to raise over \$300 million over the forwards. I asked the question back then: how much more can the government tax the property industry, perhaps the most vital industry to the health of the Queensland economy? It has gone to the well again and this week the Treasurer announced nearly \$800 million would be raised by increasing land tax for companies and trustees and by increasing the absentee land tax surcharge to two per cent.

Queensland's credit rating is vital to manage our cost of funding. What may not be well known is the constant methodology tinkering that ratings agencies undertake year on year. S&P's methodology is actually very tolerant—unacceptably tolerant in my view—to the maintenance of a very high debt ratio and persistent slow debt accumulation. We can never forget that it was Labor that lost our AAA credit rating and I believe it is sleepwalking Queensland into a bottomless pit of debt that will ultimately catch up with not just the Labor government but, sadly, the people of Queensland.

The first budget of Queensland in 1860 had a total aggregated revenue of 179,000 pounds. From 1860 to 1989, think about how we developed this state. We built roads and cattle roads. We built industries such as dairy, forestry and cattle. We electrified the state.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Mining.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Mining. We opened up the resources. We went out and decentralised the state to our best and finest regional cities right up and down the eastern seaboard and beyond to the west. At the end of 1989 after the first 130 years of Queensland history, there was a total of \$2.4 billion debt—\$2.4 billion debt after we had achieved all of that, after we had done all of that. After we had opened up the frontier of Queensland—the greatest state of all—that is the debt that we had in 1989. What has happened over the last 25 out of 30 years? We have been endowed with Labor governments in Queensland. In 1989 Queensland was humming. It was booming. From \$2.4 billion in 1989 we now have over \$90 billion debt after 25 years out of 30 of Labor governments, and that is what we are now left with. What do we have to show for it? Nothing! There has been no major infrastructure growth. There is nothing in the horizon for this. There are no new industries. Those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming for the best part of a decade to get the Adani projects.

I want to focus on four years. Out of these 30 years of not much, the most egregious few years of Labor governments over the last 30 has been between 2006 and 2010 when they really blew the budget, when the current Treasurer's mentor was in charge either as Treasurer or as premier. In four years—from 2006 to 2010—they blew out the debt from \$18 billion to three times that. They tripled it to \$52 billion—nearly tripled it—in four years just like that and at the same time they lost our AAA credit rating with nothing to show for it. Where did that money go? I want to compare Queensland's debt trajectory towards \$90 billion in 2022-23 against the state on which this government seems to model itself above all others, and that is Victoria.

During the Victorian election campaign we heard that the Victorian Premier and Victorian Treasurer were going to have their own little debt bomb of \$32 billion. They took that to the Victorian election and the Victorian people voted for it. That \$32 billion debt binge took Victoria's debt in the 2022-23 year to \$54 billion. That puts Queensland's debt challenge into perspective.

I turn to my portfolio. It is good that the Attorney-General is starting to fund justice services across Queensland, which is needed much more than many of the other spending priorities of the government. There is additional funding in the forward estimates for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. I note that this was necessary funding, particularly in view of the QSAC report and recommendations that the DPP has a greater role to play. I want to see the DPP prosecuting cases with the full vigour and force of the law so that vulnerable Queenslanders get the justice they deserve.

I am pleased to see that, firstly, the Office of the Public Guardian still has a job and, secondly, it has been granted additional funding of over \$27 million. There is an interesting note in the budget measures relating to the additional funding to DJAG to administer the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. I think this additional funding is the Labor government's way of saying that its legislation, which sought to keep track of Robert John Fardon, has failed. The Palaszczuk Labor government is seeking to grant additional funding to properly manage the DPSO Act and our most serious sexual offenders.

It is also pleasing to see that, after much lobbying in this House by nearly all members on this side, there is additional funding to QCAT. In respect of tackling alcohol fuelled violence and safe night precincts, in this budget there is one-off funding. The question is: when will the review into the legislation and Labor's policy be released? We have been waiting for a very long period. I am hopeful that this additional funding does not go just to inspectors hiding around corners, watching ID scanners as people move in, covertly trying to trap hardworking businesspeople and small businesses who are doing the right thing with ID scanners. I hope that this funding is not to just encourage more of that activity. I hope this funding is to address the problems. I look forward to the review being released as soon as possible.

I turn to my electorate. I love the electorate of Toowoomba South. I represent the greatest electorate in Queensland. The people of Toowoomba never wait around for the government to come and rescue them. They get on with it—the Wagners, the Gardners, the Hannas, the Betroses, the Cooreys. Whatever the family name may be, those family businesses get out there and make their own luck. They put in, they create jobs and they deliver wealth to my great region.

I want to see from the Labor government the identification of strategic priorities. I want to see funding to key projects. My electorate covers 40-square kilometres. In those 40-square kilometres a number of key priorities should have been addressed by this government, but they have fallen short. Firstly, my area needs a new Toowoomba hospital. There is a business case for it, but the funding for the investigation and development needs to be brought forward and spent so that we can get on with building it. In the south-west corridor of Toowoomba, where the population growth is occurring, we need to identify land for a south-west Toowoomba high school. We need drop-off and pick-up zones at Glenvale State School. We need to identify a road corridor to link Highfields in the north to Glenvale and Westbrook in the south. We need to start investigating corridors and securing them. We need flashing lights in Harristown to make sure that our kids are kept safe.


Toowoomba needs more physical infrastructure to encourage the people of Toowoomba to be as active as they possibly can—with exercise equipment in parks in Middle Ridge, Rangeville and Glenvale. There is also the important issue of identifying ecotourism opportunities in my region, such as at Picnic Point. Toowoomba has the most beautiful escarpment. What the Blue Mountains means to Sydney, let us make Toowoomba mean the same to Brisbane. We should get behind ideas such as that. There are also opportunities for motorsport at the quarry gardens.

If the Treasurer could do one thing for my region—and there was not much in the budget for the Darling Downs—it would be to sign an intergovernmental agreement for the inland rail. This is a truly nation-building piece of infrastructure. I would have thought that the Treasurer would have had a greater affinity with the inner Darling Downs because, before the Treasurer started looking for new electorates, such as Stretton, Greenslopes and Toohey, she stood as a candidate in the electorate of Condamine. I would have thought that, as the Treasurer doorknocked places such as Mount Tyson, Pittsworth and Brookstead in her run in the electorate of Cunningham, as it was known at the time—and I say to the member for Condamine to look out, because he could have a new Labor candidate running against him in 2020—she would have got on board with the project and signed the intergovernmental agreement to start building this important piece of nation-building infrastructure.

In the time left to me, I want to focus a little on what I call social infrastructure in Toowoomba. In this place I often talk about the diversity, the multicultural aspect of the Toowoomba community that is not well understood. I know the minister understands it, but I want to talk about a couple of aspects relating to social infrastructure in Toowoomba. Last year, Toowoomba settled up to 700 refugees, mainly Yazidi refugees from Syria and Iraq. Toowoomba, with a population of 120,000 people, has settled more refugees than has New Zealand.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** Hear, hear!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the minister. Toowoomba is a true success story in welcoming refugees and migrants and continues to be so. Toowoomba needs support for this social infrastructure to continue that good welcome. In this regard, Kate Venables of CatholicCare does a remarkable job. Darling Heights State School is in my electorate. Half of that school's population speaks another language at home. There is an opportunity to build a Darling Heights hub that would be a place where our refugee and migrant communities could come together, work together, and join with the community. I encourage the minister to consider funding for that hub. I will continue fighting for it, because Toowoomba is a place of welcome and welcomes people from all corners of the world.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.37 pm): The Mackay region is economically and culturally dynamic. My region is built on the sugar industry, services to the mining industry and the mining equipment, technology and services—METS—sector. Mackay is developing and expanding into advanced manufacturing and also growing its markets. Since 2015, Mackay's economy has been supported by the policies and the economic vision of the Palaszczuk government. I have given a commitment to my community to ensure that our region continues to grow and diversify. This budget delivers for my community.

For decades, the sugar industry has been an integral part of the Mackay economy. During the peak crush time, the sugar industry supports upwards of 800 jobs. These jobs are on farms, in the sugar mill, in the sugar refinery, at the cogeneration electricity generation plant, as transport operators on locomotives and lorries going out to the port, as bulk handlers loading the ships and many more. The cane industry has the potential to take the lead in the future industries for my region—in biofuels and biofutures.

I am excited to be a member of the Palaszczuk government that has contributed \$40 million to Mackay Sugar to assist in maintenance to secure an investor to reinvigorate the business and secure jobs for Mackay not just now but into the future.

Mackay is home to the famous Paget engineering precinct and also home to many of the drive-in drive-out miners in the Bowen Basin. Everyone in my community knows someone associated with mining. It will always be exciting to see new sustainable projects announced in the resource sector, but we also must be mindful of protecting workers. No worker's job should make them unwell. Nearly \$1.2 million will see a health service on wheels deliver vital medical checks to coal workers throughout regional Queensland. The new mobile health screening service, an equipped and staffed van, will mean that respiratory health checks would be accessible to more Queensland coalmine workers. The health and safety of all Queenslanders is a top priority for the Palaszczuk government. This new mobile service will ensure increased respiratory checks and improve the health outcomes of thousands of coal workers across the state. The mobile screening service will help improve the detection of workers' pneumoconiosis, black lung, silicosis and other mine dust lung diseases.

Queensland's coal workers receive free respiratory health checks when they start in the industry, when they leave and every five years while they are working. Free checks are also available for retired or former coalmine workers. All doctors and radiologists who offer health services receive specialist training and are registered, as are the X-ray imaging clinics. The screening will supplement existing services in Mackay and other mining communities like Moranbah, Clermont and Emerald. Living in the heart of the mining industry and being on the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, I am aware of the effects that these coal dust related diseases can have on workers. This service is another step that will aid in the detection of this insidious disease. While speaking about health, this budget is another record health budget with \$463 million for the Mackay Hospital and Health Service. The value of good health cannot be measured.

Education is our passport to the future. Students and our dedicated, hardworking teachers deserve to have quality, well maintained classrooms and learning spaces. Mackay has a range of different types of school buildings, from heritage listed schools to new modern facilities. Some of the big winners in upgrades include \$460,000 of \$500,000 for Mackay Central State School's refurbishment of its heritage listed timber windows; \$500,000 for Fitzgerald State School to install dividing walls in

some of their classrooms; \$150,000 for Victoria Park State School to refurbish the positive learning centre; and \$500,000 to refurbish the administration block at Glenella State School. These are just some of the financed works in this budget.

When some of our students leave school they seek out an apprenticeship. It is important to give our young people and mature workers an opportunity to access training and skills. The continuation of the 50 per cent payroll tax apprentice and trainee rebate to 30 June 2020 has already given confidence to businesses in my region to up their intake of apprentices. Future employment in our region is set to be strong. In fact, despite what is said by those opposite about unemployment in Mackay, we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. On the Seek website there are usually about 1,500 vacancies in a range of employment opportunities. In my region we need to support small and medium businesses to invest, expand and grow and entice more workers into the region and to upskill our current workers to meet new employment skill opportunities.


The Mackay Chamber of Commerce has been asking for relief with payroll tax for our local small to medium sized businesses. The lifting of the payroll tax threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million is welcomed by them. We also want our workers to live in our regional communities. The new discount rate for businesses having more than 85 per cent of their employees outside South-East Queensland is also welcomed. The new rebate for employment growth, providing a payroll rebate of up to \$20,000 for businesses that can demonstrate they have increased the number of full-time employees, is good for business. It is also good for employees who want the security of full-time work.

As I have said, the unemployment rate in Mackay is low and businesses have taken up Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs with tremendous results. When Mackay was in the early stages of coming out of the construction downturn, employers were nervous about the long-term stability of the works coming down the pipeline. The state government's employment support programs gave businesses the confidence to take on trainees and skilled workers and this was great for our unemployment rate.

In my region we love participating in sport. Our junior sports fields are bursting with the young and not-so-very-young on the weekends. It is tremendous to see whole families getting involved in sport. Some clubs tell me that when parents come to watch their children play they get involved in the club and quite often they join a team themselves. Our smaller clubs work extremely hard to fundraise and provide facilities to cater for both male and female participation. City Brothers Football Club, with an allocation of over \$407,000, will construct an amenities block, including toilets, change rooms, showers, parent room, storage and gymnasium facilities for people who want to participate, be social and maybe get fit along the way and also those who want to upskill to the elite level.

When the economy is doing well, workers and their families move into the region and pressure begins to appear on the rental market, and those with the least ability to compete in the housing market where prices are rising become vulnerable. I am pleased there will be four new units of accommodation constructed at a cost of just over \$1 million.

The current Leader of the Opposition has become obsessed with roads in my region. I received a phone call from one of the chamber of commerce board members in Mackay asking what was in the budget for the Mackay Ring Road. He said LNP Brisbane wanted to know and had asked him to call and run a campaign for them. There are huge roads projects in my region. They just keep rolling out: the Mackay Ring Road stage 1 is set to be completed next year, weather permitting; work on the Bruce Highway northern access upgrade, which will have additional lanes added where the ring-road exits, is due to get underway; the Walkerston Bypass is due to commence when stage 1 of the ring-road is complete—the first two kilometres has already been constructed with the Mackay Ring Road stage 1; \$70 million has been secured for the Mackay Port Access Road, formerly known as Mackay Ring Road stage 2. A new port access road will help move freight quicker and easier than ever before and move heavy vehicles from the streets of Mackay. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.48 pm): What have we seen since the federal election on 18 May? We have seen the Labor government in this state divided, in crisis, under stress and looking for leadership and identity. No better example could one find than to have a look at this budget. Did those opposite try to fix the debt problem they created? No. Have they tried to fix the infrastructure problem they have created? No. Did they try to show leadership with vision to get out of the mess? No.

Because they are divided and under stress, Labor have not fixed the debt problem, they have not fixed the infrastructure problem and they have not shown leadership. In fact, they have flipped and flopped and are still trying to work out who might provide their best opportunity for winning the next

election. It is clear that Labor is trying to buy themselves support by borrowing as much as they can and spending as much as they can in their own electorates, while offering studies or re-announcements for most of the rest of Queensland.

One thing is sure from this budget: Labor have gone straight back to what Labor governments do best, which is to find more ways to tax people and further grow debt and then let the LNP fix things again. Since the 2017 election, we have seen new taxes totalling almost \$3.5 billion ripped from the people and businesses of Queensland. It is no wonder that we have one of the lowest business confidence ratings in the nation, with only one in 10 businesses showing the confidence to invest.

If business confidence is one thing that we lack in Queensland, something that we do not lack is debt, with our debt of \$83 billion growing to \$90.7 billion. I have no problem with debt, especially if it is used for long-term or interest-producing assets such as the irrigation scheme being developed by the Lockyer and Somerset Water Collaborative or for transport assets that improve the long-term safety of communities. However, one of the most basic and sensible financial principles is that you do not borrow money to pay for recurrent expenses. You do not borrow money to pay for wages. You borrow for long-term assets. Labor are not borrowing to build. They are borrowing to cover their wasteful spending.

It is just misleading whenever one of those opposite stands and talks about delivering the fifth year of surplus, and Queenslanders hate to be misled. When you grow the debt from \$83 billion to \$90.7 billion to balance the books, you are just getting further and further behind. That is not a real surplus; it is borrowing to pay for your operating expenses. Calculations show that this debt equates to \$10 million of interest every day, which will affect services. Can members imagine what we could do with that money?

This budget is the worst budget Queensland has seen. In the past 18 months this government has delivered nine new taxes. Six of those were secret Labor taxes that Labor did not have the guts to tell Queenslanders about. One has to ask: why all the taxes? Is it to pay down debt? That would be a responsible thing to do, but no, they have increased debt. Maybe it is to catch up on the infrastructure that they are so far behind on? No, the infrastructure spend has gone down by \$847 million. The regions and outer suburbs are being robbed to pay for the government's pet projects in South Brisbane to satisfy the Labor-Greens alliance.

This poor management of the state's finances comes as no surprise. Everyone knows that Labor cannot manage money. Even rusted-on Labor members know that Labor does not manage money well. We need to look no further than when Labor sold \$16.7 billion worth of state owned assets. Queenslanders know when they are being taken for a ride. We need to look no further than the 18 May election at which Queenslanders rejected the high-taxing Bill Shorten and his \$387 billion tax grab. Now Queenslanders have also rejected this budget of new taxes. No country, state or city has ever taxed its way to prosperity.

I want to reaffirm the promise that I made to those I represent: I will continue to fight for you, I will fight to deliver the projects we need and I will fight this government's attempts to rip you off. I have said it before and I will say it again: without Lockyer, Queensland would not be the state that it is today. As the seventh most fertile valley in the world, Lockyer Valley, together with the Brisbane Valley, provides much of the healthy fresh food that feeds and fuels our state and the nation, and delivers additional export income. For generations Lockyer has served as one of Queensland's most productive areas of agricultural production. That productivity has not come easily, though.

In droughts such as the one that we are currently experiencing, we need assistance to get better infrastructure to access desperately needed water. How are our farmers expected to continue to provide the same quality produce in ever-increasing quantities when they have the constant fear that they may run out of water? While living with the fear of not having access to the water they need, every day our farmers get one day closer to the day when they may not be able to grow a crop, which would mean they can no longer pay their bills or keep a roof over their families' heads.

The two inputs of electricity and water are critical for production, but the government is using both as hidden taxes. A Deb Frecklington LNP will reintroduce competition into the regional electricity market to lower the average regional power bill by \$1,200. That is a real deal for regional Queenslanders. While I am on the subject of electricity, I stress to the minister the importance of implementing meaningful improvements to interim tariff arrangements before July 2020. I hope that a tariff 33 or off-peak tariff is made available to our farmers at the reasonable price of 16 cents a kilowatt. In regards to water, I am heartened by the work of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative

and the cooperative efforts and success that the project may bring. The project has the potential to unlock unused capacity of water. Water equals security, food and jobs in all our businesses. Every aspect of our community would benefit.

I welcome the possibility of a new jail at Gatton. After that announcement I spoke with Mayor Tanya Milligan and the Lockyer chamber of commerce. We agreed on the positive economic benefits that it would provide. However, while the government talks up their plans for the prison, overcrowding continues and the Lockyer Valley waits for the promised 500 new jobs the project will bring. The budget only provides \$2 million for a planning study. If the minister could find the time to visit the Lockyer Valley, he would see for himself that the land is already there. The site pad is ready to go. It would be great to see this project delivered on or before the 2022-23 financial year. Our jails are already overcrowded. The jail project would help our eight per cent unemployment rate. In the meantime, I ask the Minister for Local Government to include the Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Scenic Rim councils in the Working for Queensland program. Do not increase the budget; just share out the current program on a more equitable basis.

I welcome our leader Deb Frecklington's vision of establishing the Queensland infrastructure fund from royalties from the Galilee Basin. That fund could provide the much needed grade separated interchanges on the Warrego Highway or safety improvements on the Brisbane Valley Highway and Forest Hill Fernvale Road, which Labor have largely ignored. As I said earlier, wasn't 18 May a great day for Australia when we rejected the high-taxing Bill Shorten? Now here comes the high-taxing Labor state government, which is after your hard-earned cash. Congratulations to Scott Buchholz, our federal member. He is a great hardworking local member who increased his majority by five per cent. Scott has already offered Lockyer \$60 million worth of safety improvements for the Warrego Highway east of Toowoomba over the next 10 years. That may not provide for major capital improvements for overpasses, but it will deliver improved turning lanes at our most dangerous intersections. I look forward to seeing this government come to the party with their 20 per cent of funding.

Funding is needed for improvements such as the combined vehicle and pedestrian solution at Withcott, a town divided by the highway. Improvements at the notorious black spots of Minden, Fairways, Glenore Grove and Summerholm could all be funded with that money. The Brisbane Valley Highway, which supports residents in areas such as Lowood and Fernvale, is in a state of disarray, particularly in Fernvale where the highway serves as the town's main street. Residents have told me how they fear their morning commute to work along the highway or worry about another road user crashing through their front fence. I will continue to work with the Somerset Regional Council and our leader, Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, to see the Brisbane Valley Highway improved. Our other state roads, particularly Forest Hill Fernvale Road, also need more attention.

Our problem is not busting congestion and seeing people get home a few minutes early to have a chardonnay but people from my community dying crossing these roads and highways. People are not computers; they are humans—and humans make mistakes. Every time someone crosses a 100-kilometre-an-hour highway, if they make a mistake it could cost them their life or someone else's life.

The government has come to the table to match the LNP's election promise to build desperately needed classrooms at the Laidley and Lowood state high schools. I was pleasantly surprised to see some of Lockyer's other schools—namely Grantham State School—will welcome a refurbishment to block A. Prenzlau State School will receive some funds to refurbish its prep learning area. This is a welcome injection, but a lot more is needed.

No mention was made of improving parking facilities at Lockyer High or Hatton Vale State School, where teachers and visitors are forced to park on the front yards of nearby homes just to get to work or pick up their children. No consideration was given to upgrading facilities at Fernvale State School, which faces enormous growth.

I look forward to working with the minister to achieve these outcomes in the near future. The government has also dismissed the opportunity to match the LNP's promise to provide air conditioning and improved facilities in all our schools. That is disappointing.

Lowood and Fernvale are amongst the fastest growing communities in my electorate and in South-East Queensland. With growth comes the need for more and more services, particularly emergency services and personnel. With this in mind, prior to the election the LNP made a promise to provide a \$2 million renovation of the Lowood Police Station in order to ensure the safety of the community and provide officers with a more viable working space. This commitment sought to provide




desperately needed upgrades to a station where officers work in cramped conditions. The government has failed to match this commitment. As such, officers in Lowood and the community as a whole will continue to suffer. This is unacceptable.

The LNP's plan for Queensland is the most advanced program of action ever proposed by an opposition in Queensland. It gives clarity for the future—a future with hope for our slow moving state. It is a simple plan to help Queenslanders get a job and get ahead. Unlike Labor, the LNP will not sting Queenslanders with any new taxes. The LNP will create a new government owned corporation to manage Queensland's new dams and water resources—the Queensland dam company. The LNP will air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland because cool kids are smart kids.

The LNP will create the Queensland infrastructure fund which, along with a 10 year freeze on royalties to ensure continued resource investment, will funnel every cent generated from resource royalties back into creating essential infrastructure for all of Queensland. The LNP will bring Labor's debt crisis under control and restore Queensland's AAA credit rating. The LNP will operate under the fiscal principle of maintaining a fiscal balance. We will not spend more than we make.

Bring on 2020. Join with the LNP and get Queensland back on track. Give Deb Frecklington the mandate to implement her sensible program of action—a great plan that gives clarity to a future; a future with hope for all of Queensland.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.03 pm): The Palaszczuk government has delivered a budget to create jobs across Queensland, building on over 200,000 jobs created since 2015. I want to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for delivering this budget with a clear vision for Queensland. We have made job creation the No. 1 priority. This is why this budget is delivering \$885 million in payroll tax relief to help small businesses create jobs.

From 1 July we are increasing the tax-free threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million which will mean 1,500 additional businesses will no longer pay any payroll tax. We are also introducing a one per cent regional discount which will boost regional economies by over \$300 million. Queensland already has one of the lowest payroll tax rates of any state in the country and this will make it even easier to do business here in Queensland.

Speaking to businesses right across our state, I know what this package means. Noel from Townsville said the Palaszczuk government's new payroll package will mean his bowling business now falls below the threshold and he can afford to take on additional full-time staff.

I note the member for Nanango believes that we have somehow stolen the LNP's policy which in fact drip-fed payroll tax relief to businesses over a decade. The LNP's \$100 million policy was a complete flop. Our \$885 million policy is, as described, 'The jewel in the crown of the jobs budget.' Thank you Nick Behrens. No small business needs to wait 10 years to see these changes. Under our Labor government they are happening in full next month.

This budget also contains another \$4 million in small business grants funding to help small businesses upgrade their digital presence or to grow and employ more staff. This is on top of the \$12 million we have already provided to over 2,000 small businesses.

A clear priority of our government is ensuring that all Queenslanders have access to the skills and training they need to get a job and build a career. In the skills and training portfolio this budget is delivering almost \$1 billion to ensure we are skilling Queenslanders for the jobs of the future.

Labor delivered free TAFE and I am incredibly proud that this budget ensures we continue funding this program. Earlier this year I visited the Southport campus and met Kendra and Nan, who were completing a certificate III in hospitality thanks to free TAFE. Kendra told me how much the initiative meant to her and that without it her family would not have been able to afford the course. The 2019-20 budget will double the investment in capital works at TAFE with over \$105 million to renew, refurbish and expand our training facilities. At campuses like Alexandra Hills we are making the biggest investment in 32 years so that more students can complete their apprenticeships locally.

We also understand the need to partner with industry, which is why under this budget we will establish a higher level apprenticeship pilot to develop new ways to acquire specialised skills and knowledge through the traditional apprenticeship model. We are investing \$5.5 million in a microcredentialing project to support employers and workers gain the skills they need to adapt to the changing world of work.


The successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative will continue and assist a further 10,000 with \$80 million in funding. We have already assisted over 40,000 Queenslanders through this program and over half of them are now in a job as a result. I am incredibly proud of this program.

We are also continuing our incredibly successful Back to Work program, which will receive an additional \$14 million. This program has created nearly 20,000 jobs in Queensland. It is for people like Cole, whom I met recently in Cairns. With the help of Back to Work, he is now undertaking a welding apprenticeship at a local small business.

As the local member for Waterford, I am also pleased to see this budget delivering for my community. We are building a better M1 for Logan. We are delivering more lanes on the M1 between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill and extending the busway. Over \$800 million is committed so that Waterford residents can spend less time in traffic and more time with their families. This budget also includes important upgrades for local schools, including \$16 million for upgrades to 17 classrooms at Marsden State High School. Principal Andrew Peach and his fantastic team are delivering incredible results and this much needed funding will help them meet future demand.

Beyond the classroom we are also investing over \$3 million into Loganlea TAFE which will help upgrade facilities and support the expansion of our nursing training and veterinary nursing. This budget also delivers \$460 million for the Logan Hospital, including \$18 million for a much needed upgrade to the maternity ward. After visiting midwives at the hospital, I know how crucial these upgrades are and the impact they will have on local mums in the Waterford community. There is also a new mental health unit and subacute ward to significantly boost bed capacity—overall, 206 new beds.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders—a budget that promotes at its core the belief that all Queenslanders deserve access to skills and training, the skills they need to participate in our economy and reach their full potential; a budget that partners with industry to help ensure we are skilling Queenslanders not only for the jobs of today but also for the jobs of the future. This is a budget about jobs and it is delivering in spades.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (3.09 pm): The Palaszczuk government has presented what they say is a budget 'unashamedly focused on our regions'. My part of the world, the Gold Coast, is a region with the state's second largest city and it has not seen any of that focus. Labor has decided not to focus on building more light rail. It has decided not to focus on building the Coomera Connector, or second M1, with no new money and even just the planning for that road pushed out until 2023. QTRIP shows that it has stretched out \$20 million in planning funding over five budgets. I am not an engineer, but I could go back to university for those five years and get an engineering degree and I still would not be guaranteed a job on the project at the end because Labor does not have any commitment to build this road.

There are very few new projects in the budget for the Gold Coast. Most of them had been previously announced, and this year's budget just provided the next piece of the funding. Some of the M1 projects, for example, were announced way back in 2016. If you look at the glossy pamphlet outlining what this budget provides for the Gold Coast, you see that 18 of the 33 initiatives have been copied and pasted from last year's pamphlet. I have circled them, and I will table that. I already have last year's copy, so I probably do not need this year's.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2019-20: Regional Action Plan—Backing jobs for the Gold Coast, with annotations [\[1014\]](#).

That is not good enough for a city that is growing at a rate far higher than the average growth of our state. It needs infrastructure, better health services, more police, education and transport funding. The Gold Coast needs this investment to ensure the growth that it is experiencing is sustainable.

The lack of any funding for light rail was a complete shock to me. This project has had the detailed business case completed for over six months and it is ready to get started. We could have at least had funding to do the final planning or engineering work. I was sure that the transport minister was going to put forward a purposely lower amount of funding and then do what he always does and blame the federal government. He was not even capable of that. He is too busy firing off nasty tweets from the 'tower of power' up here in Brisbane.

This government makes a habit of blaming the federal government for its own inadequacies. It loves to selectively pick projects from other states where the funding split was more favourable to that particular state government. When it comes to light rail, that does not stack up. In Canberra they have just opened their light rail network. They built that with a 16 per cent funding commitment from the federal government, which is the same percentage on offer for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A. In New South Wales they have rolled out a whopping \$4.2 billion in light rail projects—perhaps that is a

little higher because of some of the issues they have had. How much did the federal government contribute to those projects? It put in zero—nothing. That state government completely went it alone because it knew that it needed to build that infrastructure and it got it done.

With \$112 million provided by the Morrison government and \$98 million from the City of Gold Coast for Light Rail Stage 3A, we are already getting more funding from other levels of government than for any other light rail project in the nation. We have two levels of government already stumping up for this project, but the level of government that is responsible has not provided a single cent. Just like the reannouncement of old projects, it is another example of the government covering up the fact that it has no money.

One intersection I have been fighting for in my area to upgrade since before I was elected is at Olsen Avenue and Brisbane Road near Harbour Town. With the help of \$5 million from the federal government, the upgrade has now been funded and brought forward by a couple of years.

Further along Brisbane Road I was glad to see money set aside in 2020-21 for upgrades to Pine Ridge Road, Captain Cook Drive and Brisbane Road, although it is only for planning. I would have hoped for more funding to partner better with council who are upgrading their local roads in that section. This intersection causes daily headaches for businesses in the industrial hub along that stretch and for schoolkids from Coombabah State High School, with almost 60,000 cars going through that intersection every day. I know my good friend the member for Broadwater's constituents would go through that intersection as well.

Moving on from infrastructure, whilst I support the move to a new public transport ticketing system, time after time people tell me that it is the cost that is stopping them from using public transport more, especially when it costs over \$10 each way to get to Brisbane.

The Arundel police hub was a welcome addition in last year's budget. Any extra police resources given to the Gold Coast are, whilst rare under this government, much needed and warmly received. With \$2.4 million budgeted for 2018-19, I was hoping to see some construction start late last year after the land was purchased at the end of 2017, but we have only just started to see the site take shape—by that I mean we have some fences up and an excavator. Like many other empty blocks in my electorate, people are slowly waiting for this important facility to be built. I sincerely hope that the weather holds out so that we can have it finished by December.

With only \$0.7 million spent on this project in the last year, which is less than a third of what was budgeted, it is just one of a number of projects in my electorate that the government is not delivering on. On 1 August last year, the Southport Youth Foyer was announced, with funding from a year ago in the previous budget. Construction was meant to start in early 2019, with it opening later this year. Months of secrecy surrounded the site of the proposed foyer, with the minister refusing to tell me where it was. Finally, in October we had the answer. What has happened since? Absolutely nothing. The site is still untouched. There is not even a mention of the project in this year's budget. I sincerely hope that this project has not been dropped because our young people, especially those facing homelessness and trying to get ahead in life, deserve every bit of help they can get. This project has been mismanaged and we are left with an empty block of land in Southport.

I have similar fears for the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct at the old Commonwealth Games Village. I have spoken in this House before about my concerns with its progress.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order, members! Member for Broadwater, you are not in your seat. If you are going to interject you will need to move, but there will be no cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr O'CONNOR**: I do not have confidence in the ability of this government and in particular in the minister responsible to attract tenants to the state land within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. Over a year on from the Commonwealth Games, it is concerning that the only property it has an agreement over is from Griffith University across the road. The Gold Coast is crying out for a diversification of industry, and this is a perfect spot for it—a hub of innovation, science and research; a place where new technologies are developed and new ideas come to fruition; and a place where the companies of tomorrow can find their home. What we currently have is a very large space of bitumen or, in some cases, dirt—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister Dick, the member for Bonney has the call.

**Mr O'CONNOR:**—empty blocks for which the minister responsible, when approached about allowing it to be used in the short term for a different purpose—to host NightQuarter—did not even bother to respond to a letter that I wrote to him. I was pleased to see that Labor has followed suit and come to the table with the LNP's policy on payroll tax.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister Dick, if I have to mention your name again you will be warned.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** It gives business the ability to employ more staff and to grow their business. Our economy will only grow stronger if our small and medium businesses are stronger, although relief like this does not make up for the many other tax hits imposed by Labor.

My electorate has the highest unemployment rate on the Gold Coast. Last year we saw the cuts to the Back to Work program for our city. It hit some of my constituents and businesses hard. Those who had planned to participate in the program suddenly could not. Those business owners who wanted to expand could not.

I am proud to represent the Gold Coast University Hospital and I will always fight for it to be properly resourced. This government can only dream of matching the rates of increase in funding we saw under the previous LNP administration, including a 16.43 per cent budget growth in 2013-14 and a 10.37 per cent budget growth in 2014-15. This government's funding increase barely got out of single digits. Recent statistics show GCUH is at capacity and struggling to keep up with the demand—43 per cent of category 2 patients are not seen on time and a huge 53 per cent of category 3 patients are not seen within the appropriate time.

I have met many of the hardworking doctors and nurses at Gold Coast University Hospital, and I am proud to call some of them friends. They are passionate about their patients and the care they provide. They want to see the best outcomes for those they look after, but they can only do what is humanly possible. They cannot keep up with the demand and they need more support.

Across Queensland no mental health targets were met. The crisis we face is not currently being solved. That is why I am pleased to see funding in the budget to help prevent suicide. The stories of suicide from around the country are alarming. From the young to the very old, it is a crisis we cannot ignore. If someone ends their life abruptly through suicide we know they have found themselves in the depths of despair, in a dark place they feel there is no escape from. For that person it can seem like there is no hope, but we need to provide them with hope. We need to give them hope that their life can get better. That includes services to care for them, to find the right help and to seek intervention to show them that life is worth living.

The reality of suicide is that it impacts far more people than the individual. The friends and families of those who have committed suicide are left broken and changed forever. They will always question and forever despair, and they will always seek the closure they are unlikely to get. This money is much needed, and my hope is that it will lead to fewer suicides and more help for those who feel they are alone. The Beyond Blue Way Back program gives support to those who have attempted suicide. It gives one-on-one non-clinical care and practical support people can relate to. This support significantly lowers the risk of these people making suicide attempts in the future. The mental health issues that our state faces are too large to ignore.

I have some standout schools in my electorate as well. Places in them are sought after and the students are excelling. Southport State High School was in the top five state schools for OP results last year. It is truly an outstanding school led by Nigel Hughes and his committed team of staff. The new building underway will increase that school's capacity and allow for the growth suburbs in my electorate desperately need. However, the other schools in Bonney have unfortunately been neglected. Labrador State School will turn 100 in 2021. Its current site is almost 70 years old. That school is desperate for upgrades, particularly a new hall, which needs to be brought up to speed with the newer schools being developed across our city, but there is nothing for that in this budget.

Musgrave Hill State School is over 50 years old and it needs upgrades to buildings, but it also received nothing in this budget. Arundel State School, which is 25 years old, has a shorter history, but it is one full of temporary buildings that were brought there on the back of a truck. Its original capacity has been far exceeded, with temporary demountables now housing many students, including all of the senior students, in four classrooms up the back. Through the Department of Education Arundel State


School is paying \$15,000 to the Gold Coast City Council each year for land where two demountables that hold two classrooms currently sit. This is not a sustainable situation. Either the minister needs to renegotiate with the council and have the land rezoned to the school, or a larger permanent structure should be built on state land.

The LNP's commitment to air-condition every state school still stands. Whilst the government may mock that, our constituents do not. For those schools that have been air-conditioned by their P&Cs, their parents and teachers are eternally grateful. Teachers have said how much of a difference it makes in their teaching day with hours not lost as a result of the heat and kids being able to concentrate much more. Parents from outside of the catchment are trying to get their kids into schools based on whether they have air conditioning or not. For those schools that do not, I have parents, grandparents and other concerned residents reaching out regularly to ask what can be done. Yes, it is a big cost, but the education of our kids is important. This move by the Liberal National Party to ensure their success is vital for our future.

I was also thrilled to see the extension of funding to the early childhood development program. Musgrave Hill State School in my electorate has one of these programs and it is much loved by our community. Last June I was asked to visit and see the work they do. I could immediately see the value it has, particularly in a preventative sense. After asking the minister about this program last year and hearing that it was guaranteed until at least 2020, I am glad the minister has seen the valuable work of this program and extended the funding over four years. The kids that attend our Musgrave Hill program enter an amazing supportive environment each day. I shared the news on Tuesday and received many messages of support. One woman commented—

The ECDP at Musgrave Hill State School had a massive positive impact on my son. If it wasn't for their guidance I would have been lost. ECDP is vital, as the earlier the intervention, specifically with children with ASD, the better ... I cannot thank Michelle and Gloria from ECDP Musgrave Hill enough for their work with my son.

Although that is one small victory, overall this budget lacks understanding and care for the Gold Coast region. It fails to adequately provide for its current population, let alone the growth it is experiencing. The budget fails on infrastructure, education, business, health and front-line services. I will keep doing what I can to fight for fairer outcomes for the electorate of Bonney and provide our community with what they need for the growth we are experiencing.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.24 pm): I am proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer and member for South Brisbane. What a great budget it is for Queensland and the electorate of Mansfield. This great Labor budget responds to the needs of all Queenslanders—creating jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and building infrastructure, building the economy of the future despite the globally unstable political and economic environment. This budget delivers health and education infrastructure and investment for the future success of young Queenslanders and the prosperity of our great state.

Since 2015, 207,000 jobs have been created—evidence that Labor does not, and will not, cut, sack and sell. When I was elected to this parliament I vowed that I would strive to ensure the Mansfield electorate became a hub of educational excellence. I am proud of the 19 schools in my electorate and the quality education they provide. They are the reason more than 100 young families flock to my electorate every month. I know that a hub of educational excellence requires world-class infrastructure; the resources and funding to inspire learning; the collegial and collaborative support of educators working together across schools and between classrooms; effective teachers and strong educational leaders who apply explicit and precise timely strategies to improve student learning; and a team of educational leaders who I can support, mentor and guide from an experienced and informed position, despite those opposite referencing that members on this side of the House have never had a real job— an offensive and incorrect allusion. What better way to insult and further alienate 53,000 teachers right across Queensland whom the member for Townsville and I proudly represent.

A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. We are delivering a great start for our children in Mansfield. That is why I am so delighted that this budget provides almost \$20 million for the construction, upgrade and maintenance of government schools located within my electorate of Mansfield. Building infrastructure creates jobs—in fact, 58 jobs on school sites in Mansfield alone—with 58 per cent of the workforce on large-scale government projects made up of apprentices and trainees. This includes close to \$11.7 million in 2019-20 for infrastructure projects aimed at renewing and expanding the great Mansfield State High School, one of the highest-performing schools in Queensland and deserved of first-class learning facilities. A new two-storey science building has been completed at a cost of \$7.7 million. A new \$10.4 million, three-storey learning centre with

additional classrooms will open for the start of the 2020 school year, not to mention the \$6.1 million for the new hall, which opened in 2018, and, of course, the upcoming refurbishment of the old hall to create a performing arts precinct. To cater for continued growth and enrolments the budget also includes \$3.9 million to commence work on the \$5.5 million construction of additional new classrooms and a canteen at Wishart State School.

Mansfield State School is also receiving \$1.5 million in this budget for a \$7.7 million project to provide additional classrooms in this growing school community, not to mention the \$1.43 million to extend the hall allocated in last year's budget. At Rochedale State High School \$5 million will be spent under the 2020 Ready program on a new two-storey, 10-classroom learning centre. There will a further \$849,000 for maintenance and minor works across state schools in my electorate. This coming year the Palaszczuk government will spend more than \$1.464 billion on new and enhanced state schools right across Queensland.

Our Queensland communities should be very concerned if 'back to basics' is all the opposition can offer our children in this critical area of education. Many theorists would see the back to basics policy position as an attempt to deny public school students opportunities to learn how to think critically and creatively—an attempt to return our education system to an industrialised, bygone era.

Again, Queensland witnesses those opposite respond to complex matters with punitive measures. The Queensland education community will never forget what happened during the Newman government years. I experienced firsthand its key education platform: Nyanda State High School closed; the Brisbane School of Distance Education sold to developers; the Fortitude Valley State School for sale; they wanted to sell the oval at Whites Hill State College for housing development; and who can forget the abhorrent closure of the Barrett centre for adolescent mental health? The Newman government's platform and vision for education in Queensland was a litany of uninformed business decisions with no knowledge of the education system and school administration made by those opposite that inevitably affected the lives and futures of our young Queenslanders and their families.


We can see from this how those on the other side of the House see education. They see it as a business. Is their model of the welfare state to have independent public hospitals and independent public highways and perhaps to rank these using tempting targets and performance criteria and then to deprivatise this data to name and shame the most vulnerable communities across Queensland while celebrating some heroic resultant fiscal balance? The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education in Queensland. Education is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great state. A quality education is a right of all Queenslanders regardless of their location, socioeconomic status, gender or race. Our children in Queensland deserve the very best.

It is also pleasing to see a strong commitment by the Palaszczuk government to the TAFE sector. This vitally important part of our national training industry has had the heart ripped out of it by successive conservative federal governments over many years. How gratifying it is to see a real commitment by this state government to the TAFE sector, with \$80 million being injected across the state. Of course, Labor made TAFE free for our year 12 graduates and this is valued immensely by the young people in my electorate. Under the Newman government, student numbers dropped by thousands at my local Mount Gravatt TAFE. Under the Palaszczuk government, the Mount Gravatt TAFE school of fashion is set to become the only school of fashion excellence in Queensland, with an injection of millions to upgrade teaching spaces and provide state-of-the-art equipment. We have committed an additional \$30 million over two years to support universal access for kindergarten in the year before school.

Turning to transport, commuters will benefit from an additional 367 parking spaces at the Eight Mile Plains park-and-ride, and motorists can expect smoother travel with a \$10.7 million upgrade of the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to the Logan Motorway—not to mention the Cross River Rail and the cycle Veloway, which is important, long-term, job-creating infrastructure that will reduce congestion in my electorate.

We are keeping Queenslanders healthy. There is \$6.2 million to deliver upgrades to the QEII Hospital and deliver more doctors and nurses. Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in Brisbane by employing an additional 6,000 nurses, more than 2,000 doctors and 500 ambulance officers. Since March 2015, the Palaszczuk government has employed an additional 4,800 full-time equivalent teachers and around 1,400 teacher aides. This budget commits \$80 million over four years for a range of initiatives under the Shifting Minds suicide prevention flagship program.

Small businesses play an important role in my community. An \$885 million payroll tax relief package will assist small to medium sized businesses to create jobs in my electorate. The payroll tax threshold will increase from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million. An additional 1,500 businesses will no longer pay any payroll tax. I am proud to stand as part of the Queensland Labor government, led by our Premier and Deputy Premier who have a vision for this great state of Queensland. The 2019-20 state budget ensures that a progressive Queensland will be one that is more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government, a Labor government, and the result of only one party, the Australian Labor Party. This is a jobs budget delivering great schools for Mansfield.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak to the 2019 budget and revenue bills and to outline the Greens' response to the Queensland budget. In an age of growing danger from climate breakdown, rising inequality, stagnating wages and housing stress, Tuesday's budget was a tremendous missed opportunity. The crises we face are connected and so are the solutions, and that is the message I am hoping the government will take from my contribution today.

The Treasurer made some really important observations about climate change in her budget speech. She noted that places like Queensland stand to lose the most, that we are paying the price of climate change right now and that it will only grow over time. She said that if we do not act now climate change will have massive economic impacts and that in response to climate change our leadership must be global and local. Yet despite the rhetoric this budget offers almost nothing new to meaningfully address climate change. Despite the rhetoric around the need for global and local leadership, only 24 hours after the Deputy Premier spoke these words, Queensland Labor gave Adani yet another green light—one it considers to be the last major hurdle. This is a seriously warped view of global and local leadership on climate change.

Does the Treasurer seriously consider opening up one of the largest untapped thermal coal reserves in the world is what it means to be a global leader on climate change? It is hard to imagine a more flagrant denial of reality. It is fanciful to try to describe Queensland Labor as a global leader on climate the day before it put science in the bin and waved through a project like Adani.

The Treasurer reminded us of the 84 disasters and the \$15 billion in damage Queenslanders have endured over the last 10 years. The budget does not tell us about the people who die in those disasters, the homes that are lost, the farmers and graziers who suffer, the landscapes that burn. The Treasurer is right that floods, droughts, bushfires and cyclones will only get worse, but she ignores that her government is adding fuel to the fire.

How about local leadership? The budget's focus on the regions is commendable and absolutely necessary, but it is missing some essential elements that the regions need to adjust through the inevitable change that is coming. More than ever, it is clear that Labor has taken the wrong lessons from the federal election right down to this budget. It has caved in to Adani and bought into the narrative that the result in Queensland is down to its indecision on this one project, which is in my mind complete rubbish. Just imagine if, instead of sitting on the fence about Adani, Labor had offered an honest, concrete transition plan away from thermal coal with massive investment into regional jobs, housing and retraining funded by taxes on big corporations. If Labor will not offer them hope, it is no wonder voters abandoned them.

Queensland and Australia will cop the damage from climate breakdown first and hardest, but we also stand to benefit the most from a cleaner future. The Treasurer says we must show local leadership on climate change, and local leadership must start with an honest conversation about the future of thermal coal. The International Energy Agency now accepts that global demand for thermal coal peaked more than five years ago and is in long-term decline. The IPCC has made crystal clear that thermal coal must be out of our energy mix by 2050 if we are to avoid catastrophic global warming.

This fact is reflected in the budget itself. It is squirrelled away in a corner of Budget Paper No. 2 on page 38. It is stated explicitly that thermal coal exports are forecast to decline, but this government continues to deny reality and refuses to have these tough but necessary conversations with the communities that will be most directly affected. Leaving to one side the utter lies Adani continues to peddle on job numbers, employment from existing thermal coal mining and eventually from gas fracking must be replaced.

Instead, the Treasurer, the Premier and apparently everyone else in this place continues to offer false hope. They carry on with the fantasy that thermal coal mining in the Galilee Basin is the solution to regional Queensland's employment woes. Our regions are desperate for jobs, and fair enough. We

all want the same basic things—a good stable job, secure housing and a bright future for our kids and communities. This is what Labor needed to offer in the federal election but it failed to. Until the state budget commits to taxing big corporations to pay for a massive transition plan for thermal coal workers, nothing will change. You do not transition away from thermal coal by opening new thermal coal mines, you do not provide hope by swallowing the coal billionaire's talking points, and you cannot provide an alternative if you are not willing to go after big mining companies to fund it.

The Greens are not saying that all our coalmines and exports should be shut down overnight—far from it. Metallurgical coal comprised more than 70 per cent of Queensland's coal exports in the 2018 calendar year. On the other hand, thermal coal is not a big money-spinner. It is just not. It is estimated that thermal coal generated about half a billion dollars in royalties during 2018, only about one-seventh of the royalties from metallurgical coal. It generated less than half the costs we have incurred from natural disasters since November last year and far less than car registration.

We have a bad track record in Australia of dealing with industrial transitions. To see that we can look to the towns gutted by the end of car making in Victoria and South Australia; forestry in Tasmania; or the fallout in Mackay, Gladstone, Chinchilla and Clermont when the mining boom turned to bust. Coal towns have sacrificed so much to keep the lights on and build our common prosperity, so we cannot leave them to the chaos of the market as thermal coal declines.

There is so much work to do across Queensland, and retooling our economy to make it cleaner and fairer will create a lot of jobs. We have 32,000 people on our social housing waiting list, and we have tens of thousands of homes in North Queensland that need protection from extreme weather. Degraded rivers, farmlands and natural spaces in need of restoration can create livelihoods for thousands, not least of all the first nations of this vast and ancient continent.

Rehabilitating abandoned mines creates jobs. Exporting Queensland's sunshine to the world as hydrogen creates jobs. Green jobs are not just building solar farms and wind turbines, although there is no shortage on offer in that space. A teacher has a green job, so does a nurse and so does an aged-care worker. A cleaner, fairer society is about looking after each other as well as our planet. Instead of siding with coal bosses, Labor could follow our lead and announce a massive plan to make sure everyone has a decent home, powered by 100 per cent clean energy that is publicly owned—not far off in the future, but right here and now.

That future is also entirely possible only if we make big companies pay their fair share. The Greens took a plan to the last state election to raise coal and gas royalties to at least 18 per cent—about level with international averages. Just by doing that, we could raise \$20 billion over five years. We can only speculate that the government's inertia on the transition away from thermal coal is driven by the same kind of political influence and vested interests that drove its recent negotiations on coal royalties, although I think calling it negotiations is perhaps putting it a little too high; it looked much more like rolling over.

The Treasurer recently meekly asked for a voluntary contribution of \$70 million from some of the biggest companies on earth—this is, by any measure, a pitiful amount compared to what the state could have recovered from raising the royalty rate for coal. Even more concerning, the coal billionaires were allowed to decide how much they wanted to contribute. How is it fair that big coalmining companies get to choose how much extra tax they are going to pay? Ordinary Queenslanders do not get that choice. This gives a clear line of sight on the real-world outcomes of the access and influence enjoyed by corporate donors and industry lobbyists at the expense of ordinary Queenslanders. I strongly welcome the government's decision to raise royalties on gas companies for fracking and LNG. We cannot plan for and fund the transition away from fossil fuels, including both gas and thermal coal, without taxing the multinational mining companies that have already taken so much.

I welcome and applaud the additional school spending in the budget. Indooroopilly State High School will finally see an injection of \$12 million for the construction of a new multiuse facility. Indooroopilly State High School is an outstanding school. It produces brilliant, engaged young minds, and the growth in enrolments over the last decade reflects this. It has grown to the point that the school cannot hold an assembly in one place, but this new facility will see that problem fixed. My thanks go to the principal, Lois O'Reilly, all the staff and the P&C for their efforts in getting this off the ground. I cannot wait for the first UN Day celebrations or award ceremony where the junior and senior schools can come together to celebrate their achievements.

About half a billion dollars of additional funds has been set aside for the Building Future Schools initiative, which will see master planning and expansion for a number of overcrowded schools in the electorate. This kind of expansion work is necessary. I am aware that master planning is underway at



a number of my local schools. Of course, while this planning is welcome, we also need to see substantial additional funding for the construction of the newly planned facilities. Moreover, new buildings on existing campuses will only solve the overcrowding in Maiwar schools for a short while. There are more and more families moving into the area as infill development continues. Unsurprisingly, the real pinch point seems to be in the immediate vicinity of the old Taringa state school, which was shut down and sold to developers about 20 years ago. We need a new school in the inner west, and I am calling on the government, again, to get investigations underway and set aside the funds required to purchase property for a new school campus.

Before the budget was brought down I wrote twice to the Treasurer requesting that the state government contribute to the purchase of the old ABC site at Toowong. This site could be the west side's answer to New Farm Park—a beautiful riverside sanctuary in an area now dominated by really high-density living. A walking and cycling bridge that is itself a work of public art could be Brisbane's answer to New York's High Line. It is easy to get sidetracked, since there are so many exciting ideas, but they include bringing back the Toowong public pool, a new community garden, an outdoor amphitheatre and a community hall for events and fundraisers. So much of the high-rise development in our city has been driven by a quest for private luxury. A new riverside park here would be a little bit of communal luxury—something increasingly missing from our lives.

Local Aboriginal elders have also shared with us the story of the songline running from West End at Kurilpa, across the river up to Mount Coot-tha. Many of the 2½ thousand people who took part in our massive community vote strongly supported an Aboriginal community controlled space as part of any new park. Brisbane City Council has finally committed to consider buying part of the site as a landing point for a new bridge. Now is the time for the state government to come to the table.

I move on now to the new prison spend in the budget. Building new prisons will not fix overcrowding and it will not make anyone safer. To build and operate the new and expanded prisons, both youth prisons and adult prisons, the government is planning to spend \$1½ billion dollars from 2018 to 2022. That is on top of the \$1.2 billion per year that it already costs us to run youth and adult prisons. Just imagine how many lives we could transform with \$1½ billion. That is about triple the spending on building or upgrading social housing this year. It is more than we are spending on the 12 new schools across Queensland of which the government is so proud—and rightly so. Yes, the government is putting some extra money into diversionary programs and social services. However, while we are building new prisons, they will keep filling up.


Keeping people, especially young kids, locked up does not address the causes of crime, poverty and discrimination. It does not get kids out of adult watch houses and it does not address the shocking, racist overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids as young as 10 in prison. I am reiterating the Greens' call for a moratorium on all new prisons, both youth prisons and adult prisons, and for the government to raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14. We need to build homes, schools and communities, not new prisons.

I welcome the government's commitment to extend the Taxi Subsidy Scheme—at the eleventh hour—after sustained pressure from advocacy organisations and 6,000 signatories on a public petition. It is the responsibility of both state and federal governments to make the transition to the NDIS work, but I was certainly disappointed with how long it took for this sensible decision to be made.

I welcome the government's commitments on payroll tax, and I would note the Greens' longstanding policy of phasing out payroll tax. We should be taxing things we do not like and the things we do not want, such as pollution and waste, instead of things we do want, such as wages.

I will be voting for both appropriation bills and for the revenue bill, although as I noted this morning, I am on call at the moment as my partner is now six days overdue to give birth. If I am not in the chamber late this evening to vote in favour of this legislation, I trust that Mr Speaker and my fellow members will excuse my absence.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Thank you, member for Maiwar. Good luck!

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' budget, which is a blueprint for the Palaszczuk Labor government's continued strong fiscal management and a plan for economic growth, investment in Queensland jobs and continuing the business of restoring the front-line services cut by the failed Newman LNP government. I want to congratulate the Treasurer specifically on another surplus budget. That makes it five from five since the election of the Labor government in 2015. This Labor budget outlines a positive plan for the future of the greatest state in the country.

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition's dark contribution yesterday means that Queenslanders should be very afraid of the alternative vision for the state. What is worse is that the member for Nanango's dystopian diatribe was replete with unfunded promises. It was irresponsible. It promises indeed to be the sequel to the Newman horror show that no Queenslanders wants, needs or deserves and every Queenslanders cannot forget. Indeed, during her contribution yesterday the Leader of the Opposition said—

We have fixed Labor's failures before and we are ready to do it again.

We know what that means! If they are harking back to the Borbidge-Sheldon period, that means an infrastructure freeze. If they are harking back to the more recent and specifically LNP experience—the Newman era—cuts will be back, the mass sackings will return and the asset sales will return.

I enjoy being positive, so I take this opportunity to bring the attention of the House to some of the great investments being made in my community in this Queensland Labor budget. I am particularly proud of the \$4.9 million that will boost the Bracken Ridge TAFE, as it will further deliver on my commitments at the 2015 and 2017 elections to protect that important local institution from the member for Clayfield and the LNP razor gang. Labor's signature skills policy, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, continues to go from strength to strength, with \$14.4 million invested right across the Brisbane region including supporting the delivery of those programs by local organisations in my electorate such as Sandbag and All About Living.

As with so many members, schools in my electorate are also big winners. Both Bracken Ridge State School and Norris Road State School will get \$150,000 to improve or create new learning spaces. Bracken Ridge State High School students will enjoy a refurbished hall—as will the community, with it being a very well used facility—to the value of \$150,000 as well. In a project for which I particularly advocated, the Sandgate District State High School will benefit from a \$350,000 refurbishment to the special education block, providing the best environment and best support to some of the students with the most needs in our community. I am also happy to see that \$700,000 was allocated for maintenance and minor work across the nine public schools in the Sandgate electorate.

I make particular and deeper reference to three important projects recognised in QTRIP that are significant and congestion busting in or near the electorate of Sandgate. These are all projects that will see a partnership with the Australian government. I am particularly pleased that, alongside the Commonwealth, \$200 million was set aside to fund the upgrade of the last piece of the Gateway Motorway upgrade puzzle, the stretch from Bracken Ridge to the Pine River. It is a billion dollar project that will make a huge difference to traffic not only in my local area but also right across the north side.

Of deeper importance to residents in my Sandgate electorate, despite the project being located in the electorate of my good friend the member for Aspley, \$25 million in funding has also been allocated for the Linkfield Road overpass duplication. Contrary to some of the member for Everton's comments, that project is funded in lock step with the federal government's commitments, and \$4 million is indeed allocated for early works on that project. In terms of the suggestion that it is somewhere off in the never-never, we should reference the federal government in relation to that.

Equally, the \$15 million in funds to match the federal government's commitment to upgrade the Strathpine Road interchange or, as my constituents call it, the Hoyland Street overpass, of the Gympie Arterial will better connect Bald Hills as well as improve the east-west link between Strathpine and Sandgate. This will provide my constituents with better access to the new university campus at Petrie. I also welcome the \$5 million budget commitment to continue the design and planning work for the Beams Road rail level crossing project which, when constructed, will alleviate a major bottleneck in Fitzgibbon, Zillmere and Carseldine.

The additional \$1.1 million for upgrading boating infrastructure at Cabbage Tree Creek brings the total commitment of the Palaszczuk government on that project over time to \$1.8 million, improving a key asset for the Shorncliffe community. The Brighton Health Campus, continuing to deliver care in the tradition of Eventide, will benefit from the further allocation of over \$0.5 million as part of the \$1.8 million total investment to replace the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems on that campus.

In relation to my ministerial responsibilities, I am pleased to see more great news for our important local government sector, for our racing industry, which is going from strength to strength, and for our vibrant multicultural communities. The Palaszczuk Labor government is providing increased

funding of \$20 million over two years to continue important inundation mitigation works on five of the outer Torres Strait Islands. Furthermore, \$2.7 million has been provided to fund urgent repairs to reservoirs in the Northern Peninsula Area Water Supply System, and there is \$4 million to renew and replace other elements of the NPA water supply system. This funding will ensure that for years to come the dynamic communities of Bamaga, Umagico, Seisia, New Mapoon and Injinoo, all located at the very tip of Cape York, have a reliable, safe and clean water supply.


I congratulate and acknowledge the member for Cook's work in securing this funding for some of the most remote parts of her electorate and indeed of the state. I also acknowledge the advocacy of Mayor Lindsay Godfrey of the Paroo Shire Council, who late last year secured \$9.1 million to upgrade critical sewerage infrastructure in Cunnamulla. Having joined in July last year my director-general as well as the Paroo shire councillors and officers in Cunnamulla in advocating for that project, I know how important that funding is to them and what a difference it can make to the community.

The inclusion of \$50 million for Works for Queensland forms part of the ongoing support of that hugely successful program, now topping \$600 million, which already has supported more than 14,000 jobs in regional parts of the state. As mentioned yesterday in my ministerial statement to the House, the program is such a boon in regional Queensland. From the Torres Strait to Thargomindah, Cairns to Camooweal, Wujal Wujal to Wallangarra, this program is supporting jobs in regional Queensland. Clearly, I am concerned that the Liberal National Party and the member for Nanango are missing in relation to this issue. Clearly, cutting this popular job-creating regional program would continue to be part of the extension of the Newman-Nicholls 'Deb-onomics'.

The Palaszczuk government's investment in racing, be it in the city or the bush, further reinforces Labor's reputation as the party of choice for racing enthusiasts and participants. The government is providing additional funding of \$131.1 million over five years to increase prize money and other initiatives, including \$119.1 million for thoroughbred racing and \$12 million for the greyhound and harness codes. The Palaszczuk government has also provided a further \$8 million to progress the development of harness racing infrastructure.

In terms of the rest of my portfolio, the state budget also includes \$1.8 million for the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Assistance program. A total funding package of \$4.3 million over three years is allocated to asylum seeker and refugee support, delivering on our commitment to create a more inclusive and welcoming Queensland. It was great to be part of and alongside other members from both sides of the House at the Lunimous Lantern Parade last Friday night. Over 36,000 Queenslanders came together to demonstrate welcome to asylum seekers and refugees living amongst us in our community.

In conclusion, this budget is a great package focused on job creation and economic growth. Despite challenging global economic headwinds, Queensland's economic growth is projected to outpace that of the rest of the nation in 2019-20. Solid jobs growth is projected to continue well into the 2022-23 financial year. Exports from Queensland continue to boom, reaching \$85.2 billion in the 12 months to April 2019. Thanks to strong prices in coal and liquefied natural gas, in addition to new exploration and extraction in the Galilee Basin and the north-west minerals province, Queensland's exports are expected to enjoy continued growth over the forecast period. Again, I congratulate the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on a budget that made the needed tough choices. It is another step in Labor's blueprint for jobs and growth. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.59 pm): As my friend the member for Burnett did earlier today, I thank all of those MPs from both sides of the House who attended the Bundaberg Region Promotion Night last night. Those who could not get there missed out on a fantastic night. From Bundaberg there were 30 local businesses, organisations and not-for-profits, with 100 local people proudly displaying what Bundy does so well. There were some great local hidden gems and some worldwide successes. I thank Freya and Amity, the two young ladies who work in both of our offices, who did all of the heavy lifting to get that event happening last night.

**Mr Minnikin:** Especially the gin.

**Mr BATT:** Yes, the gin was a hit!

After last year's budget I really thought it could not get any worse for my electorate of Bundaberg, but on Tuesday Labor proved me wrong. Over the past few days Bundaberg residents and businesses have expressed their disappointment and frustration at this 2019-20 Labor budget. After five years in government, all Labor is delivering is higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure.

This budget rips an extra \$1.25 billion in new taxes from the hip pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. This budget helps push our state towards a record \$90 billion debt bomb—debt of about \$67,000 for every Queensland family of four. This budget is one of utter neglect. This budget is one that forgets about Bundaberg again.

Labor promised a budget for the regions, a budget for jobs, a budget for infrastructure and a budget for front-line services, but all we are getting is broken promises. Do not just take my word for it. Just today in local Bundaberg media CQ University Professor of Regional Economic Development, Professor John Rolfe, commented on this Labor budget. The article states—

Economic uncertainty has been worsened by the State Budget while funding to the regions appears to have been politically driven in the lead-up to the election.

The article continues—

... the Queensland Government had borrowed a lot of money and thrown a few infrastructure projects to the regions to try to keep people happy.

Professor Rolfe said—

I'm not sure they've read the mood of what people want, and I don't think they really captured what Queensland needs.

He also said—

It is the poorest budget the Palaszczuk Government has delivered so far.

The article continues—

Treasurer Jackie Trad described the budget as one that benefits regional Queensland, but Prof Rolfe said that funding outside of South East Queensland appears to be flowing to marginal electorates, which could prove a difference in next year's state election.

...

'The economy is sluggish and that's because there's not a lot of new things coming into the economy,' he said.

'There's not a lot of real spending in the business sector, households are cautious ... there's not a lot of confidence and people are not spending.

'I don't see anything in the budget that's going to increase the confidence.'

I lost count of the number of times the Treasurer spoke about how this budget is one for the regions. It is certainly not one for the Wide Bay-Burnett region, and Professor Rolfe agrees. For the second year in the row the Wide Bay-Burnett region has been allocated the second lowest capital budget in regional Queensland, despite having the greatest population outside of the south-east. Labor has allocated just 4.5 per cent of its \$13 billion capital budget to the Wide Bay-Burnett. Why is it that Bundaberg does not deserve to be on a level playing field? Why is it that Wide Bay is always left out in the cold? Why is it that the people of Bundaberg do not get their fair share from this Labor government? These are the questions that my community is asking.

A few weeks ago, after over 400 days without a visit, the Premier made a brief, unannounced appearance in Bundy and, while having a one-on-one with the local newspaper, let it slip that a new Bundaberg hospital was getting the green light. Since then it has been impossible to gain any information about the next stage of the process. The government did not even publish a media release to boast about the great news—no major announcement to all media outlets, no fanfare for one of the biggest decisions in Bundaberg's history.

Our community was confused, but we agreed to just wait and see what was in the budget. To our astonishment, it looks like the government has forgotten to include any funding for the hospital's detailed business case. In the piles and piles of glossy budget papers I cannot find a cent. I can see \$6.4 million for Toowoomba Hospital's detailed business case but nothing for Bundaberg—just one line in the Service Delivery Statements to advise that the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service would continue to progress planning for a new Bundaberg hospital. There was no commitment for a detailed business case as promised by the Premier.

A new hospital is an absolute game-changer for our region. Just like all Queenslanders, we deserve a world-class health system. Obviously Labor does not think so. The Premier's announcement for a new hospital was something our community was thrilled about. We thought that maybe—just maybe—Labor was finally listening, but those hopes have now been diminished. It appears it was just an announcement on the run, without any funding to back it up. I will never stop fighting for a new hospital and my community will never stop calling for one.

Alongside the lack of funds to progress plans for the hospital, Labor has failed to provide any money for the Hinkler Regional Deal, classroom air conditioning, road upgrades, a drug and rehabilitation centre or flood mitigation for the Bundaberg electorate. As the former deputy mayor and disaster recovery coordinator for Bundaberg's 2013 major flood event, I am very passionate about flood mitigation. A government's role is to help communities thrive and prosper into the future, but it has been six years since water roared through our city and we are still waiting for a plan from Labor. After the floods Bundy was left devastated. Families lost all they had. They lost their homes. They lost their belongings. They lost their businesses. They were left with only the clothes on their backs and the shoes on their feet, but since then we have recovered. Everyone stood up, put their brave face on and, arm in arm, we pieced our city back together.

All we want from those opposite is some honesty. Bundaberg is tired of political games. We are tired of broken promises. We are tired of inaction. We need to see real, genuine commitments from the government for flood mitigation and we need them now, before another heartbreaking disaster strikes. Bundy residents deserve that.

This budget also fails to provide any funding for the Hinkler Regional Deal. One of the biggest disappointments is the lack of funding for any of the projects put forward and committed by the federal Morrison LNP government through the member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt, under the Hinkler Regional Deal. Some \$173 million has been committed by the federal government towards critical infrastructure projects including \$32 million for a Quay Street bypass to remove heavy vehicles out of the CBD and \$8 million to upgrade Bargara Road and Princess Street. This is the most money we have seen come to this region in a very long time. These infrastructure projects would be game-changers for the Bundaberg region, enabling the commencement of Bundaberg Regional Council's Riverside Masterplan and CBD redevelopment. There is not one mention from this government to support Bundaberg to get these projects over the line.

Only last week the Premier handballed questions about the regional deal to the Treasurer. Including funding in the budget for this deal was Labor's chance to show those who live in our region that it does care. Once again, we have been neglected. I, alongside Stephen Bennett, the member for Burnett, and Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay, will continue to call on those opposite to quit the games and commit funding for the Hinkler Regional Deal.

As well as the lack of funding for this deal, this budget did not include funding for any road upgrades or major roadworks. The only line item in the transport and main roads funding that has been allocated for the Bundaberg electorate is \$5 million for ongoing maintenance of the Burnett Traffic Bridge. Road concerns are one of the top issues residents report to my office. There are a number of intersections and roads that require upgrades, including the FE Walker Street and Ashfield Road intersection, which I have continued to speak about in this House on behalf of concerned residents. I have also submitted a petition on their behalf. Again, it appears that the pleas from Bundaberg residents are falling on deaf ears with the minister.

I am pleased to see that Labor has implemented the payroll tax relief policy that the LNP took to the last election. Some 1,500 small businesses will pay no payroll tax as a result, including several in the Bundaberg electorate. This is indeed good news for them, but with that comes the bad news. Under Labor's budget, a further 6,000 larger businesses will be stung with higher payroll tax, including businesses in Bundaberg. Queensland businesses will be taxed more for giving people a job. Just last night at our very popular Bundy promotion night I was told by the head of one of our great success stories, a local business now Australia wide, that the cost of this higher payroll tax to his business is equivalent to employing a new staff member. There is no incentive at all for larger businesses to employ extra people. This tax could even make businesses look at putting off staff to cover the higher payroll tax. It is just robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Another local business operator also contacted me late yesterday concerned with the ramifications on the absentee surcharge for foreign companies on land tax. Bundaberg Sugar, a large employer in the Bundaberg region and a large landholder since the 1800s—an iconic business across Queensland—will be punished by this tax by getting its land tax doubled from \$1.2 million to approximately \$2.4 million in one hit to its bottom line. At a time when the sugar industry is looking for any assistance it can find, this Labor government is taxing it out of existence.

I want to acknowledge the funding in the budget for Bundaberg State High School and Branyan Road State School. Both school announcements are a continuation of building enhancements from last year's budget so they were not unexpected; nonetheless they are welcomed. The only issue is the way in which the Renewing Our Schools program at Bundaberg State High has been implemented. The funding for this program was announced two years ago and yet we are still waiting to get a schedule of

works supplied to the school and the P&C. P&C President Mrs Diana Buckholz even wrote to the education minister back in April to try to get the process streamlined to assist in the school's daily activities. I want to quote a few paragraphs to put on the record the issues the school is having with this project. Mrs Buckholz wrote—

In order to proceed with Stage 1, the refurbishment of Q Block, the Year 8 students who normally use this facility had to be disbursed throughout the school away from their home area and into small, hot classrooms with substandard connectivity. All teachers and teacher-aides also had to be redistributed to alternative staffrooms. It was assumed that this would be a temporary inconvenience and by the end of Term 1, Stage 1 would be complete and students and staff could return to teaching and learning environments they so rightly deserve.

Unfortunately, even though demolition works were completed by the specified dates no further works have commenced. It was reported three weeks ago—


this is in April—

that the delays were due to contractor suitability and the latest update is that there is no specified date for commencement.

This is unacceptable for the forty-five staff and Year 8 students who have already had their teaching and learning conditions compromised for Term 1.

The students affected by the Q Block refurbishment were moved out into other less appropriate learning environments at the start of this year in preparation for the work to start, yet here we are some six months later and the P&C and the school have not been told when this work will commence. Six months of rooms sitting vacant. Six months of students in less appropriate rooms to learn in. The school, the students and the P&C deserve an answer.

I conclude with this: the outcome, disappointment and angst this budget will bring to the people of Bundaberg should not be a surprise to this Labor government. It will be of its choosing. The Labor government chose to take another \$1.25 billion in tax from Queenslanders. The Labor government chose to cut spending on infrastructure by half a billion dollars in the next financial year. The Labor government chose to create fewer jobs and this Labor government chose to increase Queenslanders' debt yet again to \$90 billion. Labor is not borrowing to build, but Queenslanders are borrowing to bail out this incompetent government. It is clear that Queensland cannot afford Labor and Queensland cannot trust Labor either. After this Labor budget I am very confident that the whole of Queensland realises that when Labor runs out of money it comes after yours. A Deb Frecklington LNP government is the only government that will unite this state and build a better Queensland, from the cities to the bush.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.13 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to make my contribution in support of the 2019 appropriation bills before the House and to celebrate what the state budget means for my community across the Nudgee electorate. Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on a budget that continues our government's commitment to investing in job-generating infrastructure and delivering better, essential front-line services for Queensland workers and their families. This budget maintains record spending in core services essential to meet the needs of our growing state. It means more teachers and teacher aides, doctors, nurses, police and paramedics on the front line supporting our communities. It means investment in our schools, hospitals, roads and public transport network. It means investing in TAFE as our premier training institute with apprenticeships and skills programs to ensure we have the people with the right skills to take advantage of the opportunities created by our policy settings and economic growth across the state. It means \$885 million over four years in targeted payroll tax initiatives to deliver lower taxes for small and medium sized businesses to stimulate employment in the private sector.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer said during her budget speech that budgets are fundamentally about choices and we choose the prosperity of Queenslanders—the prosperity of Queensland workers and their families and of their businesses. That means keeping our economy moving, innovating and diversifying, particularly in the face of deteriorating national and global economic conditions over the past two years and in the face of a continual erosion of our state's share of GST by a federal LNP government that takes from Queensland with one hand and withholds with the other. Queensland, despite these challenges, continues to lead the mainland states and territories in terms of domestic economic growth. Queensland's businesses, industries, communities and regions continue to grow as our state continues its transition to a more resilient and diversified economy and, despite these global economic and GST challenges, net operating surpluses are projected in each year of the forward estimates. This does not happen without a clear economic plan to invest in and deliver job-generating infrastructure. Over the next four years we will continue to do just that, with a \$49.5 billion capital program to deliver infrastructure that supports economic growth across Queensland, enhances front-line services and provides employment opportunities.

This level of investment will be partly funded through borrowings because to do otherwise would be to put a handbrake on our economy as the former Newman LNP government did when it decided that the way forward for Queensland was to cut, sack and sell. That is how you slow an economy. That is how you constrain an economy. It is not how you grow an economy and create prosperity. Budgets are about choices. They are about staying the course in challenging economic times and they are about articulating a vision for where we are going as a state. That is something we as a state Labor government have always done and one of the many things that so clearly differentiates us from those opposite.

I turn now to my electorate and some of the tangible things my community will see from this year's state budget. With 12 train stations and three major train lines across the length and breadth of my electorate, people in my local community are strong supporters and users of public transport—in fact, well above the state average. Since being elected, I have lobbied strongly for upgrades across the network to benefit my local community, and I always will. This budget delivers \$280,000 in planning funds for an expansion of Northgate train station park-and-ride—without doubt the gateway station to Brisbane north. Not only will this study allow commuters an opportunity to have their say on future expansion at the station but also the surrounding residents who have long called for relief for congestion in their local streets. This planning work has already been warmly welcomed by my community. More than 100 park-and-ride spaces are also being added to Geebung and Virginia train stations, enhancements that complement additional car spaces already delivered at Nudgee, Banyo and Nundah stations since my election in 2015.

Some \$5.6 million will also be spent to continue the current accessibility upgrade of Boondall train station, taking the total investment in train station upgrades in my electorate contained in this budget to \$6.7 million. I want to take this opportunity to thank the transport minister, Mark Bailey, his team and the Treasurer and her team for listening to my local community and progressing these projects. There are a number of advisers in those two offices whom I speak to, often weekly, on behalf of my community. They know who they are and I appreciate their support and assistance tremendously.

Some \$200,000 will be spent in this financial year to undertake transport project planning on the Toombul Bus Interchange and the Sandgate Road-Parkland Street intersection. Some \$200 million has been committed to upgrade the Gateway Motorway between Bracken Ridge and Pine Rivers at a total cost of \$1 billion. My community has been a significant beneficiary of the recently completed billion-dollar Gateway Upgrade North between Nudgee and Deagon and this next stage will continue vital congestion busting on this major arterial gateway to the north.

A record \$1.4 billion will be spent building new state schools and refurbishing, maintaining and expanding existing state schools across Queensland. This includes \$100 million for priority state school air-conditioning projects following a review of state school needs. An additional 1,000 teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides will be employed in 2019-20. Some \$1.5 million will be spent expanding the School Breakfast Program to additional schools across the state.

Nudgee has a relatively young population, the average age being 35, predominantly young families with two children. Schools are extremely important to this northern suburban community and each year I have had the pleasure of being able to deliver local projects of importance to local schools—from the \$1 million performing arts centre at Wavell State High School, to the swimming pool upgrade at Virginia State School and to facility upgrades at Nundah State School and Earnshaw State College. This year, it is Boondall State School's turn.

The Boondall State School P&C, under the strong leadership of Aaron Richards and principal Angelique Padgett, had long had a vision of an early years playground deserving of their growing and vibrant community. Their current prep playground is tired and uninspiring. For years the P&C had been fundraising and approached me for a little help to get across the line. Cue our amazing education minister, Grace Grace. Boondall State School is now the very happy beneficiary of \$100,000 to bring its vision to reality. We know that a quality education requires quality facilities and that is not limited to classrooms. I cannot wait to see the joy and wonder on the faces of the students when this project is delivered.

In addition, \$50,000 will be delivered for a parking feasibility study at Boondall State School. Since I was elected safe pick-up and drop-off zones at the school has been a concern raised with me. Already, this government has delivered improved road safety around the school in the form of flashing lights and crossing improvements, but to be able to deliver this funding for the P&C and school community to make a plan for improved safety in the future is wonderful.


An amount of \$400,000 will also be delivered to Nundah State School for the installation of a lift as part of its beautiful heritage building to improve wheelchair accessibility and there is \$430,000 for welcome maintenance and minor works across the schools in my area.

In health, there will be 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambulance officers to build on the thousands that we have hired since 2015 as part of our commitment to restore front-line services after the former LNP Newman government cut them. Our hospitals will be supported by a record \$18.45 billion operational budget to keep up with the increased demand for public health services, of which \$77 million will go to the ongoing specialist outpatient long wait strategy to deliver an extra 120,000 appointments and 13,000 elective surgery procedures.

Locally, mental health, dementia and palliative care services will receive \$1.5 million in grants to make a real difference to the lives of people at a time when they need it the most. The budget also contains \$27.9 million to complete a new adolescent extended treatment centre at the Prince Charles Hospital, which services my electorate.

The budget contains vital ongoing funding for child safety, youth and family services in my electorate, supporting Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services, Kurbingui youth services, Mercy Community Services, the Community Living Association, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care and the North-East Community Support Group. These youth and community services, alongside two neighbourhood centres at Nundah and Zillmere, are there for the most vulnerable in my community and we are there for them.

The Nudgee electorate is home to an estimated 4,000 small to medium sized enterprises—a dynamic mix of industrial, retail and professional service precincts. With almost \$900 million of targeted payroll tax initiatives over the next four years delivered in this budget, we are absolutely focused on creating the right conditions for small businesses to invest, grow and employ in this state. In addition, we have a \$978 million training and skills budget focused on making sure that we have the skilled Queenslanders to take up the opportunities that are created by industry into the future. That means investing in TAFE, apprentices and trainees and in Queensland workers. This budget is focused on growing a strong economy, investing in the infrastructure and services that we need, and delivering locally for our communities. It is a budget for all Queenslanders, wherever they live. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills. Has the government listened? Has a leopard changed its spots? Has the government reset its understanding of what Queenslanders need and deserve and what makes this great state tick? The answer is no. This budget is out of Labor's playbook. Labor is addicted to putting everything on the credit card, crossing its fingers and hoping that the problems will go away. The government can spin all it likes about listening to the regions, but saying it over and over again still does not make it true. This government will be judged on what it does, not what it says.

This government has been in power for half a decade. After five years, all it can come up with is even higher taxes, more debt and almost 26 fewer jobs than forecast. New taxes will rip another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy. That is on top of the taxes that have already been inflicted on the state since Labor was re-elected—a total of \$3.45 billion in taxes. That has given us a debt bomb of more than \$90 billion. That is \$16,000 for every man, woman and child. The jobs lost is cold comfort to the 160,000 who are already looking for work and the 1,804 unemployed people in the Gympie electorate.

In this budget, routine maintenance projects, the return of others, reannouncements, rebadging and recycling have been served up to the Gympie electorate. My electorate's share of the multibillion-dollar budget was a rewrite of work that is already underway or previous commitments that have been dusted off for another appearance. Although I welcome the meagre offering—the crumbs my electorate was given—the government scraped the bottom of the barrel to find something to announce. It even listed the replacement of a school building that tragically burned down two years ago. The \$1.5 million to replace a school block at One Mile State School comes two years after that block burned down in June 2017. If I take the allocation for that school building out of the budget, it looks like the only new commitment to my electorate is \$23,913 for Football Gympie Inc. to update rooms and install a parents' room.

In November last year, the government announced \$826,000 out of a total spend of \$4.96 million to construct a new building with four learning and special areas at James Nash State High School. Seven months later, \$660,000 has been shaved off the total spend to \$4.3 million.



I cannot not mention the resurrection of the replacement Rainbow Beach auxiliary fire and rescue station. It looks like this project has more lives than a cat. Three years ago—in 2016—in a glossy brochure we were promised \$300,000 out of a total of \$1.3 million spend to replace the station. A year later—in 2017—those funds had disappeared. They were redirected to prop up a discredited former member for Bundaberg. It was a blatant display of pork-barrelling. Now, we are promised \$200,000—\$100,000 less—for a \$2 million project.

Other than funds for the Coondoo Creek Bridge, the budget provides next to nothing for state controlled roads in my electorate. When existing programs become the highlight of a budget, the government has big problems. It lacks vision. This budget delivers little vision for Gympie's future. It is not as if the government does not know of some suggested projects for Gympie. Frequently, I write to and raise with the Premier and minister support for local projects. The government has missed so many opportunities. What about substantial funding for road and bridge infrastructure—projects such as overtaking lanes on the Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads, upgrading bridges on Glastonbury Road, including the Ell Creek Bridge, upgrading the Mary Valley Highway? An upgrade of the roads and bridges will help improve safety for local families, workers, children, retirees and visitors travelling in my region. It will improve the efficiency and capacity of the road network.

Other projects include the upgrading and maintenance of school infrastructure in my electorate and more police and police resources. The emergency department and maternity services at the Gympie Hospital need upgrading and expansion. There are other pressing healthcare needs, such as a multidisciplinary medical centre at the Cooloola Coast and an ambulance station at Glenwood.

Train services from Gympie north to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane need improvement. Residents continually raise with me their concerns about the reliability, number and frequency of services. Queensland Rail data has revealed that 134 of 414 total delays on the Gympie-Brisbane line over the past two years were caused by rolling stock failures. Lights are needed at the intersection of Rainbow Beach Road and Queen Elizabeth Drive, Cooloola Cove and flashing lights are needed on Lawrence Street near Gympie Central State School.

The Gympie electorate needs a multipurpose entertainment facility. This type of infrastructure project will benefit locals, community, cultural and sporting groups as well as increase opportunities for economic growth and development. Local businesses need support by reducing red and green tape and providing specific Gympie-centric programs to address unemployment. The 4,380 businesses in my electorate are mostly small businesses covering a whole range of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture and tourism. Business owners have nowhere to go when fixed costs rise and regulation and rules become burdensome. The reality is that they have to either close their doors or lay off workers. Business owners constantly raise with me their frustration at being bogged down in government generated paperwork.

Government has to wean itself off its addiction to bureaucratic paperwork to allow them to keep their businesses viable and generate jobs. The Gympie region has a low socioeconomic profile with an 8.2 per cent unemployment rate, which is above the state average. Residents have the second worst pay cheques in the state. Everyone knows that it is the private sector that drives job creation and that creating Public Service jobs in Brisbane only adds to the tax burden. Piecemeal, short-term programs and subsidies, which are about massaging statistics and provide only part-time work for a limited period, do not help. Businesses need the confidence to borrow, invest, value-add, grow and generate jobs. The Treasurer can spin that the budget is unashamedly for regional Queenslanders. Rural and regional Queenslanders are not mugs. They can pick spin a mile off.

The government continues to slash and burn our once great Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Staff cuts mean there will be 110 fewer full-time-equivalent staff: four jobs gone from agriculture and reassigned to forestry and fisheries, 18 cut from the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, three front-line biosecurity staff and 85 from the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. At the same time Brisbane based bureaucrats have increased by more than 25,000 since 2015. That is an entire regional town.

The government allowed our agricultural training colleges to decay so it could close them. It is government from Brisbane for Brisbane. Labor does not care about farmers and the regions they support. It does not care about our \$20 billion agricultural industries employing more than 300,000 across the supply chain and contributing 15 per cent to the state's total exports. The minister's desperation for relevance is why he is now resorting to self-praise. A wise man once told me that self-praise is no praise. The minister even tried to divert attention this week by equating me to the Gympie-Gympie tree. I do know what they are. I wonder if the minister knows what they are.

Instead of getting irritable whenever I raise issues, the minister should pick better descriptions. The first hit from a Google search would have shown him that National Geographic says 'Gympie Gympie: once stung, never forgotten'. If the minister believes my prosecution of issues for the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries is stinging him and I am never forgotten then I will proudly wear that badge.

The city-centric minister is clearly not standing up for the industries he is supposed to support. He does not even want to talk about his budget. Just take a look at the front page of what regional and rural Queenslanders call the Bible of the bush. *Queensland Country Life* describes the budget as a shark attack on farmers. It says farmers are raising their eyebrows after the state budget's headline act for agriculture was revealed to be a \$17 million Shark Control Program. As the paper says, at least farmers will be safe from sharks. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Shark Attack: Farmers are raising their eyebrows after the state budget's headline act for agriculture was revealed to be a \$17 million shark control program' [1015].

AgForce CEO Mike Guerin said—

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 also said this government continues to demonstrate that it has no vision for the ongoing development and sustainability of broadacre agriculture. Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO Travis Tobin said that agriculture seemed to be missing out on its fair share of stimulus funding needed to address some critical competitiveness and productivity issues and progress growth initiatives and that without more targeted and deliberate action from government agriculture will not fully capitalise on the exciting opportunities that are unquestionably there.

Canegrowers said the government has missed a clear opportunity to make significant structural changes to reduce electricity prices. Growcom CEO David Thompson said that the government had not addressed the affordability of water and electricity and that these are the key inputs in horticulture production and that inflated prices for both water and electricity are the single biggest constraint on productivity and growth in their industry. He said the budget lacked funding to address the shortfalls in the time frames for implementing Labor's reef regulator regime and warned targets will not be met without appropriate levels of funding.

The minister operates under a culture of secrecy. He hides the independent drought report he has had since January. Industry and farmers are still frustrated they do not know what the drought support reform will look like. Farmers deserve to know what is and is not working with drought support funding. The culture of secrecy is pervasive. The government continues to hide the invasive weeds report for more than two and a half years that deals with weeds such as prickly acacia, giant rat's tail grass and fireweed.

In April the minister signed a co-contribution funding agreement with Canberra to provide \$5 million over five years to fight prickly acacia. Where is this funding commitment? Not one cent of the \$5 million promised has been allocated in this budget. It is disappointing there is no extra funding to combat rampant feral pests and weeds. Farmers right across the state constantly raise this problem with me. Two weeks ago I met cane and banana growers in Innisfail to discuss issues around feral pigs. Their message was clear: more funding is needed to combat out-of-control pigs which are decimating crops and risking biosecurity controls with the potential spread of Panama TR4. It is another issue that was missed.

Wild dogs are out of control. Where is the funding support to combat pests? As a grazier I spend a lot of time eradicating wild dogs on my property. I am offering to show the minister how it is done. The minister's culture of secrecy continues. He sat on the report into the agricultural colleges for more than six months just to release the bad news under the cover of Christmas. I see there are funds to cover redundancies and the closures, but there is still no comprehensive plan to deliver agricultural education in Queensland. The government should be ashamed it has destroyed these colleges and ripped the heart out of the communities they support. It has no vision for the next generation of farmers looking for the right training to succeed. It effectively wiped out jobs in Longreach and Emerald with no back-up plan.

We welcome the funding towards continuing shark control management. Everyone knows that elements in the Labor Party would happily dismantle the Shark Control Program. Knowing that, and our experience that the government panders to those elements, Queenslanders have no guarantee this will not happen. The LNP will always put people before sharks. We are absolutely committed to maintaining our state's long-term and successful Shark Control Program.


**Dr Lynham** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Stafford, you are next.

**Mr PERRETT:** The government continues its botched reform process in fisheries. It is pushing commercial fishers to the wall. The commercial fishing industry is vital for towns up and down our coastline. Labor's bureaucratic power grab has allowed inspectors to search and enter properties without notice or a warrant. It is an affront to fishers' property rights. Using environmental pseudoscience to deliberately close family owned and operated commercial fishing businesses is disgraceful. Only an LNP government will restore balance to Queensland fisheries.

Queensland's forest industry remains in limbo. There is no certainty about its supply of hardwood timbers from 2024. I urge the minister to take seriously his commitment to work with industry to ensure the future of this vitally important sector. Labor's unfair vegetation laws, anti dam agenda, underfunding and mismanagement of biosecurity, closure of the last remaining agricultural colleges and attacks on the fishing industry mean no area is safe.

We have a plan to build job-creating water infrastructure such as raising the Burdekin Falls Dam and progress the building of the Nullinga and Urannah dams. We have a policy to reduce electricity prices for farmers by ending the divide between the south and the rest of the state by introducing retail competition. We have a plan for more water, more jobs and backing our farmers. A government budget should be prudent and sensible no matter where you live or what job you have. No-one needs more tax hikes, increasing debt and higher unemployment.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.38 pm): The Queensland budget was for all Queenslanders, but it was unashamedly particularly placed and focused on our regions. This side of the House is the only side of the House that cares about the bush. The Palaszczuk government is investing in jobs, supporting Queensland businesses, delivering infrastructure and services and growing the state's economy. This is clearly reflected in the 2019-20 budget presented on Tuesday. Water security has been a priority for the Palaszczuk government. We will continue to ensure that this is the case at all times, ensuring that Queenslanders are receiving full value from our commitment to ensuring a secure and reliable water supply.

Funding in the 2019-20 Natural Resources, Mines and Energy budget comes on top of the Palaszczuk government's \$863 million commitment to water infrastructure since December 2017, which has already created 1,643 jobs for Queenslanders. In the budget, investment in dam safety and security of supply includes \$83 million as part of our \$176 million commitment to construct Rookwood Weir. Ours is the only government with money on the table for the Rookwood Weir. There is \$55 million as part of the Queensland government's \$225 million total investment for the Haughton pipeline and \$43.5 million for SunWater's dam improvement program to enhance dams to meet future extreme weather conditions and to continue to provide water security for regional Queensland. As I said before, we on this side of the House are the only ones looking after regional Queensland.

By contrast, what we saw yesterday from the opposition leader was yet another unfunded commitment to projects that do not have final business cases. They have committed to potentially more than \$2 billion worth of new water infrastructure projects in yet another example of reckless fiscal policy. Our commitment to water infrastructure is based on detailed business cases. For example, the business case for Emu Swamp included a statement from the department of natural resources that highlighted a number of matters still outstanding, including the process for obtaining sufficient water entitlements; finalising the design of the dam and pipeline network; determining construction, ownership and operational arrangements; and, most importantly, setting liability for cost overruns. I discussed these matters with the Deputy Prime Minister earlier this year. I have yet to receive advice back from him. The farmers and irrigators are taking all the risk on that project and it is vital that we understand the way forward if the cost estimates prove considerably higher. This will become more certain as the detailed project design is developed and greater understanding is developed of the engineering, geological and environmental requirements.

The budget for my portfolio emphasises affordability, reliability and a seamless transition to our target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Queenslanders are paying the lowest average electricity prices of any mainland state in the National Electricity Market. Despite this, the opposition leader has the gall to complain about regional electricity prices. Residential energy prices have remained stable under our government but went up by 43 per cent under their government.

Owning our power assets is putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders in South-East Queensland and, importantly, in the regions. In 2019-20 we will invest more than \$500 million so that farmers and others in regional communities across the state pay a similar amount for their electricity as

those in the south-east. This is a budget that looks to all Queenslanders and includes \$192.3 million for the \$341 electricity rebate for eligible seniors, pensioners, veterans and low-income families, including Commonwealth Health Care Card holders and asylum seekers; and \$247.6 million to continue to remove the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme from electricity bills for 2019-20.

More than \$1.6 billion is being invested in poles and wires across Queensland, with Powerlink and Energy Queensland supporting more than 5,200 jobs. More than \$630 million is being invested in our power generators, CS Energy and Stanwell, supporting more than 1,200 jobs. I take this opportunity to point out the blatantly false and misleading comments from the Leader of the Opposition. Regarding employment at Stanwell's Meandu Mine, the temporary spike in coal production was accompanied by messaging by Downer to their workforce that increased employment numbers were temporary due to the long-planned return to coal production levels. The Leader of the Opposition should be up-front with the people of Queensland regarding this issue.

By the end of the year, Queensland will have three generators, with CleanCo coming online. When the opposition leader talks about splitting generators, is she proposing to abolish CleanCo? The workers and the market deserve certainty.

I want to repeat some of what I said earlier about the safety and welfare of Queensland mine workers, which is of the highest priority to the Palaszczuk government. That was reinforced in this year's budget as part of our black lung health and safety reforms, with the announcement that we will provide more than \$1.2 million for a mobile screening service. A sum of \$1.68 million will be invested to enhance skills in dust monitoring in the regions by increasing occupational hygiene inspection and audit activity. That funding is on top of the nearly \$25 million that the government committed to in 2017 for mine dust related health and safety reforms. We have also announced \$10.4 million to continue to deliver reforms to the regulatory framework for addressing mine dust disease in Queensland and \$28.5 million to continue managing and remediating the state's disclaimed mine sites and to support research into new techniques.

Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government makes decisions based on expert advice, not on grabbing cheap headlines. There are countless classic examples, none more recent than yesterday in the budget reply speech of the member for Nanango when she announced a 10-year freeze on coal royalties. Ten years? The member for Nanango cannot sustain a policy for 10 minutes, let alone 10 years.

**An opposition member** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! I remind members that, if you are going to interject, you will interject from your correct seat.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I am pleased to see that the renewable mandate has made a return. Members will remember that last year that policy lasted 0.6 of a millisecond. I wonder if it will last at least a month before another about-turn this year. Can we believe anything that is being said by the member for Nanango? On one hand she says, 'We want mining,' but on the other hand she says, 'As long as it's not in my backyard.'

However, the Leader of the Opposition did offer \$8 million for a few audits in the north-west. Obviously she is oblivious to the real action already taken by the Palaszczuk government on our North West Minerals Province blueprint, such as dedicating more than \$30 million to large-scale geological programs to help identify the next generation of commercial mineral deposits and to support frontier gas exploration. I remember when they refused to support concessions to the explorers and now they have committed to only \$8 million for a few studies. We have dedicated \$30 million to explorers in the north-west; \$5.5 million to help diversify the regional economy; and \$2.6 million to help improve government and collaborative service delivery, maintain and build community resilience and engage with regional stakeholders in blueprint implementation. Of course, recently my colleague the minister for transport announced a half-a-billion-dollar plan to boost mineral freight exports on the Mount Isa line. What a wonderful announcement that was for the north-west. Let us compare all of that with the commitment from those opposite to \$8 million for a study to help the north-west.

Only one realistic and fiscally responsible budget was presented this week. It is a budget for all Queenslanders, including the fine people of Stafford. I will highlight funding for my electorate, which I have proudly been the state member for since 2014. The electorate will benefit from funding in education, sport, transport and main roads, health, child safety, communities, disability services and seniors, and public housing, just to name a few categories.

Included in the budget is \$150,000 to create an outdoor learning area at Stafford Heights State School; \$250,000 to refurbish block J at Wavell State High School; \$495,000 for Brisbane Hockey Management Group to construct a new amenities block to support female participation in hockey; \$100,000 to commence the installation of noise barriers at various locations along Gympie Road; more than \$700,000 out of a \$2.9 million total spend to provide upgrades to the cystic fibrosis unit at the Prince Charles Hospital; \$284,887 for UnitingCare Community and nearly \$600,000 for Windana Support Centre to provide domestic and family violence services; over \$138,000 for the Youth Advocacy Centre to provide services for families; over \$230,000 for Down Syndrome Queensland; nearly \$500,000 to Burnie Brae to provide Home Assist Secure services; nearly \$30,000 for the Brisbane Hockey Club for field lighting to support further hockey development; and over \$10,000 for the Wilston Grange Australian Football Club, again to support female participation in sport. I thank the Treasurer on behalf of the people of Stafford and once again I commend her for the 2019-20 budget.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.49 pm): Well here we go again. Another Labor budget and another big borrowing sending Queensland's debt soaring to \$90 billion—no responsibility, no shame for debt that they are placing around the neck of every single Queenslanders and onto our children and their children's children. Arrogantly the Palaszczuk government thought their messiah, 'Shifty' Bill Shorten, would bail them out. That backfired big time, didn't it? Queenslanders saw through this fake career politician who sold out workers and their penalty rates when he was a union master. Like rabbits caught in headlights, this bunch of irresponsible, union worshipping Labor MPs froze in shock and had to quickly hatch another budget. Lo and behold, it was to spend and tax Queenslanders more and build less.

In what can only be described as delusional and untruthful behaviour, the Treasurer said—

The current levels of debt within the state of Queensland are both manageable and they are stable. The way you reduce debt ... is you grow the economy, you grow the economy and you get more revenue in and you have less reliance on debt.

Treasurer Jackie Trad stated that Labor had chosen to 'stay the course' because all the evidence points to the fact our economic plan is working. As an editorial in the *Courier-Mail* on 12 June points out, the budget papers beg to differ on a number of key points. Titled 'Queensland on red alert as Trad's debt bomb ticks louder', Wednesday's editorial reads—

The first response from anyone who has dug themselves into a hole is usually to put down the shovel. Yet what seems to be an obvious course of action to others has never particularly been the Palaszczuk Government's forte.

...

More taxes and more debt is again the go-to-approach ...

This will escalate the budget's debt to more than \$90 billion. The unemployment rate is expected to remain at six per cent. So much for jobs, jobs, jobs. Payroll tax relief is a move in the right direction—it is LNP policy—except there is a counterpunch for businesses with a higher payroll as they will most certainly be slugged more. It will achieve a quasi-stimulus but have a rearguard action. Some 13,000 small businesses have the potential to be better off, but 6,000 larger ones that employ more people will be potentially worse off.

Labor's election promise of four years ago of lowering debt via dividends from state owned businesses has been proven a farce as, despite record dividend levels, this has not happened. Judith Sloan reported in the *Australian* on 12 June that she likes to keep a running scorecard on performances of state treasurers. She tells readers that we will not be surprised to learn that—

'Qld's Treasurer Jackie Trad has occupied the wooden spoon position ever since she pushed out the previous incumbent. The fact she does not have a clue about running the state's finances and cliches like "borrowing to build" are not helpful.

Sloan points out employee expenses and the government's inability to manage its own. Employee expenses will rise from \$24.1 billion to \$27.2 billion in 2022-23—a 13 per cent increase. She says—

The fact that the government spends more than \$1 billion on contractors points to a government that doesn't believe in getting value for money on behalf of the taxpayer.

I am really glad that Treasurer Jackie Trad is not my accountant or my financial adviser and I bet when this disaster of a budget sinks in, the majority of Queenslanders will not want her either. The Treasurer thinks that racking up another \$7.3 billion of debt is not only manageable but necessary to keep people employed.

Mind you, Labor now admit they need to cut Public Service costs by \$200 million this year and \$500 million next year. Exactly how this \$200 million, let alone the \$500 million, will be shaved off needs explanation. I imagine Labor's 'union police' will target staff not signed up to a union and put pressure on them to take early retirement. I have been told they send union representatives in pairs to persuade individuals to join.

Without doubt the Gold Coast was duded in the 2019-20 budget, scoring only \$807 million in infrastructure compared to my good friends on the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay with \$1.5 billion. Many of these were reannouncements. I turn to things that matter in Currumbin—primarily, congestion on the M1. In 2016 I hosted a petition of over 10,000 signatures that forced the Palaszczuk government to undertake a business case for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun section of the M1. To date \$16 million has been spent, with a further \$45 million allocated in this budget. Post 2020 a further \$968 million is listed in forward projections. I was pleased to read awarding of the main contract for this section is expected within the next 12 months. We have waited long enough for this to be fixed and any further delays will not be tolerated.

For close to 20 years I have fought hard alongside my community to get the M1 widened to the border. Given the bumbling efforts to build the Tugun bypass, it is little wonder it has taken five Labor governments and almost 20 years to see it even get on the drawing board. There are still some concerns that Labor will not have the money for it.

Currumbin residents have indicated that heavy rail is more important to them than light rail. There is no funding at all for heavy rail as all the money is going into Cross River Rail in Brisbane—little good that will do us. Currently, the train stops in the middle of nowhere at Varsity Lakes. Labor only managed a few kilometres of track from Robina to Varsity Lakes in the last 20 years despite millions of dollars being spent in planning the route south.

A tunnel next to the Tugun bypass under the airport runway was constructed for the train. Labor's track record, pardon the pun, is abysmal. The way they churn through taxpayers' money is criminal. If Labor are serious about getting traffic moving on the M1, they should be committed to getting the thousands of heavy vehicles off it and encouraging train freight.

Palm Beach Currumbin High School, now on the edge of my electorate, is to receive \$2.2 million of \$10.5 million in this budget for new classrooms, but that will not address the fact the school is already nearing capacity and the P&C is earnestly fundraising for a new library. A recent Queensland Audit Office report revealed an estimated \$146 million backlog of maintenance jobs for our schools that should have already been done. Instead of committing to fix the problems in this budget, the Minister for Education fobbed this off as an estimate only.

Currumbin State School is also ready to burst at the seams but has been ignored. The P&C are desperately trying to raise funds of \$250,000 for air conditioning because this incompetent government will not cool their school. Labor have copied part of the LNP's cool schools policy, but they do not think all kids deserve to be able to think in cool environments.

Some \$148,500 out of \$150,000 promised by Labor's candidate during the 2017 election for improvements to Tallebudgera Pony Club has finally appeared in the budget papers. What of future funding for the state's 250 independent schools? There are two in my area—PBC and Elanora High. Will the Palaszczuk government bow to the demands of the union and scrap them or will they be able to continue their outstanding work? What we do know is that Labor are encouraging union members to infiltrate schools in an attempt to indoctrinate and recruit students.

There is an urgent need for proactive measures to prevent bus fare evasion, crime and assaults, not another talkfest labelled a youth co-lab, as is the minister's response to this serious issue. The frequency of these incidents is rising so much that the minister is too embarrassed to release figures of assaults on passengers or how many rocks and missiles are thrown at buses.

I had a report from a female bus driver last month who reported 130 fare evasions in a five-hour shift. The problem is getting worse and Labor are doing nothing. Another driver spoke of four youths aged around 12 to 13 refusing to pay and telling him there was nothing he could do about it as they would dob him in. He said he would drive them to school, but they wanted to be dropped at a shopping centre as they were wagging school.

The Step Up program which is run in schools, allegedly by senior network officers to discourage negative behaviours on public transport, has not been keenly promoted by this government or the minister. We rarely hear about it. We need more SNOs. There are only nine dedicated to the Gold Coast bus network, but this Labor government will not put more senior network officers on to catch fare evaders.

Police numbers remain an issue this government fail to fix. We are still waiting for the extra police promised but not delivered. Meanwhile, bikies have sniffed an opportunity to return as they know police resources are light on and this Labor government are soft on crime.

I am deeply concerned about the uncertainty around future Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary hospital funding. There is \$250,000 this year, but apparently that drops to only \$50,000 the following year. This ambiguity is unacceptable and a slap in the face to the dedicated staff and volunteers who treat over 10,500 injured wildlife each year. The LNP promised \$350,000 a year over four years. The number of koalas being brought in has spiralled to over 500 in the past 12 months, many with the disease chlamydia, which costs \$6,000 to properly vaccinate each koala. I read that there is \$729,000 allocated to Moggill and Daisy Hill koala centres and the RSPCA oversight of the 1300 wildlife hotline, but there is nothing for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

The long-awaited multimodal study along the Gold Coast Highway between Burleigh and Tugun has been delayed again. Funding of \$600,000 was allocated in 2016-17, but there is still no study. Residents are anxious to know what is happening. Ongoing maintenance costs for Tugun bypass panels remain a mystery. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads could not even tell me what it is costing ratepayers. At some \$20,000 per glass panel, it is a significant cost to taxpayers. Mind you, it is a drop in the ocean compared to the half a billion dollars still owed on the Tugun desalination plant—a debt destined to never be paid off as this government are only paying the interest, not the principal.

Labor are constantly boasting they are great at managing health care, but the statistics prove the opposite. On the Gold Coast it was revealed that our two public hospitals have 500 fewer beds than the national average. This is despite us being a tourism mecca drawing millions of visitors each year. As a major tourism destination there is extra pressure on our hospitals which should mean more, not fewer, beds.

In March 2018 the award-winning Queensland Traffic Offenders Program, QTOP, won the Innovation Award at the Australian Road Safety Awards in Melbourne. This is a significant achievement and one you would think worthy of the Palaszczuk government's support. Operating in Queensland since 2006, QTOP still remains the only recognised education rehabilitation program for traffic offenders in Queensland, with well over 10,000 people enrolling to date and an impressive recidivism rate of less than two per cent. Attendees range from 14 to 83 years of age. If this government is serious about running effective mandatory programs then QTOP, which has been donating this program free to Youth Justice, deserves inclusion as it is a proven success.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the wonderful people, volunteers and organisations in the Currumbin electorate. There are so many who contribute to the enviable lifestyle we lead. In the couple of minutes I have remaining, with your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is after much soul-searching and with a heavy heart that I advise the House that I will not be standing for preselection for the seat of Currumbin at the next election. This has not been an easy decision to make, especially given my deep attachment for my beloved Currumbin, her people and her magnificent attributes. It has been such an honour and a real privilege to have served as the state representative since 2004.

We are over halfway through this term of parliament and it is only 16 months until the October 2020 election. My announcement opens the door for the LNP to preselect a quality candidate well in advance. Having lived in the electorate for over 30 years, I know how important it is to have a grassroots candidate, one who resides in the electorate and is genuinely connected to this amazing community. Currumbin deserves a local champion full of energy—a person who will fight for them to get their fair share of the budget; a person who lives locally and is immersed in our community, our surf-lifesaving clubs, our rural fire brigades, our sporting clubs; someone active in community events. I am confident the LNP will preselect that person.

Undoubtedly, Labor will run Georgi Leader again, someone who still does not live in the Currumbin electorate and who, despite over 18 months since the last election, has done nothing—I repeat: absolutely nothing—to support or enhance our community. I would like to close with some wise words from Abraham Lincoln—

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

I think it is a lesson that should be learnt.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): I call the member for Bundamba.



**Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.03 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am just making sure that it is my turn—that it is okay.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bundamba.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, wait please. Member, please temper your remarks so that they cannot be misconstrued as disrespect for the chair. I invite you to continue.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. On one of the rare privileges that I am actually allowed to speak in the House, I just wanted to say that it is my honour and privilege to represent the people of the electorate of Bundamba. Like I always do, I would like to go through the budget suburb by suburb to talk about the budget in my area.

Ripley is a rapidly growing community and presents a challenge for governments to keep pace with the rapid growth in development. A new state primary school is being built at Ripley at a cost of \$27.76 million. This is stage 1. The school will be open for students next year. The total cost of the construction will be \$43.85 million. The new secondary school is also under construction at Ripley at a cost of \$35.67 million this year. The total cost will be \$54.65 million. The school will be open next year for lower years.

There will be a new neighbourhood centre built at Ripley. Some \$600,000 has been allocated to acquire land as the first stage of this project. It is very important for new, emerging communities to have the social infrastructure in place to support growth and the development of strong, vibrant communities. Catalyst infrastructure within the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area will be boosted by \$7.7 million this financial year.

At Swanbank, the Swanbank E Power Station will be overhauled at a cost of \$44 million. A further \$2.9 million will be spent for a fast start upgrade at this station. Further work will commence on the station overhaul air compressors and sewerage plant site reconfiguration. This will cost \$2.65 million. Site accommodation will be upgraded at a cost of \$2.7 million. I reiterate my strong objection to the dumps and incinerators in Swanbank. These industries are a blight on our community in Ipswich.

I now turn to Blackstone and Bundamba. The Ipswich Historical Society has received grants from the Queensland government over the years and I hope this will continue into the future. Upgrade funding for the Ipswich Turf Club is finally through, and it was great to see the minister's announcement this week that the project will continue as originally promised. It took a lot of hard work from the Turf Club, racing fans and the Ipswich community to get to this point, however.

There will be continued funding for the teachers, teacher aides and administrative staff of the Bundamba State Secondary College. Funding of \$7.2 million will be spent on capital, safety and maintenance in training infrastructure at Bundamba TAFE. Funding of \$4.3 million will go to the Churches of Christ for child protection placement services.

Bundamba Costco has been a boon for local employment and also a boon for shoppers! I would like to thank Patrick Noone, the Costco CEO, and everyone who works at Costco for their faith in Ipswich for its second store.

Unfortunately, the downturn in the home building industry and the problems with the market being swamped with cheap imports has caused concerning job losses at two local businesses—Claypave at Ebbw Vale and now over 50 job losses at Capral at Bundamba. While we are creating employment opportunities with one hand, changes to our economy are taking them with the other. The increased casualisation of the workforce also means increasingly that workers do not get enough hours to get by. This should be of great concern to the labour movement and the government. State Development officers, I understand, are assisting the companies involved.

At Ebbw Vale, there will be an upgrade of the park-and-ride at Ebbw Vale Railway Station on top of the recent renovations and installation of a lift. This will cost \$1.4 million and help prevent the popular station having an overflow of cars parked in suburban streets which affects local residents. I know that this is also a situation at other railway stations, particularly at Springfield Central. I will continue to work with Claypave and the Ipswich City Council in relation to the Ebbw Vale secret garden.

At Dinmore, it is planned that River Road will be upgraded this year. At Riverview, Moggill Ferry Road will be upgraded as part of the Transport budget. Riverview Neighbourhood House will continue to be funded. I am so pleased that our sit-in at the Ipswich City Council, protesting against the Riverview



Neighbourhood House being evicted from the Ipswich City Council building—which was originally funded by the state government, by the way—appears to be successful. I am advised that the council will now run the centre and that Riverview Neighbourhood House can remain in situ and continue to provide its much needed programs. Pastor Paulo can continue to run his Sunday school and church services. This is people power at work and I am very proud of the Riverview residents. Riverview State School will continue to be funded for 18 teachers and support staff. The police beat at Riverview will continue to be funded. I stand together with the residents of Riverview in opposing the dumps at Riverview and we all hope that they will be shut down.

There are exciting times for the Redbank peninsula with the growth in construction and ongoing work brought about by new initiatives like Rheinmetall Defence, the new Australia Post distribution centre and other new industries in food manufacturing and distribution which complement existing business like Toll. Rheinmetall Defence have a 50-year vision for Redbank's new \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence. As a result of securing the \$5.2 billion LAND 400 Phase 2 project, Redbank will become Rheinmetall's Australia and New Zealand headquarters and a hub for heavy vehicle manufacturing. Their base will bolster skills and supply chains, reinforce Queensland as the home of one of Australia's defence industries and become a gateway for export-ready defence technology. From mid-2020 the Redbank facility will deliver 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles, with the project creating 450 long-term advanced manufacturing and engineering jobs for Queensland. Rheinmetall is tendering for the \$10 billion to \$15 billion phase for 353 infantry fighting vehicles and 17 manoeuvre support vehicles from late 2024.

There will be continued funding for the Redbank State School with 12 teachers and support staff for this terrific little school. It is in fact the smallest school in my electorate. Australia Post will be opening up in Redbank soon, which will be fantastic. They are having a launch there, and a lot of local people have been invited to have a look through. \$315,000 will be spent to complete the construction of four units of accommodation by Queensland Housing. There is continued funding for Collingwood Park State School and WoodLinks State School. Thirty-six teachers are employed at Collingwood Park and 41 staff are employed at WoodLinks State School. Both schools will receive maintenance and minor works funding. Continued funding for oral health services will be provided through Queensland Health at Collingwood Park on its site near the school.

As a resident of Collingwood Park, I join with my friends and neighbours in opposing dumps close to our area. I support Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environments Inc. in its campaign. I also support moves for the Queensland government to buy out some of the houses in Collingwood Park and fill in the mine voids under Collingwood Park, which is something I have been calling for for years and which is continuously ignored.

Redbank Plains State High School receives funding for 95 teachers, 208 teacher aide hours and admin and support staff. The school will receive \$350,000 to refurbish the school's resource centre. Redbank Plains State School will receive \$80,000 for a prep playground upgrade. I thank the school itself for also providing an additional contribution of \$54,000. At Fernbrooke State School some \$7 million will be spent on a new building. This will comprise some 12 new learning spaces. The school continues to grow as the suburb grows around it.

Redbank Plains Community Centre, which was partly funded by the state government, continues to provide services to the community. Sport continues to grow at the Redbank Plains Recreation Reserve, and I encourage all people to join a club and be active.

Kruger State School employs some 50 teachers and five support staff with over 300 hours of teacher aide support. I will continue to strongly support this school and its programs. Bellbird Park State Secondary College continues to be funded by our government. The school is led by Principal Michael West. It employs 63 teachers and support staff and it is growing very strongly.

I will continue to support the Bellbird Park community in their actions to oppose unacceptable development in the suburb. This is a beautiful suburb, full of trees and native wildlife which will be destroyed by these development plans. Good on them! The Bellbird Park community groups do a wonderful job.

There will be continued funding for Goodna State School, with the community noting the additional infrastructure that is being built at the school. It is great to see the school expanding.

Goodna Special School has a big place in my heart. Eight new general learning spaces will be built at a total cost of \$10.5 million, with \$2.6 million to be allocated this year. This will include a hospitality kitchen. A further \$300,000 will be spent on refurbishing existing learning spaces, and


\$3.2 million will be made available to Mercy Community Services for child protection placement services. Goodna Youth Services will receive continued funding for youth services while the government seeks new arrangements to ensure young people receive the best possible support when in need.

Some \$1.2 million will be allocated to Kummara at Goodna as well. Ozcare will receive \$403,000 for the continuation of its services. Goodna Anglican Welfare Ministries will receive \$16,000 for counselling, gambling help services and financial literacy programs. Goodna Neighbourhood House will continue to be funded under the leadership of Luck. Goodna Youth Services will deliver specialist homelessness services with funding of \$352,000. Three million dollars will be spent on the continued construction of 12 new units of accommodation at Goodna, and a further \$646,000 will be spent on the initial construction of another 20 units of accommodation, providing much needed social housing support to our community.

Queensland Health continues to fund the Goodna Health Service. The services it provides include mental health, drug and alcohol support and parenting programs.

Goodna police will be funded for approximately 60 police officers and five administrative staff. They work very, very hard to keep our community safe.

In conclusion, I am very pleased that there will be CCC funding to investigate corrupt allegations into the Ipswich City Council. Five people have been jailed to date. The CCC continues its work in Ipswich, and I hope it will rip out the rot—the stench—that continues. The stench at the dumps is bad enough, but the stench in town hall in South Street is worse. Let their work continue fully funded so that Ipswich can rebuild.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to give my speech to the budget. I would like to quote Margaret Thatcher, who said—

The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money.

I think that is a pretty good way to start. The budget brought down by this government does nothing to give security to small and large businesses, nor does it boost jobs or employment, nor does it keep the lid on cost-of-living pressures in Hervey Bay, which is what my constituents really need. Business confidence has plummeted under Labor. The March Senis Business Index rated the Labor government as the least popular government amongst small and medium sized businesses for the fourth consecutive quarter.

What has been said in the papers recently is interesting, and I thought I would bring a couple of articles along. I may table a few of them. The first one is from the *Australian*. With a headline of 'Trad's razor gang told to find \$500m a year', it states—

Queensland Treasurer Jackie Trad's public service razor gang will target contractors ...

I do not know whether that is such a good idea. We have seen contractors being kicked out of one of the jails and it is going to cost us a lot more, so I do not know whether that is a good idea. There are a lot of small contractors out there. Do they have to be in a union to do a job for the government now? I am not sure how they are going to contain the government's travel bill. I will table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Trad's razor gang told to find \$500m a year' [\[1016\]](#).

A *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Volunteer public service redundancies funded by \$1.7b cash pile' states—

Queensland public servants could be weeded out through voluntary redundancies under \$1.7b in cuts across the workforce.

I will table that one too so people can read it.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Voluntary public service redundancies funded by \$1.7b cash pile' [\[1021\]](#).

The one that really surprised me was in the *Townsville Bulletin*, under the headline 'Redundancies in mix as Trad sharpens axe'. I thought that was really good. She is wielding the axe. I thought that one was pretty good too, especially from the *Townsville Bulletin*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Redundancies in mix as Trad sharpens axe' [\[1017\]](#).

The front-page article of *Queensland Country Life* is titled 'Shark attack: Farmers are raising their eyebrows after the state budget's headline act for agriculture was revealed to be a \$17 million shark control program'. We have to keep the sharks away from the farmers. I am not sure how you will do that unless there is some sea ranching in the sea. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Shark Attack: Farmers are raising their eyebrows after the state budget's headline act for agriculture was revealed to be a \$17 million shark control program' [\[1018\]](#).

Here is another article from *Queensland Country Life*. Under the headline 'Farmers ignored once again', it states—

Farmers have dismissed Treasurer Jackie Trad's claims the budget is 'for regional Queensland', saying it is a budget for coastal cities and their votes.

I table that article as well.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Farmers ignored once again' [1019].

Another article in the *Australian* has the headline 'Australia cannot afford Queensland LNG tax grab'. This is what people have been saying outside this chamber since the budget was handed down. These costs are going to make everything increase, including gas. The person in Hervey Bay who has a big laundromat uses gas, and gas prices are going to go up. I table that document from the *Australian*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 13 June 2019, titled 'Australia cannot afford Queensland LNG tax grab' [1020].

One of the best articles was in the *Courier-Mail*. It says—

After a nine-year fight—and one bird-brained Bob Brown convoy—Adani's coal mine has finally been given the Green Light.

I table that article so people can read that.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 14 June 2019, titled 'After a nine-year fight—and one bird-brained Bob Brown convoy—Adani's coal mine has finally been given the Green Light' [1022].

Another article has the headline 'Peace offering for regions'—which is something I cannot believe—and it says—

Annastacia Palaszczuk has moved to smooth relations with regional voters, with the State Government clearing the final hurdle for Adani's Carmichael coal mine.

Just 27 days after voters vented their anger against Labor at the federal election, the state Environment Department yesterday gave the mine's final management plan the green light.

I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 14 June 2019, titled 'Peace Offering for Regions: Govt green-lights Adani after revolt in the bush' [1023].

It is quite interesting what people are saying out there. I thought what the Treasurer had to say in the budget speech was very interesting—that 'This government was not counting on a federal Labor win at the recent election.' Can you believe that? I think I must be in fairy land if that is true.

**Mr Boothman:** What went wrong?

**Mr SORENSEN:** What went wrong? You cannot tell me that Al Gore was coming out to this country just after the federal election—

**Mrs Wilson:** To hang out with the Premier.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, to hang out with the Premier and the new Prime Minister, Mr Shorten, and they would have knocked Adani on the head. I bet you that is what the plan was.

**Mr Power:** Rubbish.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Rubbish? I will take that interjection. I would like to read from one other article that was in the *Courier-Mail* on 3 June. It says that Queensland has the worst percentage of capital spending on capital works at 10.27 per cent. New South Wales is at 31 per cent for capital works.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** No, it is not. That article says—

Over the budget forwards from 2018-19 out to 2021-22, the percentage of federal infrastructure spending for Queensland is at least three times as much as NSW.

I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media articles regarding the budget and concessions for pensioners [1024].

The government had better go back and check the history. This budget taxes everything, including car rego. The waste tax smacks the building industry hard, and the land tax will affect many businesses in Hervey Bay, particularly holiday accommodation. The budget will have a negative effect on the Hervey Bay tourism industry. It will affect fish and chip shops. It is not good. It is ridiculous to say that it will only hit the big end of town, like the shopping centres, with all of these types of taxes.

The Treasurer's first budget brought new taxes worth \$2.2 billion. The Treasurer's second budget picked up another \$1.25 billion in taxes. There is the LNG royalties hike and the land tax. In relation to the land tax, if the government is going to tax the supermarkets with these higher taxes all of the time,

what will the supermarkets do? They have to make a living themselves, so they will pass it on to the shopkeepers in the supermarkets. What do you think happens then? That is why we see so many 'for sale' signs and 'closing' signs on these small shops.

The one that really hits the pensioners is the car tax, which is known as the grey nomad campervan tax. That will take about \$100 million out of that industry. Why does the government have to hit the poor old pensioner? He has worked all his life and he buys something like that to have a holiday—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr Boothman:** They don't like success.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I will take that interjection: they do not like success.

**Mr McArdle:** Tax of envy.


**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, tax of envy. I have some good news for Hervey Bay especially in the schools. The Hervey Bay Special School will get \$150,000 for refurbishment. The teachers in special schools have got to be congratulated for what they do. They do a fantastic job. The Hervey Bay State High School has a \$10 million project, with only \$2.5 million in the first year, for the performing arts centre and additional accommodation. The total expenditure will be \$10 million. The Hervey Bay State High School will again get \$300,000 to upgrade the home economics and C block kitchen. The Urangan Point State School will get \$200,000 to upgrade the outdoor learning area for the preps. The Urangan State High School will get \$400,000 for the industrial technology refurbishment. There are also smaller items of about \$600,000 towards maintenance in schools but that is a little bit short.

This government has walked away from our current teachers, and they are our pillars in education. I have met with local teachers in my electorate and they are doing it tough. There is far too much pressure from the top that is put on teachers. Teachers are not just teachers now. They have to be child safety officers. They often feed hungry children out of their own pockets. I see that happening in the schools in my electorate. If a teacher does not report a child safety issue quickly enough, they are threatened with the sack. I cannot imagine anyone in this House feeling that sort of pressure, and we do work in a pressure system in parliament. It is not fair that those teachers have to work under that situation. I had an ex-principal say to me that we need to make sure the cashless credit card comes in, because he has seen what teachers do for those kids who are hungry. They come to school and they can have breakfast. I have to thank all of those teachers who do that. It is something we should think about because those teachers do a great job. They live under a lot of pressure.

When I ask teachers what they really want, they say they want air conditioning. That is one of the priorities that they really want. They also speak very highly of the chaplains in the schools. Those chaplains do a great job assisting the teachers with the disengaged children. Some of these children who need assistance take up a lot of the time of their teachers, so the chaplains do a great job helping those children.

Urangan State High School has needs. They have around 2,000 children there. The school needs to be hooked up to the fibre cable to upgrade the IT at the school. The NBN is coming through Hervey Bay, so it needs to be hooked up so they can enjoy the same internet speeds as others in the bigger cities. The health and wellbeing centre is a very special place. The school had a good idea in establishing that. They need a sporting and cultural complex, the whole school needs to be air-conditioned and the administration extended and upgraded.

I have to hand it to the teachers in my area for everything they do. It is really important that we back our teachers. However, it is a bit false to say that we have a world-class education system because at the end of the day New South Wales and Victoria pay their teachers more than Queensland does. We have about the lowest paid teachers in Australia and that is a disgrace.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.30 pm): As Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I am proud to see the budget brought down by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for the Palaszczuk Labor government, our fifth budget, a very strong budget and a budget with a record Main Roads and Transport allocation—the fourth in five years under this government. Queensland will benefit from the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget and I am pleased to say my electorate of Miller is no different.

The Cross River Rail project will transform public transport across South-East Queensland for every rail user and will attract more people onto our trains and public transport system. We estimate that we will see a modal shift of about 18,000 people onto rail due to better and faster services. There

is funding in this budget to upgrade the Fairfield, Yeronga and Yeerongpilly train stations as well as Salisbury, Moorooka and Rocklea stations in the member for Toohey's nearby electorate. That will be welcome news for residents in these suburbs including the suburb of Annerley. That is on top of a substantial list of station upgrades that we have previously announced, three of which are underway at the moment at Boondall, Morayfield and Strathpine. This will make sure we have modern and accessible public transport facilities like lifts and raised and additional platforms so that people with disabilities and parents with prams have access to our public transport system under Cross River Rail.

There will be four new underground rail stations, and how exciting is it to have a heavy rail station at the Gabba, at our iconic sporting ground, as well as at Albert Street, at the bottom of the CBD? For the very first time heavy rail will come into that section of the CBD, which will cut travel times significantly. There will also be new underground stations at Roma Street and Park Road. I see this as very much our first genuine underground line in Brisbane. It will change the way people think of Brisbane. It is the Labor Party that has achieved it. Let's be very clear: if the election result had been different Cross River Rail would not have gone ahead and we would have been back in the same mess we were in under the LNP when they had no plan for public transport in a growing city and region.

There is funding in this budget to finish the Veloway project along the freeway at Tarragindi from Gaza Road over Marshall Road to Bapaume Road to complete the last remaining unbuilt link in this 10-year vision of a bicycle freeway to shadow the south-east freeway. This is the next link in our investment to support the Palaszczuk Labor government's goal to promote healthy transport, increase safety and get more people riding bikes more often, particularly in this generation when we move around the least.

Local schools in my electorate have also benefitted from the Palaszczuk Labor government's record investment in education. This includes a \$2 million upgrade to Yeronga State High School to refurbish facades and upgrade and replace fencing and \$500,000 for a new outdoor learning area at the wonderful Milpera State High School at Chelmer on top of previous investments at Wellers Hill State School and Yeronga State School.

The jointly funded \$400 million Ipswich Motorway Upgrade continues from Rocklea to Darra. That will provide for that road greater capacity, more lanes and greater flood resilience. It will add a new southern connection paid for from savings. It is a well-managed project and includes an entirely new bike route. It makes sense; it is a no-brainer to build cycling facilities when we do major road upgrades. I hope that is never, ever disputed again. The economies of scale are fantastic. Why would we not do it when everybody benefits from it—including motorists I might add.

The Ipswich Motorway upgrade has created 470 jobs and is part of our \$23 billion roads and infrastructure budget. That investment will support more than 21½ thousand Queensland jobs. It makes our roads safer and more efficient because we believe in investing in infrastructure, not cuts.

The Palaszczuk Labor government invests in Queensland infrastructure to make our economy stronger and keep our jobless rate much lower than under the previous LNP government. A total of 207,000 jobs have been created since our election in 2015 because of that focus on jobs and a stronger economy. We have seen the jobless rate significantly fall since the 6.6 per cent rate we inherited. In fact, shamefully, we saw the 7.1 per cent peak under the previous government and economic growth got down to 0.7 per cent at one stage.

It is a great time to be a Queenslanders, but one would not think so listening to the opposition leader's doomsday budget reply. The relentless negativity that characterises the opposition leader's approach was predictably on show once again. The opposition leader warned—

The good times are never coming back under Labor.

I pose the question: What so-called good times were those? Were they the good times when Campbell Newman sacked 14,000 Queensland workers? Were they the good times when they wasted more than \$100 million of taxpayers' money preparing to sell off our state owned assets, \$30 million of which was a secret branch within Transport and Main Roads? Maybe it was the good times when they wrote the Coomera Connector, or the second M1, out of the planning documents because they did not want to build it? They actually blocked it.

**Mr Boothman:** That's not correct.

**Mr BAILEY:** The member opposite should look up the news clippings from the time; it is all on the public record. The LNP did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 for three years. They are so embarrassed about that to this very day and they cannot confess their embarrassment on it. They are

playing catch-up on the M1. I go no further than the comments of the member for Surfers Paradise who said in November 2017, just before the last election that the LNP could have done more. 'We did not do as much for the Gold Coast in our term as we could have,' he said. They are the words of the member for Surfers Paradise, a former leader of the LNP. 'We didn't do as much for the Gold Coast in our term as we could have.' They are the LNP's words, not mine. He was absolutely correct.

Were those good times when they had 43 per cent increases in power prices or when they cut \$600 million from our roads and transport budget or when they cut 48 train drivers or ordered trains from overseas that were not disability compliant? Were those the good times the opposition leader was referring to? Under us we have seen record patronage on our public transport system because we invest in it and we cut the fares for people. Contrast that to the three lowest years in terms of patronage in the last 10 years on the South-East Queensland public transport system. When were they? The three years of the Newman government, predictably because they did not understand how to run a decent system. We know that an old-fashioned knees-up for the Queensland LNP means cutting services, sacking workers and selling publicly owned assets. Some things never change. Just as well we won the 2015 election to end the most incompetent and downright nasty government in Queensland history.

We saw the Deputy Leader of the Opposition shaking his head solemnly throughout the opposition leader's budget reply. Perhaps he was feeling left out, having been trumped by the member for Clayfield as the LNP Treasury spokesperson in the *Courier-Mail* on Monday, despite the fact that the member for Clayfield is on the backbench after his failed election bid in 2017. However, it appears that his political resurrection back to the front bench is underway. We will watch his movements with interest because whenever that coup on the LNP's side occurs—and it is coming—we know the member for Clayfield and the member for Chatsworth will be right in there playing a role. There is no doubt about that at all.

I will tell honourable members who else cannot be trusted with the budget numbers and that is the member for Glass House. He went for gold when he claimed that he had caught us out not funding the Mackay Ring Road Stage 2, otherwise known as the Mackay port access road, in the budget. The only problem was that it was in there, in QTRIP, in black and white on pages 171 and 173.

If you cannot read a budget, they have no hope of putting together one that makes any sense. Like the Newman government's first and only term, it was a short-lived and embarrassing moment for the member for Glass House. Is it no wonder he deleted his related tweet not very long after? I am probably being a bit hard on the member for Glass House as I suspect it was the member for Chatsworth's error because it was his portfolio area. No doubt, it was his big pitch to the leader that embarrassed the member for Glass House and the LNP in terms of this bungle. Amazingly, after it was already raised, the Leader of the Opposition made the same mistaken claim in her budget reply speech. Did no-one on the opposition benches think to tell the leader that maybe they should take out that paragraph and check it? Nobody told her about the bungle. The leader bungled in and claimed the same thing which was not true. Really, it is a *Keystone Cops* episode from the opposition in relation to the budget this year. There was no coordination or research. They do not know how to look at a budget or how to read the budget papers and they want to be the government of Queensland? I do not think so.

To be fair, there were many other embarrassing moments in the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech. The opposition leader said she would take Canberra's pathetically low funding deals for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A and the Beerburum to Nambour project. She is happy to sell out Queensland to her LNP party mates in Canberra. If you want to be Premier of this state, you must stand up for Queensland. That is what the current Premier and member for Inala does every time. Queenslanders do not vote for weak leaders who have stronger allegiances to Canberra than Queensland. They never have and they never will. Whether you are fans of the Cowboys, the Titans, the Broncos, the Suns or the Lions, you cannot be a Canberra Raiders fan and hope to be the Premier of Queensland. We saw somewhat of an amateur hour effort by the opposition.

Looking at this budget from our point of view, look at the reforms here and at the infrastructure commitments. The Mount Isa line access charges will be reduced to boost productivity in North Queensland. I see the Deputy Speaker nodding in agreement. The intermodal facility at the port of Townsville will make our supply chain efficient, increasing value into the export-import chain on top of the berth 4 upgrades and channel widening project. We are keeping it in public hands so we can invest in Queensland—not flog it off to the next seller to privatise it but to add value. We see very strong endorsement of this government from Construction Skills Queensland. We see strong endorsements from the Queensland Resources Council, Aurizon and the Freight on Rail Group. The RACQ were very

positive about this budget as well. Why not? Let us look at the infrastructure list: Smithfield bypass—promised by many people but we are doing it—the Peninsula Developmental Road, transformational; southern Cairns' access to Bruce Highway; the Townsville Ring Road Stage 5—


**Mr Harper:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you member for Thuringowa—after Riverway Drive is completed! There is the Mackay Ring Road stage 1; the Walkerston Bypass to follow; then Mackay Ring Road stage 2, or the port access. There is a pipeline of road investments in Mackay going off into the distance—the Rockhampton bypass, the Eton Range Realignment, the Haughton River floodplain and Bruce Highway upgrade, road improvements in Maryborough, the Shute Harbour Road announcement, our general Bruce Highway safety works and the Warrego safety works.

In this budget I am proud of our program to upgrade older, accessible taxis. We have a fantastic level of accessible taxis in Queensland compared to other states, but it is an ageing fleet at a very tough time for the industry. We have \$20 million to help the taxi industry upgrade to newer, accessible vehicles to ensure our most vulnerable people are safe should there ever be a crash involving them in the car; let us hope not. The Cairns Port development is under way. That will create jobs and create greater prosperity in far north Queensland. We have four M1 fully funded investments—two now, two following on—for the interchanges at exit 41 and 49, representing 50 per cent of the contribution. We are backing the M1 all the way. We will not ignore it as the previous government did and paid a price. We will keep investing in it.

The Sunshine Coast rail duplication involves more than half a billion dollars flowing into that community, despite the protestations of very lame members such as the member for Kawana. There is \$210 million flowing to that project in the next two years on the Sunshine Coast. The business case was not even done by the previous government; they ignored it. We did the business case in the first term and we have the \$550 million together. Yes there is a dispute about the federal government contributing its fair share, but the project is under way and has not been delayed a single moment. We will see \$210 million provided in the next two years and another \$240 million after that. That project is go with a capital 'GO'. It is something about which this government is very proud.

This is a very strong budget about infrastructure, jobs, economic growth, regional Queensland and infrastructure. It is also about responsible revenue measures to suit the times when we had big hits on stamp duty and the GST because of the current federal government. We also have incentives such as the payroll tax exemption threshold being raised. At this time, with the economy soft because of a lack of federal leadership, we need those sorts of incentives. At the breakfast this morning, it was great to hear the endorsement of the guest speaker, Nick Behrens. He is not exactly known to be on our side of politics but he gave this government's budget a lot of praise. It is a strong budget, and I support it.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to this cognate debate and to congratulate the Deputy Premier on handing down her second budget. In terms of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019, the bill makes provision for \$100 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Services for the 2019-20 financial year, an increase of funding of 2.9 per cent over the allocation in last year's budget. In addition to funding standard operating expenses, this funding will allow the parliamentary services to undertake a number of projects and initiatives.

Next year we will deliver information technology improvements to support the business and communication needs of members and electorate staff working both within and outside the electorate office environment. A new relief staff allowance will also be established to facilitate improved workload management in electorate offices. I know that many members have campaigned for funding to backfill electorate office staff during absences, so I am sure this initiative will be welcomed by all members of the House. I take the opportunity to thank all members of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly who supported this initiative.

Work will continue on the Electorate Office Relocation program which is addressing the impacts of electoral boundary changes arising from the Queensland Electoral Commission 2017 electoral boundary redistribution. Ensuring a safe and secure work environment is a responsibility that we all should take seriously. I am pleased to advise that next year the implementation of a range of electorate office security enhancements to ensure that members and electorate staff are provided with an appropriate and secure working environment will continue.

In response to emerging risks, including cybersecurity threats and changing client and business needs, funding is provided in 2019-20 to implement a new information technology strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our IT services. To ensure the parliamentary precinct continues to

meet the physical needs of members, a three-year program to upgrade critical building infrastructure and services will also commence next financial year. These upgrades address safety risks and ensure the ongoing reliability of services that support the parliamentary workplace.

In addition, the bill provides funding to upgrade the Queensland parliament's internet site and to improve the public's access to parliamentary activities and information. A significant driver of this upgrade is the move to portable computing devices from traditional desktop computers. Funding is also provided to continue to implement the regional education program designed to reach key regional centres during the 56th Parliament. Visiting Queensland's Parliament House is a great experience for school students, but the vastness of our state means this is not practical for all schools, particularly those in the part of the world where I come from. This important program ensures students outside of South-East Queensland continue to have access to our excellent parliamentary education services.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also like to highlight some of the outcomes for my electorate of Mulgrave in this year's state budget and I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Have you had them checked by the Speaker?

**Mr PITT**: I can verify that it does not offend parliamentary standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Thank you, member for Mulgrave; I will take you at your word!

Leave granted.

This budget provides \$9 million over the next three years for the Wet Tropics Management Authority to continue the fight against the yellow crazy ant scourge.

Yellow crazy ants are one of the top 100 worst invasive species in the world. They pose a significant threat to the rich and unique biodiversity of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and adjacent locations. We need to protect these areas which have significant environmental and economic value to Queensland.

I have consistently campaigned for funding to eradicate Yellow Crazy Ants because of the impact they have on farmers, tourists and locals. Thanks to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef for taking the time to meet with me and the WTMA about the need for ongoing funding.

WTMA and our local community taskforce have done amazing work to attempt to eradicate this pest. This funding will ensure this work, which supports 30 jobs, will continue.

Since eradication efforts began about six years ago, three previously infected areas have been declared pest free and overall population numbers have significantly decreased. But we can't stop now.

This funding mirrors the commitment in the recent Federal Budget for \$9 million. A great example of two levels of government working together.

#### Education

Earlier this year, I wrote to the Education Minister about Hambledon State School's numerous buildings that are only accessible by uncovered pathways.

In the summer months especially, the rain and sun have a huge impact on students and staff accessing these buildings. So I'm pleased that \$200,000 has been allocated to install fixed shelter over these pathways.

In the past, school parades have even had to be cancelled in bad weather, to prevent the students getting drenched on their way to the school hall.

The budget is good news for Woree State High School Students, with the provision of \$300,000 for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Lab.

This will enable students to be at the forefront of digital innovation, as the number of jobs in STEM related fields grow at more than twice the rate of other industries and occupations.

As a parent it's both scary and exciting that I don't know what jobs my kids will do when they grow up. It's predicted that up to 40 per cent of Australian jobs that exist today will not exist in 10 to 15 years. So the jobs that my children, Tristan, Layla and Kobi, will have probably haven't even been invented yet!

With a major shift towards a knowledge-intensive economy, the students of Woree State High School will develop the skills essential to solving the environmental, economic and social challenges of the future.

Bentley Park College will receive a \$50,000 funding boost to complete covered walkways from the school entry to F Block which caters for Special Education Program students.

This great announcement is in addition to \$50 000 funding recently secured to install new walls and refurbish the Special Education Program's learning space.



This funding will also improve the access pathway, by making it level and continuous to enable all students to have unobstructed access to their classrooms.

This busy entrance is used by buses and taxis during drop off and pick up times.

All weather access will enable students to stay dry in the wet, and out of our harsh sun in the hotter months.

In addition to these initiatives \$1.19 million has been allocated across 12 schools in the Mulgrave electorate for maintenance and minor works in schools throughout the 2019-20 financial year.

#### Breast Screen truck for the Far North

Funding of \$900,000 has also been provided for a new BreastScreen truck for the Far North, to continue the provision of breast screening services to women in remote and regional areas across Cape York and North West Queensland.

The service takes breast screening to some of the most remote Far Northern communities from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait to Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria to Burketown, Cooktown and Mareeba.

The new truck will enable specialised equipment to travel to these regions, sometimes over rough and rutted roads.

The new truck will complement the existing vehicle and will ensure better consistency of services all across the Far North, including in my electorate of Mulgrave.

The new BreastScreen truck will reduce the breaks due to servicing and equipment maintenance.

The result is a more regular service providing free screening and assessment services for women aged over 40.

This budget provides new health services for our youngest citizens, to our oldest. Funding of \$1.29 million over four years has been allocated to provide School Dental services. While more than \$150,000 will be provided to fund Dementia Respite services.

#### Cairns Shipping Development Project

Next financial year \$70.1 million has been committed towards dredging Trinity Inlet shipping channel to facilitate cruise ship growth.

This is part of the \$127.6 million Cairns Shipping Development Project which I announced funding for in the 2017-18 budget.

The project will widen and deepen the Trinity Inlet Channel and swing basin at the Port of Cairns allowing cruise ships up to 300 metres in length access to the Port.

Once completed, it is forecast that an additional 37 Mega Cruise ships will visit Cairns per year by 2026—a significant boost for local business.

The project would bring around \$112 million a year into the economy by positioning Cairns to take advantage of the growing cruise ship industry.

Far North Queensland is blessed with natural beauty and we want to share it with the world. Tourism is major contributor to the economy of Far North Queensland and I welcome this investment.

#### Development in the Cairns Southern Corridor

The big news is funding has been allocated to commence the Bruce Highway upgrade between Edmonton and Gordonvale.

This stretch is the busiest two-lane section of the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns. Works will include widening the highway from two to four lanes, building four-lane bridges over several creeks, and safety access improvements where the highway intersects with local roads.

This is a much-needed project for our community and industry and builds on construction already underway between Kate Street and Aumuller Street, as well as the now completed \$150 million Stage One that I had worked for, since elected in 2009.

Far North Queensland is a key hub for tourism, industry and business in Queensland.

I was very happy to see funding allocated to the Cairns South State Development Area in this year's budget.

The Cairns South SDA has the potential to attract regionally significant industrial development and industrial jobs to the area. The SDA will ensure the southern Cairns growth corridor had the right land available to harness these development opportunities when they present, including opportunities supporting agricultural industry.

It's an opportunity to develop current and future industries—including agriculture—by integrating major highway upgrades with available industrial land and the development of a transport logistics hub.

Over the next four years the Palaszczuk Government is delivering \$1.45 billion in road projects for Far North Queensland to deliver the infrastructure and jobs our growing region needs.

#### Social Housing in Mulgrave

Funding to construct new social housing is good news for the Mulgrave electorate.


This budget includes funding of \$3.5 million in Yarrabah for the development of 20 new housing lots and \$2.25 million to upgrade properties to the social housing standard.

In Gordonvale, \$607,000 has been allocated to complete construction of 3 units and \$1.1 million has been allocated to complete construction of 12 units.

This is good news to ensure people in need not only have a roof over their heads, but can have the certainty to call a place their home.

Conclusion

I support the Bills.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget. I congratulate the Treasurer on an outstanding budget and acknowledge the great leadership of our Premier in respect of this great budget for Queensland. This budget is a budget for Queenslanders. It is a budget for the regions. It is a budget that delivers jobs. It is a budget that delivers infrastructure. It is a budget that delivers now and for the future.

The government is building a new prison at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre precinct near Gatton. This \$620 million project will deliver more than 400 jobs during construction. Even more significantly, the new prison will deliver more than 500 permanent jobs. This will be a game-changer for the Lockyer Valley. I know that the mayor, whom I spoke with this week, is extremely excited about this project—500 new permanent, ongoing jobs, injecting a massive financial stimulus to the surrounding region; 500 workers and their families generating demand for goods and services from local businesses. This is transformational for a regional economy like the Lockyer Valley.

When Clive Palmer's nickel refinery plant in Townsville went bust and hundreds of jobs were lost, it had a devastating impact on people and the economy. We are adopting the anti Clive Palmer approach. Instead of wrecking a business, people's lives and a local economy, we are building. We are building Queensland's future. We are building jobs. We are building regional economies. 'Build it and they will come.' The jobs, the people and the opportunities will come.

It is the same philosophy in Central Queensland, where we have funded a \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre near Rockhampton. It is another job-creating project. The expansion will deliver a total of 232 permanent, ongoing jobs once the works are complete. Again, the local economy and local businesses will benefit. This is a smart use of government investment—investing in the infrastructure that benefits regional Queensland, because our state is like no other. We are a big state and, unlike the other states and territories, we have significant population centres spread across vast distances. That makes clever investments across the regions even more critical.

The good thing about our investment in these two major prison facilities is that it has another major impact. The construction of a new prison and the expansion of another will significantly ease the capacity constraints within our corrections network. The new prison facility will deliver about 1,000 new cells for male prisoners by 2023. Once construction is complete on both projects, the Palaszczuk government will have delivered more than 4,000 extra prison beds since being elected in 2015. That means better delivery of rehabilitation programs but, more importantly, greater levels of safety for our front-line corrections officers.

Additionally, officer safety will be boosted statewide, with extra funding in this budget of over \$14 million to provide for increased staffing levels to reflect prisoner numbers. We are supporting our corrections staff with these major investments because they do an incredibly difficult job. They manage on a daily basis the most complex and challenging Queenslanders, and they do this challenging work to keep their fellow Queenslanders safe. Make no mistake: these are historic reforms that will support regional economies, benefit corrective services staff with a safer workplace and deliver much greater capacity to our prison network.

That brings me to those other front-line Queensland workers who do such a wonderful job for the community. I speak of course of our world-class Queensland Police Service. Our government will always back our police, 100 per cent. This year the government has delivered a record Police budget. A total budget of \$2.6 billion in operating and capital has been allocated to the Queensland Police Service. It demonstrates the government's commitment to delivering the front-line services that our community needs.

Amongst the budget highlights, additional funding has been allocated to make Queensland's unique Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture in the Queensland Police Service. Taskforce Orion, in conjunction with Task Force Argos, leads the world in hunting down online child sex abuse predators and setting free the victims. A further \$2.3 million over the next four years and ongoing, permanent funding will be allocated to integrate Taskforce Orion into the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group to tackle the making and distribution of child exploitation material.

There is also additional funding to continue the boost of police efforts to combat organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs. The Organised Crime Gangs Group, including Taskforce Maxima, has led the way tackling organised crime so that more bikies are now behind bars. There are no bikie clubhouses operating in Queensland anymore. Police capability will also be enhanced to tackle alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice. This year's budget also includes further funding for work to continue on the Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training centre at Wacol, with a further allocation to increase the numbers of the Special Emergency Response Team in Brisbane and Cairns.

The government has allocated over \$10 million to complete a new police facility at Arundel and almost \$5 million to continue work on a replacement police facility at Pormpuraaw. Funding has been allocated to the highly successful Project Booyah and the Framing the Future initiative to provide community based youth support and mentoring across nine locations throughout Queensland. It is important to highlight the funding for the Framing the Future initiative, because the federal government stepped away from its commitment. It was funding the Framing the Future initiative. When we asked it to continue its funding it said no. Like we do all the time, this Labor government steps up and funds those programs and initiatives that deliver a great benefit to our community. We all know that the award-winning Project Booyah is making a real difference turning young people's lives around, getting them back into education and work and keeping them out of detention.

The funding in this year's budget will be used by the Queensland Police Service to enhance its ability to keep our community safe. Increasing the ability of our hardworking officers to address crime and harm in the community is one of our top priorities. The additional funding we are providing covers a significant cross-section of the organisation and will allow our officers to continue to serve the community and reduce crime and harm. We are also committed to upgrading police facilities for our police that will enhance working conditions and service delivery. Further investment by the government in infrastructure projects for the Queensland Police Service will see our officers equipped with modern facilities that will enhance their ability to serve the community. That is what this government does: we invest in Queenslanders everywhere.

That brings me to my home patch, the Caboolture and Morayfield areas. I acknowledge the Treasurer for her support of the great people of the Morayfield state electorate. A number of projects and services have received funding in this year's state budget, for which there is great support in the community. Firstly, after many years of advocacy I am pleased to see that there is funding in the budget for a new school hall for Morayfield State School. In fact, this will be the school's first hall. They currently use a basketball court with a roof. For a school that has 1,400 students, a new hall is an appropriate addition for a modern education environment.

There is also significant money towards the completion of construction of a new special school at Caboolture. All up, that project is over \$20 million. We also see additional works at Caboolture State High School, Caboolture Special School and other schools like Morayfield State School. In fact, every state school in the Morayfield state electorate will be receiving some funding to support projects at their school.

We see a significant investment in health infrastructure—the first contribution towards the major upgrade of Caboolture Hospital, including the car park facilities, which will be—

**Mrs Wilson** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** In a media interview recently the member for Pumicestone said that there was nothing in the region. She forgot \$400 million worth of investment for Caboolture Hospital. This is a significant investment in health infrastructure.

**Mrs Wilson** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** Those opposite have always been against Caboolture Hospital.

**Mrs Wilson** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** It is true. Look at the facts. The community advocated for decades for a hospital at Caboolture when the National Party was in government. They never got it. It took a Labor government to deliver Caboolture Hospital.

When an upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital was planned—and this is how the Leader of the Opposition is going to fund all of her pie in the sky \$7 billion worth of unfunded commitments—the National Party came to power as part of the Borbidge government and put an infrastructure freeze on and downgraded the upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital—an essential upgrade. At every point along the journey of the Caboolture Hospital it has been a Labor government that has contributed the infrastructure, and here we are again. The member for Pumicestone is criticising a \$400 million investment in health infrastructure.

**Government members:** Shame!

**Mr RYAN:** Shame on you.

**Mrs Wilson** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** The records will show that you are interjecting on a \$400 million investment in health infrastructure.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Through the chair please.

**Mr RYAN:** Shame on you. I will ensure that every member of your community knows that you were against the hospital upgrade.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Morayfield, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair please.

**Mr RYAN:** My family has used that hospital before. It is an exceptional hospital. The staff are amazing and this investment of \$400 million in health infrastructure should be celebrated, not criticised, by the member for Pumicestone.


There is also a contribution for local sporting groups like the Caboolture cricket club, and I know it is very excited. There is also additional funding for another new police facility at Caboolture—a big investment of over \$10 million for a new police facility at Caboolture which will be well received by local police. Our investment in significant road infrastructure upgrades will continue. The upgrades to Morayfield Road and Beerburum Road as well as Lower King Street will improve transport and traffic throughout the region. There is also a further contribution to the upgrade of the Morayfield train station which is shaping up very well. All in all, that upgrade program is worth over \$20 million for the Morayfield train station and we very much look forward to the final stages to be completed on that train station upgrade.

This is a budget that delivers for the Morayfield-Caboolture region significantly. There is huge money involved in infrastructure upgrades for the Caboolture-Morayfield region which will stimulate the local economy as well as deliver outstanding infrastructure and services for the community, as it deserves. All in all, this is a budget which builds Queensland's future. We are building it today. We are building it for all Queenslanders, and rightly so. All members of this House should support this outstanding budget for Queensland.

Interruption.

## MINISTERIAL PAPER

### Petitions, Government Responses

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.02 pm): I table responses to petition numbers 3039-18 and 3134-19.

*Tabled paper:* Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, to an ePetition (3039-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with standing order 119(4), from 439 petitioners, requesting the House to retain current law in relation to compulsory wearing of bicycle helmets [1025].

*Tabled paper:* Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, to a paper petition (3134-19) presented by the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, from 400 petitioners, requesting the House to consider additional strategies to combat youth crime for the township of Murgon [1026].


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

### REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.02 pm): This budget yet again delivers for Queensland, Redland City and, most importantly, my electorate of Capalaba. I am proud to say that this budget delivers in the areas of roads, infrastructure, education and health which all lead to more jobs. I am

proud to say that Don delivers for Capalaba. I am glad to announce that in this budget we are fixing the Gateway on-ramp from Old Cleveland Road. Nearly every morning in peak hour, traffic banks back on the shoulder of Old Cleveland Road. I have fought hard for years to solve this problem and a couple of years ago we were able to deliver cameras which helped synchronise flows during peak traffic demands. When the traffic built up again a couple of years later I again went into bat for the people of my local area and I am glad that in this budget we have been able to deliver a \$5 million upgrade for that on-ramp. I want to thank all of the locals who supported me in this fight by signing my petition, and this is not the only good news for roads in Redlands. It is great to see that the hard work and advocacy of the member for Redlands has paid off with \$37 million for stage 1 of the duplication of Cleveland Redland Bay Road.

This budget also starts to deliver on key public transport infrastructure in my area. There is \$1.8 million of a \$22 million project for the Eastern Transit Way which will see five key intersections along Old Cleveland Road expanded for faster bus travel, but this will also have a positive effect for motorists. There is also \$98,000 to continue the planning and corridor study for the duplication of the Cleveland railway line.

As many are aware, I am a vocal advocate for TAFE, particularly the Alexandra Hills TAFE in my electorate. I understand that if a kid gets a certificate III they are more likely to find a job than one who gets a bachelor degree. I fought hard for years, even before I was elected, to ensure that Alexandra Hills TAFE was restored after the savage cuts that we saw during the Newman years. I went back and had a look at some of the old articles from the local paper at the time and I was amazed that it actually survived. It was only due to the huge community campaign, Save Alexandra Hills TAFE, which I was proud to be a part of and lead, that it survived. I have no doubt that if there were a second term of the Newman government it would have been gone.

Let us go through the comments from the oncer LNP member at the time. An article titled 'Cloud over Alex Hills TAFE' stated—

Students and staff at Alexandra Hills TAFE have a three-week wait to find out if the state government will close the Windemere Road campus next year.

...

Member for Capalaba, Steve Davies, said he believed the campus was under-utilised but said it was too early to say whether it would shut.

He said if the campus did shut, however, possible options would include selling some of the land for public housing or allowing a portion for the next door Alexandra Hills State High School to build a primary school.

"We want TAFE to grow and be effective so underperforming colleges will be shut to enhance the whole system," Mr Davies said.

"I don't want to get caught up in speculation about its fate. I don't know if the campus is shutting but once the decisions have been made, we will look at the best solutions for the site," he said.

This shows just how clueless he was at the time, because just down the road from Alexandra Hills High is a primary school, Alexandra Hills primary school. Not only was the Newman government thinking about selling off the TAFE; it was going to sell off Alexandra Hills primary school and put the primary school at the high school as well. In that same article, which I will table, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE director Kaylene Harth contradicted the member, and I have no doubt she would have got sacked after that.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, dated 8 November 2012, titled 'Cloud over Alex Hills TAFE' [\[1027\]](#).

The article continues—

Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE director Kaylene Harth said she did not believe the Alexandra Hills campus was under-utilised.

She said 3000 enrolments was "reasonable" for that campus, but there was "room for improving site utilisation" which would require cash investment.

"Whether to shut the campus is a decision that should be made on demand, which is steady in the Redland area," Ms Harth said.

That is the difference between us and those opposite. They want to sell it off and we want to put a bit of a cash injection into it. I am proud to say that when we got back into government on day one we signalled that TAFE was open for business and that we were not going to sell it off. We got rid of QTAMA, we gave TAFE back to TAFE and we stopped the privatisation from the inside. We increased courses there. We increased teachers there. We increased students there, and guess what? That increases jobs and careers for local kids in my area.

To cap all of this off, we are also now investing \$10 million to upgrade the campus. This is the single biggest injection into the campus site in the 32-year history of the site. This upgrade will mean that most of the trades training that happens at the Alexandra Hills site will be from years 1 to 4. At the moment when students finish their first year they have to go to Acacia Ridge and I have heard too many stories of students dropping out because they were not able to travel to their courses at Acacia Ridge. That is why I fought so hard to ensure that trades training was back at Alexandra Hills and I am glad that we have gone a long way to delivering that in this budget. I am glad to see that part of the upgrade will also go to new nurse training facilities. We have seen a massive growth in the need for jobs with the NDIS and aged care, and that is why I am happy to announce that in this budget we will be training the future nurses of Redlands in the Redlands.

There is more fantastic news for Redlands when it comes to education, particularly in the state schools of my electorate. There is \$700,000 for Coolnwynpin State School—the ‘cool school’—to remove its old demountables and to construct a new prep precinct, including an outdoor learning area, and we know how important that is to modern education. We will also deliver the last \$620,000 of the \$4.25 million for Alexandra Hills High’s Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics. I was recently at the site to review the construction of the brilliant learning facility and I know how excited teachers, students and parents are to see the final product in a couple of months time. There is also a massive \$9 million for Redlands special school for the renewal and revamping of that school given its growing cohort, and I thank the Minister for Education for delivering all of this.

This is a fantastic result. I went with the member for Springwood and the member for Redlands to meet with the principal, Andrew Thompson, and to go on a tour of the school to see where the works were needed. Andrew Thompson had such a passion and I could see how the teachers found that passion contagious. Each of the schoolkids had a smile on their face. It was fantastic to see them responding in that way. It meant so much that we are supporting Andrew Thompson and the teachers to continue that fantastic work that they do at the Redlands special school.

This is a budget that yet again delivers for health. In that regard, I thank the Minister for Health. This budget delivers particularly for Redland Hospital. There is \$22 million for ongoing upgrades and the construction of an expanded emergency and maternity ward. This year, there has also been a massive increase in the funding for Metro South Health of 6.25 per cent.

I love working alongside the local community groups in my area. It is the best part of my job. That is why it is great to see support for communities in this budget. There is \$230,000 for the Redland Community Centre. That centre does fantastic work in being the safety net for my community. That centre helps out those in their time of need. There is \$284,000 to finish off the \$500,000 upgrade of the Capalaba Warriors club. I went down to that club to see the construction that was taking place and I was given a tour. I know that that upgrade will be opened in a couple of weeks time. I particularly note that the female players at the Capalaba Warriors are looking forward to their new clubhouse. There is \$12,000 to replace the six goalposts at the Redlands Muddies rugby club—which is my old rugby club—just in time for old boys day on Saturday. I encourage all the old boys of the Redlands rugby club to get down there and fill the hill.

This budget delivers for the good people of the Capalaba electorate by delivering infrastructure, public transport and education in TAFE and in health. Ultimately, this budget will deliver jobs for my community. I would like to congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer for working in lock step with all the ministers to deliver a fantastic budget. I commend both bills to the House.



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills that are before the House. At the outset, I want to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on delivering her second surplus budget and the fifth budget that my government has presented to the people of this great state. I also want to congratulate all the ministers for their hard work, the assistant ministers, the officers of all the departments—a lot of work goes on behind the scenes—and, of course, every single member of the government for making sure that we are delivering and continuing to acknowledge our promises to the people of Queensland.

As I said, this government will always deliver measured and responsible budgets and that is exactly what we are doing. This budget is focused on backing Queensland jobs, especially in the regions. Put simply, this budget is about backing our people—people like Christie and Steven from Toowoomba, who I have spoken about all this week. They wanted nothing more than to start a family. Christie had been in hospital for two months before baby Isabel arrived two months before she was due. We met them last weekend. They want to pass on their thanks to all the dedicated and hardworking nurses, doctors and midwives. It is hoped that that family goes home soon.

That family and hundreds of others are why we are spending a record \$19.2 billion on health in Queensland. We are hiring nearly 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambulance officers. We are building the equivalent of another RBWH, with more beds across the state. We are investing \$777.7 million in building and expanding hospitals in Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Roma and Gladstone.

We are spending a record \$14.9 billion on education and training. That investment makes a profound difference to so many lives, not the least to the lives of the families of children with a disability, whom I met just the other week with the minister. We are providing those families with more teachers and teacher aides. To those families, a budget initiative such as this makes a whole world of difference. We have announced four new schools, with another eight underway. Next year, the first year 7s will walk into the new Fortitude Valley State Secondary College, the first inner-city school built in a generation. We saw that progress this week. This is the site of a school that the LNP, under Campbell Newman, closed and tried to sell. Never has the difference been more stark. We are providing \$100 million over four years for priority state school air-conditioning projects. We are also continuing to invest in training to ensure that we meet the state's future workforce needs.

This budget backs jobs. It backs families, communities and those in need. We are allocating \$5.6 billion in concessions to assist household budgets, especially for the elderly. That assistance includes \$192.3 million to deliver electricity rebates to eligible seniors, pensioners and veterans and low-income families as well as access to a range of Queensland government concessions on rates, water and gas.

The budget provides \$2.9 billion for the construction of the new Townsville Women's Centre. There is \$3.3 million to continue the delivery of the safe night precinct. One allocation that is really close to my heart is the additional funding of \$1.5 million over five years to expand the school breakfast program. We know that families do it tough. We also know that sometimes young people are going to school with an empty stomach. This is just a small way in which we are really changing the lives of young people and families.

We are backing Queensland businesses by cutting payroll tax for 13,200 small to medium businesses and providing rebates of up to \$20,000 for businesses hiring new employees. Never has there been such a strong initiative of backing small business in our state. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in putting together that package.

Queensland is one big state, not one big city. In this past year, people in our remote and regional centres have weathered the worst that nature can throw at them: drought, bushfires and flood. They deserve all the support we can provide. This budget provides \$70 million for round 5 of Building our Regions. It provides for vital projects in local councils areas across our state. That is not all. The Works for Queensland program is continuing, supported by councils, and is supporting more than 14,000 jobs in regional Queensland.

In the Far North, there is huge money for infrastructure and money for health. In Townsville, we have committed money to continue water security and there is \$193 million for the Townsville Port Expansion Project. We are investing in the north-west minerals province with that catalytic infrastructure. In the Mackay-Whitsundays, we are investing \$31.9 million into schools and there is also the continuation of the funding for the Mackay Ring Road. In Central Queensland, there is money to continue to make sure that we have health services and for the expansion of the ring-road. In Wide Bay, we expect about 2,200 jobs to be supported by our investment in local infrastructure. There is \$5.5 million to refurbish the emergency department at Maryborough Hospital and \$40 million for mental health on the Fraser Coast.

Our state is huge. We make this commitment to Queenslanders: no matter where they live, we want to make sure they get access to good quality, decent services. Fundamentally, everyone on my team—in this government—knows that jobs are central to that. Everything we do is focused on jobs, the dignity of work and allowing people to get access to a good, decent job so that they can provide for their family.

Last week the Reserve Bank said that governments need to be looking at options to reduce unemployment 'including through spending on infrastructure'. We are delivering a massive statewide job-creating infrastructure program worth \$49.5 billion over four years. That includes a \$12.9 billion capital program in the next financial year that is estimated to support 40,500 jobs. We know how important roads and transport are across our state. We are going to continue to invest to make sure that we can get people safely to and from work or home to their families.

Despite a \$1.5 billion reduction in Queensland's share of GST revenue and a \$1 billion reduction in transfer duty revenue since MYFER, my government is still delivering an estimated \$841 million net operating surplus in 2018-19. This surplus is \$700 million higher than was forecast in 2018-19. The Australian Bureau of Statistics highlighted that growth in Queensland's domestic economy outstripped that of all other mainland Australian states. That growth was driven by my government's sheer determination to invest in infrastructure. I urge the federal government to fast-track funding for these vital infrastructure projects.


Mr Speaker, you will like this. At the last COAG meeting in Adelaide, I invited the Prime Minister and our first ministers to hold our next meeting in Queensland. Some people mentioned Brisbane. I suggested regional Queensland—somewhere as warm as a Queensland welcome, perhaps somewhere like Cairns. I am quite sure that everyone in this House would support having the Prime Minister and our first ministers come to Queensland, come to regional Queensland and come to Cairns for the next COAG meeting. We will do everything we can to ensure that Queensland gets that COAG meeting.

Queensland is one of Australia's great economic powerhouses. Our exports have grown to \$85 billion—bigger than New South Wales and Victoria combined. Exports mean jobs. As I said earlier today, recently in Japan I launched a new brand of 'Queenslander' beef. The source of this beef is the north-west of our state which is only now getting back on its feet following the floods. Opening up new markets helps these graziers and the benefits flow through the entire economy.

The 2019-20 budget provides \$35.7 million over three years to continue to grow the screen industry in our state. The missing link in our studio and production capacity is post and digital effects, that includes the booming game industry. We are in the hunt to close that gap. We support the screen industry. Since 2015 we have secured 18 productions that have injected more than \$550 million into our economy and generated 6,500 jobs.

I would also like to take some time to highlight what the budget delivers for my local community of Inala. It includes \$70 million for upgrades to the Ipswich Motorway from Darra to Rocklea, jointly funded with the federal government; \$3 million to continue the Richlands substation upgrade; \$2 million for a new performing arts centre and general learning spaces at Forest Lake State High School—and there is additional funding for other schools in my local electorate. There is also \$370,000 to finalise planning for the Centenary cycleway from Richlands to Springfield; \$266,000 to construct new amenities and change rooms to support female participation in rugby league, which is very popular in Inala; and, of course, our Back to Work program. Furthermore, my government is providing \$2.8 million for important improvements and replacements for the Inala Community Health Centre, including their heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system and their roof.

We are investing \$42 million for infrastructure to commence early works on a new 32-bed youth detention centre at Wacol; and in Wacol, where recently the Minister for Police was with me, we are delivering a new Queensland Police Service Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre, investing once again in the local community. This budget represents opportunity and prosperity for all Queenslanders. We are delivering on the infrastructure and services needed now and into the future. I commend the budget bills to the House.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.22 pm), in reply: It gives me much pleasure—and I think relief to members in this House—to rise to my feet to conclude the second reading debate in relation to the 2019-20 Palaszczuk government budget. From the outset I thank the Treasury officials and members of my staff who have worked tirelessly over the last few months to ensure that the budget that we present in this chamber is a budget that will provide for the opportunity and prosperity of Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Firstly, I will go to issues raised by those opposite throughout the course of the last two days. I will start with those raised by the Leader of the Opposition. As we stated in this House after her contribution, the Liberal National Party of Queensland has quite clearly shown that it has learned nothing and has forgotten nothing in its budget response. It is important that we go through the claims made by the Leader of the Opposition and the promises and commitments made and match them against what we know to be their track record in government.

The Leader of the Opposition promised to repay debt, spend more on infrastructure and do it all without cuts, selling assets or sacking workers. Let me correct the record, she did not promise not to sack workers judging from media reports that have come out. I recall in 2012 when the Liberal National



Party ran a campaign in Queensland. I remember the promises they made at that election. They promised that they would not tax Queenslanders more. They came into this place and hiked up taxes for Queensland mums and dads to the tune of \$2.6 billion. An increase in transfer duties on household insurance got them \$1 billion out of the pockets of Queensland mums and dads and into the LNP's budget. They promised no new taxes but introduced new taxes that hit Queensland mums and dads.

They promised to pay down debt but they increased debt. They said that they would not sell assets. They not only sold assets but they also campaigned to sell assets and then when Queenslanders said no, we do not want our assets sold—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders for the second time today.

**Ms TRAD:** When Queenslanders came back to them in an expansive survey that the then treasurer of Queensland, the member for Clayfield, funded—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, I appreciate that there is a summary happening and some provocation, but members will direct their comments through the chair or every member who does not do so will be warned under the standing orders. Am I clear?

**Ms TRAD:** When those opposite said that they would not sell assets but then they sold assets and then they campaigned to sell more assets, about \$36 billion of assets through the Strong Choices campaign, funded to the tune of \$70 million out of the pockets of mums and dads, Queenslanders came back and said no, we would prefer you to increase royalties or increase tax on gambling or any other option rather than selling our assets. The LNP government said no, we hear what you are saying but we are going to ignore it. Queenslanders responded by paying back that discourtesy and that is why those opposite are sitting on that side. They also promised that public servants had nothing to fear.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

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


**Ms TRAD:** The first budget delivered by the Liberal National Party in this place in almost two decades had a plan to sack 14,000 public servants. That is how they rewarded Queenslanders who took them on their promise and said they had nothing to fear.

When we talk about commitments given by those opposite, like a 10-year royalty freeze for the resources sector, just look at the track record of those opposite. They made promises before the 2012 election and they came in and they hiked up royalties. Look at the track record of those opposite to see whether or not you can hold any value in a promise made by anyone from the Liberal National Party of Queensland.

Let me turn to the actual commitments made. There are about \$7 billion worth of commitments and no plan on how to fund them. When asked, the only commitment that the Leader of the Opposition can give at this stage is she is going to wait to get elected and have a look at the books. The books are the budget we have been debating this week. It is absolutely embarrassing to see the response from the Leader of the Opposition, and the shadow Treasurer's response does not even warrant any mention.

The member for Cooper, the tourism minister, absolutely nailed it in her contribution to the budget: Queenslanders deserve a competition in this state, a contest of ideas. They deserve the Liberal National Party to step up to the plate, to do some work and to actually come into this place with an idea of how they would govern. They came in here with Deb-onomics, as the minister for state development said, with magic pudding financial management, exactly the same financial management that saw Standard & Poor's rate them as weak economic managers.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Ms TRAD:** As I was saying before the dinner break, the commitments made by those opposite, their capacity to pay for those commitments and their ability to offer the people of Queensland a real contest in terms of the state election next year really leave a lot to be desired. I found it very interesting that the Leader of the Opposition and other members of the front bench talked about the new fiscal principle that they would adopt. I remind members in the chamber that the Leader of the Opposition stated—

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.

That sounds fine when you first listen to it, although there are a lot of words there. However, I think we need to talk about what it actually means and think about how it compares to their time on this side of the House. It is really important for us to talk about that. In three years, over three budgets, the LNP delivered three fiscal deficits; two operating deficits and three fiscal deficits. It included the largest ever fiscal deficit recorded in Queensland's history since we started using accrual accounting. They delivered a fiscal deficit of \$8 billion in one year. So far, according to their track record, they have proven that they are genetically incapable of delivering a fiscal surplus.

Let us continue to unpack this statement, which is simply a lot of words in a paragraph, to see what it really means. It says that they only need to deliver a fiscal balance over the economic cycle. What economic cycle? Deficits during downturns and surpluses in booms? An economic cycle could go over a number of years and the problem is that the LNP in Queensland has been unable to hold onto office for more than one term. How can they claim that they are going to deliver a fiscal balance when they have been unable to hold onto government for more than one term? I will make it clear for those opposite: the economic cycle will outlive the next term of an LNP government in this state, because history will repeat itself.

Queenslanders know that those opposite will say and do anything before an election, will make commitments that they will not deliver and will turn Queensland into an economic wasteland, as they did last time. They will leave Queenslanders on the unemployment heap, because those opposite do not care about jobs, they do not care about services and they certainly do not care about growing and diversifying our economy.

However, not everyone on the other side of the House was critical of our budget. In fact, not everyone inside the Liberal National Party was critical of our budget. I thank the member for Buderim for saying that it was pleasing to see that the government had listened to the community and that it was committed to opening a school in Palmview for the start of 2021.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Buderim, I can yell just as loud.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, I saw that as a reflection upon the chair. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Buderim for his ringing endorsement, especially as other members opposite do not yet understand that the Labor Party in government and in opposition listen to Queenslanders and we deliver for Queenslanders. The member for Buderim was thanking us for doing the job that all elected representatives and all government ministers should be doing, which is going out and talking to the community, planning for the future and delivering the services that Queenslanders need. I contrast that with their time in office when they closed schools, sold school sites, capped the number of teachers in schools and cut it going forward. On this side of the House we are very proud of the fact that we like talking to Queenslanders, we like listening to Queenslanders and we love delivering for Queenslanders.

Members of the Liberal National Party at large have had some positive things to say about our budget. The new federal LNP member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson, gave the budget a very glowing endorsement on the news. He said, 'There's some good stuff in the state budget, particularly for Townsville.'

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I do not think they had enough to eat at dinnertime. Members opposite have presented nothing new in this debate. They have not given anyone a skerrick of confidence that they would actually know what to do with the treasury benches if they were re-elected. Quite frankly, I can understand why Alan Jones would criticise the Queensland Liberal National Party as he does—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** And George Brandis.

**Ms TRAD:**—and George Brandis; I take that interjection from the Premier. He said they were very mediocre. Alan Jones called them economically illiterate. It is quite distressing that this is the best that the Liberal National Party in this state has to offer.

While I have some time left on the clock, I will talk about some of the things that this budget delivers for my local community. My community is the place where I grew up and it is where I am raising my children. It has seen significant change over the past 10 years, particularly in terms of population growth. From 2006 to 2016, suburbs in my electorate of South Brisbane grew by 70 per cent.

In West End there has been 55 per cent growth. Someone need only go down Montague Road to see the enormous population growth that is occurring. At a time of regional planning in this state, my community accepted, as many inner-city communities have accepted, that, in order to curtail urban sprawl, we needed to ensure that we were providing infill options for people to live closer to where infrastructure was established, to defray the continuing outlay for new infrastructure in outer suburbs. My community, like the member for McConnel's community, has seen enormous population growth in that time. We have to make sure we are using infrastructure and taxpayer dollars wisely.

By 2036 my community will comprise a population of 61,000. That is in Kurilpa Peninsula. That is the size of Rockhampton in three suburbs. With that enormous population growth there has to be investment. I am so proud of the fact that this budget, like the last budget, invests in state infrastructure that my growing community needs.

I am particularly talking about education infrastructure. I want to thank both the current and former education ministers for the allocation to expand West End State School. When my eldest son first went to West End State School many years ago there were around 600 students at that school. Today there are 1,000, and the number keeps growing rapidly.

The \$50 million investment we are making into West End State School is to ensure we keep up with this growth. Brisbane State High School is the largest high school in Australia. More than 3,100 students go to that school to get an education. We need to make sure we are continuing to invest in this high-growth area. I make mention of the fact that work is continuing on the new \$123 million state high school in the inner south at Dutton Park to alleviate the pressure on Brisbane State High and also accommodate the growth that we are seeing propelled by the Brisbane City Council, particularly in the inner south and inner north.

I make mention of some of the housing initiatives within South Brisbane. There is the \$70 million Build-to-Rent Pilot Program. This is a fantastic project that we have seen work in other jurisdictions. We are incentivising the private sector to build and bring product onto the market that is affordable, particularly for key front-line workers.

We are also going to make sure we continue to provide public housing within the inner city with \$5 million for the construction of 32 public housing units at Woolloongabba. There is also \$1.2 million for the provision of transitional housing in South Brisbane through the Community Rent Scheme.

I am very pleased that this budget also continues to provide financial support to some of the best organisations that are delivering for the most vulnerable people in our community. Micah Projects, Auscare, Murri Watch—all of these services—work very hard to make sure the most marginalised and vulnerable in our community are looked after.

I am particularly pleased that this budget also provides money for Souths Leagues Club at Davies Park, which is where we saw the State of Origin team train in the lead-up to their sensational first game in this year's series. There is more than \$730,000 to improve the change room facilities, to make the bathrooms accessible and to construct a female change room. Souths have been fantastic at making sure that women have a place in their leagues club. They are great at having a gender inclusion program.

I will finish on two points. A lot has been made by those opposite about the investment in my community. I am sure that they will continue to do so.

**Ms Grace:** Cheap. Political.

**Ms TRAD:** It is cheap. I will take that interjection from the member for McConnel. I thank the arts minister for her work in relation to the new theatre. I think the designs are absolutely inspirational. When we look at the increase in experiential tourism to our state it is very clear that we need to continue to offer great opportunities for people to come to Queensland to see fantastic performances and enjoy our fantastic state. Whether that is a theatre in South Brisbane, whether it is the arts centre in Cairns, whether it is the new arts centre in Rockhampton, we have funded all of these because we believe in the arts and we believe in cultural tourism. We know it is a very important offering. We have some of the most creative and artistic Australians in our state, particularly when we look at what is on offer through Indigenous art and Indigenous culture. I make particular mention of that.

When the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and the State Library—all of those amazing state institutions—were built, I was a child. To think that we would be adding to the cultural institutions in this state because of pork-barrelling rather than the astute recommendations made through a proper

business case is just ridiculous. This is actually what the original architect, Robin Gibson, had designed. He designed it so that an extension in the theatre would occur on the Playhouse green. I will remind those opposite that when Campbell Newman wanted to build a new theatre with a 20-storey hotel on the top, it was in South Brisbane on the Playhouse green. It made sense for them, but it does not make sense for us. I am very proud and so honoured that the state's cultural institutions are located in South Brisbane. I think it makes an enormous contribution to have them right across from the CBD. It actually makes sure—

**Ms Grace:** Why didn't they do Expo?

**Ms TRAD:** Correct. I will take that interjection. Where did they put Expo? That is right, member for McConnel.

I will finish on this point. Congestion within our heavy rail network has been an issue of debate within—

**Ms Jones:** For 20 years.

**Ms TRAD:**—our community for about 20 years. I will take that interjection from the Minister for Tourism. While those opposite talk about congestion, let us look at their track record. They did nothing. I am enormously proud of the fact that we are not only improving the M1 but also improving the Bruce. We are duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line. We have already duplicated the remaining single track on the Gold Coast line. We are delivering Cross River Rail. We are delivering Cross River Rail so that people on the Sunshine Coast can have a train leaving every 15 minutes during peak hour. That will mean an extra 450 peak hour seats and a nine-minute travel time saving.

We are delivering Cross River Rail so that a train can come every five minutes on average on the Caboolture line and we can have a turn-up-and-go service on the Ferny Grove line and the Gold Coast and Beenleigh lines. We are delivering this transformational project for the people of South-East Queensland because we are expected to grow to five million people in the next 20 years. We are making the infrastructure investment so that we can bust congestion today and in the future.

For those opposite to suggest that this is somehow a pet project, let me draw their attention to fact that another pet project—the bus and train tunnel—was actually in my electorate of South Brisbane too, because you have to connect the south bank of the river to the north bank of the river! It is a fundamental engineering principle.

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Burnett.

**Ms TRAD:** If you want to connect the south bank of the river to the north bank of the river, you have to connect them across the river.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Cross River Rail will go under the river.

**Ms TRAD:** That is right—exactly. I take that point from the Premier. They can all travel Brisbane's new underground system because it will be delivered by Labor, like Gold Coast Light Rail and like the Gateway duplication. We will deliver the transformational infrastructure that Queenslanders so rightly deserve, whether it is in Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Rocky or Cairns. We back Queenslanders by investing in the infrastructure that they need in their communities, and we do so with honour. We also make sure that they have the hospitals, the schools, the teachers, the doctors and the nurses they need to ensure they have the services they need in their daily lives.

Any day of the week I will stack up our track record on managing finances, on delivering to Queenslanders and, most importantly, on creating jobs in this state against those opposite whose appalling record in government has seen them only stay in government—

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:**—for more than one term on two occasions in three decades.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

### Referral to Portfolio Committees

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 177(2), the bills stand referred to the portfolio committees.

### Second Reading

Question put—That the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

#### Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 3 and 4—

 **Mr MANDER** (7.53 pm): Clause 4 refers to the information flow between Treasury and the Auditor-General's office. This is enabling a freer flow of information so that Treasury can get access to the information that they believe is necessary. The Treasury officials consulted with the Auditor-General's office on 5 June. The Auditor-General raised some issue about data security. They were also concerned about possible cost implications that this might have on the Auditor-General's office. They were also concerned about any perception there might be of undermining the independence of the Auditor-General's office—all very real concerns. They made those concerns clear to your Treasury officials, Deputy Premier. This was on 5 June.


Then they received a letter on 7 June stating that the Treasury officials would consult with the Auditor-General's office during the drafting of the amendments. As is so typical of this government, when they talk about consultation it is all talk and no action. The next thing the Auditor-General realised was that the amendments had gone ahead on 11 June when the proposed amendments were tabled in parliament. My question to the Deputy Premier is: why didn't the Treasurer consult with the Auditor-General's office, as promised, during the drafting of those amendments?

**Ms TRAD**: I am pleased to inform the House that a number of conversations had occurred between the Under Treasurer and the Auditor-General. Of course those conversations will continue. Let me make clear that what this clause is requiring is that there be a level of information sharing between the purchases from individual departments which are required to be audited by the Auditor-General and the Treasury. We are all talking about Queensland taxpayer funds here. Quite frankly, I think it is important in terms of policy-making and ensuring the best allocation of resources that that information is shared. We will continue to talk to the Auditor-General, of course, in relation to the implementation of this section of the legislation. This is about good governance. This is actually about information sharing. At the end of the day, the simple goal is to make sure that we are using Queensland taxpayer funds wisely.

Clauses 3 and 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—

 **Mr MANDER** (7.57 pm): This clause refers to amendments to the Duties Act 2011. It states—

To remove any doubt, it is declared that a reference to consideration is not limited to monetary consideration.

My question to the Treasurer is: could she please outline what non-monetary considerations might be considered under the Duties Act?


**Ms TRAD**: I think the member need only look at the explanatory notes to have a look at what would be considered non-financial considerations. The Duties Act 2001 imposes transfer duty on the dutiable value of dutiable transactions. The consideration for a transaction is generally taken into account when working out the dutiable value of the transaction. Consideration is not defined in the Duties Act. Therefore, it generally takes its ordinary meaning and includes both monetary and

non-monetary consideration. It has been identified that certain references to consideration in the transfer duty provision of the Duties Act may be unintentionally limited to monetary consideration only. The amendment clarifies that a reference to consideration for transfer duty purposes is not limited to monetary consideration.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 16—

 **Mr MANDER** (7.59 pm): Clause 16 clarifies the definition and meaning of 'absentee' with regard to the absentee tax. This is a long overdue amendment for Australian citizens and permanent residents who were unjustly taxed as absentees by this Labor government.

New South Wales and Victoria have never charged citizens and permanent residents with the equivalent rate of absentee tax and, to be quite truthful, it is disgraceful that Queensland punishes Queenslanders who want to work and vacation overseas. My question to the Treasurer is: does the change to the definition of 'absentee' confirm that Labor made a mistake initially?

**Ms TRAD:** I think the clause speaks for itself. I am happy to be corrected, but I do not recall those opposite putting up an amendment at any stage to exclude Australian citizens—

**Mrs D'Ath:** Or mention it in the debate.

**Ms TRAD:** It certainly was not brought out in any of the debate. I will take that interjection from the Leader of the House. We are making sure that Australian citizens, permanent residents, are not captured in the absentee tax. I am very pleased to be able to deliver on this amendment. If those opposite were so concerned at any stage they could have brought an amendment into this House in the past two years, raised it in the debate and done something—but they did not, so I am very happy that we are progressing this very important reform.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that as: you did make a mistake. Treasurer, all those Australian—


**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not what I said. I find the remarks personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. Treasurer, will those Australian citizens and permanent residents who paid this tax in the past under the former definition have their money returned?

**Ms TRAD:** There is no provision within the legislation for this to be retrospectively applied.

Clause 16, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17—

 **Mr MANDER** (8.02 pm): This clause talks about the rate of land tax for foreign companies or trustees. This clause facilitates the imposition of a two per cent land tax surcharge on foreign companies and trustees of foreign trusts.

This is a clause change that has given great grief, particularly to regional members, as they are very, very concerned about the impact this might have on foreign investment in their areas. We know that this type of investment helps stimulate the economy and create jobs. The startling thing is that other states—and I will use Victoria as an example—created an exemption for absentee corporations and trusts that are Australian based and make a significant contribution to the economy or the community by conducting commercial operations in that state—for example, engage local labour and use local materials and services and exhibit good corporate behaviour. There is no such exemption in Queensland.

My question is: why didn't the Palaszczuk government give an exemption similar to the one I just mentioned in Victoria so as to ensure that Queensland does not remain disadvantaged compared to other states with regard to foreign investment?

**Mr BENNETT:** I also rise to speak to clause 17. During my contribution today I also raised the issue of deep concerns coming from regional Queensland. This has only come to light because people are starting to sift through the budget papers. Since 2016 we have had a lot of issues around what tax hits mean for those people who invest in our great state from overseas. We have seen some real life examples that I would like to place on the record.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, you cannot interject while you are out of your seat.

**Mr BENNETT:** I suppose the interjection is reflective of my concerns. Are we going to acknowledge that 6.1 per cent of Queensland is now owned by foreign investors, who do great work employing Queenslanders and put their cash into these companies? I must talk about companies like the macadamia growers that are coming from South Africa or England. Are we really that concerned about what they have to offer? We should be embracing these companies. I also want to talk about the sugar millers, who are a good example for most of us in regional Queensland. I have been told today that the bill for Bundaberg Sugar will increase from—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, they can keep interjecting, but I would like to place on the record the real consequence of this particular clause. All I am asking for is a real go for those employees in regional Queensland who rely on foreign investment for a real outcome.

As a result of last year's tax hike, Bundaberg Sugar's bill rose to \$1.27 million. This year it will also go up \$1.27 million, so we have a doubling of a tax liability on land tax for Bundaberg Sugar. MSF Sugar, who have mills all up and down the coast, will have an increase of another nearly \$1 million based on the equations that we have been able to put together in the last couple of days now that we know this tax hike is coming.

I also raised today the real prospect that this bill will be in conflict with free trade agreements. Free trade agreements are something that the Commonwealth is trying to do in relation to exports and imports. The country works in a global community, and I think that as a state we should reflect and make sure we consider these things. There is a clause in these free trade agreements—and I will use Thailand's free trade agreement as an example—that relates to 'most favoured nation'. I understand that you cannot legislate to make sure that one particular group is excluded over another, and I would call out and say that clause 17 clearly may be in conflict with that.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** The members at the back who keep interjecting need to listen and reflect about what this big tax hike might mean to their regions.

I would also highlight the fact that agricultural enterprises, whether they are foreign or Australian, work on margins that are very slim. Some work on two to five per cent. I particularly want to address those regional members who will not be here next time, and I want to talk about what another two per cent increase in their tax liabilities might mean. I ask that we seriously consider what this new big tax might mean.

We have form in this space. In 2016 the attack started on foreign investment and what those land taxes might mean. I outlined them today. Since 2016 there have been nine new taxes increasingly imposed on foreign investment. I ask this House: what do we want to be known as? We all talk about this utopia of understanding. Do we really want to send a message to those foreign investors who think Queensland is the best place to invest their money that Queensland is not open for business? Do you really want to do that? Are we honestly going to say to all of those great companies coming into Central Queensland from overseas to invest in hydrogen, for example, 'You now have to pay. We are going to slug you. We are not going to accept you because we want to tax you to oblivion'?

I ask all of those members in North Queensland who have sugar mills if they are really going to double the bill on all of those foreign investors. All of those foreign investors in your region have faith in you: the last thing we need to do is to not show faith in them. Tonight is a great example. We are going to put another big tax on all of these great international companies—global companies—and I would ask you to reconsider. Do you honestly think that for all of those sugar mills, all of those foundries and all of those companies up and down the coast whose tax bill you are going to double overnight—

*(Time expired)*

**Ms TRAD:** I think we just saw an audition for the next shadow Treasurer. That was much better than the member for Everton's contribution on this clause. I note that the former treasurer and former opposition Treasury spokesperson, the member for Clayfield, also jumped to his feet. I am very moved by their concern—

**An opposition member:** It's a serious question.

**Ms TRAD:** Yes, it is a serious question. I will take that interjection. I am very moved by their concern for the millers, considering that it was the member for Clayfield, the member for Nanango and those opposite who came into this place to take away power from the millers to actually negotiate the cost of—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection. They were not concerned then—

**Mr Dick:** The impact on foreign investment.

**Ms TRAD:** No, they were not concerned about the impact on foreign investment then. Let me reassure the member for Burnett that this surcharge is actually no different from the additional foreign acquirer duty and land tax foreign surcharges that currently exist in New South Wales, the ACT and Victoria. In terms of offending free trade agreements, I think the member should be reassured by the fact that there has been no challenge to date.

I go to the point of this additional revenue measure. I am very pleased that the member for Burnett got up and made a contribution on this because the Palaszczuk Labor government is absolutely investing in the Burnett region. We do that because we know that we need to have revenue measures that support the provision of services and infrastructure within that community. We are asking foreign companies and trusts to actually pay a little bit more. To be very clear, this change will affect about five per cent of all companies, trusts and absentees currently paying land tax.

This is so we can reinvest in the communities where they exist. It is not just about these companies coming in—and they are very welcome in our state—and making that investment. If those members opposite are so concerned, all they need to do is look at our 13th consecutive month of record-breaking exports. Queensland is clearly the place to invest, and it is a place where Queensland companies can export to the world.

We welcome their investment; we absolutely welcome their investment. Like Australian taxpayers who do the heavy lifting when it comes to funding services, infrastructure and a whole range of things that governments do on behalf of the people in these regional communities, we want these foreign companies, these trusts, to do a bit more. We make no apology for that because we are not going to stand in this place and make \$7 billion worth of commitments and not say where the money is coming from. We are just not going to do that.

If those opposite want the hospitals, the schools and the services, then they need the revenue measures. They actually need to demonstrate where the money is coming from. I know there is this conception that you can get up and say whatever you want, but at some stage you actually need to demonstrate to the people of Queensland how you are going to continue to provide the services that they need and how you are going to fulfil all of your commitments without cutting, sacking and selling. All of those members on that side of the chamber have been absolutely—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:** They are absolutely incapable of talking to the people of Queensland around how they are going to fund their commitments. On this side of the House—

**Mr Millar:** Stop taxing people.

**Ms TRAD:** Do you want to talk about taxing people? The member for Gregory wants to talk about taxing people. The first thing they did when they came in here was to hike up the taxes on transfer duties. That was \$1 billion that came out of the pockets of Queensland households and into their budget, and debt went up, workers were sacked and the fiscal deficit posted was the worst in Queensland's history. They have the gall to come in here and complain about this when all they need to do is look at their own track record.



We have made modest measures which are not about increasing the tax burden on Queenslanders. When they were in office, the tax burden for Queenslanders was \$100 more per person than it currently is. Quite frankly, those opposite are absolutely incapable of demonstrating to the people of Queensland that they are worthy to sit on this side of the House.

**Mr MANDER:** This government are clearly xenophobic when it comes to investment in this state. They are clearly xenophobic when it comes to investment in this state.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The reference that the member for Everton made was about the government. As has been held in the standing orders before in this place, one cannot take personal offence when the member has not been personally addressed.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order because it was not directed at a particular person. It was directed at the government.

**Mr MANDER:** As I said, this government are xenophobic when it comes to investment in this state. There is no greater example than the Adani debacle that has taken place over the last eight years. The government have done everything possible to put an obstacle course in front of Adani rather than an approval process. Now they are bringing in this tax as well, when this state desperately needs foreign investment, when this state desperately needs business confidence and when this state has 6.2 per cent unemployment and desperately needs jobs. We should be doing everything possible to encourage foreign investment in this state.

This is now the ninth either extra or additional tax that has been introduced since this Palaszczuk government came into power. We had \$2.2 billion worth of new taxes introduced last budget, and now we have another \$1.2 billion being taken out of the economy, out of those businesses, out of those corporations that invest and create jobs for people. This government has no idea of the impact of these types of increases. What type of government continues to increase taxes, gets a massive coal royalty bonus and still has to borrow so much that we are heading towards \$90 billion worth of debt?

This Treasurer has given up on debt. There is no intention whatsoever. There is no plan whatsoever to pay that debt down. We have a debt bomb that our children and our grandchildren will have to pay for in the future. It is no wonder I cannot get the intersection upgrade outside my office in Everton Park when we do not have any money. There are hundreds of examples of investment that needs to be done in this state but cannot be done because of the borrowing that is taking place by the worst Treasurer in state government history.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is consideration in detail. We are speaking to a specific clause and I ask that the member be brought back to the clause.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The clause that we are dealing with, clause 17, involves a tax increase on foreign companies and foreign trusts. The member is highly relevant to the clause.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Kawana, for your guidance on what clause we are on; I am aware of that. However, I do not see any point about the Treasurer's performance in that particular clause. I would then counsel the member for Everton to come back to the clause or I will ask you to sit down.

**Mr MANDER:** Businesses can only take so much, and they have been hammered by this government in the last budget and in this budget as well. This is the so-called big end of town, but they have no idea of the flow-on effect of these kinds of taxes for small businesses that have to lease properties. Those costs have to be passed down—and we have seen it already with the waste tax. This afternoon I had somebody ring me up who had gone to the dump. This was a small business person who has to pay more because of the waste levy. A tax is a tax.

**Ms Trad:** It hasn't started.

**Mr MANDER:** No, but it has been signalled; that is how bad it is. They have a couple of weeks head start.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, this is not an opportunity to shout at each other across the chamber.

**Mr MANDER:** Councils have already put the fees up in anticipation of the waste tax. They have put these fees up in anticipation of the waste tax.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I think I know what you are going to ask. What is your point of order?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am pretty sure this is not a clause on the waste tax.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, this will be the last time I will counsel you to talk to the clause before us, otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr MANDER:** Let me say it again: this tax is a job-destroying tax as are the other taxes that this government has introduced in this budget and the budget before it. Businesses can only take so much. This government has to realise it has a flow-on effect on jobs, confidence and investment.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker—I am happy to let the member for Clayfield go first.

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I will go if no-one else wants to go next.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Burnett.

**Mr BENNETT:** While the deliberations are going on I will take the opportunity to speak. I look forward to the member for Clayfield's contribution.

I want to come back to clause 17, which amends section 32. I will try to give examples for those opposite of how insidious this might be. Let's remember that investors from overseas are going to look at their bottom line. This tax will affect whether they invest in Queensland or not. These tax slugs and the job-generating investment that comes from overseas are really important to our state. I could name a litany of companies that come to our country and provide opportunities for our kids. For us in regional Queensland those opportunities usually come in the form of foreign investment and those people who come here to have a go. We should remember that Queensland is a great state for those people with aspirations to go forward. I want to name some iconic brands in Queensland that are foreign owned companies that are now going to be sluggish with big new taxes, as they have been since 2016.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** I thank those opposite for their disrespect for those iconic companies that have come to Queensland. I need to highlight the impacts of these taxes. It is staggering when we think about the agricultural investment and the tourism investment. I want to talk about some companies in the hope that people might start to reflect—and at least acknowledge—that this is not something in the never-never; this is something that affects us all. I am talking about companies like Billabong, XXXX, Bundaberg Rum, Golden Circle, the ice-cream giants Weis, Kirks soft drinks, Pauls and, more importantly, MIM Holdings in Mount Isa. These are foreign owned companies that are now going to double their tax liability because of this tax. If we cannot talk about what Defiance Flour will pay—all of these things are really important to us. That is only after a quick Google search. I am sure if we did a lot more work on how much—

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** The member for Stretton can laugh and talk about what it means. However, I am sure that in Stretton there are companies that are foreign owned whose employees rely on the opportunities that come from foreign investment.

We all have these issues but this should not be about foreign ownership or an opportunity to just get revenue in the bank. As I said before, are we honestly going to say to the global community that Queensland is now the highest taxed community to come and invest in? That is unacceptable. I look around Queensland every time I travel. There are so many great companies doing great things and a lot of them have foreign investment. Do we honestly think that if we have a global footprint of 6.1 per cent of our state now owned by foreign multinationals we should tax them into oblivion? Is that what we want?

All of us in regional Queensland in particular want those companies to come here and invest. So many times I have heard members in this place—and even the Premier today—talking about the importance of those companies. We have ministers jetting all over the globe trying to bring in those

companies. Can you imagine what that prospectus would look like? 'You can come, you can invest, but look out! We're going to take you to the wall.' As I said earlier, we have not let up about these companies since 2016. This government is continually attacking these companies. I just ask: do we really want to be known as the state that continually kicks these companies into the long grass?

If we are going to do this, I ask one thing of the Treasurer: can we at least look for exemptions for those companies that have good corporate policies, that are good corporate citizens that might have an employment threshold and that employ my grandchildren or your children? Can we at least get on board with what the other states in Australia are doing?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Mr BENNETT:** Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are other opportunities for us to embrace multinationals in our community and in our investment cycle—a big part of our society. Let's look at exemptions for those that we want to retain. Let's look at those opportunities for our kids. We cannot do it on our own; we know that, so let's not become the state of big taxes, big debt and fewer jobs.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Let me firstly say that the shadow Treasurer is exactly right in terms of the points that he has made in the debate so far on clause 17, as is the member for Burnett in relation to what he said. What we are seeing play out here in Queensland is what we would have seen play out federally if a Shorten Labor government had been elected because it is from the same playbook. I used to say that Labor never saw a tax they did not like and would not raise, and they never missed an opportunity to put their hand in someone else's pocket and take their money out. This budget and this clause do exactly that.

The member for Burnett has spoken about foreign investors. He has spoken about the impact of the surcharge that will apply to foreign investors, and that is a valid point because those foreign investors are the investors who own—in part or in whole—the shopping centres that we all go to. Those foreign investors own the buildings that are built here in the CBD from which small businesses take 100 square metres of leasing space and employ four or five people. Those small businesses will now be hit with more and more rent rises as a result of this. It is a fallacy to think that the landlord is not going to, in some way, try to recover the increase in land tax, because they have people they need to respond to. It is not just the foreign owners who do it; it is those who have worked hard, who have saved, who have invested prudently and who are Queensland citizens who are going to be paying a 0.25 per cent increase in land tax on properties, if they own them, of more than \$5 million. Here in the south-east that will affect a lot of people.

A fellow sent me an email on Tuesday night which shows exactly how this property owners tax, this investors tax—and, indeed, probably the retirees tax because many retirees get their income through property investments—is going to affect him. This is what Labor's state retirees tax is going to do. The email states—

Hello Tim,

I notice that the labour government has increased land tax rates by 10%. This is on top of a 100% increase in unimproved land values. I really have to ask who do they think can afford this type of tax increase and where is the justification. In the first instant the landlord gets hit. We then have to decide whether or not to pass it on knowing damn well that the tenants can't afford it. So what would you do if you were me? Go broke and break the tenants.

The reserve bank does not drop interest rates for fun, they do it for a reason but sadly the labour government seems to think that we deserve to pay double tax from one year to the next. Ultimately the cost will be passed on and the tenants will go broke and people will lose their jobs. I for one have just about had enough of the battle. If I get out quickly enough I will be ok. As for my employees, all 20 of them, who cares, clearly the government doesn't. Maybe they can all get a job in the public service.

Best wishes

That is the effect not on huge corporations or public superannuation funds who invest here: that is the impact on a small business person who worked their whole life, owns a property, runs their business from that property, has tenants and employs 20 Queenslanders. What are they saying? 'The doubling in tax is forcing me to say, "I think I have had enough. I will get out."' I refer to the taxes of envy and the taxes on business. Property taxes are the taxes destroying this state. It is okay for the Treasurer to say, 'We choose to increase taxes.' That is their policy decision and choice, but it is a bad decision and a bad choice. Economists know that, for every extra dollar of taxes raised, 30 to 40 per cent of it is wasted. It does not actually deliver anything.

The fiscal drag from raising these sorts of taxes from captive audiences who have no choice but to pay it will have an enormous impact on this economy. This is nothing more than a blatant tax grab. As we saw in Budget Paper No. 2 in table 4.2, taxes under this government are up by 8.7 per cent last

year and 5.4 per cent this year cumulatively. It is 5.4 per cent on top of the taxes that were increased by 8.7 per cent last year. It gets higher and higher and the excuse offered by this Treasurer is, 'Well, we need a little bit more.' They never think about doing a little bit—

*(Time expired)*

**Ms TRAD:** I will address a couple of the issues just raised by a number of members. First, I thank the member for Clayfield for speaking. I know that the member for Kawana did not want him to, because it does shine a light on the quality of the member for Everton's contribution. I think everyone in this chamber understood that to be the case. I want to go through some facts here, because it is incredibly important to put facts on the table when talking about this additional increase in land tax for those holdings of \$5 million or more related to foreign companies and trusts. When it comes to our tax competitiveness, we on this side of the House value Queensland's tax competitiveness. We are the most tax competitive state in mainland Australia. We are the most competitive when it comes to ensuring that we keep down the percentage of tax as a proportion of GSP. For every single Queenslander, the tax liability now under Labor is lower and much more competitive than under those opposite.

Let us look at the facts. When those opposite were in government, tax as a proportion of GSP was 4.3 per cent. Under us, it is currently 3.8 per cent. We have decreased taxation as a proportion of GSP because we choose to make the right revenue measures but, most of all, to grow our economy. That is what we have done through foreign investment and trade in this state. I refer to Rheinmetall. Recently I was in Mackay to announce a \$14 million package to incentivise foreign investment in Mackay to protect 800 jobs. That is our track record and I am happy to pit it against those opposite any day of the week, because clearly those opposite absolutely have no idea what they are talking about. For the member for Everton to get up and talk about the waste levy being charged before 1 July, it means he has not even read last year's budget papers let alone this year's budget papers.

My other point is that not only does the member for Everton not read budget papers but he does not keep track of election commitments in his own electorate, because that intersection to which he was referring has been funded. We made an election commitment to fund it. We will deliver it.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:** At this point in time I acknowledge the member for Whitsunday's excellent interjection in relation to this intersection upgrade when he said, 'Why bother? No-one wants to visit the member for Everton anyway. Why would we need roads to the member for Everton's office when nobody wants to visit him?' Seriously, this mob over here want to talk about foreign investment but the LNP amendments through the Katter party's bill were just a mess.

At that time, what did the industry say in relation to it? The former foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop, wrote to the opposition outlining her concerns about foreign sovereign risk because of those amendments, because of their position in terms of re-regulating the sugar industry. Seriously, for those opposite to come in here when they put into jeopardy billions of dollars worth of investment in regional Queensland through their re-regulation process is just hypocritical. I am pleased that not only have we proven our strong fiscal management but we have decreased the tax burden on Queenslanders that we inherited from those opposite.

**Mr HART:** I am really glad that the Treasurer raised that issue of sovereign risk, because this is exactly what the Labor Party is doing with this clause. Surprisingly enough, most members on this side realise what will happen as at one stage or another we were businesspeople. I employed hundreds of people and still own millions of dollars' worth of companies. When I invest, I look at exactly in what situation I am investing. I look at what are the taxes, what will be the income streams and the expenses and work out how much profit I will make in the future. That is what I base my whole investment on. If foreign investors are looking at Queensland at the moment—and we saw this with companies such as Adani and the process it has gone through—and have the target moved constantly on them by a government that does not understand what it is doing and thinks that it can tax its way everywhere, we will see such companies reassess whether they in fact want to invest in Queensland.

We cannot afford that, because these people will put their money somewhere else and the people of Queensland will suffer. When that happens, this government will not get those taxes because they will not exist anymore. If those foreigners leave this country and take away their investment, there will be no foreign investment tax at all. That will not happen. It is quite clear that those opposite clearly do not understand how business works. They do not understand that we cannot tax these companies into

oblivion. For the Premier to come into this House and say with regard to taxes that these companies can pay a little bit more—and she is talking about the LNG tax increase of 25 per cent—and a little bit more, we know what will happen. We add all those ‘little bit mores’ and all of a sudden ‘we do not want to play here anymore; we will go somewhere else and play. We will take our money and will not invest in this state anymore’. What sort of result will that have for your so-called jobs mantra?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member for Burleigh.

**Mr HART:** This is an attack on jobs and a tax on jobs. It is quite clear that the government does not know what it is doing. Those opposite think they can achieve this by just increasing tax. That will not work. Businesspeople know what they are doing, unlike those opposite.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to address a number of issues and outline why clause 17 should be opposed by members in this House. Aside from the fact that it taxes people more, this tax increase was not discussed or flagged and formed no part of any election commitment that I am aware of. This Treasurer was not the treasurer in 2017. It was not part of any election promise. The Treasurer has said that people have to be transparent and open. She was part of the government that 72 hours before the election, in the blackout period, announced four new taxes and then, after getting elected, wanted to spring on another new tax—the waste levy, raising \$1.3 billion. When it comes to being open and transparent on taxes, this government does not stand on solid ground. It stands on very shaky ground.

The Treasurer spoke about being competitive with New South Wales and Victoria. The reality is that Queensland needs to be doing better than New South Wales and Victoria. We need to be cheaper than New South Wales and Victoria. We do not need to be the same as them. When businesses—particularly foreign businesses—invest, unfortunately they look first at Melbourne or Sydney. They do not look at Brisbane first. We have to be better to get them here. We have to be better in terms of land tax, our business regulation and our land use regulation, and we have to be faster in our approvals process. Those are the things business is concerned about.

We have heard the Treasurer talk about the incentives they offer to keep people here—for example Mackay Sugar, 800 people. If the land tax rate was lower, the payroll tax rate was lower, the electricity price was better, the land use was better and the government was facilitating business better, it would not have to go around putting band-aids on businesses that are closing down all the time. It is a false argument. If we were doing better the government would not need to go back out and make all of these grandiose offers, spending more taxpayers’ money because it had the fundamentals wrong in the first place.

Then we had the Treasurer talk about the tax-to-GSP ratio. What the Treasurer did not say is that in the first year of the LNP government, in 2012-13, revenues had to be written down by \$5.4 billion because the previous government had overestimated by 14 per cent the amount of stamp duty it was going to get in, despite that previous government having removed the principal place of residence concession for home owners, and overestimated the coal royalties, which fell off a cliff. This is a government that has experience the other way around. The Treasurer is now claiming responsibility for the Chinese steel makers coming into the world and paying top dollar and demanding a higher and higher dollar for it, and she is taking responsibility for the Australian dollar going from 92 cents down to 70 cents in the dollar, improving the value of our export earnings.

The Treasurer’s arguments on all counts are flawed. On gross state product to state revenue, what she is failing to tell you is that billions of dollars of revenue writedowns had to be incurred because the previous Labor government went to the election with dodgy figures. What the Treasurer has also failed to say is the total accumulated—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnell!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The Treasurer is also failing to highlight the total accumulated fiscal balance over the period from 2015-16 to 2022-23, the eight years of Labor budgets and projections. The total accumulated fiscal balance is negative \$17.1 billion. In other words, since 2015-16 the Palaszczuk government has spent \$17.1 billion more than the revenue provided by the Queensland taxpayers and in grants from the Commonwealth. That is the reason the taxes are going up. The key figure is net debt. The Treasurer has not mentioned net debt—the amount we owe versus the amount we have. It is increasing to a record \$19 billion out to 2022-23. That is why this tax is being introduced. It is not a good reason and it should be opposed.

*(Time expired)*

Division: Question put—That clause 17, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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


**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—

 **Mr MANDER** (8.50 pm): This clause of course talks about another tax—one of the nine extra or increased taxes that this government has introduced since it was elected in 2015. This tax increases the land tax rates for companies and trustees with aggregated land holdings above \$5 million by 0.25 percentage points. The argument against this impost is the same as the one we have just been arguing—that is, how can we expect businesses to have confidence to invest when they keep getting whacked with these extra taxes?

In this sitting of parliament I have not heard one minister refer to Scott Morrison and his victory, but the other day during her press conference I did hear the Treasurer channel ScoMo when she said with regard to repaying the debt, 'We're going to grow the economy.' The Treasurer needs to take some lessons from ScoMo to realise that you cannot tax your way to growth. You cannot tax your way to further investment and business confidence. That is why people are not investing in this state. This Treasurer—the worst Treasurer in Queensland's history—could learn a lot from our federal counterparts who have a national unemployment rate one full per cent lower than Queensland. This Treasurer could learn a lot from the federal government with regard to how it instils confidence in the business community.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, there is way too much ambient noise in this chamber. If you are not participating in this debate and you are not willing to make a contribution, please take your conversations outside.

**Mr MANDER:** As has been the case with all of the new and increased taxes, there has been little or, more accurately, no consultation with stakeholders and those who are affected by this. In fact, they have been given the opposite in that they have been given a false sense of security in that they have been given confidence in the future, thinking that the scenario was not going to change after the assurances they received from this government, from the Premier and from the Treasurer. The Property Council's 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 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.

That is the cold, hard reality of these taxes and members of this government cannot understand the effect of this. This is another tax that is part of the nine extra or increased taxes—another tax that is \$1.2 billion this year in increased revenue, another tax that is part of the \$3.4 billion that has been taken out of the economy since this government has come into power. As I said earlier, businesses can only take so much until it has a severe impact on everyday Queenslanders, and it is already having an impact.

**Mr BENNETT:** There is consistency in what we have been talking about tonight in terms of this attack, and I want to reflect on regional Queensland in particular, on businesses with land holdings of more than \$5 million but less than \$10 million. As I have been trying to reiterate all night, this is a big new tax on what we have in Queensland. We cannot underestimate how important it is to treat foreign

investors with respect but, more importantly, providing opportunities for Queenslanders, particularly the youth in our regions who just want an opportunity. This House needs to at least acknowledge what this is going to mean in the future. We cannot continue to double down on tax, particularly for those companies and trustees, and we continually change the amendments and what they look like.

I say this to those opposite, particularly those who live in regional Queensland: foreign investment, whatever it looks like, is usually criticised by those in our community who sometimes we would prefer not to be discussing it with. This House needs to at least consider how insidious this is going to be for those investors who want to come to our great communities and our great regional cities and make those investments and put their faith in us. However, tonight we are sending the wrong message and a serious message about what it is going to mean to invest in Queensland.

I do not know how many more times we have to talk about what this means. Again, since 2016 we have gone on a rampage with property taxes and sending the wrong message to foreign investors. It staggers me why we would continue to stand up and talk about foreign investment, continually talk about trade missions and continually talk about what those opportunities are when we sit here and continually vote against what is good for Queensland. Surely there are other ways to raise revenue, and tax is not the way. Let us create an environment for those foreign investors to have confidence in Queensland. Let us get on with that. Let them pay their tax, but let them create opportunities for those Queenslanders, particularly in remote communities, who might just want that employment opportunity.

This is a great opportunity for us tonight to send a message. Clause 18 is a bad tax. We have talked about it. The opposition Treasury spokesperson articulated it very well. Again, I implore members opposite to think about what this means for Queensland. We cannot go down this road for much longer. This tax is a big tax that is doubling tax implications for those investors. Those who live in regional Queensland, particularly those opposite, should think about what this means for our kids. If those opposite think taxing ourselves into prosperity is the way to go, I again ask them to reflect: if they were sitting overseas looking at what we are debating tonight, would they have any confidence in what it means to invest in Queensland? Since 2016 there have been nine new taxes in the property sector. There will be another new tax next year. Why would investors come and why would they invest, especially given what that will mean for us? It is a bad tax. Let us vote it down.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Another day in Queensland parliament, another tax with the Australian Labor Party with the Palaszczuk Labor government. What is telling about this new tax by the worst Treasurer in Queensland's history—the highest taxing Treasurer in Queensland's history—is that those opposite were interjecting earlier in terms of opposition MPs having a say on behalf of their constituents. Do members know what I love? I love the fact that we have members of parliament on our side who understand this, because where are the ministers standing up defending a bad budget? Where are the Labor ministers standing up defending another tax—the ninth tax? Where were the ministers? All of the ministers sitting over there were silent before, not standing up and defending the worst Treasurer in Queensland's history, the highest taxing Treasurer in Queensland's history. Where were all of the ministers?

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Were they silent—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you will resume your seat before interjecting in this chamber, and that is a reminder for all members.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** As I was saying, it is great and refreshing that Liberal National Party members can get up and talk about the cost implications of this tax regime on people in business in Queensland, because the Labor members have no idea of the impact that this tax will have on businesses. They think that this money it wants to tax grows on trees. When you tax an individual they have less money to spend at their grocery store. When you tax a business they have less money by which to employ people. In regional Queensland there is a 14 per cent unemployment rate. In outback regional Queensland there is a 25 per cent youth unemployment rate. The members want to tax these companies—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection from the shadow Treasurer. In outback Queensland there is an over 40 per cent unemployment rate. The members opposite want to tax companies more because they think they have the capacity to pay. When companies are taxed more they do not employ people. The government is not going to reduce the unemployment rate in Queensland by taxing its way to growth, taxing its way to prosperity.

I love the fact that ScoMo took tax cuts to an election. How refreshing! On election day, 18 May, in Queensland people went into the polling booth and they voted in droves for tax cuts. In Queensland the result was unbelievable. It was the worst result for the Labor Party since wartime—a 26 per cent vote for the Labor Party.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 149, members are to be strictly relevant to the clause that we are debating. I ask that the member be brought back to the clause.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, can you come back to the clause that we are debating, which is clause 18, or if you can demonstrate how you are being relevant to that clause.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Clause 18 introduces a new tax in Queensland. The Liberal National Party opposes this new tax. I can tell members that Queenslanders will oppose this new tax regime. They will oppose this new tax on October 2020.

When governments take taxation increases to an election the people speak. On 18 May, the people spoke in droves. They will have a chance to judge this Labor government on this tax increase.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If I were the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development I would not be interjecting. The minister has overseen an over 40 per cent youth unemployment rate in outback Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, I am listening to your contribution and I am looking at clause 18. I am struggling to see how you are being relevant to that clause. As we all know, the second reading debate is the time for the broader debate on the issues, many of which you are discussing now. I ask you to come back to clause and be relevant to clause 18.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We oppose this job-destroying tax, as we will oppose the other job-destroying new taxes and tax increases that we will debate throughout the evening. As the honourable shadow Treasurer has said, we will oppose this tax as it will act as a disincentive to employing people in regional communities. This is a job-destroying tax. All of these new taxes are job destroying.

It will be refreshing when we win in October 2020 as the Liberal National Party has committed to no taxation increases. I implore all honourable members to vote down this job-destroying disincentive taxation increase imposed by the worst Treasurer in Queensland's history and the highest-taxing Treasurer in Queensland's history.

Division: Question put—That clause 18, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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


**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—

 **Mr MANDER** (9.08 pm): It is a familiar story. This clause contains another increase in tax. This tax increases the absentee surcharge from 1.5 per cent to two per cent. Let us not forget who introduced the absentee surcharge: it was the Labor government. Now it is not satisfied with the rate and wants to increase this tax.

One has to ask what effect this increase will have on the property market. We already know that there are challenges in the property market. We already know that earlier this year the worst Treasurer in the history of Queensland government made the most monumental blunder when she made a small miscalculation of \$1.3 billion in property transfer duty because of the challenges that we have in the property market. This occurred about six weeks after MYFER.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, I ask you to come back to clause 19.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I am relating this clause to the fact that this clause contains a surcharge that will impact on business confidence, particularly in the property market.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just to give some guidance, I will allow some contextual debate, but this is consideration in detail, not the second reading debate.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, thank you for that guidance. As I have said, all of the taxes in this bill that have been either introduced or increased have been done without consultation. My question to the Treasurer is: what modelling did Treasury undertake to assess the impact that this hike would have on Queensland's struggling property market?

**Ms TRAD:** This clause seeks to harmonise the rate of land tax for absentee foreign investors with the rate in Victoria and New South Wales. We know that the major impact on the Australian property sector is, in fact, the damaging economic management of the Morrison LNP government.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:** The effects currently being experienced in the property sector in Queensland are not limited to Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is responding to the question asked by the member for Everton. I ask that you hear the answer.

**Ms TRAD:** I thought it was the member for Maroochydore interjecting. It was the member for Broadwater. It is incredible. The impact of the financial management of the Morrison government has seen consumption spending in our nation take a dive and wages in our economy in terms of growth stagnate, something that the Reserve Bank is very concerned about. The federal government has essentially removed itself from its obligations and responsibility to keep the national economy ticking over and that has played out in terms of the property sector. When it comes to modelling the effect of this harmonisation measure, I think it is important to start with how the federal government has managed the economy.

As I said before, this is a harmonisation measure. It is about an additional surcharge on those absentee foreign investors in our state. This is a much better measure than those opposite proposed when they were in government, which was to put their hands in the pockets of Queenslanders and charge them more for insurance duty and, on top of that, hike up royalties. We also saw power increase by 43 per cent under those opposite. This is a very, very reasonable issue.

**Mr HART:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. The Treasurer is talking about power prices now. Where is that in the clause?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leave that up to me, member for Burleigh. I have been listening to the contribution and I think the Deputy Premier is being quite relevant.

**Ms TRAD:** I do not have anything else to add. I stand by our record of making sure that we have very measured revenue responses to the current economic conditions we are experiencing. We make no apology for delivering to the people of Queensland.

**Mr MANDER:** That response—

**Mr Minnikin:** Sums it all up.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth—that sums it all up. We have just heard from the Treasurer a euphemism for increasing taxes and it is harmonising taxes. Earlier the Treasurer talked about our taxes being lower than other states. Then she looked at the other states to see what taxes they imposed. She saw those that were higher than ours and said 'Great! Let us match that. Let us harmonise it.' That is their excuse and justification for increased taxes.

That shows that this Treasurer has absolutely no idea with regard to having a competitive property sector. We want to be a low tax state. We want to be a state that people want to come and invest in. This Treasurer wants to harmonise—which is another word for increase—taxes. That is a classic socialist point of view: rather than be the best, drag us all down to the lowest common denominator. We have absolutely no chance to get ourselves out of the dire straits that we are in economically in this state with this Treasurer making these types of decisions with that type of justification.

**Mr HART:** The shadow Treasurer has stolen the words right out of my mouth. Harmonisation? Seriously? That is where we are going to go here? This clause raises the rate from 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent. We are going to harmonise it with a 30 per cent increase in taxes. As the Premier said, these companies can afford to pay just a little bit more. Apparently now it is no longer 25 per cent, it is 30 per cent. When we harmonise, of course, we take away that competitive advantage that Queensland has over all of the other states. Why give anybody any opportunity or any hope whatsoever, any reason to come and play in Queensland rather than go to New South Wales or Victoria or Western Australia? Next they will be saying they should all be going down and playing in Tasmania instead of coming to Queensland. That is where the Queensland Labor Party would like to take us. A 30 per cent increase in tax is completely unacceptable to anybody who wants to invest in any way in Queensland. It will scare them away in droves. This is a terrible idea.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana called me 'Mr Speaker' so I will go to him.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have been clear about members' correct titles being used in this place.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In the answer the Treasurer gave previously to the honourable shadow minister's questions she confirmed that the property sector is doing it tough. She talked about the challenges facing the property sector in Queensland. If, as the Deputy Premier has now confirmed, the property sector is doing it tough, my question in relation to this clause is why would a government increase the taxation on the property sector and not reduce it?

Division: Question put—That clause 19, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.


Pair: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 31, as read, agreed to.

Clause 32—

 **Mr MANDER** (9.23 pm): Clause 32 talks about payroll tax. You have to go through the budget papers very thoroughly to find any good news at all, but I concede that there is one glimmer of good news.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you very much; I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. The good news relates to our policy of giving payroll tax relief to small and medium sized businesses. We have been campaigning for this for a long time, in fact, ever since this government has been in power.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Cooper, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I have made myself clear: for the benefit of the House and getting through this budget sitting, you will listen to the chair.

**Mr MANDER:** We welcome the concessions made to small businesses, so we will not be voting against the clause. However, I note that this government gives with one hand and takes with the other. There is always some bad news associated with any good news.

**Mr Minnikin:** Mean and tricky.

**Mr MANDER:** It is mean and tricky; I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Clause 32 also brings a higher rate of payroll tax, 4.95 per cent, for those businesses with taxable wages worth more than \$6.5 million a year, raising about \$544 million over four years. That is \$544 million out of the \$1.2 billion extra revenue that will come from this tax and, of course, other taxes. As I said, with this government one can never think that there is only good news. There is always something that takes away from the good news.

I have a question for the Treasurer. This is a tax that punishes businesses and companies for employing people. That leads me to ask the Treasurer whether this increased payroll tax contributed to the drop in the employment growth forecast in the budget compared to last year's projection?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** On this side of the House we are incredibly proud of our initiatives to finally give small and medium businesses some payroll tax relief. This is a policy that those opposite promised to implement. Their policy was to give payroll tax relief to small and medium businesses over a decade. On this side of the House we are providing payroll tax relief for small and medium businesses as of 1 July.

This is about generating jobs. Not only are we increasing the threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million; we are also giving regional businesses a one per cent discount. Of course, let us not forget what the business community has had to say about this fantastic initiative. Nick Behrens said our payroll tax relief for small businesses is the jewel in the crown of this budget. The CCIQ said that it was wonderful to see that this government has listened and is delivering, and that this will be the key driver for jobs and growth.

**Ms Trad:** Like the member for Buderim said.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** That is right; I take that interjection. The CCIQ and the member for Buderim are as one on our budget. It is fantastic to see that the business community has absolutely backed us on providing relief for small businesses.

I want to reflect on the member for Everton's comment about the increase in payroll tax for bigger businesses. That was the policy that the CCIQ put to us and it is the same policy they put to those opposite. This is absolutely about generating jobs, because small businesses drive the economy and they drive jobs growth in Queensland. It is about time we stood up and gave Queensland small businesses some relief, so that they can generate jobs. We make no apologies for giving small and medium businesses tax relief. It is what they have asked for, it is what they have campaigned for and it is what we are delivering.

**Mr DICK:** I rise to make one small contribution, which is this: Labor is the party of small business. For too long the Liberal National Party has taken small business for granted. The minister for small business has told us how this promise was made by the LNP, but never delivered. They promised to deliver it over a decade. I commend the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for the work that she has done to put small business at the centre of this budget. It is one of the signature achievements of the budget and it will make a difference in Queensland. It will help small business generate jobs. This budget will help small business generate employment and that will apply to businesses across the length and breadth of Queensland.

There is a very clear contrast between what the Liberal National Party says in this state and what the Australian Labor Party does. We govern for all people. We govern for workers and we respect their representative trade unions, and we govern for business. That is why I am proud to be the minister for state development. It is why the minister for small business is pleased to do what she does every day. It is why the Treasurer puts it front and centre. We do this because of the life experiences that people such as the Treasurer and I have had growing up in small business. I acknowledge on the record the hard work and contributions that people such as my parents, particularly my father, and others have made to the growth of jobs and employment opportunities in this state. I am very proud of this initiative that the Treasurer has delivered to the people of our state.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** These two changes are yet another iniquitous example of Labor taking with one hand and attempting to cover it up on the other. We have heard the member for Waterford speak about the policy. We actually introduced this policy. We delivered the first tranche of it in 2012. We had it in our 2014-15 budget and the only people who vociferously opposed it were the Labor Party. They did

not like it. They went to that election in 2015 saying, 'It is unnecessary. Our policy is different.' They had the apprentices rebate policy, as you will well remember, Mr Speaker. They certainly never endorsed increasing the threshold. Our policy was going to increase the threshold by \$100,000 each and every year.

Unfortunately—and I do say unfortunately—as I said at the time, because of the circumstances we found ourselves in we had to have a pause on it. As soon as we could we had that back in. We had it budgeted for. That threshold would have been going up on 1 July 2015. The Labor Party simply needed to say, 'We adopt that.' It was there already. It was part of the budget. What happened? The Labor Party said, 'No, we disagree with it. We do not believe in that policy. We do not want it.'

For them to come in now and say, 'Buddha made a miracle. We have found the answer,' is simply to mislead the people of Queensland in relation to what they want to do. What they are trying to do is buy favour with a group of employers. I say to those employers who are getting the benefit, 'Good luck, but you would have had more and you would have had it sooner under an LNP government'—more and sooner and better on top of the 20 per cent cut in the regulatory burden that we were delivering. Plus they would not have been paying more for their motor vehicle. Plus they would not have been paying more land tax. Plus they would not have been paying a wagering tax when they went to the track.

A little while ago we heard the Treasurer speak about harmonisation—like they harmonised the stamp duty on cars above 63½-odd thousand dollars.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is now talking about a response that was given to another clause in this bill. I ask that he be strictly relevant to the clause we are now debating.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am listening carefully to the contribution. I think he is being quite relevant. I have said previously that I will allow a bit of contextual debate, but not too much. Member for Clayfield, I ask you to ensure you are being relevant.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I always endeavour to be relevant. I very much accept that guidance. We are talking about the principles of taxation. In a budget I think it is important that we talk about the reasons we do it, the effect of tax, the effect on businesses and, to put it in some context, the history of it as well. In a budget we talk about the fiscal principles. One of the fiscal principles, if I recall, is—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, I have just given some guidance. We are not talking about the principles of taxation; we are talking about the clause at hand, which is clause 32. I am happy to hear any contribution you have which relates directly to what I understand is about payroll tax, both rate and threshold.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I might put in place how this particular provision or clause which seeks to increase payroll tax for one group of people and reduce payroll tax for another fits in with the government's fiscal principles. They actually have a fiscal principle in relation to raising revenue. That is part and parcel of what we are talking about.

There might be a fiscal principle that is being spoken about that we have not heard about. This is the new fiscal principle, previously unheard of amongst economists and others, of harmonisation. It certainly might be a principle that the government would want to adopt because they have certainly been able to stick to that principle far more than they have been able to stick to the other principles in their budget.

What we are seeing here is an increase in payroll tax for 6,000 businesses—businesses that have a payroll of above \$4.75 million, if my memory serves me correctly. They will have to pay more. They will be paying many hundreds of millions of dollars more for the privilege of paying people. We have a reduction in payroll tax by an increase in threshold for many small businesses.

Under the LNP we would be able to achieve that reduction for all businesses. Surely the aim is that all businesses, big or small, contribute to the economy. Who would argue, for example, that Bunnings does not make a contribution to the economy? Who would argue, for example, that First Choice Liquor does not make a contribution to economy? They are major employers. They pick up kids, they pick up students and they pick up people with disabilities. They employ and they will be paying more for the privilege of doing so. Yes, reduce payroll tax, but just do not reduce it for one group of people, reduce it across-the-board for all businesses because that is the best thing for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

**Ms TRAD:** Let me say a few things in relation to clause 32 because clause 32 is in fact one element of a whole suite of, I think, very important signature reforms in terms of the payroll tax regime in Queensland. We are certainly looking at an increase in the payroll tax rate for those businesses that have a turnover of more than \$6.5 million. What we are doing is delivering for small businesses and medium size enterprises and we are delivering for regional businesses.

We have heard a lot of words from those opposite. They talked about fiscal principles. I certainly was not referring to harmonisation as a fiscal principle. It is actually a practice. We have been engaging with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions around a whole range of things—regulatory reform for one and licensing for another—but I will not divert.

Putting aside all the words, what people have in terms of payroll tax relief in our state is action from the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have been able to achieve in one budget what those opposite promised to try to achieve over a decade. More importantly, in terms of when they came into government in 2012—and I remember this; the member for Clayfield gave some sob story about why they could not keep their commitments on payroll tax relief—let their track record speak for itself.

We did not promise this, we are delivering it. We are actually just delivering it. We are not only delivering this for small and medium businesses but we are doing this for regional businesses as well. It is about payroll tax relief. It is about supporting apprentices and trainees. It is actually about providing a rebate for all businesses regardless of where they are in our state.

**A government member:** Bunnings gets a rebate too.

**Ms TRAD:** Bunnings will get a rebate. I will take that interjection. First Choice Liquor will get a rebate. That was a very interesting selection of big businesses, I have to say. Everyone will get a rebate if they put on more workers.

This is not Labor's policy. This is not the LNP policy. This is what the small business community of Queensland has been asking for for decades, and Labor is delivering. Quite frankly, when we went to the election in 2017 and the Liberal National Party said they would have a plan of diminishing the rate of payroll tax over a decade—\$25,000 a year over a decade—the response from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry was that it took too long and it did not even outpace CPI. Their plan did not even outpace CPI for those businesses. I am very happy with our track record when it comes to small businesses and partnering with them in our No. 1 priority, which is jobs for Queenslanders.

I particularly want to thank the new Under Treasurer, Frankie Carroll, for what is his first budget as the Under Treasurer. When we were working through all of the stakeholder submissions—and CCIQ of course put in their submission, as did other important stakeholder organisations within our economy—we sat down and had a conversation, and I asked the new Under Treasurer to work with the small business minister's director-general and to work with the CCIQ in order to find the best way for us to implement their submission because, as someone who comes from a small business family, as someone who actually understands what it is like to come from that environment, I know how important small business is to our economy. It is the driving force within our economy. It touches all of our lives every single day—much more than big business.

If we want Queensland to be a prosperous, successful economy that provides lots of opportunities, whether it is in traditional small businesses, innovative small businesses or whatever it is, we need to make sure that we are providing an environment in which they want to set up a business here and they want to employ Queenslanders. That is exactly what clause 32, amongst a whole suite of initiatives, absolutely does. At the end of the day, this \$885 million payroll tax relief package is an incredible generational reform for small and medium sized businesses in our economy. It has been recognised as such by the small business community of Queensland.

**Mr HART:** A couple of questions arise from the statement that the Treasurer has just made. Before I get to those questions, I point out to the House that this increase in payroll tax threshold adds to the other couple of taxes that we have already talked about tonight, to put more pressure on businesses when they are looking to come particularly to Australia or to set up businesses in this state. Again, this does not do anything to attract businesses to this state.

The Treasurer said that this applied to companies with a \$6.5 million turnover. I would like the Treasurer to clarify whether it is in fact a \$6.5 million turnover, because I am pretty sure it is not. It is in fact the payroll tax threshold. Maybe the Treasurer could clarify that that is definitely the case. Also, the payroll tax increase for businesses with taxable wages of more than \$6.5 million a year will raise

\$544 million. How much is it costing to raise the threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million? I would like to get an idea how much tax is being saved versus how much tax is being increased by so that we have those figures.

The Treasurer mentioned \$885 million. Possibly that is what it is costing the state budget. If that is the case, you would then take off the \$544 million that you are getting back, so that would make it a package of some \$340 million worth of tax savings. If the Treasurer could clarify that that is in fact the case I would appreciate it so that the people of Queensland know exactly where we stand.

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Burleigh for alerting me to my incorrect terminology. Having been in this House until 2 am and debating in a repetitious manner elements of this bill, I will absolutely confirm that it is in fact about the payroll tax. The \$6.5 million refers to the payroll tax liability.

In terms of the actual request regarding the amount that this raises, the lifting of the threshold will see \$335 million given back in relief to small and medium businesses. The regional discount rate will see \$324 million given back to regional businesses. The apprentice and trainee rebate will see \$48 million given back to those businesses who employ apprentices and trainees. In terms of the net employee increase rebate, it will give \$178 million back to those businesses that bring on new employees after 1 July at the end of the financial year in which they employ them.


In terms of the revenue raising from this element, you are right: the net package will be more than \$300 million better off. That is better than zero under the LNP. We think that this package, as I said, is a generational change in terms of our payroll tax regime. It has been widely applauded by those people in the business community, and we look forward to working with them in partnership to continue to drive jobs growth in small and medium enterprises.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In my earlier contribution I referred to a threshold of \$4.5 million. In fact, it is \$6.5 million. I wish to correct the record on that.

Clause 32, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 46, as read, agreed to.

Clause 47—

 **Mr MANDER** (9.47 pm): Again, this clause introduces another tax. In some ways this is the tax that blindsided the industry like no other. This was a tax that was promised 10 days before the budget by the Premier to the petroleum industry would not happen. They are gobsmacked. There is no other word for it. They are absolutely gobsmacked by this particular tax. QRC Chief Executive, Ian Macfarlane, said—

As it currently stands, the 25% increase in gas royalties on domestic and export gas will damage industry viability and increase costs to the electricity and domestic processing and manufacturing sectors.

Former Labor federal resources minister Martin Ferguson has said that this royalty hike will increase sovereign risk—that is something we have heard a bit about tonight—increase energy prices and undermine investment. He has compared this tax, this royalty hike, to federal Labor's shambolic mineral resource rent tax. Here we go again. This royalty hike, as I said, completely blindsided the industry. Again, this is where the Treasurer shows she has no understanding about investment and return on investment. These are corporations that have invested literally billions of dollars into this state.

In her budget speech the Deputy Premier emphasised the fact that the current royalty regime for LNG has been in place for 10 years, and the Deputy Premier is obviously right, but does the Deputy Premier think that LNG plants on Curtis Island, with an operational life of 25 to 50 years, only deserve certainty for the first 10 years and after that it is Rafferty's rules and you can do what you want? That is not how business decisions are made, Deputy Premier. The people who want to invest billions of dollars in our state want some certainty. They need to know that when they make that investment because they need to make sure they are going to get the returns they originally planned. That determines their investment in the first place.

Attacks that cripple business confidence really go to the heart of sovereign risk. Why would you invest in our state if you are uncertain about whether the goalposts will change? We have seen that again with the Adani decision flip-flopping all over the place. This is another example of that. Business is looking for some sort of certainty and they are not getting that at all.

There is plenty more to speak about in relation to this extra tax which we will talk about in relation to some of the other clauses, but this is the one that has totally and utterly blindsided the industry. One of the questions I ask the Deputy Premier is: how would this royalty apply, if at all, to domestic producers?

**Ms TRAD:** I have a point of clarification for those members in the chamber who might be confused. Clause 47 does not make the royalty change. This is not where it is included. This is about the mechanism to facilitate changes within the royalty regime; it is not the change itself. I assume that the member for Everton will be speaking to the appropriate clauses and repeating exactly what he has just said. As we know, in conjunction with this increase—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments will come through the chair. I have made that clear to both sides of the House.

**Ms TRAD:** In conjunction with the increase that we are pursuing in terms of the petroleum royalty, we are also pursuing a change in terms of the entire gas royalty regime. One of the changes we are looking at ensuring is so that domestic uses for gas are far more cost-effective for Queenslanders. We have made that clear in the budget papers in terms of the review.

I will say that the absolute hypocrisy of those coming into this place and crying foul over this issue is incredible, considering that in 2012 they came in and blindsided the coal and mineral industries by increasing royalties by 2.5 per cent without any consultation. Let me make it clear: we have a resource industry within our economy that is experiencing significant growth because of the work we are doing as a government to facilitate its growth. Last year alone LNG exports increased by more than 40 per cent.

We are very proud of the fact that past and current Labor governments have worked with the industry to continue to facilitate its growth. I know that the industry would have rather not seen an increase, but I also know that the industry is very happy to be working with the government around the review that we will be pursuing in partnership with them. For them, securing operational efficiencies, levelling the playing field and creating a lot more transparency in terms of the royalty regime, as well as a whole range of operational matters that the state looks at with the gas industry, is something that they want. If they can secure operational savings out of this review, then they are very enthusiastic about partnering with the government to review it. In terms of our royalty rate and what we are increasing, let us be absolutely clear. We are the only eastern state that extracts our gas resources.

**Mr de Brenni:** Thanks to us.

**Ms TRAD:** Thanks to us; that is right. If it were left up to those opposite there would not be an LNG industry here in Queensland. The petroleum royalty rate in Western Australia has a 12.5 per cent rate at the wellhead value for a secondary petroleum production licence, while in Canada the petroleum royalty is set between 25 and 40 per cent. This demonstrates—

**Mr Mander:** An opportunity for harmonisation.

**Ms TRAD:** No. Mr Speaker, the member for Everton is very quick to jump in because he does not like to hear the response. This demonstrates that Queensland is very competitive, but what ensures our competitiveness the most is the fact that we are prepared to lead in this space where other jurisdictions are not. As I said before, for an industry that has had unprecedented support from a state government, we think now is the right time for them to give a little bit back so that we can continue to do the things that are necessary on behalf of Queenslanders.

Returning to the 2014 expansive survey that the former treasurer, now member for Clayfield, undertook, when asked what additional revenue measures the government should pursue, royalties was one of them. Asset sales was not and they went down the asset sales path, but when asking Queenslanders how we should fund the services, infrastructure and programs that they rely upon in their lives—

**Mr de Brenni:** Things families need.

**Ms TRAD:** The things that families need—I will take that interjection from the Minister for Housing and Public Works—they said that resource companies should give a bit more back. That is what we are doing.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** With respect to the debate we are having on this clause I think there are a couple of points that need to be made. The shadow Treasurer has made a number of them, but there are a couple of very significant differences that need to be pointed out between what the Treasurer said occurred in 2012 and what is being proposed now in 2019.

Let me begin by saying that the people of Queensland are entitled to a fair return on assets in the ground such as coal, the minerals in the North West Minerals Province, rare earth or gas, petroleum and oil. I think a government for the state of Queensland is obliged to—and should—obtain a fair return for the raw product that comes out of the ground.

The state of Queensland, except in rare circumstances, is not a miner. It goes out there and asks others to invest billions of dollars. In order to do that it offers things like common user infrastructure. That has to be paid for, and it is paid for either through freight contracts, royalties or other things.

In 2012, contrary to what the Treasurer has said, we did not increase the rate of royalties. The base rate for royalties stayed at a constant seven and a half per cent, I think it was. We said that when those companies that are mining it out of the ground are receiving an exceptional rate of return—when they are getting more than \$100 a tonne and they go above that and get \$150 a tonne—it is reasonable for the people of Queensland to expect that they get a better return for the raw material that they own and that is part of what is Queensland.

It was not a case of just jacking up the rates on the base price, on the lowest threshold; it was a matter of saying to those mining companies, 'Hang on. When you are making a super profit'—and they had been—'it is reasonable for the people of Queensland to achieve more for a royalty that comes back to the state of Queensland.' I will hear, 'Oh, no. You're going to support Kevin Rudd's super tax.' No, no, no, because the super tax was not coming back to the people of Queensland. The super tax was going to Kevin Rudd and Wayne Swan who were handing out \$900 in desperate efforts to stay popular and hand money out. There is a very significant difference.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, I ask you to come back to the clause. You are straying. Do you have a further contribution to make?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Yes, I do.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please resume your contribution.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I was perhaps also offending another standing order in terms of anticipating a debate that might be coming, but I am glad I have been corrected in respect of that.

What we have here with this increase in this gas royalty is a reaction because there are two things that are precursors to it. One is the Supreme Court ruling in relation to decisions made in relation to the allowances that go to the wellhead value of petroleum. We know that is worth about \$263 million, if I recall correctly. It is a complicated formula. It is difficult. Mr Speaker, you yourself are probably aware of some of those consequences. It was a process that I was aware of that was important to get right. The court has made its finding and we have to live with that. There is a revenue hole that has to be filled. What do we find out? We find out that the gas royalty goes up without any consultation. I suspect the Treasurer probably would have liked to have consulted if she was going to do it but she was forced into it because of the last minute nature of the beast.

This is an increase not because there is a higher price being received or achieved; this is an increase that has come about simply because the government wants more revenue. It is plugging another hole in the government's accounts. That is why this is significantly different from what happened in 2012. Might I say in respect of what happened in 2012 that this government are reaping the benefits of the changes we made and there is not one word of thanks from them for the extra billions of dollars of royalties they are collecting as that royalty regime works. If they were that opposed to it, they certainly would be able to change that, but I do not see that happening any time soon.

Division: Question put—That clause 47, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 47, as read, agreed to.



Clauses 48 to 51—



**Mr MANDER** (10.07 pm): These clauses refer to royalty returns. One of the aspects of this bill that we have been discussing is the fact there has been zero consultation with the industry about these changes. They would argue that there are an incredible lot of complexities to work through to understand this and to understand the implications of it, and tonight during this debate and during budget week is not the time to do this. This should go through the normal committee process so it can have proper examination. There are lots of questions about the royalty returns and the way that different companies give their returns. Some have quarterly returns, some have annual returns, some return on financial years, some return on calendar years. Therefore, there are complexities and lots of questions that the industry has about the implications of this royalty increase on those companies. I will speak more about some of those issues as we go on to the other clauses. These clauses should have further examination through the proper parliamentary process, and not be squeezed through late on a Friday night during budget week.

Division: Question put—That clauses 48 to 51, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 48 to 51, as read, agreed to.

Clause 52—



**Mr MANDER** (10.14 pm): This clause talks about rates of royalties. It adds a transitional petroleum royalty rate of 11.25 per cent to apply for the annual return period ending 31 December 2019. This relates to the issues I was talking about earlier in terms of some annual returns that are done on financial years and some that are done on calendar years. This is where there is a retrospective nature to this tax. It has caused considerable alarm for the industry. Any new tax is bad, but any retrospective tax is just unfathomable. Let me explain that.

At the moment the tax is 10 per cent and it will go to 12½ per cent from 1 July, which is in the next clause that we will examine. This is supposedly a transition rate for those that have returns ending on 31 December 2019. That means that for the whole of 2019, 11.25 per cent will apply which means they will be charged 10 per cent for the first six months of the year and now that will be 11.25 per cent. This is what happens when the government does not consult with the industry. There is absolute confusion amongst the industry regarding this. The Queensland Resources Council chief executive, Ian Macfarlane, asked that question himself. He said—

Increasing the cost of gas to Queensland businesses puts their viability and jobs at risk. Of particular concern is the retrospective introduction of the royalty increase to 1st January, 2019 which will be passed through as an additional charge to gas consumer companies which have already produced and sold their electricity and goods.

This is where the Treasurer needs to answer some of those questions and clear up confusion with regard to how many companies will have to pay this tax retrospectively. That is something that the industry needs to know. They want certainty and they are aghast about the increase in tax, but the fact that it is retrospective is really something that is entirely unacceptable.

**Ms TRAD:** Let me make this clear: there is no retrospectivity in relation to this. The member for Everton almost got there when he talked about the different payment plans that gas companies are on. As we know, around 50 per cent of LNG royalty payers pay on a calendar year basis. Because that is

the case, they will not be affected by the transitional arrangements. This is about smoothing out the collection of royalties for those who have already paid this calendar year. It actually prevents those who have already been paying being charged in addition. It is just purely smoothing out the process in a transitional way, and further consultation will be undertaken.

Let me say that we want to work with the gas companies, and our track record is pretty clear when it comes to—

**Mrs Frecklington:** I don't think that's what they think.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am listening to the contribution. I do not hear any provocation. I would like to hear the response to the question asked by the member for Everton.

**Ms TRAD:** I will actually take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition because we know she does not read budget papers, but we also know she does not read newspapers. The *Australian Financial Review* published on 13 June—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

**Ms TRAD:**—which was only yesterday, quoted Mr Richard Fenton, the general manager of Armour. The article states—

Mr Fenton said the increase was a surprise but backed budget moves to simplify the royalty regime. "If the system is [simplified], that saves companies money," he said. This could then be spent on production, he said.

More than that, what we have also seen out of the Palaszczuk Labor government is a whole range of measures to strengthen the domestic supply through our royalty regime settings and also opening up new exploration permits, particularly for domestic manufacturing purposes. We are all about making sure that this industry has long-term success in Queensland. I commend the provisions within the bill to the House.

**Mr MANDER:** My question to the Treasurer is: if somebody pays 11.25 per cent for their annual return period ending 31 December 2019, does that rate apply for the full 12 months ending 31 December 2019? It seems obvious to me and the gas industry that they are paying 11.25 per cent for the whole year—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** That is right: 1 January to 31 December. That is a retrospective increase. There is no doubt about it. Again, this shows that the Treasurer is not across her own bill. The petroleum industry know about it and are crying about it loudly. They expect the Treasurer to know the details of her tax increases, and this is one where the Treasurer has been caught out.

**Ms TRAD:** We are ensuring that this transitional rate means that those petroleum companies and gas companies that have already paid on an annual rate do not get slugged in addition by providing this transitional arrangement. It is actually not complicated.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection. If we did not have a transitional rate, those who have provided their returns on a six-monthly basis would be charged more. The amendment prevents all LNG payers being charged 2.5 per cent this year. I do not have anything more to contribute.

**Mr MANDER:** The Treasurer has absolutely no credibility with regard to this clause. The industry know it. We know it. The Queensland public will know it as well.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Based on the Treasurer's previous response, will the Treasurer confirm so we are abundantly clear—she likes to use the words 'abundantly clear'—that if it in fact applies at 1 January 2019 that is retrospective—that is, that time and date has now passed?

**Ms TRAD:** Can I ask the member for Kawana to repeat his question?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Treasurer said two responses ago that there is no retrospectivity about this provision. The shadow Treasurer indicated that it in fact applies from 1 January 2019. Does the Treasurer accept that 1 January has in fact been and gone and that there is an element of retrospectivity to this regime?

**Ms TRAD:** I am advised that there are no annual returns due at the end of the year and there is no retrospectivity—again.

Division: Question put—That clause 52, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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

**Ind, 1—**Costigan.


Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 52, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 53 to 55, as read, agreed to.

Clause 56—

 **Mr MANDER** (10.30 pm): This clause increases from 1 July 2019 the petroleum royalty rate of the wellhead value of petroleum to 12.5 per cent. This is a rate that we believe is uncompetitive and does not help in terms of people wanting to invest in our state.

The Treasurer in her budget speech and, in fact, in one of her responses earlier mentioned that gas royalties in Canada are as high as 30 per cent. I have just had a quick look at the gas royalties in Canada. My question to the Deputy Premier is: which province in Canada charges a 30 per cent royalty? This goes to the heart of the credibility of the Treasurer—just getting up and saying whatever she likes, making up what members of the opposition say. These questions are important because they go to the very credibility of the Treasurer. She mentioned in her budget speech and also in responses tonight that royalties in Canada are as high as 30 per cent. My question is: which province charges 30 per cent, if any? Is the Deputy Premier able to advise of any deductions or other tax credits available in Canada that might reduce any figure of 30 per cent, if she can tell us where that happens in the first place?

**Ms TRAD:** Alberta.

**Mr MANDER:** Bing-bong—wrong.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are under a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber for 10 minutes under standing order 253A. Members under a warning are not to interject. I have made myself clear.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 10.32 pm.*

**Ms LEAHY:** As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, clause 56 increases the petroleum royalty payable to 12.5 per cent. That is a 25 per cent increase in the royalty rate. The government talked about this being a budget for the regions, but this clause is all about taxing the regions. There are not too many CSG wells or oil wells in the electorate of South Brisbane. No business can afford a cost increase of 25 per cent overnight without some consequences.

I think members opposite need to be aware that when this royalty increase is coupled with the increases in the land tax rates for companies—it might be of interest to the government to know that a lot of CSG companies pay land tax—the state government is doing a double dip on the oil and gas industries.

I have some questions for the Treasurer. CSG development is very dependent on the oil price. What modelling has the Treasurer done in relation to a fall in the oil price and the impacts that will have on the budget? What modelling was done on the impacts on the price of domestic gas? What modelling

has been done on the impact of this royalty increase on the cost of electricity? I would like to hear from the Treasurer what modelling has been done on a fall in the oil price, the impacts on the domestic gas price and the cost of electricity.

**Ms TRAD:** I would like to respond to a couple of things. Firstly, in terms of the member for Everton's incredibly juvenile response, I will table for the benefit of members of the House comparisons of petroleum royalty rates by country. It lists a number of countries. There are a number of provinces within Canada where the wellhead value attracts various royalty rates. I table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Comparison of petroleum royalty rates by country' [1028].

I think the member for Everton should do a bit more due diligence in terms of contributing to debate, particularly if he sees himself as the alternative treasurer of this state.

I refer the member for Warrego to a range of royalty assumptions that are made in explanatory notes on page 212 of Budget Paper No. 2. This is again clear evidence that those opposite do not even bother to read the budget papers. Clearly, they are reading questions that have been provided to them by, I suggest, people from maybe the Queensland Resources Council who did the work for the LNP opposition today.

I inform the House that our oil price forecast is below the long-term average of the Brent oil price. There is no other modelling I can refer to in relation to electricity, but I will say that we have kept electricity at a very low rate when compared to the 43 per cent hike from those opposite. In addition to that, we have seen the Queensland Competition Authority decrease the wholesale price of electricity in regional Queensland, for residents as well as for small and large businesses, because of our investment and our facilitation of large-scale renewable energy projects in this state. The great report from the Queensland Competition Authority—another report that those opposite should read—shows quite demonstrably that our leadership in establishing a new industry in this state just like the LNG industry—that is, the renewable industry—has had a net positive effect in terms of keeping the price of electricity down, but particularly for regional Queenslanders actually reducing it.

**Mr MANDER:** I again refer to the figures the Treasurer has tabled. I am reading from KPMG royalty guide for Canada. In British Columbia there is a sliding scale of between five per cent and 27 per cent but with an automatic low rate for CSG as well as a system of tax credits. In Alberta it is five per cent for CSG. In Saskatchewan it is five per cent under \$50 then 30 per cent. In Manitoba it is 12.5 per cent. In Nova Scotia it is 10 per cent. In Newfoundland it is five per cent until costs are recovered and then 20 per cent on profits. In the Yukon it is 2.5 per cent for an initial period then 10 per cent with a price based escalation up to 25 per cent of profits. I suggest that the Deputy Premier is manufacturing figures to support her argument, which, again, has zero credibility. I table this document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'KPMG Royalty Guide—Canada' [1029].

**Ms TRAD:** I have tabled a document that shows the range of royalties within the provinces.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms TRAD:** I believe the member for Everton is being deliberately misleading by referring to the lower band of the range. For someone who wants to hold themselves out to be the treasurer of this state—

**Mrs Frecklington:** He'd do a better job than you!

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks that the member for Everton is doing a better job than me, then perhaps she ought to send him out to do the live crosses for the *ABC News* rather than herself. It was the most—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I had called the House to order. It does not matter whether you were referring or replying to another member. The House was called to order. Deputy Premier, I ask you to come back to the clause that we are debating, and that is clause 56.

**Ms TRAD:** The information I have supplied to the House has been provided by the independent officers within Queensland Treasury. If the member for Everton thinks that his quick Google search of royalties is equivalent to the independent official advice of Queensland Treasury, which I think has done a bit more work in this area than the member for Everton and his googling fingers, then I am very happy to stand by the independent advice of Queensland Treasury officials and maybe the member for Everton ought to read out the full royalty range and not just the lower scale. It is embarrassing and it is misleading.

**Ms LEAHY:** In relation to clause 56, I ask the Treasurer: this is a royalty increase of 25 per cent. What modelling was done in relation to this increase on the impacts of the price of domestic gas?

**Mr BENNETT:** I find it quite disturbing that we are discussing comparisons to other jurisdictions about what is right and wrong, whether it is Canada or whether it is anywhere else in the world. Quite clearly this increase is a big issue. I think about Santos, Arrow, Shell, Origin, QGC and other gas exploration companies that have put so much investment into our great state and I think about what this means going forward. We had a royalties rate and now we have an increase. We had quite a period of grace where these companies established such a great footprint in our society.

Where I live it is not unusual to get on a plane on a Monday morning and see many workers in their hi-viz flying off to represent the great gas sector across the state. More importantly, we have to again reflect on sovereign risk. When we reflect on when we suddenly raise these royalty percentages—and we can argy-bargy about what is right and wrong, whether it is Canada or specifically Saskatchewan—I remind the House that in the sixties Utah from the USA came to this country and opened up the Bowen Basin on a royalties issue that was really reflective of what Queensland wanted. It wanted these companies to come and it wanted them to invest. I also remind the House about the cotton industry which also had investments in New South Wales and Queensland—

**Mr Millar:** Yes. We wouldn't have a cotton industry without the investment from foreign companies.

**Mr BENNETT:** Yes, and that was Auscott. It was very favourable about having the royalties freeze that reflected that investment in agriculture and more importantly that investment in this great state. I also remind the House about the British Farming Corporation which opened up the Brigalow Belt in this great state. That also reflected what it meant when companies knew what the royalties regime looked like.

My contribution tonight is just to continue to reflect, as I have all night, about how insidious these royalties increases are. Again, if we cannot think what it means for these remote communities in our state and more importantly what the royalties to our state mean, I think we are on the wrong track. I find it really hard to sit here and listen to talk about what is happening in Canada and what that means to Australia. Clearly this rate increase is just a cash grab and I remind the House that we should be remembering what regional and remote Queensland looks like. It is about jobs. It is about a strong sector. It is about the gas and mining sectors having confidence.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** It is really interesting that we are sitting here and talking about this tonight when members on the opposite side are standing up and crowing about how many gas exploration permits there are and how much land they have opened up to exploration in this great state and then we turn around and what do we do? We slug them with another big, fat tax. I thank the Minister for Education for her contribution then. It was really important that we reflect on what is important for the great state of Queensland, and that is not more big, fat taxes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please, comments must be made from your chair, Minister. The question is that clause 56, as read, stand part of the bill.

**Ms Leahy:** She didn't answer the question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Waterford! I heard the question asked, I believe, twice. Was there a difference in that question, member for Warrego? The Deputy Premier has, in her view, answered the question to her satisfaction. It may not be to your satisfaction, but I believe she has attempted to answer the question.

Division: Question put—That clause 56, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 37:**

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


**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 56, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 57 to 61—

 **Mr MANDER** (10.50 pm): These clauses make further amendments to increase the petroleum tax. The opposition members have spoken very clearly about this tax and the impact it will have on industry. The industry has been absolutely gobsmacked and sideswiped by this increase as well. They urge the Deputy Premier to make sure that she convenes a meeting of the resource consultative committee. It just remains now to ask the Deputy Premier: can the Deputy Premier promise that these royalty increases will not increase energy costs for Queensland manufacturers, businesses and households?

**Ms TRAD:** In accordance with standing order 88, I move—

That the question be now put.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You were already under a warning. I have been clear. I was on my feet.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 10.52 pm.*

Division: Question put—That the question be now put.

*In division—*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, standing orders apply during divisions and division bells. The House will come to order.

**AYES, 45:**

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

**NOES, 37:**

**LNP, 35**—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**Ind, 2**—Bolton, Costigan.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.


Resolved in the affirmative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, as there is no ensuing debate as the question has now been put, the next division will be for one minute.

Clauses 57 to 61, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 62 and 63, as read, agreed to.

Clause 64—

 **Mr MANDER** (10.58 pm): Clause 64 refers to the Public Service Act. With regard to this act, could the Treasurer advise how many public servants will be retrenched under her \$1.2 billion reprioritisation target?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I rule the question out of order. It is outside the scope of this consideration in detail. Do you have any other comments on that clause?


**Mr MANDER:** No.

Clause 64, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 65 to 69, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.59 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.59 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.


## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing orders 136(3) and 136(4) that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 August 2019 and the committee responsible for reporting on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be varied from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and that the committee report by 9 August 2019.


The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report 20 of 2018-18, *Follow-up of managing child safety information*, be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

## ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.01 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Scenic Rim Electorate, Funding

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.01 pm): A lot of locals in the Scenic Rim drive through Jimboomba on the Mount Lindesay Highway and experience the bottleneck there. There are four sets of lights in a few kilometres, slowing everybody down. This Labor government needs to plan to fix that.

It needs a plan to get Jimboomba traffic moving again. While the government is at it, it should also get on with planning for a new Maclean Bridge, because a complete solution for the Mount Lindesay Highway will require a new bridge over the Logan River.

The Mount Lindesay Highway south of Beaudesert is also in an atrocious state. I have been fighting to have it fixed but was told last year that repair projects would not be completed there for three years. I fought to get Main Roads to bring those works forward and they told me they would be starting in 2019-20. However, there is nothing in this year's budget for the project and, months after the department's response to me, the road remains riddled with cracks, potholes and tar snakes. It is a fatality waiting to happen.

In equally bad condition is Beaudesert Nerang Road near Tabragalba House Road. Once again, there is no funding in the budget for a dangerous stretch of road that requires repairs. I call on the government to make sure that both of those projects get done. There is a general repairs and maintenance budget for main roads and it should be deployed to fix those dangerous roads.

Again on the Mount Lindesay Highway, issues of congestion and safety exist around Woodhill State School. I think the departmental boffins think that if they ignore it long enough it will go away. I can tell them that the traffic congestion issues at Woodhill State School are not going anywhere unless action is taken. A new service station is to be built next door and new residential estates are being developed, so the situation will only deteriorate. On numerous occasions I have written to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads asking for that issue to be addressed. There must be a better way. Again, I call on the government to act on that very important safety issue.

When it comes to the Beaudesert Police Station, in this budget Labor has once again turned its back on Beaudesert. The community and the hardworking police men and women in the Scenic Rim are simply fed up. The replacement of the Beaudesert Police Station has been in the budget for three years now, but still there is no action. It looks like it will not be built in the coming year as there is not enough money allocated in this year's budget. I will stand up to the government and keep that station on the agenda, just like the Rathdowney Fire Station. It took nearly five years to get work underway and construction has finally started. We will continue the battle to get Beaudesert's police station replaced.

Labor's budget also has an allocation for new police vehicles. I have been fighting for Tamborine Mountain and Canungra police to get another permanent vehicle allocated to them so that they do not ever have to use their own vehicles to attend incidents. That is not good enough. Enough is enough, and the government should properly resource those stations and provide police with the vehicles they need.

Of concern to locals at Kooralbyn is Hinchcliffe Bridge, which needs upgrading. It is on the Scenic Rim Regional Council's list for funding under the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. This year the Labor government let down Kooralbyn by not funding the bridge in the recent round. The two-lane timber bridge provides the only access into a residential area. It is low and it floods. I will keep on fighting for Kooralbyn residents.

### **Women's Rugby League, Maroons**



**Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.05 pm): In this House the Queensland Maroons can always be counted on to create a bit of bipartisan support. Their most recent win in Origin 1 brings a smile to any Queenslander's face. The state as a whole lifts following a Maroons win, particularly on home ground. I proudly wear my Rugby League passion on my sleeve, but there is another Queensland Maroons team that I would like to see mentioned just as regularly in this House: the Queensland Maroons women's team.

By this time next week the female Maroons will have taken the field at North Sydney Oval to take on our old nemesis, the Blues. If anyone takes exception to the fact that there is only one State of Origin match in Queensland this year, they should spare a thought for the women's team, which is playing their third origin game in a row in New South Wales. I am not ashamed to say that I have constantly beaten down the sports minister's door, demanding that our women get a chance to play in front of a Queensland crowd.

This year's women's origin team has been named. I can report to the House that they will be capably lead by Captain Ally Brigginshaw and the experienced team of Chelsea Baker, Annette Brander, Brittany Breayley, Karina Brown, Tamzin Gray and Logan's own Sportswoman of the Year, Tallisha Harden. I also congratulate four new Maroons debutantes. I am particularly excited to see that



the game's most experienced front rowers, Steph Hancock and Heather Ballinger, have delayed retirement for one more year to have a crack at beating the Blues on their turf. I had the privilege of playing with and against those two players. While I look at the team on paper and am quietly confident, one cannot underestimate the team that the Blues will put on the paddock.

Last year I was at North Sydney Oval for the first-ever official women's State of Origin match and I watched a packed crowd at the old ground roar for the teams as they ran out. I could not help but recall the almost two decades of hard graft that women's teams faced to be able to play an interstate match. For decades the women's team was known as the Queensland Brolgas. While we sent the best team we could, it was restricted by those who could afford to pay to play. To represent Queensland, players and staff alike had to pay for their own uniforms, travel and accommodation.

As former players we acknowledge how much the women's game has changed, how far it has come and the opportunities that are on offer for players now. I can only smile. I consider it this way: my daughter regularly watches representative women's footy on the TV or live at the ground. While she acknowledges that watching mummy play at the local Beenleigh oval does not constitute top-level footy, she has only ever watched the Queensland side or the Jillaroos play out of Cbus Stadium or Suncorp Stadium. As far as she knows, women's footy belongs on the television and is played at quality stadiums in front of packed crowds, which is as it should be. I wish the Maroons, both male and female, well for next week. Go Queenslander!

### **Ninderry Electorate, Volunteers; Coolum Surf Lifesaving Club**



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (11.08 pm): Winston Churchill once said that you make a living by what you get but you make a life by what you give. In my electorate there are a lot of people who give more than they get. In May we celebrated Volunteer Week. I want to give a shout-out to a number of great volunteer organisations in my electorate of Ninderry.

The first one I want to talk about tonight is Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, a not-for-profit organisation started about 30 years ago. The group's president, Leigh Warneminde, is now leading the charge and coordinating over 200 volunteers. For World Environment Day I rolled up my sleeves and participated with a handful of volunteers that every week Coolum and North Short Coast Care coordinates to dig up weeds on the dunes at the beach at Coolum. Not only do they weed the dunes at Coolum, which I can say is harder work than I thought it would be; they also look after turtle nests and pandanus trees, which are dying back in the area, and they organise educational activities for kids. I enjoyed taking my girls along to see some of the turtle nest digs during the season.

I also want to bring to the attention of the House a great little community organisation in Coolum that was started by Clive and Barb Holden that provides art classes for the physically and mentally disabled in the community. It was originally started in their house but they have now moved to some slightly bigger premises in a shed at Coolum. Last week I was lucky enough to go to a drumming session, which is included in a number of the classes they provide. Every Friday about 60 disadvantaged people from our community go along to play the drums. I was happy to take along a novelty cheque and announce that they had just received a \$7,000 grant through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund which will go a long way in that small community group. They work hard to fundraise. As all members in this House know, our community groups work hard not only to get grants but also to fundraise. Only a week or so ago I took my girls to a lawn bowls day at Coolum Beach Bowls Club to raise money. Our community groups are constantly fundraising. They provide a great service.

I also give a big shout-out to the Coolum Surf Club. Since we were last here the Coolum Surf Club celebrated its 100-year anniversary.

**Ms Grace:** It is a great club.

**Mr PURDIE:** It is a great club. I acknowledge that interjection from the minister. It is one of the oldest surf clubs. Their first patrol was back in 1919. They have over 200 members and they provide a great service to our community.

### **Teneriffe Festival; Moore, Senator C**



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.11 pm): On Saturday, 6 July we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Teneriffe Festival, the premier festival in Brisbane. Ten years ago, then councillor David Hinchliffe and I wanted Teneriffe to have its own identity and be a separate suburb from Newstead instead of an unbounded locality.

With unconditional support from our local magazine publisher of *Village News*, Michael Hawke, David and I worked with the community to make this happen, and to celebrate the wonderful suburb of Teneriffe we launched the Teneriffe Festival.


As a foundation board member I say 'Happy 10th anniversary!' to the Teneriffe Festival and thank the current hardworking board members led by chair Mic Uebergang. Thanks to Anita Jakins, Michael Wilkins, Ross Garnett, Matt Trehwella, Claire Campbell and Ben Wieland. I also say a special thanks to Murray Sutherland and his team at Kinetics, including Brent Harcombe, for their ongoing hard work to put this wonderful festival together each year. I also thank past members of the Teneriffe board, particularly former chair Richard Bodley. It is because of these former members that we have reached this milestone. Together they are the reason that the Teneriffe Festival is the best street festival in Brisbane.

There can be no Teneriffe Festival without our sponsors. Unfortunately, there is not the time to mention them all, but I thank our major sponsors Green Beacon Brewery Co., Defiant Duck, the wonderful Merthyr Village and, of course, the Brisbane City Council. There are also many community businesses that have donated their time for free every year: *My Village News*, *Style* magazine and Flight Centre. This year I am proud to say that, thanks to the Minister for Transport, those across the river in Bulimba will have a free ferry service from 9.30 am till 1.30 pm. They can travel from Bulimba to the Teneriffe Festival for free because of the efforts of the board.

In particular, I acknowledge that the 10 years of the Teneriffe Festival have been very safe for everyone who attends, thanks to the presence of the Fortitude Valley police. They do a fantastic job. It is the No. 1 priority of the board that everyone is safe. If you are in Brisbane, the Teneriffe Festival on Saturday, 6 July from 10 am onwards will be a great event. Come and share in a wonderful community event.

In conclusion, I wish all the very best to Senator Claire Moore, who on 30 June steps down as our local senator after 18 years. Claire has been an outstanding senator for Queensland. She has done an excellent job. She is a wonderful person who cares so much about the community and has worked tirelessly during her 18 years. I wish her a very happy time away from the Senate.

### Gympie Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (11.14 pm): Stretched healthcare services in the Gympie electorate are one of the most common complaints I receive. Last week I met with Sunshine Coast health district representatives and community representatives for a briefing about a multidisciplinary medical centre on the Cooloola coast. I requested the briefing from the minister because of concerns about health services for the coast's permanent population of 6,500, many on low incomes or elderly. The department advised that it is about to start on two-, five- and 10-year forward plans for our local health and infrastructure needs. In July it will start collecting data for a detailed analysis and demographic profile of the region, both now and with future expectations from population growth. It will include statistics such as emergency department treatments, types of trauma and ambulance transfers and will look at capital, infrastructure and workforce needs.


The coast's population swells by thousands during the peak tourist season. Patients travel significant distances for many basic treatments that are available in towns with populations as low as 2,000 that could be performed in a local multidisciplinary centre. In late April there were no doctors available at the coast's only surgery. Many patients were too ill or had no transport to travel a 100-kilometre round trip to the Gympie Hospital. The community started the not-for-profit Cooloola Coast Medical Transport service to take patients—the frail, aged, disabled, geographically or socially isolated—to out-of-town medical appointments. It fills the gaps in the current system provided by the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme.

The emergency ward and maternity services at the Gympie Hospital urgently need upgrading and expansion. Residents tell me that the emergency department cannot cope with the number of patients fronting up. They are told to come back later, travel a 185-kilometre round trip to the Sunshine Coast or go find a GP. Gympie Private Hospital closed in late February. Patients either are fronting up to the Gympie Hospital or are forced to travel to the Sunshine Coast. Some dental procedures that require access to a theatre can no longer be performed in the region.

Residents from Glenwood and surrounding towns are calling for an ambulance station. More than 6,000 residents often wait up to 40 minutes for an ambulance from Gympie or Maryborough. It is a trip of between 40 and 60 kilometres to reach Glenwood, let alone someone's residence—and double that to be taken back.

Complaints include waiting lists that are like a game of snakes and ladders, patients being transferred to hospitals out of the region then discharged with no way of getting home, long waiting times in ED, no beds, being sent home only to return with a worsening condition, being told the hospital cannot help and to 'go talk to your GP'—that is a bit hard when you cannot get into a GP—and receiving no confirmation that appointment bookings are even registered.

### **Budget, Woodridge Electorate**


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.16 pm): On the first occasion I had the privilege of being elected as the state member for Woodridge I made a promise to the community that I would focus my work for them as their representative on jobs, health care and education. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019 state budget delivers for our community.

When speaking in the House last year about the state budget I said that education was the engine of opportunity. I am very pleased that the 2019 state budget fuels that engine in our community, with significant investments in Woodridge state schools totalling almost \$28 million. These include over \$16 million for a new three-storey building featuring 16 new classrooms at Marsden State High School; \$8.6 million for eight new classrooms at Logan City Special School; \$1.5 million for refurbishments to the performing arts building and G block and a new outdoor learning area at Kingston State College; \$600,000 for a STEM innovation hub and library improvements at Browns Plains State School; \$550,000 for upgrades to general learning spaces and the special education block at Yugumbir State School; \$180,000 for roof replacements on the library and F block at Harris Fields State School; \$80,000 for the removal of aged infrastructure at Browns Plains State High School; and \$170,000—very importantly—for expansion and improvement works to the tuckshop at Woodridge North State School. This is on top of \$1.42 million for maintenance and minor works for schools in the Woodridge electorate.

In addition, I am very pleased to inform the House that \$30,000 has been provided out of the Education budget this year for the installation of a CCTV security camera near the pedestrian underpass under the Logan Motorway at Kingston. I thank the Minister for Education for her support for that investment. This will be installed at the rear of Kingston State College and will improve safety for the many students and other local residents who use the tunnel daily. The installation of the camera is in response to a serious assault at this site in October 2018 and follows the installation over the summer of new lights, signage and security fencing around the pedestrian tunnel that I and other members of the community championed. Ours is a government that listens and takes action, and I am very pleased to be able to announce this important neighbourhood safety upgrade.

Vital expansion and refurbishment works at Logan Hospital will also surge ahead, with an investment of more than \$500 million in Logan Hospital—an investment that will support 1,400 jobs during construction. This will result in an additional 206 beds at Logan Hospital, new birthing suites, a larger special care nursery, a maternity unit access road, an upgrade to ancillary services and more. This is the single biggest investment in Logan Hospital since it opened 30 years ago. It is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will deliver these positive outcomes for the Woodridge electorate and it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will continue working tirelessly for all Queenslanders.

### **Bellvista and Bells Reach, Bus Stop Closures**

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.19 pm): I mentioned in my speech in the budget debate that there were six bus stops closed in Bellvista and Bells Reach, an area close to Baringa, south of Caloundra. Those bus stops closed on about 12 March 2019 by way of a media release issued by the Minister for Main Roads. That caused a degree of angst in that vicinity because that area has an older population.

Closing six bus stops has a major impact upon people getting to and from Caloundra and elsewhere across the Sunshine Coast. The older population there are upwards of 75 years of age. Closing the bus stops means that these people have to walk a much longer distance. For people like you and me, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, who are young and spritely, that may not be a problem, but for people upwards of 75 years of age there could well be a problem walking a distance that you and I would call a short distance.

I called a public meeting, which was held on 18 May. I invited TransLink to attend by way of a letter dated 26 March and also follow-up emails dated 9 April and 8 May. They did not even respond to the email. They did not attend the public meeting. They were completely arrogant and did not want to


hear from the people of Bellvista and Bells Reach as to the impact their actions had upon the residents' lives. On 21 May WIN news ran a story on its nightly bulletin. The reporter said that they had been in contact with TransLink. The reporter stated that the spokesperson for TransLink in relation to reopening those bus stops said it would not consider returning the old bus stops—absolute arrogance!

The minister stepped in and TransLink did communicate on 6 June. They told the people of Bellvista and Bells Reach that they would hold a meeting for 30 minutes. I was also told that there were only 50 residents allowed to attend, no press were entitled to attend and residents only could attend. Almost 400 people have signed a petition in relation to these closures—eight times the number of people who were allowed to attend this meeting for one half-hour. That is not good enough.

What will happen is that TransLink will arrive, unpack the car, say a few words, explain themselves, answer a few questions and not change a thing. The arrogance of this department is unbelievable. In my opinion, they will not even turn off the car engine when they come in—they will not be there that long. I call upon the minister to step in here for a proper review and understanding of the circumstances that are impacting upon the people of Bells Reach and Bellvista.

*(Time expired)*

### Gormley, Mr NI

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.23 pm): I rise to reflect on the life of Neville Ian Gormley, or Nev to his mates—and I was certainly one of his mates. Nev was the former officer in charge of the Caboolture Police Station. He served as the officer in charge for 12 years until 1999. He was also a member of the Australian Labor Party. He was a member of the Caboolture Morayfield branch—a very loyal foot soldier for the movement and a very dedicated volunteer around election time.

Nev passed away on 4 May at the age of 74 years. I wish to convey my condolences to his wife, Heather, as well as to the rest of his family—Wayne and Liz; Scott and Tracey—as well as to his many friends and family.

Nev was one of those special people. Not only did he work in the local community but he lived in the local community. Even following his retirement from the Queensland Police Service in 1999 he remained in Caboolture and continued to be active in the community and provided dedicated support and service to the Australian Labor Party.

At his funeral, one of his early colleagues who is now an inspector based at Caboolture of all places—Inspector Lee Jeffries—reflected on his memories of Nev. He had this to say and I think it is best to use Inspector Jeffries's words—

The police stayed on for long periods, some seeing their entire careers and their retirement in the area, like Nev. Even some family members of some of our police who retired from here have also served at Caboolture.


We have a significant character to policing here and some of our police will be forever etched in my mind as the icons of policing. They are people we still honour with stories of them many years later, particularly for those of us that still work together here many years later.

Nev was an icon of the Caboolture Police Station and also the community. Nev was so entrenched into the community in many different ways, including as the officer in charge or being on the RSL, that it would be rare that he did not know a family in the area. It was the way policing was done in Caboolture.

I remember well that Nev insisted on daily morning musters at the Caboolture Police Station where everyone at the station attended, be it General Duties, Watchhouse, [detectives], our ... traffic branch, or Prosecutions. This was a time before email, before mobile phones and computers ... These musters built our policing relationships, they built our cohesion and through our daily engagement made us united in our efforts as police.

Let us all remember Nev. I pass on my condolences to his family. He is a true believer and a great community member.

### Budget, Taxes

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.26 pm): Continuing the theme of the week, I want to talk about the effect of this Labor government's taxes, charges, levies and increases of all sorts, making life harder for the residents in my electorate. The first of those I might deal with that affects my electorate is the wagering tax. The wagering tax has a significant impact on my electorate. I have Eagle Farm, Doomben racetrack and Albion Park racetrack in my electorate. Three of the major racetracks in Queensland are located in my electorate. Many people employed in the racing industry live in my electorate. In fact, they live in the suburb that I live in—Hendra—and will be affected by it.

Wagering taxes go from \$9 million in 2017-18 to over \$100 million in 2019-20—a tenfold increase in two years. Ordinary punters are being slugged by this Labor government and only a fraction goes to industry. None of it is going back, for example, into upgrading Albion Park—not even to replacing the starter's box, which has been surrounded by scaffolding for years. While the Premier is happy to turn up and drink champers and have canapes at Stradbroke Day, like Marie Antoinette, she looks over the crowd at ordinary racegoers, punters, racehorse trainers, racehorse owners and jockeys and says, 'Let them eat cake.'

Land tax is a property owners' tax but also a tenants' tax. I have spoken about this earlier. I do want to repeat for the record the email that I have received in relation to land tax and the effect it has on business owners and property owners in my electorate. I also reprise the email that was sent to me that says—

I notice that the Labor government has increased land tax rates by 10%. This is on top of a 100% increase in unimproved land values.

We remember the comments that ultimately the costs will be passed on and the tenants will go broke. The email went on to say that people will lose their jobs.

The real doozy, the hit to the economy, is the waste disposal levy. Here is a message that I received from a constituent again this week—

Joe rang the office concerned about the new waste levy that the government have brought in. He is not against it but thought Queenslanders should be able to produce an ID that they are from Queensland and not be charged extra ... This waste levy affects Joe because he is demolishing his house ... at Woolloowin to build two houses on the land. To demolish his house, it was going to be \$18,000, but because of the new levy, it will cost him \$28,000 to demolish.

This is not a rich person. This is not someone who is rolling in clover. This is an ordinary person who has owned a block of land for many, many years, who at age 67 wants to realise his investment and to subdivide his land—a perfectly legal, legitimate and encouraged form of business and investment in the electorate of Clayfield—who is being hit with an extra \$10,000 in waste levy. Joe specifically rang up and said, 'I want Tim to mention this in parliament.' Joe, this is for you. This is a bad tax and we will do everything we can to support you, mate.

*(Time expired)*

### **Ipswich Turf Club, Redevelopment; Riverview Neighbourhood House**



**Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.29 pm): I rise to speak about Racing Queensland, which is a basket case. Following on from the previous member, we have had major issues in relation to the Ipswich Turf Club redevelopment. In my view, Racing Queensland needs a boot right up the backside for its mismanagement and maladministration of the club redevelopment at Ipswich. It has wasted huge amounts of money on various activities, hiring consultants that have been completely unnecessary. Then it had the hide to come to our turf club and tell us that we are not getting what we were promised years ago. This all happened at the Labour Day race day, so honourable members can imagine that all of us workers were extremely unimpressed. After quite a lot of manoeuvring between the turf club and me—because it is my home track—we were eventually able to talk to the Minister for Racing and get some common-sense outcomes so that the whole of the project will be approved.

The issue with the Ipswich Turf Club is that it is not just a track; it is our family history over generations. In my particular case, five generations of family on my mother's side have been racing followers—the Kitching family—and for us it is not just a track; it is our family heritage. That is why we are so passionate about it. I say to Racing Queensland: holy mackerel, you had better deliver because, if not, I will be watching and there will be hell to pay. I wish everyone a very happy Ipswich Cup day tomorrow.

I would like to thank the Riverview Neighbourhood House and the people of Riverview, because we had a wonderful sit-in at the Ipswich City Council the other day. Direct action really does work. We had a sit-in because they were going to chuck the Riverview Neighbourhood House out of the Riverview community. All of our people and I led the sit-in at the council and they quickly acquiesced. We were quite happy to stay there for however long it took, whether it be hours, days or weeks. Mr Chemello, thank you very much for acquiescing. We now have our Riverview Neighbourhood House back in its due place in the precinct and everyone in our community is happy. Direct action works. On behalf of our people, I am proud to be a member of the CFMMEU.

Division: Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

**AYES, 43:**

**ALP, 42**—Bailey, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, C. O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 35:**

**LNP, 35**—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Pairs: Boyd, Bates; B. O'Rourke, Last.

Resolved in the affirmative.

The House adjourned at 11.40 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, 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