



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 20 August 2019

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TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2019



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 17 June 2019

A Bill for an Act to amend the Coroners Act 2003, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes

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

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

17 June 2019

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 June 2019, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 17 June 2019 [\[1118\]](#).

SPEAKER'S RULING

Matters of Privilege



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 August 2019 I tabled nine rulings regarding matters of privilege. I ruled that all nine matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters. I will now briefly indicate each matter, and if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of that matter under the standing orders they should do so immediately after my indication of the matter.

In relation to matter 1, on 9 May 2019 the member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for Trade and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House during statements made on 27 and 28 March 2019.

In relation to matter 2, on 12 June 2019 the member for Kawana wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for Trade deliberately misled the House on 12 June 2019.

In relation to matter 3, on 21 May 2019 the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the member for Everton, the member for Glass House and the member for Kawana misled the House during statements made on 15 May 2019.

In relation to matter 4, on 16 May 2019 the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts wrote to me alleging that the member for Burdekin deliberately misled the House on 14 May 2019.

In relation to matter 5, on 12 June 2019 the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors wrote to me alleging that the member for Moggill deliberately misled the House during statements made on 11 June 2019.

In relation to matter 6, on 7 June 2019 the member for Oodgeroo wrote to me alleging that the member for Capalaba committed a contempt of parliament.

In relation to matter 7, on 25 March 2019 the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships wrote to me alleging that the member for Everton committed a contempt of parliament based on statements made in the House on 30 October 2018. I will be referring to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly the question as to whether the code of ethical standards and/or the standing orders should be reviewed.

In relation to matter 8, on 18 June 2019 the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me complaining that the Deputy Premier's allegation was an intentional fabrication to divert attention away from the budget and a deliberate attempt to besmirch his character.

In relation to matter 9, on 10 April 2019 the member for Greenslopes wrote to me alleging that the member for Condamine, the member for Glass House, the member for Bundaberg and the member for Coomera deliberately misled the House on 2 April 2019.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Matters of Privilege



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 August I tabled a statement about the standard of proof required for matters of privilege and cautioning members about using matters of privilege for tactical purposes. I wish to reiterate that statement to the House while all members are assembled.

On 6 March 2018 I made a statement about members making complaints against members for deliberately misleading the House and the misuse of such complaints by both sides of the House in recent parliaments. I noted that speakers do not refer trivial or unimportant matters, but the time and resources taken in assessing such matters can be wasteful. Standing order 269 provides the procedure for raising a matter of privilege and states that with the exception of matters suddenly arising a member must write to the Speaker.

Standing order 269(3) further provides that a 'member must formulate as precisely as possible the matter, and where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation'. Standing order 269(5) permits the Speaker, in considering a matter, to request further information from the complainant. I advise members that I will not hesitate in writing back to members requesting further particulars. Alternatively, any correspondence not providing sufficient evidence may be simply dismissed by me, without further action.

I note that on occasions members may inadvertently mislead the House. Early correction of the record would alleviate many complaints. The Code of Ethical Standards gives the following guidance—

Members may sometimes make incorrect or misleading statements in the House without actually intending to mislead the House. Recklessness by a member resulting in incorrect or misleading statements to the House is in itself a serious matter.

Members have a duty to correct the official record in the House as soon as it becomes apparent that their statements were incorrect or could be misleading.

I emphasise to all members that the use of standing order 269 should be reserved for serious, unresolved matters. It should not be used as a political tactic. If matters have been raised and dealt with on the floor of the House or an apology already given then there is little point in attempting to pursue the matter further. The process should not be used for differences of opinion or differences of interpretation.

I take a very dim view of members who write to me about a matter of privilege and then either background the media on the matter or openly advocate their case in the media. Such tactics are not only a discourtesy to the office of Speaker, but may in some instances be viewed as an improper attempt to influence my decision-making process. I advise that such tactics may result in my dismissing matters that are unmeritorious on their face without further inquiry.

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Townsville



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I refer to this parliament's fifth regional sitting to be held in Townsville from 3 to 5 September 2019 and formally table for the information of the House a copy of the extract of the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of Friday, 16 August 2019. The extract of the gazette includes a copy of the constitutional instrument signed by His Excellency the Governor changing the place for sittings to the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre and the notice defining the parliamentary precinct for the sittings.

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 94, dated 16 August 2019, regarding the regional sitting of parliament in Townsville [\[1119\]](#).

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Reappointment



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I report that, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, Ms Karen Carmody has been reappointed as the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner for a further term of two years commencing 22 August 2019. This reappointment of Ms Carmody has the bipartisan support of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. I table the relevant notice of appointment as required under the act.

Tabled paper: Notice of reappointment of Ms Karen Carmody as Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, dated 29 July 2019 [\[1120\]](#).

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Kingaroy State High School in the electorate of Nanango and Chatswood Hills State School in the electorate of Springwood, and this afternoon by students and teachers from Bundaberg State High School in the electorate of Bundaberg.

PETITIONS

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

Inland Rail, Route

From 910 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Federal Government undertake an independent review into the route of the Inland Rail with the view to re-routeing the preferred Inland Rail corridor to a less impactful route [\[1243\]](#).

The following honourable members have lodged paper petitions for presentation and e-petitions which are now closed and presented—

Christ the King School, Crossing Supervisor

Mr Whiting, from 639 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a crossing supervisor at Thompson Street Deception Bay for the Christ the King School [\[1244, 1245\]](#).

Bruce Highway, Allendale Drive and Bentley Drive Intersection, Traffic Lights

Mr Last, from 809 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the provision of traffic lights at the intersection of the Bruce Highway, Allendale Drive and Bentley Drive at Alligator Creek [\[1246, 1247\]](#).

Granite Belt Community Association Deamalgamation Proposal, Review

Mr Lister, from 1,848 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that a local government change commission is appointed to independently review the Granite Belt Community Association's de-amalgamation proposal [\[1248, 1249\]](#).

Fire and Emergency Services Regulation, Levies

Mr Andrew, from 486 petitioners, requesting the House to change the regulations relating to section 108 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to restore multiple titles having single use are subject to one levy [\[1250, 1251\]](#).

Old Pacific Highway and Kosciuszko Circuit Road Bridge

Mr Crandon, from 4,657 petitioners, requesting the House to commission the opening of the existing road bridge over the Gold Coast rail line, between Old Pacific Highway and Kosciuszko Circuit and require the developers to provide access to it including the construction of approach roads [\[1252, 1253\]](#).

Pimpama, Railway Station

Mr Crandon, from 5,113 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a new railway station at Pimpama, as a matter of urgency [[1254](#), [1255](#)].

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

Far North Queensland, Bridge Upgrades

From 1,537 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track upgrades to the existing infrastructure enabling the Spear and Rifle Creek bridge at Mt Molloy, the North Laura River bridge, the McLeod River bridge and the Little Annan bridge and causeway to be passable at all times [[1256](#), [1257](#)].

Regional Queensland, Growth

From 1,151 petitioners requesting the House to implement policy settings that actively encourages investment, population, jobs and business growth in the regional areas [[1258](#), [1259](#)].

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

Fireworks

Ms Pease, from 365 petitioners, requesting the House to consider environmentally friendly fireworks or alternatives to fireworks, such as laser lights [[1260](#)].

Bellvista and Bells Reach, Bus Services

Mr McArdle, from 147 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the six bus stop locations in Bellvista and Bells Reach so they are included on either the new Bus Route 606 or on the altered Route 603 [[1261](#)].

Baringa, School Bus Service

Mr McArdle, from 179 petitioners, requesting the House to dedicate a school bus service to safely transport students to and from Baringa [[1262](#)].

Isis River Bridge, Name Change

Mr Bennett, from 144 petitioners, requesting the House to acknowledge the service and contribution of Mr Paul Neville OAM by naming the Isis River Bridge, "The Paul Neville Bridge" [[1263](#)].

Emerald State High School, Bus Interchange Zone

Mr Millar, from 353 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a new bus interchange zone for Emerald State High School and a drop off and pick up zone for private vehicles [[1264](#)].

Ambulance Station, Relocation

Mr Crandon, from 215 petitioners, requesting the House to halt construction and have the proposed ambulance station located at another site in the adjacent industrial area [[1265](#)].

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

Fardon, Mr RJ

From 452 petitioners, requesting the House to have Mr Fardon returned to prison immediately to protect the community [[1266](#)].

Valuers Registration Board of Queensland

From 133 petitioners, requesting the House to have the Valuation Registration Board of Queensland chaired by other than the Valuer-General and independent from the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy [[1267](#)].

Land Valuation, Royal Commission

From 130 petitioners, requesting the House to cause a Royal Commission into the Land Valuation by the Valuer-General [[1268](#)].

Land Valuation, Online Access

From 156 petitioners, requesting the House to make changes to permit online access to the historical land valuations (minimum ten years) for all properties/land and without limitation to four months of the year [[1269](#)].

Valuers Registration Board of Queensland

From 314 petitioners, requesting the House to reform the Valuers Registration Board of Queensland [[1270](#)].

Ipswich City Properties Pty Ltd

From 462 petitioners, requesting the House to examine the actions and decisions of the directors of Ipswich City Properties Pty Ltd and ensure the ICP directors are held to account for any breaches of duty that led or contributed to the \$78 million loss incurred by the ICP and the Ipswich City Council [[1271](#)].

Puppies, Breeding

From 1,093 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend the current legislation to curtail irresponsible breeding of puppies and to enforce mandatory standards [\[1272\]](#).

Acland District, Agriculture

From 3,339 petitioners, requesting the House to protect the Acland district's prime farmland and assist the local community to invest in agriculture and new sustainable enterprises to restore prosperity to Acland, Oakey and surrounding districts [\[1273\]](#).

Male Genital Mutilation

From 352 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to ban the practice of male genital mutilation [\[1274\]](#).

Local Government, Litigation Costs

From 908 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure local government councillors or executives do not use ratepayer funds or instruments to fund private or personal litigation matters [\[1275\]](#).

Petitions received.

Mr SPEAKER: Well done, Mr Clerk. Honourable members, as you can appreciate, it has been some time since we have sat. Welcome back.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

17 June 2019—

[1030](#) Response from the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), to a paper petition (3139-19) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (3048-18) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 21 and 238 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to support eco-tourism development in the Hinchinbrook electorate

19 June 2019—

[1031](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 39, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 February 2019 and 1 May 2019

20 June 2019—

[1032](#) Gazette Notice for the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 21 June 2019, advising that His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved a payment of \$113,219,271.36 (GST inclusive) from WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations in 2019-20 for the prevention of injury to workers and related education, compliance and regulatory functions delivered by the Office of Industrial Relations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003.

21 June 2019—

[1033](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 26, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

[1034](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 27, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

[1035](#) Bundle of documents, dated 1 September 2018, titled 'Hand-written notes taken by the Treasurer's staffer on 1 September 2018 of meetings held by the Treasurer'

26 June 2019—

[1036](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to an ePetition (3115-19) sponsored by the member for Nanango, Mrs Frecklington, from 423 petitioners, requesting the House to consider additional strategies to combat youth crime for the township of Murgon

27 June 2019—

[1037](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 21: 2018-19—Delivering forensic services

[1038](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3090-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,820 petitioners, requesting the House to not approve the development of the zipline on Mount Coot-tha

[1039](#) Overseas travel report: Report on trade and investment mission to Japan by the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), 26-29 May 2019

28 June 2019—

[1040](#) Department of Health: Review of the effectiveness of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013, pursuant to section 56 of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013, March 2019

[1041](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: Review—Efficacy of recovery governance, Report 1: 2018-19

- [1042](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: Review—Efficacy of recovery governance, Report 1: 2018-19, government response
- [1043](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 17, 56th Parliament, March 2019—Personalised Transport Ombudsman Bill 2019, government response
- 2 July 2019—
- [1044](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Maritime Safety Queensland: Marine Incidents in Queensland 2018, June 2019
- 4 July 2019—
- [1045](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 40, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
- [1046](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 41, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner
- [1047](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 42, 56th Parliament, June 2019—Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission
- 5 July 2019—
- [1048](#) Overseas travel report: Report on trade and investment mission to Japan, United Kingdom and Germany by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), 2-10 June 2019
- [1049](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 19, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, government response
- 8 July 2019—
- [1050](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 28, 56th Parliament, July 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 March 2019 and 30 April 2019
- 9 July 2019—
- [1051](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3109-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,580 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend the current legislation to curtail irresponsible breeding of puppies and to enforce mandatory standards
- 10 July 2019—
- [1052](#) Overseas travel report: Report on trade mission to North America by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), 29 May-10 June 2019
- 11 July 2019—
- [1053](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 31, 56th Parliament, July 2019—Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019
- [1054](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament, July 2019—Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019
- [1055](#) Response from the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (3058-18) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 333 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise adult adoption in Queensland
- [1056](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (3146-19) presented by the member for Maryborough, Mr Saunders, from 455 petitioners, requesting the House to restructure the school catchment zones and school transportation arrangements affecting the communities of Howard, Torbanlea, Pacific Haven and Burrum Town
- [1057](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3056-18) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba South, Mr Janetzki, from 777 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce the inclusion of screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency into the existing Newborn Screening (Guthrie test) to reduce preventable infant mortality
- [1058](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3089-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 708 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 to require the approval of two medical practitioners for any abortion
- [1059](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3151-19) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3062-18) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,781 and 1,246 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise funding to build a new Level 5 hospital in Bundaberg
- [1060](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3121-19) sponsored by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, from 614 petitioners, requesting the House to increase resources for the management of Queensland national parks, state forests and other crown lands
- [1061](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to a paper petition (3149-19) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (3119-19) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 548 and 576 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to take all steps necessary to prevent the removal of huts located in Halifax Bay Wetlands National Park
- [1062](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3117-19) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 432 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite repairs to the Alice River Bridge, west of Townsville

- [1063](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3122-19) sponsored by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, from 123 petitioners, requesting the House to return the intersection of Albion and Albert streets, Warwick, to its pre-2019 configuration and traffic arrangements, without any change to the current heavy vehicle access arrangements for Albert Street
- [1064](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3147-19) presented by the member for Callide, Mr Boyce, from 128 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the 4.5 km stretch of Gladstone-Monto Road between Nagoorin and Ubobo
- [1065](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3148-19) presented by the member for Callide, Mr Boyce, and an ePetition (3124-19) sponsored by the member for Callide, Mr Boyce, from 78 and 677 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to repair the dangerous section of Gladstone-Monto Road between Many Peaks and Kalpowar
- [1066](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3150-19) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3096-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 214 and 563 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to support the development of a Russell Island toll-bridge as a market-led proposal
- 15 July 2019—
- [1067](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: The 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review—Report 2: 2018-2019
- [1068](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: The 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review—Report 2: 2018-2019, government response
- [1069](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review—Report 3: 2018-19
- [1070](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management: 2019 Monsoon Trough Rainfall and Flood Review—Report 3: 2018-19, government response
- [1071](#) Letter, dated 15 July 2019, from the Inspector-General Emergency Management, Mr Iain MacKenzie AFSM, to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Hon. Craig Crawford, regarding recommendation nine of the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review Report 2018-2019
- [1072](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2018-2019
- 18 July 2019—
- [1073](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 26, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018, government response
- 26 July 2019—
- [1074](#) Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night Time Economy Monitoring (QUANTEM), Final report, April 2019
- [1075](#) Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night Time Economy Monitoring (QUANTEM), Final report, April 2019—Appendices
- [1076](#) Queensland Alcohol-related violence and Night Time Economy Monitoring (QUANTEM), Final report, April 2019—Interim government response
- [1077](#) Overseas travel report: Report on the Parliamentary trade mission to Papua New Guinea by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Pitt), 16-18 June 2019
- [1078](#) Overseas travel report: Report on Parliamentary delegation to Vanuatu (Hon. Pitt), 24-26 June 2019
- [1079](#) Overseas travel report: Report on a visit to London by the member for Nudgee (Ms Linard) to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Westminster Workshop on Gender Sensitive Scrutiny, 17-19 June 2019
- 30 July 2019—
- [1080](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual report year ended 30 April 2019
- 2 August 2019—
- [1081](#) Executive summary of investigation reports about Mr L Atkinson-MacEwen
- 6 August 2019—
- [1082](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 145
- [1083](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 145, explanatory notes
- [1084](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Professional Standards Scheme (Refer to Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 145 of 2019)
- 8 August 2019—
- [1085](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 1: 2019-20—Investing in vocational education and training
- [1086](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Notice of motion of disallowance, subordinate legislation held invalid by court, subsequent repeal
- 9 August 2019—
- [1087](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 29, 56th Parliament, August 2019—Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [1088](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 43, 56th Parliament, August 2019—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [1089](#) Overseas travel report: Report on a trade and investment mission to the BIO World Congress, United States of America by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), 6-12 July 2019

12 August 2019—

- [1090](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 19, 56th Parliament, August 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 3 and 30 April 2019

13 August 2019—

- [1091](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, elective surgeries PA hospital
- [1092](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, Cooler Schools Program
- [1093](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, manufacturing jobs
- [1094](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, mining projects
- [1095](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, reshuffle of Cabinet
- [1096](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of parliament, misrepresenting member's party affiliation
- [1097](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of parliament, unparliamentary behaviour
- [1098](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, unsubstantiated allegations
- [1099](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Standard of proof, tactical use of complaints
- [1100](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House, contributions to bill debate
- [1101](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 30, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019
- [1102](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 31, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Appropriation Bill 2019
- [1103](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report Nos 30 and 31, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

15 August 2019—

- [1104](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament, August 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 May 2019 and 2 May 2019
- [1105](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 33, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1106](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 33, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

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- [1107](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1108](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1109](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1110](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1111](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 18, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1112](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 18, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1113](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1114](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1115](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 44, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates
- [1116](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 44, 56th Parliament, August 2019—2019-20 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

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- [1117](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 25, 56th Parliament, August 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 March 2019 and 14 May 2019

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990:

[1121](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2019, No. 95

[1122](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2019, No. 95, explanatory notes

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990:

[1123](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation (No. 2) 2019, No. 96

[1124](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation (No. 2) 2019, No. 96, explanatory notes

Human Rights Act 2019:

[1125](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 97

[1126](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 97, explanatory notes

Ambulance Service Act 1991, Food Act 2006, Health Act 1937, Pest Management Act 2001, Private Health Facilities Act 1999, Radiation Safety Act 1999:

[1127](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 98

[1128](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 98, explanatory notes

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019:

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Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

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Major Sports Facilities Act 2001:

[1133](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events—Cricket Australia) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 101

[1134](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events—Cricket Australia) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 101, explanatory notes

Prostitution Act 1999, Weapons Act 1990:

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[1136](#) Weapons and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 102, explanatory notes

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994:

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Planning Act 2016, Regional Planning Interests Act 2014:

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[1140](#) Planning Legislation (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 104, explanatory notes

Agents Financial Administration Act 2014, Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, Associations Incorporation Act 1981, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Casino Control Act 1982, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, Civil Partnerships Act 2011, Collections Act 1966, Cooperatives Act 1997, Coroners Act 2003, Criminal Code Act 1899, Debt Collectors (Field Agents and Collection Agents) Act 2014, Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990, Electoral Act 1992, Evidence Act 1977, Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Introduction Agents Act 2001, Jury Act 1995, Justices Act 1886, Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, Keno Act 1996, Land Court Act 2000, Legal Profession Act 2007, Liquor Act 1992, Lotteries Act 1997, Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, Partnership Act 1891, Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, Property Law Act 1974, Property Occupations Act 2014, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Recording of Evidence Act 1962, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994, Right to Information Act 2009, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, Security Providers Act 1993, Status of Children Act 1978, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, Tattoo Industry Act 2013, Tourism Services Act 2003, Wagering Act 1998, Wine Industry Act 1994, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000:

[1141](#) Justice Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 105

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[1147](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 108

[1148](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 108, explanatory notes

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Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

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Duties Act 2001, Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Land Tax Act 2010, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Taxation Administration Act 2001:

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Health Act 1937, Public Health Act 2005, Radiation Safety Act 1999:

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[1169](#) Electrical Safety and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 119

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State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

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[1176](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Plumbing and Drainage and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2019, No 122, explanatory notes

Architects Act 2002, Building Act 1975, Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, Housing Act 2003, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, Professional Engineers Act 2002, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, Retirement Villages Act 1999:

[1177](#) Housing and Public Works Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 123

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Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Biosecurity Act 2014, Brands Act 1915, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, Drugs Misuse Act 1986, Fisheries Act 1994, Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936:

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State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983:

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State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

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Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009:

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Environmental Protection Act 1994:

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[1241](#) Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019, No. 156

[1242](#) Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019, No. 156, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan)—

[1276](#) Queensland Police Service: Annual report for assumed identity authorisation and use—2017-2018

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Condamine (Mr Weir)—

[1277](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the New Acland Stage 3 project

[1278](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the New Acland Stage 3 project

Member for Coomera (Mr Crandon)—

[1279](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the construction of a new railway station at Pimpama

Member for Maiwar (Mr Berkman)—

[1280](#) The Report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed to review Religious Education in Queensland State Schools titled 'Challenge and Change', 1972

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Free Apprenticeships



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): Mr Speaker, this might be shorter than the Clerk's address this morning! In all seriousness, this government is about creating jobs—the jobs people want in the industries that we need. We do this through giving employers payroll tax relief, removing the barriers to hiring more staff. Now we go one better—free apprenticeships for Queenslanders under the age of 21.

Our \$32 million initiative makes a real difference to thousands of families. A trade is more than a job; it is a career. For 60,000 young people our free apprenticeship initiative is the golden ticket to a job for life. Free training is available in 139 apprenticeships and traineeships in trades including electrical, plumbing, construction, engineering, commercial cooking, hospitality, agriculture, aviation, aged care and child care, to name a few. This means a saving of up to \$3,000 per apprentice.

Mr Speaker, I can tell you when we launched this initiative at Marsden State High School how happy it made the students and their families. I met the principal, Andrew Peach, who explained how popular trades are among his students and how valuable this initiative will be to them. They even showed me some basic brickie skills.

Our free apprenticeships are in addition to free TAFE for all year 12 graduates and \$885 million in payroll tax relief for employers to hire more apprentices. This year alone my government is investing \$978 million in skills and training initiatives. They have been welcomed by the Ai Group and the CCIQ. The CCIQ called these measures 'transformational' for young jobseekers and likely to make Queensland a leader in developing a huge range of industrial disciplines.

This is not the end of what my government is doing to create more jobs and a stronger economy. The Minister for Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development has been travelling particularly in regional Queensland showing families and business how they can access this wonderful initiative.

Logan Enhancement Project



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.46 am): Traffic is now flowing more smoothly on the Logan and Gateway motorways after a \$512 million project to enhance one of the busiest parts of our road network. With the main roads minister, other ministers and MPs, it was a pleasure to formally open the Logan Enhancement Project. The project was conceived, begun and finished under our government, with 1,300 construction jobs along the way.


It includes new interchanges, new lanes and new ramps at several sites. At the Wembley Road interchange there is a new four-lane bridge. The project also fixes the bottleneck where the Logan Motorway meets Beaudesert Road and the Mount Lindesay Highway. There is a two-kilometre bicycle and pedestrian path.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the Premier is being factual as I can hear it in her ministerial statement. I ask that you hear the ministerial statement. There will be plenty of opportunity for you later on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is a better interchange with the Gateway Motorway and new ramps at Compton Road. We said that we would make sure that this upgrade happened—and it has. It is about car and truck drivers getting to and from work in less time and more safely. It is about making freight deliveries more efficient. It is about people spending more time at home. It is also about unlocking more of the economic potential of the Logan region, as well as the business and freight hubs around Brisbane and Toowoomba. More than 170,000 motorists use the Logan and Gateway extension motorways each and every day.


Beef Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.47 am): We are enormously proud of all of our primary producers—their skill, their resilience and their high-quality products. The beef industry, for example, is a key part of our domestic economy and it is an export giant for our state. Growing cattle is big business in Queensland, even as graziers have battled hard through the extremes of drought and monsoonal floods. Processing beef is a manufacturing industry that directly employs around 10,000 workers, many in regional communities.

At the Ekka the Minister for State Development and I, along with Minister Furner, released a beef processing strategy for the next three years. The strategy is based on engagement with industry. It is about ensuring the best movement of livestock and freight via road and rail. It is about building and retaining a skilled workforce and it is about making the supply chain and processing even more efficient.

The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development also reported that more than \$90 million in grants and concessional loans has helped communities in North and North-West Queensland after the floods. Of that, \$45 million has gone to beef producers who are rebuilding after hundreds of thousands of head of cattle were lost. Despite the disaster, beef exports rose by \$903 million to \$5.8 billion in 2018-19. This alone is extraordinary. That is 18 per cent higher than the previous year—an outstanding achievement under the circumstances. Exhibition time is a time when we shine a light on what we are working hard to do all year round, and that is support our rural and regional producers.

Protesters

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): Everyone has the right to conduct a peaceful protest, but the activities of some are not peaceful, they are not right and I am not going to let them continue. Blocking roads is dangerous, it is reckless, it is irresponsible, it is selfish and it is stupid. You can tell yourself that your cause is worth gluing yourself to a road for, but you will never explain to a grieving family why your politics are worth stopping an ambulance from reaching a hospital.

Police have made dozens of arrests under existing laws, but I now believe we need new ones. Last week I learned of the tactics some protesters are using to prevent themselves being removed from roads and railway lines. The Police Commissioner showed me evidence of locking devices that are laced with traps that are dangerous. These protesters put their arms into steel cylinders and drums filled with concrete. Inside these cylinders and drums are glass fragments—even butane gas containers—so that anyone trying to cut a protester free will be injured or worse.

The right to protest comes second to everyone's right to safety. As I said, I learned of these sinister tactics in a detailed briefing last week and I have acted. Yesterday, cabinet decided on new laws to combat them. Police will have the power to search those they reasonably suspect to be in possession of these devices. They will be illegal. My ministers for police and agriculture will further outline how these laws will be targeted to include those who terrorise farmers.

Every single minute that our fireys, ambos and police spend dealing with these types of protesters is a minute they are not helping others. They are a burden on business and a danger to themselves and others. It will not be allowed to continue.

Protesters



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.51 am): It goes without saying that we live in a democracy based on respect for the law and respect for the rights of others. We live in a democracy based on the right to free speech. It is a democratic system that enshrines fairness and respect for the individual. It is these shared values that define us. These are not idle remarks. What I have spoken of are the bedrock beliefs—the very foundations—of our society. In Queensland we are now witnessing actions by extremists who, by their behaviours, clearly do not share these beliefs. We are witnessing flagrant abuses of the law and disregard for the rights of others. As the Premier has already mentioned, things are about to change.

This government will bring in measures to disrupt the actions of those who believe their rights can ride roughshod over the rights of others. A new offence will be created that is aimed at stopping certain devices being used by extremists to shut down public thoroughfares and infrastructure. This new offence will make it illegal to possess these devices, and police will have the power to search a person or vehicle suspected of carrying one of these devices. These changes will make it easier for police to prevent disruption to the daily lives of Queenslanders. As well, anyone who uses one of these devices during a protest will be subject to a new category of offence with penalties. No-one disputes the right of people to peacefully protest as long as they do so lawfully, but the actions we are now witnessing are not protests. What we are seeing now is a flagrant disregard for the law and the rights of others.

I conclude by saying that if anyone believes passionately in something they should argue their case on its merits. That is the democratic tradition. Should anyone decide to unlawfully impact the lives of farmers, sabotage vital infrastructure, block major transport routes, disrupt the legitimate activities of industry and business and put at risk the safety of members of our community, police and emergency responders, then there will be consequences. If people break the law then they will feel the full force of the law.

Protesters



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government stands up for our primary producers. Protesters have the right to protest peacefully, but they do not have the right to disrupt our hardworking farmers. They have no right to trespass, lock themselves to machinery or cause biosecurity risks to our agricultural sector. As minister for agriculture I will always stand up for the rights of our primary producers to farm, produce quality Queensland food and go through their day without being disrupted by noisy activists. That is why as a government we acted. Earlier this year, when there were incursions onto farmland and feedlots, we acted. As a government we introduced new regulations to ensure our on-farm biosecurity was protected. These on-the-spot fines can be issued to any protester who goes onto land and causes a potential biosecurity risk to farms.

Queenslanders are fed up with these protesters and community support is not on their side. That is why this week I will introduce a bill to impose tougher penalties on any protester who causes a biosecurity risk. Those found guilty of trespassing on farmland will face a maximum penalty of up to one year's imprisonment. That is the same penalty for unlawful entry to a dwelling. This will make a real difference and ensure that our farmers, abattoirs and food manufacturers are not disrupted, causing work delays and possibly putting protesters themselves at risk. What some of these protesters forget is that by their very actions they can cause unnecessary angst to animals and potentially risk ongoing biosecurity concerns at these locations.

Agriculture is important to Queensland. The livelihoods of our producers is paramount, and the stress that has been placed on our agricultural sector is just not on. We have acted. We will continue to act. We will not allow protesters to try to dictate agricultural policy in this state. Our farmers know that they have community support and they have the support of the Palaszczuk government.

Queensland Economy, Jobs



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.57 am): There is no doubt that domestic economic conditions have deteriorated in recent months. Australia's economic growth has slumped—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, in the vein of some of the previous statements, members who choose to breach the standing orders will feel the full force of the standing orders. I have asked that ministerial statements which are non-combative be heard. That is the last time today I will issue a warning.


Ms TRAD: There is no doubt that domestic economic conditions have deteriorated in recent months. Australia's economic growth has slumped to 1.9 per cent—its lowest rate since the global financial crisis. The RBA has cut interest rates to a record low of one per cent and wages growth remains stubbornly stagnant—below 2½ per cent—as the RBA governor takes the extraordinary step of calling for wage rises across the country. Last week the NAB business survey reported that Australia is enduring the worst retail conditions since the 1991 recession.

Amidst these deteriorating national conditions I am pleased to report that the Queensland economy remains resilient. The 2019-20 state budget confirmed that the Palaszczuk government is backing Queensland jobs, and last week's job numbers are backing us up. The latest ABS data shows that over the past month close to 20,000 jobs were created in Queensland, accounting for nearly half of all jobs created across the country in seasonally adjusted terms. Over the past 12 months our government has overseen the creation of almost 52,000 jobs, or 1,000 jobs each and every single week. Importantly, more than 90 per cent of the jobs created over the past 12 months have been full-time positions.

Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in January 2015, more than 216,000 Queenslanders have found work. Full-time jobs are a crucial part of that story. On average, the Palaszczuk government has created more than 2,100 full-time jobs every month since being elected. Our government is backing Queensland jobs right across the state. Over the year to June, almost two-thirds of all jobs created were outside the Greater Brisbane area. Because our government is backing Queensland's regions, the gap between regional and South-East Queensland unemployment rates has continued to narrow, from 2½ percentage points in mid-2016 to half a percentage point in June 2019. Unemployment rates are now down below six per cent in Cairns, the Darling Downs, Central Queensland and Mackay, and unemployment rates have fallen by more than two percentage points in Townsville and Wide Bay over the past year.

These solid labour market conditions are flowing through to our retail sector. Queensland's real retail turnover has grown by 2.7 per cent over the past year—the strongest growth amongst the states and 10 times faster than the national average. When Queenslanders are spending businesses are confident, and when businesses are confident jobs are being created. The Palaszczuk government is backing Queensland jobs. While the previous government saw full-time employment go backwards, our government remains committed to creating meaningful jobs for all Queenslanders. Our economic plan is working, and over 216,000 Queenslanders who have found work since 2015 can attest to that.

Aerospace Industry


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government is aiming high to capitalise on the growing global demand for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services—MRO—and to deliver more high-value knowledge-based jobs for Queenslanders. Last week, global aerospace giants, including Qantas and Virgin Australia, attended a Palaszczuk government industry round table to develop plans to deliver more jobs for the MRO market. As a result of last week's forum, I have asked retired Air Vice-Marshal Neil Hart AM, Queensland's Strategic Defence Adviser for Aerospace, to lead an MRO task force to help bring more MRO jobs to Queensland.

Deloitte Access Economics reports Queensland's aerospace sector could grow to support 6,200 jobs over 10 years, and our state is already kicking goals when it comes to defence, aviation and aerospace. In Cairns, thanks to funding from the Palaszczuk government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, Hawker Pacific has increased the size of its hangar to allow for heavy maintenance work from across the Asia-Pacific. Meanwhile, in Townsville and across South-East Queensland, Boeing, Airbus and Northrop Grumman maintain a range of aircraft. TAE Aerospace will be investing \$50 million to develop a new facility at Bundamba to expand their capacity to maintain and supply parts and components for Australia's fleet of F-35 joint strike fighters.

Our government is also skilling Queenslanders for work, with a focus on aerospace. We are supporting a pipeline of highly trained technicians and pilots through Aviation State High School, and we are looking to the future with new Qantas pilot training academies in Toowoomba and Mackay. Industry leaders have told us Queensland has great MRO capability, and there is opportunity for more

growth. That is why our government has a 10-year aerospace road map and action plan and it is also why a Queensland government delegation will travel to Singapore next month to promote our state's capabilities at the MRO Asia-Pacific trade show. Queensland will be the only Australian state represented at the exhibition and conference, and Queensland will also host the first ever MRO Australasia event in Brisbane in March 2020. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building an economy that is diverse and dynamic, and growing our strong defence and aerospace sectors is key to that goal.

Tourism Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.03 am): Never before has the tourism industry been more vital to Queensland's economy or to Queensland jobs. New national data shows that the Palaszczuk government is leading the nation in creating new tourism jobs right across our state. Since forming government, we have created more than 30,000 tourism jobs in Queensland—that is a 15.5 per cent growth. This means that now one in every 10 Queenslanders are employed in the tourism industry, and our economy is all the better for it.

Tourism is now worth more than \$27 billion to Queensland—close to a 20 per cent growth under the Palaszczuk government. As proud Queenslanders, we always love to get one up on the southern states—I guess I should not be wearing blue today—and in this new national data Queensland is exceeding the annual growth rates of both Victoria and New South Wales. This is a significant turnaround for this vital industry under the Palaszczuk government.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection. This is no accident. It is because we have a clear and deliberate strategy to grow tourism and tourism jobs. It is because we have restored the \$188 million cut by the LNP when it was in office and we are investing more in tourism than any government in Queensland's history.

One great success story is that emerging in Minjerribah. The member for Redlands and the member for Capalaba are always telling me about the beauty of North Stradbroke Island. Today I am proud to announce that more tourists than ever before are discovering Minjerribah. New data released by the University of Queensland shows around 375,000 people visited the island in 2018, up from 350,000 in 2017. That is an extra 25,000 in one year. They are spending more as well. The median spend for a daytripper is up by 20 per cent, and it is up more than 10 per cent for overnight visitors. The median spend for overnight visitors is now over \$170. We will continue to invest in the economic transition of Minjerribah, and that is why we are investing \$25 million to grow tourism and tourism industry jobs on the island.

Skills for Queensland Strategy, Free Apprenticeships

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): Earlier this month it was fantastic to have the Premier and the education minister, Grace Grace, at Marsden State High School to launch our Skills for Queensland strategy and announce free apprenticeships for those aged under 21. I am so proud that our government is backing Queensland businesses to grow and create more jobs. Our \$32 million investment will support local businesses to take on around 60,000 apprentices and trainees—

Honourable members interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: There will be 60,000 apprentices and trainees across 139—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just called the House to order.

Ms FENTIMAN: Third time lucky, Mr Speaker. There will be 60,000 apprentices and trainees getting their qualifications for free. This will open up more opportunities for young Queenslanders to get the skills and training they need to fill the jobs of the future. At the launch of our free apprenticeships, Dan Petrie from CCIQ welcomed the package saying, 'For small business it removes a burden of paying for training.' As the Premier said, free apprenticeships can represent a saving of up to \$3,000 for employers.

These apprenticeships are also leading to exciting and rewarding careers in electrical, plumbing and engineering, as well as non-trade areas like health care and hospitality. These are the skills we know industry needs. Maurice Swan from the Australian Industry Group said that this is a great step towards a more highly skilled workforce. It is not just industry and our small businesses excited about these apprenticeships. Young Queenslanders and their families have the most to benefit. Last Friday I met 16-year-old Bailey, an automotive spray-painting apprentice from Bayer Smash Repairs in Loganholme. Bailey was learning his trade and setting himself up with skills for a rewarding career. He is just one of the many young Queenslanders now benefiting from this initiative.

We know that the VET sector currently provides training for nine out of the 10 jobs predicted to grow the most, and our free apprenticeships is all part of our skills strategy that outlines a clear plan to make sure Queenslanders can fill those jobs. We are absolutely committed to backing businesses to grow and to put on more apprentices and trainees. This is great news for Queensland businesses and for young Queenslanders.

Transport Infrastructure, Jobs



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): At the 2015 and 2017 elections, Queenslanders made it clear that they want jobs and they want roads, rail and better transport, and Labor is delivering. After blazing the trail over the last four years, the Palaszczuk Labor government has handed down a record \$23 billion roads and transport budget—our fourth in five years. Our four-year plan will create 21,500 jobs for Queenslanders with a pipeline of projects to make sure we keep our pedal to the metal as Queensland moves from strength to strength.

Whether it is Cairns, Townsville, Rocky, Maryborough or our communities out west, there are thousands of Queenslanders right now turning up to job sites building roads and transport infrastructure. Whether it is in 40 degree heat or freezing temperatures, hardworking Queenslanders are delivering our state's largest ever road project—the Bruce Highway infrastructure program.

Thousands of workers—local grader operators, steel fixers, concreters, diesel fitters, machine operators, engineers, road roller drivers, electricians and traffic controllers—are paving the way with the jet black bitumen we love on \$2.3 billion in M1 upgrades and new regional ring-roads, just to name a few. These are projects the Palaszczuk government started and is delivering after the infrastructure cuts of the Newman government. At our ports, which we kept in public hands, dredging operators, crane builders—

Mr Boothman: You sold the assets.

Mr BAILEY: They do not want to hear about assets not being sold, do they?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr BAILEY: At our ports we have dredging operators, crane builders, wharf contractors, piledrivers and quarry operators unlocking new opportunities for tourism and export industries thanks to the Palaszczuk government driving hundreds of millions of dollars in investment for upgrades to our Townsville and Cairns ports.

The LNP sacked more than 700 of our hardworking RoadTek road builders and first responders the first chance it had. Under the Palaszczuk government, last year Transport and Main Roads' RoadTek team started training 63 apprentices. They are apprentices who Queensland motorists need on the job building and repairing our Queensland roads—the biggest network in the nation. We do not cut; the Palaszczuk government trains and employs. Today we have a crew of 1,200-plus hardworking RoadTek staff maintaining our roads; responding to cyclones, bushfires and extreme weather events like the February floods in North Queensland; and restoring the network quickly. They are joining the workers in the 21½ thousand road jobs our government is creating.

Last week I met with 500 industry representatives and local businesses to see how their business can get involved in projects that will build Queensland's roads and rail. This includes more than \$14½ billion in projects for regional Queensland and 13½ thousand jobs for regional Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government wants to see locals grab the jobs on offer as we build new bridges, lay new asphalt and create new transport opportunities. I have had the pleasure of being on the ground to see these projects being started and delivered by the Palaszczuk government over the past 4½ years. From seeing the thick black seal and tar being laid on the Barkly Highway upgrades in Mount Isa and the Peninsula Development Road in Cape York to starting and finishing Riverway Drive in

Townsville, driving along the completed Vines Creek bridges in a Mack truck and talking with our workers on the \$812 million upgrade of the Bruce Highway on the Sunshine Coast, what is very clear is that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government delivering the jobs, the roads and the transport that Queenslanders need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Answer to Question on Notice, Apology



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.12 am): I wish to confirm that I lodged a replacement, amended answer to a question on notice on 26 June this year. I made a public statement on that same day in relation to the matter. I stated that the original response was based on a miscommunication in advice from the Queensland Police Service.

I wrote to the Clerk and to you, Mr Speaker, to explain this matter. In my letter to you I undertook to apologise to the House on the next sitting day, and I do so now. I apologise to the House for the oversight.

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

Report



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 24 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 March 2019 and 29 April 2019*.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament, Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 March 2019 and 29 April 2019 [[1281](#)].

The report summarises the committee's findings regarding the Hospitals and Health Boards Regulation 2012, which enables the sharing of confidential information between Queensland Health and the National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland, and the Public Health Regulation 2018, which prescribes as a public health risk places that are at risk of having been contaminated because they have been used to unlawfully produce a dangerous drug or store chemicals associated with unlawful drug production. I commend the report to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.13 am.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.13 am): My first question is to the Premier. The Premier said in 2017—
Let me make it absolutely clear—I guard my integrity most dearly.

An integrity crisis has engulfed the Palaszczuk government with the Deputy Premier's Woolloongabba house purchase and the revelation that the Premier's chief political adviser part owned a company that received a taxpayer funded grant of \$267,500. Will the Premier now restore integrity in her government and sack her chief of staff and sack her Deputy Premier?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, Leader of the Opposition, the question had a lengthy preamble. That is the only warning I will give today. I ask that you consider that for future questions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The Leader of the Opposition is very fond of the word 'sack'. In fact, those opposite know that word all too well because when they were in government they sacked 14,000 people.

Ms Trad: Proud of it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are proud of it. I do guard my integrity and I place the integrity of this government at the highest order, and Queenslanders know that. In relation to those issues, let me make it very clear to this House. I have made it very clear at press conferences and I will make it very clear in here. There is a process that is underway. Those opposite may want to find people guilty before they have even had a trial, but there are two processes underway. Let me go through them. The first one is an audit in relation to the chief of staff. My understanding is that that audit will be completed by the end

of this month. Secondly, the allegations around the Deputy Premier are with the CCC for assessment. If the CCC finds that there will be an investigation, the Deputy Premier will stand down. That is the standard I expect of my ministers and that is the standard I expect of this government. I find it very hypocritical that those opposite would come in here and talk about integrity. When it came to hiding political donations, those opposite had secret donations.

Ms Fentiman: The 'diamond club'.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the minister's interjection; the 'diamond club' was set up by those opposite—'Deb's diamond club'. The very first piece of legislation that my government introduced when we were elected lowered the political donation thresholds from \$12,800 to \$1,000. It was those opposite who were a part of the sacking of the PCCC in the dead of the night, who would not appoint an independent chair with bipartisan support of the CCC.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, the worst attorney-general the state has ever seen. This Attorney-General has had to—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—mop up—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—his mess.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, Premier.

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to her director-general's decision to appoint Ernst & Young to audit the payment to her chief of staff. I can now reveal that the partner from Ernst & Young was on the expert panel for Advance Queensland that advised on the establishment of the Business Development Fund at the time the grant was paid. How can Ernst & Young audit this grant given the clear conflict of interest?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Order!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, I have called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. She is now attacking accounting firms in this state. They attack public servants; they attack accounting firms. Let me make it very clear: I did not appoint the accounting firm; the director-general appointed the firm without any role from myself.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is answering the question that has been asked. I ask that you listen to the answer to the question and cease your interjections. Anything to add, Premier? No? Okay.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Local Government, you are warned under the standing orders.

Aquaculture Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline how expanding the aquaculture industry is boosting jobs and the regional economy in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay very much for the question. Of course growing jobs in Mackay, just as it is in every other region, is very important. That is why we have some good news for Mackay today, with Tassal announcing that it will produce 1,000 jobs through the development of aquaculture in Mackay. This comes on top of our 216,000 jobs. Some 1,000 more jobs for regional Queensland is really important. In fact, the Australian Stock Exchange was advised this

morning that it will purchase a 7,000-hectare beef property just north of Mackay with a view to progressing a major aquaculture facility. This is part of a long-term, \$500 million investment that will represent major growth in our aquaculture industry and be a major driver for future employment in this state. This investment is one of six aquaculture development areas that my government designated and announced in January this year to promote and encourage this kind of job-creating investment. The company plans to continue through stages 3 and 4 of its Proserpine site and then develop and expand through another site.

The scale of this operational staging investment means that the company will be able to build significant, highly skilled, specialised, long-term and secure jobs for the Mackay region. We know how important aquaculture is. The announcement today to the Stock Exchange about jobs for regional Queensland is great news. Tassal is an absolutely fantastic company, and for it to make this announcement for the growth of this industry is indeed exemplary.

I know how much the people of Mackay look forward to finding out more about how they can apply to get one of these 1,000 jobs and about the big investments we are already putting into Mackay. We know how important aquaculture is for this state. It is going from strength to strength. I know the Minister for Fisheries and agriculture is a big driver of this industry. On my trade mission to Dubai, when I visited Abu Dhabi I saw firsthand the strengths of aquaculture and the investment happening there. It is good to see that investment also happening in Queensland's backyard. I thank Tassal very much for today's great announcement. I know that it is great news for Mackay and for the member for Mackay. The 1,000 new jobs for Mackay and regional Queensland is great news. This government will always stick up for jobs in regional Queensland.

Business Development Fund

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Have the Treasurer or her staff ever had a discussion with David Barbagallo about the Business Development Fund, which gave a taxpayer funded grant of \$267,500 to a company part owned by David Barbagallo while he was the Premier's chief of staff?

Ms TRAD: No.

Mr SPEAKER: Please, members must wait to have received the call.

Gold Coast Light Rail

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Can the Premier please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Gold Coast Light Rail?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for the question. There is only one side of this House that delivers for the Gold Coast. In fact, the investment that we see on the Gold Coast, especially when it comes to light rail, occurred under Labor governments. I remember when I was transport minister many years ago that the government made the decision to go ahead with stage 1. Those opposite and some other people were opposed to that. Then in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games we made the decision to go with stage 2. Once again, we worked in tandem with the council and the state government to really put pressure on the federal government in relation to stage 2. It was delivered in time for the Commonwealth Games and is a vital piece of infrastructure which allows people to travel all the way from Brisbane to Broadbeach. I am very pleased that my government now has put on the table over \$300 million for stage 3A, from Broadbeach to Burleigh. Now we are asking Scott Morrison and the federal LNP to come to the party and put up the remainder. Some \$351 million is our commitment. The council is on board; we are on board. We are still waiting for Scott Morrison.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister for tourism is warned under the standing orders. The Minister for State Development is warned under the standing orders. I have been clear that interjections directed at those opposite should be made through the chair. The member for Southport is warned under the standing orders. The member for Mermaid Beach is warned under the standing orders for persistent interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Southport was very happy to take a selfie on stage 2 of the light rail. This will mean over 500 construction jobs on the Gold Coast and will be shovel-ready, ready to go, in January next year if we get federal government agreement. I am holding out a bit of hope here, because the Deputy Prime Minister met with the Minister for Transport and me. They are looking for shovel-ready projects and for infrastructure projects around our state. Wouldn't it be lovely if some Gold

Coast members backed this? Wouldn't it be lovely if they backed the 500 jobs? Wouldn't it be nice if they picked up the phone and made some comment? Wouldn't it be nice if perhaps the member for Burleigh came out and supported the project?

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He likes it.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Burleigh is warned under the standing orders.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He likes the trains in Canada. Maybe not the light rail on the Gold Coast! Members opposite either support the Gold Coast or they do not. How many LNP members are on the Gold Coast? We will back the Gold Coast if members opposite will not.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Members, I am having difficulty hearing the member on their feet due to the level of interjection.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Deputy Premier. The Cabinet Handbook requires a minister with a real conflict of interest to disclose the conflict to the Premier. Last week the Premier told journalists that the first time she heard about the Woolloongabba house purchase occurred after it was reported in the media. Given the CCC has confirmed it has no jurisdiction to deal with the Ministerial Handbook, will the Deputy Premier now tender her resignation to the Premier?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. This issue has been well ventilated in the media. For the benefit of the House, I advise again that the CCC is looking into all matters, because I referred myself to the CCC and the opposition referred me to the CCC. Unlike those opposite, we believe in the CCC—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. Members will cease interjections so that the House can hear the response.

Ms TRAD: As I said, we adhere to the processes. The process is currently underway, as the Premier said. If the CCC comes back—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Glass House is warned under the standing orders. I have made myself very clear.

Ms TRAD: As the Premier reported to the House and as I stated publicly, if the CCC determines that there are grounds for an investigation, I will stand aside. I will do what is right, and the Premier has already informed the House this morning.

As I said, all of these matters are before the CCC. I would suggest that, rather than continue to use this as a political football, we allow the CCC to get—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to relevance under standing order 118. My question specifically said that the CCC had no jurisdiction to deal with the matters the Deputy Premier is speaking about. My question was about the Ministerial Handbook and the breach of that handbook.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. The question related to the CCC and whether or not it has jurisdiction which allows for an opinion or a response to that matter. Also, there is one minute and 43 seconds left on the clock for the Deputy Premier to further respond regarding your question. I ask that you offer that opportunity.

Ms Trad: I have nothing further.

Payroll Tax

Mr WHITING: My question is directed to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the response by business to the Palaszczuk government's cuts to payroll tax?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Bancroft for the question and can advise the House that everywhere I have travelled throughout regional Queensland the response has been tremendous. I know those opposite do not like the fact that we delivered what they could not when they were in government—that is, what they promised but failed to do.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection. There were so many promises that those opposite broke when they were in government. I am very pleased to report to the House that the response, particularly in regional Queensland, regarding our payroll tax relief package of \$885 million has been so widely acclaimed and well received. In Mackay Mr Robbie Young from Kynaston Engineering said—

A one per cent reduction in payroll tax is an absolute benefit to us because payroll tax is a penalty for putting on people.

We've got six apprentices on right now, making up over a quarter of our workforce, so extending the rebate on their wages will help too.

Mr Speaker, in Cairns—where you are from—Trinity Engineering's Mr Scott Christensen said—

Changes like the increase to the payroll tax threshold now provide us the opportunities to grow our workforce without the extra burden of payroll tax.

In Far North Queensland Mark and Judy Evans said—

We have employed three new staff since the payroll tax changes were announced, taking our workforce across the park and hotel to about 80 people in total. The payroll tax changes give us more room to grow in the busy times and will help us keep our good workers employed through the quieter times as well.

In Mount Isa Michael Scotney from Clancy Corporation said—

We will benefit from the regional business discount which is fantastic. I see state payroll tax as a burden on business that are boosting the economy.

In Townsville Noel Ambler from Tenpin bowling said that what this means for him and his business is that he will now no longer pay any payroll tax. He has been paying payroll tax, but with the new threshold of \$1.3 million, up \$200,000 from \$1.1 million, Mr Ambler now no longer has to pay payroll tax and he can afford to put on more workers. That is what a Labor government does. It works with business to back jobs in our state. Maybe we should all go visit Mr Ambler when we are in Townsville for the Townsville sitting of parliament and help him with his business. I am very proud of our absolute jewel in the crown as the CCC said, and that is payroll tax relief for small businesses.

(Time expired)

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

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. The Cabinet Handbook requires a minister with a real conflict of interest to disclose the conflict to the Premier. Last week the Premier told journalists that the first time she heard about the Woolloongabba house purchase was after it was reported in the media. As the Premier alone is responsible for enforcing the Cabinet Handbook, will the Premier now sack the Deputy Premier for this breach?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I made very clear in this House, the matter is for assessment before the CCC.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, once the CCC comes down with its decision, if it decides to investigate, the Deputy Premier will be standing down.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders for not directing your comments through the chair. Member for Moggill, you are warned for consistent interjection this morning. Premier, I ask you to come back to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As Premier I will have no hesitation in standing the Deputy Premier down.

Mr Watts: Weak!

Ms Palaszczuk: And you're pathetic.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, let me be very clear. I appreciate that there are many issues circulating through the House today and will no doubt be the subject of many passionate points of view. Let me say first of all, on both sides, member for Toowoomba North, that was an unparliamentary remark. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr WATTS: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I appreciate the personal attack, Premier, but I ask you also to withdraw.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on the progress of the construction of the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank and whether the minister is aware of any other views about this major manufacturing facility for the great city of Ipswich?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich West and the other members around Ipswich—the members for Ipswich, Jordan and Bundamba—for their strong support for manufacturing jobs in Queensland. I am pleased to advise the House that the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, otherwise known as Milvecoe—so critical to our success in bringing the Land 400 phase 2 contract to Queensland—is powering ahead. I was delighted to be on site recently with the Premier and the member for Bundamba to witness the great work going on there and to see the hundreds of Queenslanders employed in the construction of that facility.

Queenslanders love their sheds, and this is the biggest and best shed in the country. However, it is not big enough apparently for the Leader of the Opposition to be able to find it. There she was back on 5 August with the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, proclaiming, 'So here today at Rheinmetall we see this massive investment in jobs,' except she was not at the Rheinmetall factory. She was at Penske. Penske is at Wacol and Rheinmetall is at Redbank, a mere 15 kilometres away. As Maxwell Smart used to say, 'Missed it by that much!' Milvecoe is massive—28,000 square metres of floor space or the equivalent size of 22 Olympic swimming pools or four football fields or one-third the size of Suncorp Stadium. How could you miss it? It is like going to the Ekka and not being able to find the Cattleman's Bar!

Whatever the deficiency the Leader of the Opposition has about location she makes up for with her absolute gold medal performance when it comes to double standards. She claimed credit for Milvecoe when it was announced. She could not get enough of it. However, when she was in government—the right-hand person to Campbell Newman proudly sitting around the CBRC table—those opposite cut \$30 million from industry support programs. At the time they said words to the effect that encouraging interstate or international businesses to come here was not a long-term plan for jobs. That factory will deliver 500 jobs for Queensland, with thousands more in the supply chain. Under the Leader of the Opposition, there would be no Qantas Dreamliners and no Swickers in Kingaroy. I was there on Friday with the Leader of the Opposition welcoming 800 jobs—a 50 per cent increase in the number of jobs in her electorate because our government is funding Swickers to expand.

Ms Palaszczuk: We saved her bacon.

Mr DICK: We have saved the Leader of the Opposition's bacon locally, so I take that interjection. Let us face it: there is no national industry policy from the federal government and no industry policy from the LNP. Only Labor and this government will deliver manufacturing jobs for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development

Ms SIMPSON: My question without notice is to the Premier. It is a requirement of the Ministerial Handbook that ministers comply with the requirements of the Register of Members' Interests. What action will the Premier take against the Minister for Employment for failing to properly declare a gift of luxury accommodation in Whistler during peak ski season for her and her partner from a consultant to the government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The minister has advised that she has clarified that in line with the member's requirements for pecuniary interests for the parliament.

Tourism Infrastructure, Jobs

Mr STEWART: 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 plan to deliver new tourism infrastructure to create jobs in Queensland?

Ms JONES: One crane, two cranes, three cranes, four. That is how many cranes are being delivered right now to build the largest tourism project in Queensland's history at Queen's Wharf. Only two months after the first crane started operating at Queen's Wharf, today I can confirm that a third tower will be erected this weekend and we will see up to 10 cranes building this brand-new \$3.2 billion investment in our tourism industry. We know that this means jobs, jobs, jobs for Queensland not only during construction, where we expect around 2,000 jobs, but also, in the long term, around 8,000 jobs.

While this government is getting on with the job of delivering jobs for Queenslanders and building our economy and while we are counting cranes, we know that the LNP members are counting diamonds. Do not get me wrong: I am a big believer that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but I do not believe in diamond membership to the LNP designed to get around our government's integrity measures.

Our government has been very clear. We think that we should declare to the public exactly who donates to the Labor Party, but we do not get the same integrity from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has instituted a whole new diamond category to ensure that they do not have to declare, they do not have to comply with our laws—

Mr Dick: 'Diamond Deb'.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection—'Diamond Deb'—

Mr SPEAKER: No, you will not take the interjection, Minister. I ask that members use members' correct titles.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has created a whole new category of LNP membership designed to get around our developer bans. It is shameful, so do not dare walk into this parliament and lecture us about integrity. When it comes to delivering transparency in government, we know that only Labor will deliver real reform and real legacy legislation.

The LNP took us to the High Court to hide its donations. That is the standard of the Leader of the Opposition in this state. It is shameful and it is gutless. All they get from this special new category is some free cocktails.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary word.

Ms JONES: Sorry, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: You used the word 'gutless'. Please withdraw.

Ms JONES: I withdraw. I used to work for the former member for Rockhampton who used it every day. We have a clear point of difference here. We are getting on with the job of creating jobs—30,000 new jobs in Queensland in the tourism industry alone. That is part of our record investment. We know that the LNP members are spending their time behind closed doors coming up with brand-new categories to walk away from the integrity laws of our state. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition came clean on who made those developer donations to their party behind closed doors.

(Time expired)

Barbagallo, Mr D

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier produce to the House the conflict of interest management plan for David Barbagallo?

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to any issues around my chief of staff, he has assured me that he has done everything appropriately and has always sought integrity advice—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I have been clear this morning about when a minister is replying and responding to the question asked. I believe that is what the Premier is doing. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the opposition well knows, there is an audit that is currently underway.

Gold Coast Light Rail

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the next stage of light rail on the Gold Coast?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. He is a very strong supporter of our public transport system and in enhancing it. The Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to public transport has already delivered great dividends. It has always been Labor governments that have delivered light rail. The first stage was delivered by Labor governments at a federal and state level. In federal parliament the LNP voted against it. The Newman government could have done something about stage 2. It did not. It chose to do nothing. It did not invest; it cut. It was this government that majority funded light rail stage 2 in time for the Commonwealth Games. Despite the doomsaying by the members of the opposition, including the member for Chatsworth, light rail was a star performer in the games traffic plan.

In five years, since the first two stages have been completed, we have seen 42 million trips on the Gold Coast Light Rail. Last month, for the very first time, light rail recorded more than one million passenger trips in only one month. The Gold Coast Light Rail is a fantastic outcome for public transport that contributes to the record patronage of our public transport system that we have seen over the past two years. Let alone the transport benefits, 800 people on the Gold Coast and across South-East Queensland got jobs because of the Gold Coast Light Rail.

To get stage 3A going we need a fair funding deal from Canberra. The offer so far from Canberra has been underwhelming to say the least—16 per cent, which is the lowest offer ever. Recently, the Premier announced a \$351 million commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government to get stage 3A of light rail done. We want to see Canberra come to the table to get this done. It would still mean that the state government is funding the majority of it, but it would be a fair funding deal.

We need those opposite to stand up for the Gold Coast for a change and back in light rail. We see magic wand economics from the Leader of the Opposition. Apparently, she is going to pay for all of it—other than \$112 million and the council contribution. She does not know how. There is no plan to fund it. She is promising something to everybody and has no plan to pay for anything.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Southport interjects. We see all types of positions from those opposite. The member for Burleigh wants light rail 3B to go past his brewery. There is no action from the Leader of the Opposition on that. There is no integrity about pulling the member for Burleigh into line in terms of benefiting his financial interests. There is no leadership there.

Instead of bagging this government, we need the LNP members representing the Gold Coast to stand up for the Gold Coast for a change and to get infrastructure built. When it comes to infrastructure on the Gold Coast, the Palaszczuk Labor government delivers every single time.

(Time expired)

Waste, Recycling

Ms BOLTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Would the minister please confirm whether any recycling or recyclables are currently being placed into our landfills?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I acknowledge her support for schemes to ensure that we are recycling well in this state. I know that she is an advocate for the container refund scheme, which has been an incredible success across our state. More than 700 million containers have been returned, ensuring that we are seeing those containers recycled rather than in the environment as litter or ending up in our landfills.

There are other measures that we are taking that I know the member has been supportive of, including the ban of single-use lightweight plastic bags, which has had a huge impact on our environment. As the member knows, we are fighting a war on waste in this state. Last year alone, in this state, we produced some 10.9 million tonnes of waste. That means that we are generating waste faster than we are growing the population.

As a state we have been poor performers in terms of recycling, only recycling about 45 per cent of the waste we generate. That makes us the second worst performer in the country. That is why we have brought in measures such as the container refund scheme and banning lightweight plastic bags and last month we saw the reintroduction of a waste levy, bringing us in line with the rest of the country.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms ENOCH: We hear those opposite make a bit of noise about that. Earlier this month at COAG the Prime Minister, their colleague at the federal level, made an announcement about recycling in this state. Just this morning their colleague the federal Minister for Environment talked about recycling being an economic driver for this country. Those opposite do not like to hear this part: when the Prime Minister was asked how we ensure that we are able to recycle more in this country and build recycling industries he talked about how waste levies in states and territories could support those industries to grow. In Queensland that is exactly what we are doing.

Tonight what we are seeing, led by the member for Broadwater, the shadow minister for environment—and I have to say he has taken the definition of shadow minister to another creepy level by following me around everywhere.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under 118 the minister was asked a specific question—a good question—about things going into landfill and the minister has gone nowhere near answering that question.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order in that regard. However, Minister, I do ask that you be very careful. I am concerned that you are speaking to a matter that is the subject of a disallowance motion. Can you please ensure that you tread carefully.

Ms ENOCH: On this side of the House we know that there are opportunities for jobs and economic uplift in this state. The waste levy will help to deliver that. We will continue to stand for ensuring that we will recycle in this state and make sure that our environment is protected from littering.

Building and Construction Industry, Jobs

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on the jobs being created in the construction industry as a result of the Housing Construction Jobs Program and whether the LNP housing policy supports job creation in Queensland?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. I know he shares in the belief that a duty of all governments is to provide safe, secure and sustainable housing, particularly for those most vulnerable in our community. I can confirm to the House and also to the visitors in the gallery, in particular the students from Chatswood Hills State School, that our government takes the job of providing safe, secure and sustainable housing very seriously and we are doing it through a \$1.6 billion investment into building social and affordable homes across Queensland.

Under our Housing Construction Jobs Program Queensland construction workers are delivering 5½ thousand new social and affordable homes across the state. Since this program began they have been exceeding those targets. We are on track not only to meet our goals but also to exceed them. Queensland construction workers on the Housing Construction Jobs Program have already delivered 1,427 homes. That is over 300 more than our two-year target.

I can inform the member for Capalaba that means 225 new homes built by Queensland construction workers in the Logan area and in the Redlands; 97 new homes in Cairns; 87 in Townsville; 141 new homes in the Ipswich region; 161 new homes being built by Queensland construction workers on the Gold Coast; 335 new homes in Brisbane; and 93 new homes being constructed by Queensland tradespeople on the Sunshine Coast. For the benefit of the members for Kawana and Maroochydore, who inquire of me of this regularly, 93 new homes on the Sunshine Coast—that is 93 more than the LNP built on the coast in its entire term in office.

All this means jobs for Queensland construction workers. In two years we have supported 1,300 direct construction jobs and a further 7½ thousand through the supply chain and we are supporting the next generation of tradespeople. Through the program 77,000 hours of apprentice work have been completed. We are backing in the jobs of those 230,000 construction workers across the state with this program.

Queensland is leading the way with our investment into social and affordable housing, creating jobs for Queensland construction industry workers, but unfortunately the LNP just makes it harder and harder. We see no plan from the coalition in Canberra to increase affordable housing supply. They cut and run from the 50-year commitment to building houses in remote communities—that is less homes and less jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. What we saw earlier this year

was a backroom deal between the Prime Minister and Tasmania to forgive their social housing debt. Queenslanders have missed out again. If that same deal had been offered to Queenslanders we would have been able to build 957 new homes and create 919 full-time jobs. The only housing policy of those opposite is to re-establish developer donations to line their pockets.

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

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier order the Deputy Premier to release the text messages from her husband about the purchase of their \$695,000 investment property—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, the question will be heard in silence. Please start your question again.

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier order the Deputy Premier to release the text messages from her husband about the purchase of their \$695,000 investment property, the fifth property in her extensive property portfolio just a stones throw from Cross River Rail and the Inner City South State Secondary College?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I have said in this House, all of these matters are under assessment by the CCC.

Gas Industry, Policy

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House on the potential impact of the Morrison government's proposed gas reservation policy on jobs and investment?

Dr LYNHAM: What a fizzer of a question time from those opposite. It is like the Ekka fireworks where no-one brings the matches.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it would help the House if you could answer the question that has been asked of you.

Dr LYNHAM: It is like the fizzer of the Morrison government's energy policy. Loud and clear I have said that we need to get more gas into the market. The Palaszczuk government is doing all the heavy lifting in this area. In 2017 we implemented our policy of releasing exploration acreage for our use only. The policy is delivering. It is delivering new projects like Project Atlas, which is creating new jobs. It will deliver new gas to Incitec Pivot at Gibson Island and CSR at Brendale, Coopers Plains and Oxley. It is a sensible gas policy fuelling hundreds of jobs throughout this state.

The Commonwealth belatedly announced the Australian Domestic Gas Supply Mechanism. All it is is an annual review of gas supply and a threat of reservation, but it is no new gas. What about consultation with the largest gas producer on the eastern seaboard? There was none—just a 24-hour heads-up: here it comes. It is another thought bubble of the ridiculous, another instant train wreck of energy policy from Canberra. Their new policy is just a doubling down on reservation policy restricted to only one state and that is ours.

The Morrison government and Matt Canavan are making an attack on Queensland. Matt Canavan might as well throw on a Blues jersey. The Morrison government's policies are a direct attack on Queensland jobs. Queensland has been doing the heavy lifting on gas supply and the reward is a policy that punishes Queensland while rewarding New South Wales and Victoria for sitting on their hands. The Morrison government is achieving this with its big stick threats, throwing a big wet blanket over Queensland jobs and investment.

What the market needs and what manufacturers need is more investment and more gas and that is what the Palaszczuk government has been doing for two years—more land for domestic gas, more gas for manufacturers, more gas for jobs in Queensland. What we need from Canberra is some positive policies—actually any energy policy from Canberra would be great—to encourage new gas field development, more production and more jobs. The Palaszczuk government has created more than 216,000 jobs since 2015 and that will continue to be our focus.

Barbagallo, Mr D

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Will the Treasurer order the Queensland Investment Corporation to release to the Crime and Corruption Commission the external legal advice it obtained about the taxpayer funded grant of \$267,500 to a company part owned by David Barbagallo while he was the Premier's chief of staff?

Ms TRAD: In relation to this matter, the QIC will be fully cooperating with the external audit that is currently underway. I know that the LNP opposition knows this, because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has corresponded with the QIC and the QIC formalised its response back to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on 2 August. For the benefit of the House I now table a copy of that response to the member for Everton.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 August 2019, from the Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Investment Commission, Mr D Frawley, to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Mander MP, regarding the Business Development Fund [1283].

Again I say to the member for Moggill that there is a process underway.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the Deputy Premier is answering the question.

Ms TRAD: As I said, there is a process underway. The process will be adhered to by everyone within government.

Kingaroy Hospital, Redevelopment

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on the progress of the Kingaroy hospital redevelopment?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question, because I know she knows that right across this state the Palaszczuk government is building and rebuilding hospitals. In the process we are delivering better health care for Queenslanders, creating jobs not only in health care but also in construction. In their three years in government those opposite did not approve a single major capital project for our hospitals in this state. They have been to two elections without committing to a single major hospital capital project.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. You have had a good go today.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are also warned under the standing orders. I had just called the House to order.

Dr MILES: The Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech did not mention a single hospital capital project for this state. Recently I had the chance to launch construction of the Palaszczuk government's \$74 million redevelopment of the Kingaroy hospital. It will be a fantastic redevelopment involving a new hospital building, two new operating theatres, two new birthing suites and a 12-bed emergency department to open in 2021. It is the single biggest investment in health care in Kingaroy for more than half a century. The project is creating 72 full-time jobs, as many as possible in the local community.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I thought you had just warned the member for Cooper and I understand that she is already under your official warning from earlier in the day.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I have not given a warning to the member for Cooper since I gave the initial warning. If the member for Cooper did actually say anything, I did not hear it because of the din in here. All I can hear is interjection. I ask members to cease their interjections so that I can better hear members who are offending the standing orders.

Dr MILES: When the Premier announced that I would be attending the sod turn at the Kingaroy Hospital, the member for Nanango interjected and said that she would look out for her invite. She received her invite, but she did not bother to show up. When I opened the Julia Creek health centre, the member for Traeger came along. When I opened the Caloundra hospital redevelopment, the member for Caloundra came along. When I opened the new ambulance station in the electorate of the member for Kawana, the member for Kawana came along. He declined my offer of a photo, but he came along all the same.

What kind of member of parliament does not show up to the important launch of a major construction project in their own electorate? One who is deeply ashamed of her party's record on health care! One who is more interested in telling her dating stories on the front page of the paper in Brisbane than she is in the delivery of health care in her electorate! One who is more interested in being in the social pages of the *Sunday Mail* than those of the *South Burnett Times*! When it comes to the member for Nanango, she just did not go.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Crime and Corruption Commission

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that the Deputy Premier has now twice personally contacted the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission while under assessment of matters relating to her, will the Premier now direct all ministers not to contact the CCC chair directly while they are under assessment, given that that puts at risk the independence of Queensland's chief corruption watchdog?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is lovely that the opposition asks about the CCC, because it is the same CCC that they took 25 jobs from when they were in government. It is the same CCC for which they would not have an independent process for the appointment of a chair. It is the same CCC that they denigrated in this House and sacked the oversight committee of in the dark of night. That shows the attitude of those opposite. They attacked the CCC when they were in government, yet now they come in here saying that suddenly they are great defenders of the CCC.

Advancing Clean Energy Schools

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister update the House on the rollout of phase 1 of the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program and outline the benefits that this program will provide?

Ms GRACE: Like the member for Rockhampton, members on this side of House know a good program when we see one. This program is absolutely fantastic. Every school that is getting a solar panel loves our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. Berserker Street State School was one of the first schools to receive a panel and that school is absolutely loving it. We are delivering this \$100 million program to 800 schools, with 210 panels being delivered over this financial year. We will be delivering the program over three phases until June 2022.

Ms Leahy: None in Warrego.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Warrego. Just wait. It is coming your way, as well. The program will help to reduce energy costs for schools. It will give an audit so that schools can best manage their energy needs into the future and we can roll out our \$100 million air-conditioning program outside the Cooler School Zone.

It is great to see those opposite coming on board. The LNP members for Bundaberg and Burnett have welcomed our plan to install solar panels in their local schools. When describing the program the member for Burnett said, 'It's a huge win for a lot of schools in our region who are making strides to become cleaner and greener.' Well done, member for Burnett! The member for Bundaberg said, 'It's great to see the majority of state schools in Bundaberg included in phase 1 of the program.' Well done, member for Bundaberg!

However, when it comes to the LNP there is always a downer and it is generally the member for Kawana. He brings everyone down. He has been talking about our air-conditioning policy. Our clean energy policy and our air-conditioning policy are fully funded in the budget and will be delivered on time and on budget, unlike the LNP's policy on air-conditioning every classroom in the state. We are yet to hear when or how they are going to fund that.

It was interesting during estimates to receive interjections from the member for Kawana. I asked the member for Kawana how they intend to fund their program. These are not my figures but the previous minister's figures. It will require \$2 billion to air-condition every classroom in the state. I will quote from *Hansard*. There is a little hubris coming through from the LNP. The member for Kawana answered the question: 'I will tell you in November 2020.' It will not be before the election but after the election. The hubris is coming through very strong. Do not count your chickens before they have hatched, member for Kawana. You are going to tell us in November. Ours is fully costed. It is a great program.

(Time expired)

Barbagallo, Mr D

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Why is the Premier willing to accept the word of David Barbagallo that he has not acted corruptly, given his history—he pleaded guilty to falsely enrolling someone, was charged with multiple counts of fraud, was adversely named in the Shepherdson inquiry and was a person of interest in the foxtail palms affair? Is this the face of integrity in the Palaszczuk government?

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. There are imputations in that question and I ask that the question be ruled out of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, in future when I am taking advice from the table you are to remain quiet. There is no excuse. As I have heard the question, Leader of the House, there is no imputation against a member. However, as always when questions are asked in this House the member asking the question must be able to authenticate the elements of the question that they are asking, which I assume the member for Surfers Paradise would be willing to do. I will allow the question. However, I will allow the Premier scope and latitude to answer. Premier, you have two minutes.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We return to the LNP's dark old days of attacking individuals and attacking reputations. It is absolutely disgusting. You attack public servants. You attack accounting firms. Now you are attacking individuals. The only thing the LNP knows about is sacking. That is the only thing the LNP in this state knows about.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Surfers Paradise has demonstrated to this House not only why he is not fit to be the Leader of the Opposition but also why he is not fit to be Premier. No wonder they are talking about moving him on and getting him out of state politics; he is not fit to be here. He is not fit to sit in this House.

Regional Queensland, Police Resources

Ms LUI: My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please update the House on the investments in police infrastructure, particularly in regional areas of Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to answer the question.

Mr RYAN: The member for Cook is very interested in the government's record police budget this year. More money than ever is being spent on police in Queensland under our government. There are more police in Queensland than ever before. Given we are investing properly in policing we are able to deliver new police facilities for Queensland.

In the member for Cook's electorate we are upgrading our police facility at Pormpuraaw. There is also a facility we are delivering on Saibai Island. Across the state we are delivering in regional areas. The member for Scenic Rim is excited about a new police station being built in Beaudesert. The member for Toowoomba North is never happy, but we are building not one but two new police facilities in Toowoomba North. This is a government which invests in the front line. When those opposite were in government they short-changed the police when it came to investing in police resources. We invest, we deliver and we support our police.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE**Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House**

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.14 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. The member for Burdekin in his question to the Premier today asserted that I had contacted the CCC twice whilst under assessment. This statement is false and it is misleading. I will be writing to you regarding this matter.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the business program motion scheduled for 11.15 am today be postponed to 11.15 am on Wednesday, 21 August 2019, with the commencement time for government business in the order of business for Wednesday's program to adjust to 11.35 am.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr SPEAKER: The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first and then the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (11.15 am): I rise to endorse report No. 30 of the Economics and Governance Committee titled *2019-20 Budget estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill*. The Economics and Governance Committee heard that the Parliamentary Service's strategic objectives were to: support the Legislative Assembly in fulfilling its functions within the institution of this parliament; support members of the Legislative Assembly provide information to the public about our processes; and safeguard, promote and strengthen the institution of parliament. Of course, this is the eternal objective of this section of the budget.

The highlights for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service for 2019-20 include: continuing the implementation of an electorate office relocation program to address the impacts of the considerable electoral boundary changes on members' electorate accommodation; continuing the implementation of a range of electorate office security enhancements; continuing the implementation of a new information technology strategy—which I know all members would be deeply appreciative of; I note that my office had the new internet services installed on Monday and my staff are still coming to terms with it—and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of IT Services in responding to emerging risks, such as cybersecurity; commencing the delivery of a three-year program to upgrade critical building infrastructure and services in the Parliamentary Annexe to address safety risks and ensure the reliability of services that support the parliamentary workplace; and continuing to implement the regional education program to help engage with key regional centres during the 56th Parliament.

Many would assume that in this place I speak only for the Logan electorate, but I recognise that as Queensland parliamentarians we are here for the whole of Queensland. I note that the Queensland parliament will hold a regional sitting of parliament in Townsville, which we are all excited about, from 3 to 5 September—

Mr Healy: Hear, hear!

Mr POWER: The member for Cairns likes to see our institutions go to North Queensland. The regional sittings will be held from 3 to 5 September 2019 at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre. It is an historic opportunity for the school students of Townsville who perhaps do not get to come to Brisbane to attend parliament. I am sure some from Cairns will come down as well. For the general public of North Queensland, including Cairns and all of the fantastic cities and towns, it is an opportunity to visit their parliament and see democracy in action.


We know that a full program is to be announced shortly. I can confirm that we will see a full parliamentary sitting, a junior Indigenous youth parliament—which I will be dropping in on—a regional youth parliament and the school visits program, which I have mentioned. This is the fifth regional sitting of the Queensland parliament. The others were in Townsville in 2002—that is twice to Townsville—Rockhampton in 2005, Cairns in 2008 and Mackay in 2011.

The report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019. Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the administration of the Legislative Assembly's budget by the Speaker and officers of the Queensland Parliamentary Service.

The committee has unanimously recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee, I thank the Speaker, the Clerk and officers of the Parliamentary Service who attended and allowed us to see the workings of the parliament through the budget estimates process. I also want to thank all of the departmental officers who cooperated in providing all of the information to the committee throughout this process.

I wish to thank the deputy chair of the committee for his hard and diligent work in this area that we find of such value—the promotion of our parliament and the appropriate budgeting for it. I wish to extend my thanks to all members of the committee. I note that the member for Redlands is also very diligent. I thank the committee secretariat and other parliamentary staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process. I commend the report to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! I remind the House of those members who on a warning under the standing orders. They are the members for Broadwater, McConnel, Sandgate, Southport, Mermaid Beach, Woodridge, Cooper, Burleigh, Glass House, Moggill, Nanango, Coomera and Mudgeeraba.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): That is the first time I have not been on that list for a while.

Mrs D'Ath: There's still time.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is early days. In speaking to the budget estimates committee report as far as it relates to the Legislative Assembly and the costings of that, I will raise a few issues as I did at the estimates committee hearing. The first is the member for Cook.

Usually when there is a redistribution and a member finds that their office is outside of their electorate, the member puts forward a proposition that they have their electorate office moved into their electorate. That makes sense because members want to be in their constituency dealing with matters and making themselves as accessible as they can for their constituents. Interestingly, the member for Cook takes a different view. The member for Cook takes the view that she wants to be away from her electorate. In fact, the member for Cook took the view that she wanted to move her office out of the electorate of Cook and into the electorate of Cairns. Now Cairns has two electorate offices—one serviced by the member for Cook and one serviced by the member for Cairns. It is odd that a member of parliament wants to be away from their constituents. It is odd that a member of parliament says no to their constituents and says, 'I want to be as far away from you as possible. I want to make your trip longer to get there.'

We saw through the estimates process the extraordinary amount of money that the member for Cook is wasting because she does not want to face up to her constituents. She wants to have her electorate office closer to her home so it is more convenient for her to get to the work, but not for her constituents to see their local member. It is a shame. In the time I have been here I have not seen a situation where a member of parliament does everything they can to move out of their electorate. Usually it is the opposite: they want to service their constituents within the bounds of their constituency. What we saw with the member for Cook's change of office—

Ms LUI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find everything that the member is saying offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the member finds what you have said offensive and has asked that it be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The cost of the fit-out of the new office is \$70,000 and the yearly rent will skyrocket to more than \$71,000 per year. Her new digs are not in the Cook electorate. The office is bigger, the rent is double and it is closer to her home. How convenient for the member for Cook, but not for her constituents.

The people of Cook deserve better than the member they have. They deserve a local member who actually works hard in the electorate. This is more Labor waste. The Mareeba Chamber of Commerce has taken the extraordinary step of writing to the Premier asking that the member for Cook not be allowed to move out of her electorate. As I said, it is extraordinary that a member wants to say no to their constituents and say, 'I want to be as far away from you as possible. I want to be close to home so I don't have far to drive to work.' That is disgraceful, member for Cook—absolutely disgraceful.

The other disgraceful thing we saw in this committee process was when I asked the Clerk of the Parliament when he first knew that the entire parliament would be uplifting to Townsville and he said when he read about it in the paper. What sort of collaboration, cooperation and discussion—

A government member interjected.


Mr BLEIJIE: Relevance? It was raised in the estimates process and—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, resume your seat. Members, if you have a point of order then you need to rise and share it.

Mr BLEIJIE: The fact is that the parliament will be going to Townsville only because of the federal election result—the great result for the coalition 'ScoMo' government. The Liberal National Party got over the line with a majority. The only reason the Premier has now found regional Queensland is the federal election result. As has been indicated, the Premier has spent more time overseas than she has stepping foot in regional Queensland which is a shame for the poor people of regional Queensland who do not get to see their Premier.

The other thing that the Clerk confirmed in the estimates process was that the ministers were not prevented from talking about the Woolloongabba purchase of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer because of a CCC assessment. I know that the government gets quite confused because there are a lot of things over on that side of the House that are currently before the CCC for assessment in terms of ministers' accountability and integrity. The reality is that they could have spoken about matters before the CCC but they chose not to throughout the entire estimates process. The Deputy Premier chose not to talk about her bizarre buying of an investment property around the corner from a Cross River Rail station and also a new school in her electorate. What a shambles it was.

(Time expired)


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.26 am): In speaking to the committee report on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, I would like to speak on behalf of the crossbench members of the Legislative Assembly. I thank the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, including the Clerk of the Parliament and staff for their tireless efforts. I would also like to point out that it is vitally important to continue to have crossbench representation on the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to ensure that there is a broad spectrum of input from across the entire political sphere.

I also acknowledge the role that the CLA is playing in the preparation of the upcoming Townsville parliamentary sitting. It is vital that we focus on what is important to the north during this important sitting. Northern based MPs, regardless of political party affiliation, should be provided with additional speaking spots to talk about issues important to the north. Equally, additional questions without notice should be allocated to North Queensland MPs so they are able to question ministers on issues that are important to those living in North Queensland. Bills that are related to North Queensland should be given priority and debated during this historic sitting and not guillotined.

I feel that it would be a complete waste of time to hold a sitting of parliament in North Queensland focusing on southern issues and giving time to southern MPs when we are trying to get speaking spots. This would defeat the purpose of holding parliament in Townsville and would not be well received by those living in North Queensland. We have different issues in the north such as jumping in our beautiful freshwater creeks and being ripped to pieces by crocs. We also have a rally that is passionate about pushing for a North Queensland state. It is vitally important that North Queensland MPs are given the opportunity to speak—speaking spots and questions without notice—rather than being pushed right down the back so they are silenced on these matters.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to bring to your attention—and there are many matters that go before the CLA that are confidential—the importance of staff. As a member who was elected in 2004, I had two offices, three full-time electorate staff and 19,000 constituents on the electoral roll. At that time most of the work came in via letters and faxes. We did not have Facebook; we did not have Messenger. Our electorate numbers have now been increased, and some members of parliament probably have 36,000 constituents but still only two full-time staff. With the extra workload you can see the difference between what we had back then compared to what we have now. It is vitally important we all work

together to ensure that we continue to have extra staff and staff hours to cover our present workload. I acknowledge the wonderful job that our electorate office staff do. They definitely have their work cut out for them, and I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.30 am): The estimates reports and the estimates process I recently witnessed have been the most eye-opening I have experienced in my 12 years in this House. In opening the estimates proceedings it was a great pleasure to see that the Speaker's office is being maintained in a proper and orderly manner. All matters relating to the CLA and the Speaker were a pleasure to listen to at this year's estimates—despite the fact that I received my first warning this morning—but from there on there were a litany of surprises and embarrassments for this government with a budget based again on debt, taxes and a rehash of old projects. It was amazing to sit there and watch the Premier, who was absolutely gobsmacked when—

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I remind my inestimable deputy chair that at this point we are still speaking to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Premier did not appear as a witness. Perhaps the contribution of the member for Mermaid Beach would be better saved for the next bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Mermaid Beach, come back to the bill, please.

Mr STEVENS: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. There were a litany of embarrassments during that estimates period which led me to wonder why there is so much happening in this government that was not placed on the record properly for consideration by the Economics and Governance Committee.

The Speaker certainly appropriately answered all questions, which were diligently put forward by members on both sides in relation to the activities of the CLA. We were surprised to find there were issues that have been rotating over the years with the development of the parliamentary Annexe. There were also matters relating to the allocation of staffing areas et cetera and moneys issued through the Clerk's office for the 93 seats in this Parliament House. This particular part of the appropriation and estimates process covers a large area. Without alluding to other matters in the Appropriation Bill, which unfortunately I may not be able to brief the parliament on due to an absence I shall have to take, we will deal with those matters as they come up.

Quite clearly the Clerk and his staff have served the parliament well, as evidenced by his full and frank answers to every matter dealt with, particularly in relation to some difficult funding throughout the year. As I said in my opening, I cannot speak highly enough of the Speaker's agenda in carrying out those works this year. As we move towards the final year of this parliament I am sure that operational matters throughout the House—the staff who support the Clerk's office throughout the precinct and the Speaker and his administration—will be well supported. We look forward to the election year, which is a bit over 12 months away, and we trust that all matters in relation to the operation of the precinct will be soundly handled by the Clerk's office.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.


Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak to the report tabled by the Economics and Governance Committee on the Appropriation Bill 2019-20. I thank all those who appeared before the committee. We noticed that when the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government appeared before the committee there were an enormous number of highly skilled departmental officers and public servants from statutory authorities who came very well prepared to be critically examined on all details of the budget put before them.

Certainly it was the intent of independent members and members of the government to examine the details of the budget during the opportunity the committee had. It is disappointing that such was not the case for those who are in opposition. Instead, they intended it as a vehicle to play politics and be destructive but not outline their alternate version of what they would do if they were in government. I

note that members of the committee had very little time to do exactly what they would have done, which is put sometimes tricky and difficult questions about the detail of the budget. They were not given the time to do that, even though they had highly incisive things they wished to say about their electorates and the budget in general. Of course, those who were shadow ministers did very little of that, and that was what was disappointing about the process. I thank all those who participated.


I wish to speak more broadly about the budget. Budgets are sometimes dry documents, but we know they make an enormous difference to our electorates and the regions. First and foremost, the stability of the economy is presented. Although it is statewide, we know that—ably led by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—we have a stable budget underpinned by jobs growth and new industries are being attracted which, of course, is something that delivers for the electorate of Logan.

The budget should also be compared. We have heard today that we will not hear how any of the billions of dollars in opposition funding promises will be accounted for—as they were in this year's budget. They will not actually be shown to the people of Queensland; instead, they will be revealed after 2020 when we will see the cuts and the sackings that come with every LNP government because we know it is in their DNA. This will particularly hurt areas where there is a growing population and a growing need for services, like the electorate of Logan.

During the LNP's time in government when the opposition leader was on the CBRC, there was not the significant funding that this budget delivers for the Logan Hospital, where there is \$26.7 million out of a total of \$500 million for a raft of improvements and the expansion of the hospital by 206 beds. There was also no promise from the LNP to meet the need for schools, and that is something you would appreciate, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan. We have built two new schools in Yarrabilba for our growing electorate. We have also built new classrooms. During the LNP's time in government when the opposition leader was on the CBRC, not one new classroom was built in the area of Logan. I am not saying there was not a huge growth or a huge need there, but we know what the LNP are about. There will be cuts and those cuts will cut deepest in areas that are growing the most, like Logan.

I mention the new Yarrabilba ambulance station and the new Munruben station. These are services that would not be built under an LNP government. Instead, these growing areas would suffer the most under cuts from an LNP government. I refer to the Mount Lindesay Highway safety improvements. During the LNP's time in government, there was no investment north of Jimboomba when the opposition leader sat on the CBRC, and she should apologise for that. There was no investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway that exists today. We are delivering \$45 million in just this budget year. That is part of a bigger program to actually deliver for the Mount Lindesay Highway.

We cannot go back to the LNP's cuts. We cannot go back to the very person who sat on the CBRC saying, 'Growing areas will be cut because we will not deliver the services they need. We will keep them for the inner city that already has those things. We will keep them for areas that have them and we will not deliver for growing areas in outer suburbia.'

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.42 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019 budget was a bad budget for all of Queensland. It was a bad budget even by Labor's low standards. Labor's latest budget delivered nothing for Queenslanders except for higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. After five years of failure, all we have heard from Labor is the same old story. When the Palaszczuk Labor government run out of money, they come after yours. Queenslanders are being bailed up to bail out this incompetent and wasteful government.

The budget introduced new taxes that will rip \$1.25 billion out of the economy. Over the last two budgets, Labor have smashed Queenslanders with \$3.5 billion worth of extra taxes. Labor's taxes are toxic for jobs. Labor's taxes are why we have the highest unemployment rate in mainland Australia. More than 173,000 Queenslanders are now looking for a job thanks to the failed policies of the Palaszczuk government.

Even with Labor's torrent of new taxes, our debt is spiralling further and further out of control. Our debt is now forecast to reach almost \$91 billion. There is no plan to control the government's debt. Labor do not even pretend to have a plan. All Labor have to say for themselves is, 'We're borrowing to build.' Well, Labor are definitely borrowing—that part is 100 per cent accurate—but they are not building. The budget documents showed that Labor are actually cutting infrastructure spending. They are spending less than the previous LNP government and, proportionally, they are spending less than every other state. Labor's economic record is simply woeful, and Labor's ethical record is no better.


Thirty years on from the Fitzgerald report, there are huge question marks over this government's transparency, accountability and integrity. I was alarmed when the Premier initially said she was unaware of a \$267,000 taxpayer funded grant to a company that is part owned by her own chief of staff.

I would expect the Premier to be across the business dealings of her most senior adviser. The Advance Queensland Business Development Fund is administered by a government owned corporation that is under the Premier's control. The Business Development Fund is meant to create jobs for Queenslanders. It is not meant to create profits for the Premier's most trusted adviser. I became even more concerned when the Premier during estimates refused to table the pecuniary interests register of her chief of staff—so much for open and transparent government.

I was not reassured by the Premier's answers to questions about compliance with the ministerial code of conduct, and that remains the case. Under this Premier, ministers are not required to have face-to-face annual meetings with the Integrity Commissioner, and the Premier delegates all her interaction with the Integrity Commissioner to her own director-general. It is clear that integrity is no longer a priority for the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Fortunately, there was some good news from Trade and Investment Queensland. TIQ was very positive about the outlook for demand for Queensland's thermal coal. I hope the Treasurer was watching that estimates, but there are areas of concern at TIQ. The acting CEO was unable to advise why a \$187,000 deed of settlement was paid to the former TIQ CEO. It was confirmed through the estimates process that \$5 million was spent on external contractors and consultants and that the TIQ hospitality bill rose by a huge 43 per cent. There was no justification for such a jump in spending. It is yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government having the wrong priorities for Queensland. The estimates process showed us that integrity, accountability and transparency are simply a thing of the past for Anastacia Palaszczuk and her incompetent government.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I just warn the member for Nanango to use the correct titles of members.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.47 am): I thank the House for the chance to speak about the Economics and Governance Committee report. From the outset, I thank very much the chair, all the committee members and the committee secretariat for the work and effort that went into preparing for this year's estimates hearing and for the questions delivered.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's fifth budget is one that I am enormously proud of. It backs Queensland jobs right across the state. We are backing Queensland jobs with an \$885 million payroll tax reform package which lifts the payroll tax threshold and cuts the payroll tax rate for eligible regional businesses. We are backing Queensland jobs with almost \$50 billion worth of infrastructure investment, which includes \$13 billion in this financial year supporting more than 40,000 jobs. More than 25,000 or 63 per cent of those jobs will be in the regions.

Our government has increased infrastructure investment relative to last year, and our capital purchases are higher in every year of the forward estimates than they were under the LNP's last budget. We are backing Queensland jobs with skills and training programs, with support for advanced manufacturing and with incentives for new industries, and we are backing Queensland jobs with policies that reshape our energy sector to help fight climate change and to keep electricity prices down. Backing Queensland jobs has been one of our government's priorities since 2015, and we have the numbers to back up how successful it has been. More than 216,000 jobs have been created in Queensland since our government was elected. It would have taken those opposite more than two decades to match this rate of jobs growth based on their own jobs growth rate.

Our focus on the regions has seen the gap between the unemployment rates for regional and South-East Queensland narrow from 2.5 percentage points to around half a percentage point in the year to June 2019. We continue to deliver world-class services in health care, education and transport through record investment to meet the needs of a growing state no matter where Queenslanders live. That means better transport services and more doctors, nurses, teachers, police and paramedics on the front line where they are needed helping our communities.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is also committed to working to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through our budget initiatives in housing, suicide prevention, mental health and alcohol management. We will continue to support and build on the work done by the Family Responsibilities Commission and the five welfare reform communities as part of the Local Thriving Communities reform agenda. Through Local Thriving Communities we will shift decision-making authority about services and community closer to community and we will take the lead from communities about how the government can best support their aspirations.

In relation to estimates question on notice No. 8, I would like to take this opportunity to make a minor correction to the value of the Queensland government's capital contribution to the North Queensland stadium. My response mentions a \$183.5 million state contribution. However, the figure is,

in fact, \$193.5 million. Our commitment to keep building job-generating infrastructure will see our borrowings remain affordable. Our government has reduced the general government debt-to-revenue ratio that we inherited from the LNP, which was 91 per cent of revenue in 2012-13, to only 54 per cent in 2018-19.

Ratings agencies have endorsed our budget measures and prudent borrowing program. On budget day Moody's noted that Queensland's borrowings remained manageable and S&P Global reported that Queensland's wealthy economy, strong financial management and exceptional liquidity continue to underpin our AA+ stable rating. Under our government Queensland remains a low-taxing state. This financial year the average Queenslanders will pay \$643 less in tax than the average Australian in other states. By this measure, Queenslanders are more than \$100 per person better off under Labor than they were under the LNP.

In delivering this budget we noted the challenging economic conditions across the country: slowing GDP, stagnant wages growth and interest rates at unprecedented lows. Queenslanders are resilient people and our government is backing Queenslanders, but Canberra is not helping our cause. The Morrison government has reduced Queensland GST revenue due to slower growth in the GST pool, a consequence of its mismanagement of deteriorating economic conditions by accepting the Commonwealth Grants Commission's decision that Queensland should receive less, or a smaller share of GST, and, by direct inference, slash our share of GST to the tune of \$866 million.

(Time expired)



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 am): What did we learn from the estimates hearings this year? What we learnt is that Queensland has a Treasurer and a Deputy Premier who cannot be trusted. At best we have a Treasurer who has incredibly poor judgement and at worst—let's wait for the CCC to make its conclusions about those investigations. Let's just go through the record of the Deputy Premier that was outlined during the estimates hearings with regard to her at best incredibly poor judgement. This is the person who holds the highest position with regard to dealing with the state's finances. This is the person who many would believe, rightly so, runs the Palaszczuk government. We have seen poor judgement to an extent that we have not seen in the Queensland parliament for decades.

This is a Treasurer who bought an investment property in an area which was obviously going to benefit and appreciate in value because of its proximity to a station on Cross River Rail and also the location of a newly formed school. That is the first point of bad judgement that this Treasurer made. Then she failed to declare it on her register of interests, which was a clear breach of the ministerial code of conduct. Then she claimed she knew nothing about it, and she changed her story three times. 'I knew nothing about it. My husband bought it. No, hang on, it wasn't my husband. It was our company that bought it of which I am a director and a shareholder.' Then, on further quizzing day after day, she admitted that she got a text message. The story is beyond belief and, as they say, what is always worse than the original sin is the cover-up—trying to cover up.

This is a Treasurer and Deputy Premier whose arrogance knows no end. She then freely declared, after the opposition had referred this matter to the CCC, that she rang the head of the CCC on a Sunday afternoon on his personal mobile. What for? To let him know she is going to cooperate fully with the investigation. What does that mean? Does that mean that the default position of the Deputy Premier and the ministers in the Palaszczuk government is that they do not cooperate with the CCC and that they need to ring him to reassure him they will cooperate?

Then she mentioned a file note which at the time, conveniently, she could not table during the estimates hearing. We see that file note that has now been released and has been put on Twitter by the media. It is a very conveniently written file note. It is very neat and seems to address all the issues of contention. I would love to see the other 364 pages of that diary because I have a very deep suspicion that they are all blank and that this is the only note that has been done belatedly—

An opposition member: After the fact.

Mr MANDER:—to cover up after the fact. I take that interjection.


We have a Premier—sorry, excuse the faux pas. We have a Deputy Premier and a Treasurer who simply cannot be trusted. We have a Premier who is too weak to act, a Premier who is hiding behind the referral to the CCC when it is now quite obvious—and the CCC has said this themselves—that the breaches of the ministerial code of conduct are not within their jurisdiction. That rests solely

with the Premier of this state, a Premier who will not take any action because she cannot take any action against the most powerful person in the Queensland Labor Party, and that is the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

This is a chance for the Premier to stand up and show Queensland who is in control. However, we have a Premier who will go down in Queensland history as the weakest premier we have ever seen.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, before you resume your seat, you used the word 'cover-up' which is considered unparliamentary.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.57 am): I welcome the opportunity to endorse the Economics and Governance Committee's report to the parliament on the budget estimates. I want to thank the committee chair, the member for Logan, and all the members who contributed to the scrutiny of the SDS in relation to my ministerial portfolio responsibilities of local government, racing and multicultural affairs.

In the 2019-20 state budget the Palaszczuk government provided a total of \$1.468 billion in grants to local governments, more than double the baseline funding of \$600 million for which the Local Government Association of Queensland advocates. This is an acknowledgement of the vital support that the Palaszczuk government provides to local governments to not only enable service delivery but also provide the essential maintenance upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure. Part of this \$1.468 billion includes, of course, the Palaszczuk government's signature local government grants program, our \$600 million Works for Queensland, which will support, sustain or create more than 21,000 jobs in regional Queensland during its life in those three iterations. The third round of \$200 million funding for 2019 to 2021 has approved more than 501 projects for 65 local governments, supporting more than 4,600 jobs.

During the estimates process I called on the opposition to clarify whether they would continue this hugely popular, jobs-generating Works for Queensland program if they were elected. Everywhere I travel in regional Queensland, every regional council and mayor I speak to asks me whether the LNP will scrap the program. I am afraid I cannot give them an answer. We certainly heard no answers during the estimates committee process. Today I again call on the Leader of the Opposition to make clear whether she supports the program, which has delivered \$13.15 million for the South Burnett Regional Council for 69 projects in her electorate of Nanango—projects such as the very popular \$125,000 Kingaroy Town Hall precinct refurbishment. I call on the member for Warrego to clarify the LNP's position in relation to the important role Works for Queensland plays for those 65 eligible councils across Queensland.

In the multicultural affairs space, I delivered an election commitment to table the next three-year multicultural action plan to implement the multicultural policy. Today I am pleased to table the first progress report on the Palaszczuk government's multicultural policy *Our Story, Our Future*.


Tabled paper: Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs: First Progress Report on the Queensland Multicultural Policy [[1282](#)].

First released in December 2016, in its first three years of operation the Queensland multicultural policy has been an outstanding success, helping deliver people from culturally diverse backgrounds from experiencing domestic and family violence and improving pathways for employment. The policy recognises that Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds make an enormous contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of our state. It also makes a strong statement about the Queensland government's condemnation of racism and its commitment to support refugees and people seeking asylum.

I am proud to share a few significant outcomes achieved across the Queensland government. For instance, the Department of Education's Refugee and Asylum Seeker Early Childhood pilot resulted in 207 enrolments of people from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds in kindergarten programs. Since the reinstatement of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training assisted over 5,660 participants from culturally diverse backgrounds improve their pathway to employment. These achievements are among a range outlined in the report tabled today. Disappointingly, the opposition spokesperson for multicultural affairs did not ask a question about that matter during the entire estimates hearing, but I can understand why. The LNP's record on multicultural affairs is dismal. In government it halved the funding delivered to multicultural communities, showing its contempt for the importance of celebrating our diverse Queensland.

When I talk about the appalling record of the LNP, it is important to make mention of racing. The lack of matching of a commitment to the Palaszczuk government's \$70.4 million country racing package is relatively important and is in stark contrast to what we did in racing, compared to the 40-year dud deal with UBET achieved by the LNP when in office. I thank the committee for the consideration of the budget and its consideration of my portfolio areas.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the estimates committee report of the Economics and Governance Committee. The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019-20 budget was a poor budget for Queensland. It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. So far in this term of government Labor has introduced 10 new or increased taxes, ripping \$3.5 billion from Queensland's economy. That is money from mums' and dads' hip pockets. This even includes a beer tax! That is very disappointing. Quite simply, Queenslanders cannot afford Labor. When this Labor government runs out of money, it comes after yours.

Rather than providing clarity around its financial position, the 2019 estimates hearings were dominated by the Palaszczuk Labor government's ongoing integrity crisis. In the 30 years since the Fitzgerald report was published, these latest scandals raise significant questions about the government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity that have engulfed the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government. In fact, there is a leadership void in the government. It was disappointing that the Premier initially claimed she was unaware—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! The member is not taking interjections.

Ms LEAHY: It was disappointing that initially the Premier claimed she was unaware of the \$260,000 taxpayer funded grant to a company of which her chief of staff is a director and a major shareholder. This raises serious doubts about how actively this conflict of interest is being managed, given the decision-maker and the administering body for the grant is a government owned corporation under the control of the Premier. It was clear from the Premier's answers to questions about compliance with the ministerial code of conduct that integrity is not a Palaszczuk government priority.

I move to local government requirements in terms of integrity issues that now stand in stark contrast to that of Labor members of the state parliament. Justifiably, Queenslanders can be concerned that the standards which members of parliament are required to meet are much lower than those for mayors and councillors. Following the integrity issues, in the estimates committee questions were raised about the declaration process applying to a mayor or councillor who owns a property whilst engaged in council decision-making that would directly benefit the value of that property. That sounds a bit familiar, doesn't it? That sounds like some of the news reports we have heard about Palaszczuk Labor government members.

Under the Local Government Act 2009, the maximum penalty for failing to update the register of interest within 30 days is 85 penalty units. If the offence is committed with intent, the maximum penalty is 100 penalty units. If the offence is defined as an integrity offence, if convicted of the offence the councillor automatically stops being a councillor and cannot be a councillor for four years. If the member for South Brisbane were a mayor or councillor rather than the Labor Deputy Premier, she would be facing an alleged integrity offence. One would think that a former local government minister and now Deputy Premier would be well aware of the requirements and of the consequences. I point out that there is weak leadership by the Premier on this issue. To date we have seen no leadership from the Premier in relation to the alleged breaches of the Deputy Premier. Furthermore, when the provisions of the Belcarra bill were first introduced in October 2017 the Premier stated—

Queenslanders should have confidence in transparency and integrity of all levels of government. [But] I will not make rules for councils that I am not prepared to follow myself, so any changes we make will apply to the state as well as local government.

There is plenty of talk when it comes to local government. It is apparent that the Premier lacks credibility when she will not apply the same levels of transparency and integrity to her own members, including the Deputy Premier.

It was of further concern in estimates to learn of the current workload of the Office of the Independent Assessor. It has a huge workload—far more than what was predicted. It appears that the current staffing resource for this office is only 10 FTEs, while the budget documents indicate that the 2018-19 estimated actual staffing is 16 FTEs. Although the Palaszczuk Labor government has touted and not practised its commitment to openness and transparency, it does not seem to match this with

resourcing when it comes to local government. There is a grave concern that a raft of these unresolved complaints against sitting mayors and councillors will still be unresolved in the lead-up to the March 2020 elections.

Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.07 pm): Today it is a pleasure to rise to endorse the committee report. The estimates soiree was my first delving back into the parliamentary scene after giving birth to my daughter and having a couple of weeks off. While I had been back at work in the electorate, I had not yet been back in parliament. I must say that it was very much the 'same old, same old' that we saw from the opposition. We saw continual interjections. The master of interjections, the member for Nanango, continually made frivolous interjections—

Mr Power interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take that interjection from the member for Logan: it was about 22 times. I concur that the member should have thrown her out. We all note that apology to the House. Today the member for Nanango said that this was a bad budget. I think it is worthwhile prompting the House's memory around budgets delivered by the previous LNP government. The member for Nanango said—

This is a budget that delivers a brighter future for Queensland and encourages confidence.

...

I am proud to have worked with the Treasurer in some parts of delivering this budget.

...

I am also proud to be part of a government that is prepared to make the tough decisions in the best interests of all Queenslanders. That budget sacked 14,000 public servants. The member for Nanango obviously does not know a bad budget from a good budget when she sees it.

Then we had the master of overextension in the member for Everton. I have been part of a number of estimates hearings with the member for Everton. I was there when the Parole Board had too many women, in his view. The member for Everton was fairly contained in this particular estimates hearing although he needed some assistance, which the chair dutifully provided to him.

The member for Warrego stood up in this place today and lectured us on integrity. During the last parliament I was part of a committee that handed down a report which admonished the member for Warrego for her behaviour. The hypocrisy of that member to stand in this House today—

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection of the member for Lytton: the first time ever in Queensland parliament.

A government member: What did they do? Promote her.

Ms BOYD: Promoted in the next term of parliament. Some could be forgiven for being confused about what the member for Warrego was doing at that estimates hearing. It felt to me as though we almost had to hold her back from being the cheerleader for Labor policies. Gone are the days when the members of the LNP in this place spruiked Royalties for Regions. I think it is fair to say that everyone in Queensland has seen that for what it is. Instead, they are cheering Works for Queensland and Building our Regions.

Mr O'Rourke: Great programs.

Ms BOYD: Great Labor programs that are being delivered hand in glove with local councils right across our state. It was interesting to see the performance—sadly lacking—of the members for Ninderry, Bonney and Mermaid Beach. They are great committee members who make worthwhile and worthy contributions each and every week in our committee, but they were not afforded reasonable time to ask what I am sure they would have had as well-prepared and considered questions. When they did get those opportunities they were fleeting—gone all too soon.

This is a great budget that delivers for people right across Queensland. In the electorate of Pine Rivers it delivers with jobs, transport and education. We have 1,643 people with job-ready skills through Skilling Queenslanders for Work—a program the LNP in government scrapped. For every dollar that is spent this program delivers several dollars back into the economy, yet it was scrapped. Back to Work has delivered 129 jobs in my electorate. We are seeing great infrastructure investments through transport, which I will speak about later this week. Pine Rivers Special School and Bray Park State High School will be getting great infrastructure investments.



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2019. Last month members of the Economics and Governance Committee considered the expenditure in the recent budget. Registration hikes, failed and dumped projects, discrepancies and major concerns with local government amendments, the lack of progress on Closing the Gap, and Labor's failure to support Queensland's once great racing industry were just some of the issues that were identified by the committee.

What was made abundantly clear is that the budget is a bad budget for Queenslanders. Two months ago in this chamber we saw the Palaszczuk Labor government deliver a budget devoid of any plan to move our state's economy out of the ballooning black hole of debt—a budget that shirks the hard work. It was a traditional Labor budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure—a budget and a government that lack leadership, lack vision and fail to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. It was a budget that introduced more new taxes, ripping another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy, plunging the state into more than \$90 billion in debt and slashing forecasted jobs.

When the government handed down its budget in June I likened it to being caught with your pants down. This government has been swimming with its pants down, the tide has gone out and Queenslanders are pointing and laughing. A \$90 billion debt, as we know, is no laughing matter. Little did we know back then that the \$90 billion debt was just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Labor Party's subterfuge.

Earlier I referred to the committee's consideration of the expenditure of the Premier and Deputy Premier at estimates—opportunity for taxpayers to learn how their hard-earned dollars were being spent. Instead of hearing how this government is working to improve outcomes for Queenslanders, to improve efficiencies, to be more transparent and accountable and to grow jobs and the economy, we heard how this government has been hoodwinking the state—scandal after scandal exposing the true extent of this government's lack of openness, transparency, accountability and integrity.

It was disappointing to hear the Premier of this state give three different answers when she was questioned about why her chief of staff—her right-hand man, her most trusted adviser—was the beneficiary of a \$260,000-plus taxpayer funded grant. Hardworking Queenslanders, like the thousands of families in my electorate who are struggling with the cost of living and the hundreds of small business owners who are desperately trying to keep the doors open, were gobsmacked when this information was uncovered. That astonishment turned to dismay when the Premier failed—she continues to fail—to do the right thing and dismiss her trusted adviser.

That dismay turned to sheer anger when they also heard that the Queensland Treasurer, the person who controls the state's purse strings, had purchased an investment property in the Cross River Rail corridor and failed to declare it. Not only that, but she thought it was okay to give the head of the CCC, Alan MacSporran QC, a call at home on his mobile, despite being fully aware that the matter had already been referred to the CCC and was currently under assessment.

At what stage does this Labor government become accountable to the millions of hardworking Queenslanders who dutifully pay their taxes and respect our laws?

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you have had a really good crack this morning. You are now warned under the standing orders.


Mr PURDIE: When those we elect to govern cannot follow the same rules they expect the rest of us to follow, how can we have any trust in their ability to lead our state?

The two highest priorities of any government are to keep its citizens safe and to provide an economic environment in which they can prosper. What became clear during the estimates process is that the Treasurer of this state is more concerned about her personal prosperity than about the prosperity of hardworking Queenslanders.

We have already seen this government's abysmal track record on economic management. Thirty years ago Queensland was an economic powerhouse. Now we are battling it out for the wooden spoon. When it comes to crime, budget cuts to our hardworking and under-resourced police are leading to more and more horrifying tales of communities being held to ransom by repeat offenders, overcrowded youth detention facilities and a failure of the justice system to ensure sentences meet community expectations.

To say that this government has failed on its priorities is an understatement. Estimates has revealed the true extent of the government's lack of integrity and accountability. They continue to fail all Queenslanders and blatantly abuse their positions of trust. Queenslanders deserve better.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I remind you that if you were warned under the standing orders those warnings will remain in place until the lunch break.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (12.18 pm): I thank the chair and members of the Economics and Governance Committee for the opportunity to appear at the estimates hearing to discuss the 2019-20 Queensland state budget. It is very clear that we are a government that delivers on our promises in job creation, service provision and infrastructure. This budget is clearly about backing Queensland jobs.


I know that there are some new members in this House who have been speaking in this debate, like the member who spoke before me. It is unfortunate that they were not here when the LNP was in government. For three years LNP members sat on the treasury benches. There was no understanding of jobs and employment growth in this state, because the focus was not just on sacking Queenslanders but also on cutting services. I note that the member for Surfers Paradise is in the chamber. He was the education minister who had a hit list of all the schools he wanted to close in this state.

Queenslanders will never forget the damage that the Newman government did to this state. They will never forget. In fact, only last week when I was having a chat to a member of the public she said, 'I just wanted to tell you I was one of those people who was sacked by Campbell Newman.' Those opposite should not think for one moment that Queenslanders will ever forget the damage that was done to them. These were hardworking people who went about their jobs with diligence and enthusiasm and, through one swift budget by then treasurer Tim Nicholls, thousands of jobs were axed. Not only were thousands of jobs axed; they were taken away where it hurts most—in rural and regional communities. That is why the budget we put in place is about backing Queensland jobs, with a big focus on growing employment in regional Queensland. One only has to speak with the people in Longreach. They lost people in Longreach. They lost jobs in Longreach. When you take 10 to 14 or 20 people out a small community like that, it has a huge impact.

Never again in this House will the LNP be able to claim that it is the backer of rural and regional Queensland when this government has done more for rural and regional Queensland than any former government. Just recently the Minister for State Development was out there backing Swickers in Kingaroy. The Minister for Health was out there announcing a brand-new hospital, and we are building an expanded hospital in Roma. That is what Labor governments do: we invest in communities. We expand hospitals to cope with the growth. We build schools to cope with the expansion of families, especially in growing communities where we are putting in place new schools.

Fundamentally, we are doing something that no other state or even the federal government is doing: we are looking at the skills for the future. The Prime Minister may have come to that a bit late, but in Queensland we recognised from an early stage that we needed to make sure that young people who are in school get that opportunity to go on and get a trade, and that is why we are offering free TAFE. Since the budget I have been very proud to announce more apprentices. I want young people in this state to have a choice—to have a choice about going and getting a good solid trade or having the opportunity to go to university, and that is a choice that should be open to young people in this state. Under the Newman government, young people had no hope. They had no hope and they had no future because the LNP took an axe to TAFE and wanted to completely denigrate TAFE throughout Queensland. My government said, 'No. We will save TAFE. We will improve it, we will expand it and we will make sure that we deliver the skills that regional communities need to grow.'

In Ipswich we have partnered with Rheinmetall. We are generating a new industry in this state that has never been seen before. There will be jobs in not only that community but also surrounding communities. The people of Townsville—Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, in your own electorate—are proud that a brand-new stadium is being built in their own backyard. I am looking forward to taking the whole parliament to Townsville. I am so proud of this government's investment in Townsville that I will be shouting it from the rooftops of the Townsville Stadium. We will continue to put Queenslanders first. We know that the LNP put Queenslanders last. We will put them first. We will treat people with respect. We will not attack and denigrate people like the LNP does. We will continue to grow the economy and back Queensland jobs. I commend the budget estimates report to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.23 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to the report from the Economics and Governance Committee. However, I cannot let the Premier's contribution about TAFE go without remark. It is pretty obvious that she has never been a minister for training. She was the minister for transport and the minister for disabilities before she became the Premier. I want to reiterate that the success of TAFE is due to the reforms brought in by our government which was part of—

Government members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: They might not like to hear it, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Just a reminder again for anyone who has been cautioned by Mr Speaker today, those cautions stay in place.

Mr LANGBROEK: Those opposite might not like hearing it, but it was part of a national partnership by the federal Labor government that we signed up to. All of the reforms we brought in were because TAFE was under-utilised and now it is an employer of choice. We brought it into the 21st century. This government still cannot fix TAFE because it has not been able to fix the award. It has still not been able to fix the award, so students are increasingly choosing to go to non-TAFE organisations for their training. That is why TAFE is facing the financial challenges that it is, because this government could not deal with it until we came to government and now it cannot deal with the problems that are still there.

I want to deal with my current portfolio. At estimates we learnt that when it comes to Racing—a fairly minor portfolio in the real structure of things, but even in a portfolio like this—Labor has failed to leave the starting gate on many of its own key performance indicators. The latest Racing Queensland annual report, published 10 months ago—not three years ago or five years ago but 10 months ago—promised to deliver night racing on the Gold Coast as well as replacement greyhound and harness racing tracks by 2020. I asked about this at estimates because I have read the report. It said that there was an ironclad commitment to deliver these infrastructure projects by 2020, yet 2020 is less than five months away and Labor does not even have a business case for night racing on the Gold Coast.

To add insult to injury, there was a \$30.2 million underspend in infrastructure in Racing in 2018-19. Labor could not even fess up to letting our racing stakeholders down, who are waiting with bated breath for these much needed investments. The question is: where is the problem between Racing Queensland and its annual report that the minister and his office had to sign off on? How can it be that in September 2018 we have a report that says that within 15 months there will be night racing, two greyhound tracks and a metropolitan harness track and yet none of those things are going to happen?

The minister, the member for Sandgate, said that the government wanted to get this right, which makes no sense because it does not even have a business case yet, and the second reason was that the annual report published 10 months ago 'was written so long ago that it doesn't really count' despite Racing Queensland telling the *Gold Coast Bulletin* seven months ago that it hoped that work would start this year. Yes, in January or February Racing Queensland told the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that night racing would be delivered by 2020. An infrastructure update that came out this year shows that projects that were a priority have now been shoved down the list. Meanwhile, a new project at Deagon in the minister's own electorate has now become a priority.

I was also concerned to hear about the racing tax—the point-of-consumption tax—unable to be brought in by this government without a concern for the future of racing funding because the government is now embroiled in a court case with Tabcorp about the point-of-consumption tax and the effects on the product fee that Tabcorp currently provides for prize money. It will be interesting to see the KPIs included in the next annual report when it is published. Will it shift the goalposts again? It is clear that Labor does not take racing seriously. It shows that Labor is more interested in spinning the story and dodging the blame than delivering the infrastructure it promised for racing participants.

The budget papers show that this new tax is going to bring in over \$400 million over the next four years—\$101 million, \$103 million, \$105 million and \$108 million from memory—and a very small proportion has gone back to the industry but only after unprecedented strikes on Cox Plate day last year, and I remember that it was the Treasurer who said that she did not appreciate a gun being held to her head by the industry. When it was obvious that the industry was prepared to strike again on Melbourne Cup day, a small amount of money was put back into racing but a great proportion is going straight back into Treasury.

Aquis, Queensland's largest owner and breeder, left the state because of ongoing issues with integrity. It sponsors the Gold Coast Turf Club. We have a problem in that trainers are choosing to race in New South Wales because Queensland is not competitive when it comes to prize money and integrity standards. I look forward to the integrity review because of concerns that it takes QCAT 11 months to deal with racing matters. There will be more to come on these issues.



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to endorse the estimates report tabled by the Economics and Governance Committee for the Appropriation Bill 2019. The contributions from the other side of the House today have been very similar to those during the estimates process. The lines of

questioning were woeful. They showed little regard for what the budget is delivering for Queenslanders. Their line of questioning, which was so tedious and repetitious, showed that those opposite did not understand what the budget was delivering for Queenslanders on the ground. It was terrible.

This was my second opportunity to participate in the estimates process and it only reinforced and highlighted what we on this side of the House already know and that is, in the 2019-20 budget, our Labor government is delivering in spades for Queenslanders. Our government's budget is focused on jobs and economic prosperity for all Queenslanders. It is a budget that demonstrates clearly our government's ability to create jobs and deliver a strong and resilient economy.

The key initiatives and capital works programs outlined in the 2019-18 state budget are estimated to support over 80,000 jobs. That builds on our government's track record of delivering on jobs—over 200,000 jobs since our election in 2015, which is in stark contrast to the LNP's 14,000 sackings in three years. Whether I am at Redland Hospital, TAFE, or the Redlands research centre, I still speak to locals whose lives were impacted by the LNP's cut, sack and sell approach to governing. We know that, currently, the LNP has announced in some sort of big black-hole thought bubble \$7 billion worth of unfunded promises. Like it did in 2012, given the opportunity, we know that the LNP would revert to its approach of cutting, sacking and selling to make ends meet.

The estimates process reinforced that our government's budget builds on previous budgets and continues to create secure, well-paid jobs, driving sustainable economic growth across our state. It leverages off successful initiatives and investment in our four previous budgets. One of the many highlights of the state budget was the \$885 million payroll tax reform that will see thousands of businesses across all areas of Queensland benefit. It is clear from the estimates examination that this budget delivers for Queensland businesses, creating jobs and stimulating our economy in tricky national and global conditions.

I have to say that the task is not made any easier for Queenslanders with our federal government continuing to not invest in Queensland to help support us deliver infrastructure as Queensland continues to grow. The payroll tax reforms, as well as delivering for businesses, will support tens of thousands of jobs across the state, primarily in the private sector. Included in the package is the extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebates for businesses hiring apprentices and trainees. We know how important that is.

We are really backing jobs for Queenslanders. That is important in my area. What I have seen delivered from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has been absolutely phenomenal. It is having a significant impact on people who did not have the skills to get a job. It makes sure that Redlanders have those skills. That program was cut by the LNP. It is astonishing that, if a government were trying to grow jobs and opportunities, it would cut that program.

This government continues to deliver jobs. I cannot tell members what a treat it was for my electorate to hear the announcement of the free apprenticeship training component for under-21s for over 130 different apprenticeships. Having been out to the high schools, the TAFE and the local trade college in my electorate, I know how important this initiative will be for young Redlanders, Queenslanders and their families in making sure that we position them to get a job. Thousands of secure, well-paid jobs are also being supported by our ongoing funding of the Advance Queensland initiative. In the tourism space, the attracting industry fund has delivered in spades for my area. Whether it is the first Indigenous owned and operated whale-watching tour heading out of Minjerribah, the whale-watching centre, or the cultural centre, this budget keeps delivering for my community.

I touched on the federal government's lack of investment in major infrastructure. It has a trickle-down effect in areas such as the Redlands. If we are not seeing federal government investment in projects such as Cross River Rail, there is less money to go around the rest of the state. However, I can tell members that, with this budget, people are still smiling and happy dancing in Redlands as stage 1 of the duplication of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road is about to kick off.

This is a great budget for Queenslanders. If those members opposite say that it is a bad budget, I do not think they have read the budget papers. It is a fantastic budget for Queenslanders. Only a Labor government will deliver for Queenslanders.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings and the Appropriation Bill 2019, specifically that area of responsibility of consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Economics and Governance Committee. One year ago—in fact, almost to the exact date—I began my contribution to the debate on the Appropriation

(Parliament) Bill 2018 by stating, 'The first issue I want to draw to the attention of the House is that of transparency and accountability with respect to the Palaszczuk Labor government.' One year on and absolutely nothing has changed. From start to finish, the consideration by the Economics and Governance Committee of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019 was dominated by the latest Palaszczuk Labor government integrity and accountability crisis that was initially brought on by revelations that the Deputy Premier had purchased a property that stands to benefit greatly from the Cross River Rail project and, furthermore, that the Deputy Premier had also failed to adequately disclose this purchase on her parliamentary register of interests. That is outrageous and very embarrassing. It also shows the Deputy Premier's absolute contempt for this parliament and the people of Queensland.

During the estimates hearing, thanks to questioning by the Leader of the Opposition, it was also revealed that the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019 integrity and accountability crisis was to be further compounded by revelations that \$267,000 of Queensland taxpayers' money was funnelled into a company part owned by the Premier's chief of staff. The dark cloud and debacle of Labor's integrity and accountability scandals that dominated the 2019 estimates hearing is one that the government has failed to lift. With each passing day—in fact, every day since those hearings—Queenslanders are learning more and more about the absolute lack of commitment to accountability and transparency by the Labor government in Queensland. These are serious issues that strike at the very heart of the principles of transparent government and ministerial accountability. The abandonment of such principles by the Palaszczuk Labor government—which, on reflection, were abandoned years ago—gives every Queenslanders the right to question the processes and decisions undertaken by this Labor government, particularly when it comes to how this state government spends the dollars that have been hard earned by Queensland's taxpayers.

As this year's Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing revealed, when it comes to the 2019 state budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government has made nothing but terrible decisions—decisions that cripple our economy and burden Queenslanders with taxes for generations to come. This state budget is one of more debt, higher taxes, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. The Palaszczuk Labor government, which has no shame whatsoever, is allowing state debt to balloon to more than \$90 billion over the next four years. On top of Labor's debt, Queenslanders have to contend with the 10 new or increased taxes that the Palaszczuk Labor government has applied this term, including the nearly \$3.5 billion in new taxes, fees and charges over the last two state budgets.

The Economics and Governance Committee's examination of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships portfolio did nothing to ease the concerns of the Liberal National Party as to this Labor government's woeful inaction on closing the gap. There is a real lack of progress on closing the gap in Queensland, with the state at the bottom of the national league table when compared to that of other state jurisdictions.

It is time the Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships ceases the endless blame game. The fact remains that what Labor has done and what it is doing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to close the gap is simply not good enough. Perhaps it is time that such a crucial portfolio be put in the hands of a minister who can give this portfolio the attention and commitment it so rightly deserves.

These estimates hearings also revealed that the Palaszczuk Labor government did not feel the need to consult with key stakeholders and seemingly the entire Family Responsibilities Commission about the state government's intention to abandon this incredibly successful and community supported welfare reform initiative.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): The question is—

That the report of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee be adopted.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the committee's report on its examination of the estimates. I want to do something different and refer to the statement of reservation, or the dissenting report, from the opposition. On reading through it, it sounds very familiar.

Those of us who are looking at the reports should examine the opposition's statements of reservation to all of the committee reports, because the same language keeps cropping up in them. I thank the member for Macalister for her research on this issue. We heard that language today—'The budget showed that Labor is cutting infrastructure spending at a time'. We heard the Leader of the Opposition say that. As the member for Warrego was delivering her speech, I was reading 'these latest scandals provide significant questions about the government's openness'—

Mr Power interjected.


Mr WHITING: I say to the member for Logan that there are so many good bits in it. I commend these dissenting reports to all members of the government so that they can read along with what the opposition members will be saying in their contributions, because it is all written down in these dissenting reports. That shows that the members opposite are not even trying. They talk a big game, but then they just simply turn up and go through the motions.

Earlier today Minister Lynham said that the opposition had a fizzer of a question time. They also had a fizzer at estimates. There was no real examination of the budget. The questions were lacking in substance, no matter how much time we gave them. To quote from their excellently written report, they were 'frustrated that more time could not be spent examining the budget'. I was pretty generous with the amount of time we gave to the opposition and crossbenchers. It was substantially more time than we gave to government MPs. That extra time did not make any difference whatsoever. The questions were still lacking in substance. There was no drive. To quote what the member for Woodridge has said many times, if you want better answers ask better questions. It is a basic premise.

There are other examples of what was lacking in the examination by the opposition. The word 'drought' was mentioned 16 times but only one time by an opposition MP. This is a party that says they are the voice of the farmer, yet only once did they mention the drought and that was when they talked about Southern Downs and Emu Swamp Dam. That gives us a chance to highlight the great news we delivered to Southern Downs Regional Council when the Premier visited.

Not once was forestry raised by the opposition. There was not one question about forestry, a very substantial part of this portfolio. Once again the so-called voice of the regions, the voice of the farmer, has not talked about drought or forestry. Disaster recovery was mentioned just once in response to a question by the opposition. That was by Dr Woods in response to a question from the member for Gympie about prickly acacia. A crossbencher asked a question about category C disaster assistance and another crossbencher asked a question about mutual disaster assistance. I emphasise that there were no questions from the opposition specifically about disaster recovery. I remind members that, as the Treasurer has said, in Queensland we have had 84 disasters causing more than \$15 billion worth of damage to public infrastructure. The LNP should be paying more attention to disaster recovery. It should be paying more attention to climate change. That is essential.

There is a strong story to tell about what we have done in the area of disaster recovery. We learnt from estimates that the Queensland Reconstruction Authority manages a program worth \$2.399 billion that covered 23 events from 2017 through to 2019 and gave out \$23 million, with the support of the federal government, to support the Queensland program of infrastructure renewal and recovery. We learnt from estimates how much the opposition was exposed as having no real agenda. It had a fizzer.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.42 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report as the deputy chair of the committee. I do not need to go into the statement of reservation as the chair has given that a bit of a run for me so I will leave that aside. Reading the chair's report one wonders whether we were at the same hearing. This report is a glowing endorsement and that is not exactly how I recall it. There were some very long, rambling questions to government ministers—Dorothy Dixers—which they read out with great aplomb, I must give them that. They played their part.

The ministers gave very long, lengthy, rambling responses. There were a couple of interesting things. The minister was asked about Adani. We have noticed the government's change in tack in relation to Adani. In the last sitting of parliament before the federal election we heard a lot of anti-Adani speeches and speeches on the black-throated finch. I have not heard the black-throated finch mentioned since the federal election because there is another threatened species that those opposite became concerned about: the extinction of the Labor Party in the north. That was suddenly the extinction they were worried about. Adani was approved and suddenly the black-throated finch was left to its own devices.

That is in direct contrast to a mine in my electorate called Acland stage 3 which the minister was asked about. It has been 13 years in the making and it is still ongoing. Yesterday I presented two petitions to the Clerk from concerned residents and workers at those mines. There are 150 staff who

will be laid off next month. They are coming into my office showing me the messages on their phone that they are in the firing line to lose their jobs next month. This government has to make a decision regarding Acland. Fifty-two trains a week leave that mine to go to the Port of Brisbane. It is vitally important to the district.

The agriculture minister was asked about prickly acacia. Before the election there was \$5 million coming from the federal government and \$5 million coming from the state government for the control of prickly acacia. The federal government has put up its \$5 million, but the state government's \$5 million has gone wanting. Last week in my office I had Andrew Drysdale from Desert Channels. He brought along some photos, which I will table.


Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting prickly acacia in the Lake Eyre Basin [1284].

These were taken in the Winton-Julia Creek area. They show an outbreak of prickly acacia which is waist high. This is the largest germination of seed of prickly acacia that we have ever seen. This is in the headwaters of the Lake Eyre Basin. It is making its way down that stream with the floodwaters. People who go out and visit Lake Eyre will be going out to visit scenes like those shown in the photographs if this government does not step up and provide some funding. I asked Andrew Drysdale how long it will be before those plants flower. He said they will flower within four months. There will be seed on the ground within six months. This will be one of the greatest environmental disasters that this country has seen. The minister needs to step up when it comes to this \$5 million promised before the election. Time is not our friend as far as this is concerned. This is time critical. We need to get on the ground and take control of this right now.

The minister is very happy to support reef regulations, anti-farmer vegetation laws and other attacks on our farming community. It is time that he stood up and took control of this. Fire ants was another issue that was raised. The fire ants continue their march to the border. There is a lot of money being spent for very, very little outcome.

Despite the chair's report, there were many questions asked during those hearings that were not adequately answered. I thank the non-government shadows who came along and sat in on the committee and did ask some very good questions. Unfortunately the answers were not good responses to the questions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Joining us in the gallery today are students from Redlands College in the electorate of Oodgeroo.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.47 pm): What a fizzer of a dissenting report. Not since the member for Everton's leadership aspirations have we seen such a fizzer. I believe it is fundamentally important that governments are accountable. The opposition's section of the committee's report is short on facts and long on innuendo and waffle.

Let me start on electricity. On transitional tariffs let me point out what we are doing for our stakeholders to continue to push down electricity prices. Despite outlandish claims to the contrary, the Palaszczuk government announced a 12-month extension to provide a greater lead time for businesses to plan after the 2020 network and retail tariffs are finalised. Last year the Queensland government launched the agricultural tariff initiative to monitor agricultural businesses on various electricity tariffs. Ergon Energy is undertaking the Tariff 33 trial which is being used by farmers needing only a control load tariff with limited hours of supply. We are delivering Energy Savers Plus—up to 200 places with a co-contribution of up to \$20,000. There is the Large Customer Adjustment Program—up to 30 places with a contribution of up to \$250,000 by the Palaszczuk government. We are also delivering funding for Energy Queensland to provide smart meters for large customers in advance of the phase out of transitional tariffs.


When it comes to energy policy, my advice to those opposite is to just stop talking about it. Please, just stop—and let's not mention the LNP's plan for nuclear in our backyard.

An honourable member: Portable reactors.

Dr LYNHAM: Portable reactors. On electricity dividends I make no apologies for taking revenue received from our ownership of our assets and reinvesting it into programs to stabilise electricity prices and to assist with affordability for every Queensland family. I will reflect on that for a moment. We are able to reinvest those assets because they are still owned by the people of Queensland. We do not have to plead with overseas boards and CEOs to maintain affordability by keeping prices low. Our dividends are not going to the Cayman Islands. They stay right here in Queensland for Queensland families. We will not allow the LNP, the ACCC or the Morrison government to sell off those assets.

This government is ensuring that those dividends pay for essential services and initiatives, including \$2 billion through the Affordable Energy Plan and the Powering Queensland Plan. Under the Palaszczuk government, prices are falling for Queensland families. For regional large businesses prices fell by 10 per cent in the last QCA determination. Let us not forget their basket case regional competition policy, leading to a \$768 million rise in the community service obligation or, if they do not like that, a \$400 increase in the electricity bills of every regional family. Now we have an unfunded LNP policy where they are wanting to put taxpayer money into the hands of private companies and hope, pray and beg that it is passed on to regional residents, although not all Queenslanders, I must add. Beware the false prophets who proclaim competition for all when, indeed, they will not guarantee competition to the residents of Charleville, Winton or Longreach.

That LNP policy demonstrates how reckless they are prepared to be with Queensland finances if elected. From the LNP we have seen \$7 billion worth of unfunded promises. While sitting in opposition they are prepared to promise the world, but they refuse to demonstrate how they will pay for their promises. All we have to rely on is their track record and, between 2012 and 2015, what a track record it was! It amazes me to see that the opposition have not paid attention to their previous term in government between 2012 and 2015, but continue the same diatribe, the same sacking, the same selling of our public assets. We will stand firm and with rigour against that.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.53 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill and the budget estimates process. Let the record clearly show that today the minister stood in this place and, in his five-minute contribution, did not once mention natural resources, mines or water. What a disgrace that is. Queenslanders are right to question the ability of this Labor government when there is no surety of adequate funding for key departmental functions, a blatant disregard for Queenslanders' health and safety, ignorance of the infrastructure Queensland needs and a minister who has little to no knowledge of key projects.

The budget estimates process highlighted this government's attempt to withhold information from Queenslanders. No matter where they live, Queenslanders are entitled to clean water and they are entitled to know that the water they are giving their children is safe. It is a disgrace that a senior minister of this government would not know and would not provide answers when asked which water providers in this state are noncompliant. Any breakdown in the process of ensuring clean safe water for Queenslanders is a major concern. The fact that there are at least 10 providers in this state that are noncompliant is not something that can be simply overlooked. This cover-up is nothing short of a disgrace and Queenslanders deserve to know.

On the subject of water, both the budget and the estimates hearing confirmed that the government is anti dams. Again we heard excuses rather than answers on the lack of funding for projects such as Nullinga Dam, delays to the commencement of Rookwood Weir and the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam to its originally intended capacity. However, maybe those opposite are finally starting to understand the importance of dams in this state. Despite no mention of it in the budget papers or during estimates, the Palaszczuk government has finally committed to the Emu Swamp Dam in the Southern Downs area. I bet that left the same bitter taste in their mouths as did the great Adani backflip. 'Bitter' would be one way of describing the Rookwood Weir debacle as well, especially after it was disclosed during estimates that the minister's time line is out by two full years.

How can Queenslanders have faith in this government when it comes to dams? Quite simply, they cannot! What we currently have in Queensland is a government that has failed to ensure that safety works at our three newest dams are on schedule. When it comes to the Paradise Dam, this minister will not even commit to maintaining its current capacity. I say to the minister that it is very simple: Queensland needs more dams and more water storage, not less.

However, it is not only that simple fact that the government overlooks. They fail to recognise that we need sensibly priced water for industry. Whilst we are seeing cost blowouts at SunWater, the minister refuses to rule out passing on the cost of those blowouts to irrigators via cost-reflective pricing. This government is committed to increasing uncertainty and angst for our farmers, which is not surprising based on their recent form. Until the minister does something to rein in overspending, any attempt to burden Queensland's agricultural sector with price increases will be seen for what it is: using primary producers as cash cows to cover up his incompetence.

It has been well documented that there have been six fatalities in the resources sector over the past 12 months. Those six fatalities have torn apart families and communities throughout this state and they have shone the spotlight on mine safety and, more importantly, the health and safety of our mine

employees. Perhaps the minister can explain why a reduction in the number of mine inspections was allowed under his watch. Despite the minister's assurances that deep dive audits were being undertaken, in relation to quarries the Executive Director of Resource Safety and Health, Mr Stone, said, 'We did fewer of those deeper dive audits and inspections that take multiple days and instead prioritised many more shorter inspections.' I ask the minister: which one is it? What is the real problem? Queensland's resource workers and their families deserve an answer. Is it insufficient resources or is the system simply broken? Either way, the minister owes them and all Queenslanders an answer.

The LNP makes no apology for seeking the answers that Queenslanders deserve when it comes to these important projects, industries and infrastructure. The minister's refusal to provide those answers is a stunning indictment on the current government.

Debate, on motion of Mr Last, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Thirty years on from the Fitzgerald inquiry, the Palaszczuk Labor government is setting a new low in Queensland politics. In the past month Labor's greed and deceit has been laid bare for all of Queensland to see. Our state's reputation has been dragged through the dirt by a succession of integrity scandals. The integrity crisis is not on the fringes of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The integrity crisis is in the Premier's office. It is in the Treasurer's office. It is in the cabinet room. There is no doubt about it: Queenslanders cannot trust Labor.

The Treasurer's far-left politics are divisive and they are destructive. Her economic policies are anti resources and anti business. Worst of all, the Treasurer is a hypocrite. In public she rails against the top end of town but in private—

Dr LYNHAM: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I gather that that was unparliamentary language used by the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. In public she rails against the top end of town but in private snaps up investment properties on her smartphone. I certainly do not have a problem with people making a profit, but I do have a problem with politicians who break the integrity rules.

The Treasurer has broken rule after rule after rule. She should never have bought a property next to Cross River Rail. She should have declared that property immediately. She should have declared her interest in decisions on Cross River Rail and the new Dutton Park school. She should never ever have called the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission on a Sunday to discuss the allegations against her.

There are so many questions for the Palaszczuk Labor government, but we have been given no answers. Why on earth did the Treasurer think it was proper to purchase a home that could double in value after Cross River Rail was completed? Why was this property not registered like the rest of her property portfolio? Why did she say her husband bought the property and not her? Why did she not declare her financial interest when she took part in key meetings about Cross River Rail and the new school? Why did she call the head of the CCC when she knew these issues were already being assessed by the CCC? Why was the recommendation from the bidders that a station be built at the PA Hospital not Boggo Road ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government—because it was an election promise? As if; come on.

No-one in South Brisbane would have complained unless they had an investment property right there in the Treasurer's street. Let us be absolutely clear: no politician should make a personal profit from decisions that they make as a minister of the Crown. We are here to work for the people and not for ourselves. The Treasurer's conduct does not just look wrong; it is wrong. Her integrity is in tatters and she is destroying the public's trust. If the Treasurer cared about Queensland she would have quit five weeks ago.

It is clear that Labor's arrogant Treasurer will not resign so it is down to the Premier to finally show some leadership. There was a time when the Premier was all about openness and transparent government. My, haven't times changed? The Premier will not lift a finger against her deputy. The Deputy Premier is a protected species in Queensland. In fact, she actually gets more protection than the black-throated finch.

The Premier has dismissed every question about Labor's integrity crisis. She will not even allow questions from her own member for Bundamba. She slapped down former premier Peter Beattie when he dared to question the Premier's weak leadership. Labor's longest serving premier in the postwar era was told to be quiet and get back to his day job. That is not leadership; that is arrogance.

Instead of attacking her critics, the Premier needs to face the truth. It is beyond doubt that the Deputy Premier has repeatedly broken the rules that are meant to maintain the integrity of our political system—the rules that protect Queensland against corruption. The Premier continues to hide behind the Crime and Corruption Commission even though the CCC has made it abundantly clear—crystal clear in fact—that it has no jurisdiction over the ministerial code of conduct. Whether the Premier likes it or not, it is time and down to the Premier to act. She has no excuse not to sack the Deputy Premier. Does the Premier really believe that she should only sack a minister if they are charged with a criminal offence?

It defies belief that the Premier's own chief of staff has been allowed to benefit from a state government technology fund. David Barbagallo is the most powerful man in the Palaszczuk Labor government. He is the Premier's closest and most trusted adviser, yet his company can get a six-figure grant from his own government. That does not pass the pub test. That does not pass the integrity test.

Once again, the Premier knows nothing, sees nothing and does nothing. Her only response is to hire private consultants who benefit from major state government contracts to decide if the grant was legitimate. That is totally inappropriate. This case should have been referred to the Queensland Auditor-General for a full, independent investigation.

Meanwhile, the employment minister has enjoyed a secret trip to Canada, courtesy of a senior adviser at another business consultancy with major government contracts. The employment minister does not seem to be worried about the 173,000 Queenslanders who are out of work. She is too busy skiing in Whistler, just like the Deputy Premier. The employment minister had such a great time she completely forgot to put her holiday on the Register of Members' Interests.

The past teaches us that the biggest cause of corruption is incumbency. Labor have ruled this state for a generation and they have enjoyed—

Honourable members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers, you are interjecting when you are not in your correct seat. You are now warned under the standing orders. Member for Miller, I ask you to cease your interjections as well. Member for Chatsworth, I ask you to stop quarrelling across the chamber as well.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The minister, the member for Miller, is probably reminiscing about being called 'foolish' by the Crime and Corruption Commission—'very foolish'. Labor have ruled this state for a generation and they have enjoyed the trappings of power. There is now a disturbing culture of entitlement at the top of the Labor Party. It is so ingrained that Labor leaders simply cannot see it.

I promise them that the people of Queensland can see it and they are sick of it. They are certainly busy talking about it. We have heard revelation after revelation, but we have not seen a single resignation. The responsibility for this—for this integrity crisis that is at the Premier's door—lies at the Premier's feet. The Premier must stop being weak. The Premier must stop cowering in the corner. The Premier must clean up her grubby, grubby government. The Premier is not just facing an integrity crisis; the Premier is facing a credibility crisis. The people of Queensland are watching and they will judge the Palaszczuk Labor government because of this integrity crisis.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Keppel, joining us in the public gallery today are the principal and student leaders from Nudgee College—Peter Fullagar and his students. Welcome. They are from the electorate of Nudgee.

Rockhampton, Ice Rehabilitation and Treatment Facility

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.11 pm): Addiction is a disease that does not discriminate in the people it affects. I have been fighting for years for an ice, alcohol and other drugs detox and rehabilitation facility in Rockhampton to treat patients suffering from addiction.

My fight for a facility started years ago when I first met parents and grandparents at an Ice Affecting Families Capricorn Coast support meeting. I later introduced the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, to several of the women from the group at a meeting with them, and the Premier subsequently held Queensland's first ice summit in Rockhampton in 2017. It was at that summit where we heard from hundreds of participants about the need for an ice, alcohol and other drugs detox and rehabilitation facility in Central Queensland. It was the most important issue raised by participants at the summit.

Addiction is insidious and it affects every street and neighbourhood in our country. According to the National Ice Action Strategy, it takes seven years on average for an ice user to decide that it is time to get clean. When a person makes the decision to get treatment for any type of addiction, it is absolutely essential that they can get help at a local facility with doctors, nurses and trained professional staff close to their family and support networks.

Proportionally, Australians use methamphetamine—including ice—more than almost any other country in the world, and the number of users continues to grow. As ice use increases, so too does its impact on individuals, families and the community. I have friends and family who suffer from addiction and I have spoken personally to hundreds of local people who have told me just how badly we need a detox and rehabilitation facility in our region to help their loved ones.

People have shared with me from their own life stories how addiction grips their entire life. When someone decides they want to get better they need the right support for their recovery straightaway—before the moment is lost. Imagine being a mum who has watched their child be eaten away by ice for four, five, six or even more years and when you think it cannot get any worse that child says to you, 'Mum, I'm done. I want help. I need to get help.' That is the critical moment when having a facility like this will make all the difference.

We are building this rehabilitation facility so that when the time comes there is help available—close to home and support networks, with doctors, nurses and trained professional staff. Our Central Queensland community desperately needs this facility.

Whilst the LNP and One Nation are using this important health facility to make a political storm, I make no apologies for fighting for health services to improve the lives of people in our region. I am incredibly disappointed with the way in which the LNP and One Nation have turned this proposed new detox and rehabilitation centre into a political grandstanding opportunity rather than giving their support to a much needed community health facility.

Only the Palaszczuk Labor government went to the last state election committing to a detox and rehabilitation centre in Central Queensland. No other party or candidate has ever committed to a facility like this in Central Queensland. Only Labor will deliver this facility in Rockhampton.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs LAUGA: If those opposite were interested in listening to how this facility is being delivered, that would be great. I can report that work is underway to deliver the new Rockhampton residential detox and rehabilitation facility, and that work is progressing. Reopened negotiations are underway with the Rockhampton Regional Council to settle on land at the rear of the Music Bowl site. The details are being finalised and a revised business case is being developed.

Following the public meeting in Rockhampton and council's subsequent announcement that Queensland Health's preferred site at the Music Bowl was a viable option again, we have been progressing our design for the Music Bowl and the required infrastructure works. As the government committed in Rockhampton, there has been no further work on the Birkbeck Drive site, and Queensland Health have also undertaken initial assessments of the potential suitability of alternative sites proposed by some of the people who attended that meeting.

The Music Bowl was Queensland Health's preferred option, and now that the Rockhampton Regional Council is on board the government is working hard to progress this site as quickly as possible. I want to assure everyone that all parties involved are genuinely working hard to make the Music Bowl site viable. Queensland Health has also given the commitment to consult with the community about this proposed site.


I will not stop until I have delivered this important health facility for our community so that people in our community can get the treatment that they need. I would encourage all of those opposite to get on board and support this much needed facility in our community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs LAUGA: You would not know that they support it based on everything that has happened. I am working hard to deliver this facility and our community needs it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Everton, we have a number of guests in the public gallery. We have students from the Brisbane Independent School in the electorate of Moggill. I would also like to acknowledge students from Bundaberg State High School in the electorate of Bundaberg. Also joining us is the federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt.

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.17 pm): I congratulate the member for Hinkler on his re-election just recently. What a bunch of fakes we have that make up this Queensland government—people who proclaim to be the champions of the workers, people who claim to come from the working class. Most of them have not had a real job their whole lives. They have been brought up—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that and ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, I do not believe that that was directed at you, so there is no point of order.

Mr MANDER: The majority of those on that side of the House have never had a real job in their lives. They have been brought up in the trade union movement or through some political office and do not know the pressures that everyday Queenslanders face. There is no bigger king of the fakes than the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, the so-called champion of the working class—somebody who owns a multimillion dollar property in West End, somebody who owns five properties that we know of, somebody who sends her children to prestigious private schools, somebody who is a shareholder in a company that directly benefits from government contracts last year to the tune of \$5.4 million.

We on this side of the House do not begrudge anybody success, but what people cannot stand is when you pretend to be somebody you are not, and that is what the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer is doing. How dare she pretend to be a champion of the people. How dare she pretend that she knows the pressures that everyday Queenslanders face. The Deputy Premier has become what she detests.

On that side of the House the Labor government is in total disarray because of the behaviour of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. We now see them jostling for position. At the moment the member for Woodridge and the member for Cooper, from the right faction, are revelling in the Deputy Premier and Treasurer's discomfort more than we are on this side of the House. We watched them audition today. We are not too sure about the member for Cooper because it seems as though she might jump this sinking ship to take up the role of Lord Mayor. Another Lord Mayor Jones! We have had one already and we could have another one in the future. Believe it or not, the member for Springwood has been touted as Treasurer, and the member for Waterford, who very, very conveniently sits right behind the current Attorney-General, wants to be the next Attorney-General. There is speculation about the member for Toohey, who, it was said, is going to become the Legal Services Commissioner. I wonder why? I wonder what will happen with that vacancy when it occurs.

How can people relate to everyday Queenslanders when they holiday in luxurious accommodation at Whistler? I am not sure who is in charge of the roster over there. Anna Bligh, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, and the minister and member for Waterford have stayed there as well. I wonder who is next. Whose turn it is to go and stay at Whistler? I am not sure how that works.

Mrs Frecklington: The mangocube. Get an email!

Mr MANDER: The member for Miller must be feeling very, very hurt at the moment—or has he been there and not declared it? Those who have been around for a while have never, ever seen the disunity that is so open in this Labor government at the moment. There is one thing they normally do well: they hate each other more than they hate us, but they hide it from everybody else. Not anymore! It has come out. There is open warfare. You see factions of the cabinet meeting secretly. There is no unity whatsoever because they are led by someone who will go down as the weakest premier in the history of the Queensland parliament. Grow a backbone, Premier, and show some leadership!

Jobs



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.22 pm): Sadly, we have seen the likes of that before and we will see it again: five minutes of utter irrelevance to the people of Queensland. That speech delivered nothing for the people of Queensland, just like those opposite would deliver nothing for the people of Queensland. I, on the other hand, want to talk about our plans for backing Queensland jobs. I do not want to just talk about the fact that we are creating jobs—216,000 at last count; I want to talk about how we are doing that.

Of course, from 2012 onwards we had an excellent lesson in how not to create jobs: you start by sacking 14,000 public servants, you destroy confidence in the local business communities and you pick silly fights all over the place. What do you end up with? You end up with people without jobs. In fact, there were so many people I knew in my life who had no jobs that it was very scary. It has taken many of those people years and years and years to get back on their feet.

Those opposite do not know how to create jobs. To be fair, I should say that there is one job they want to create. It came out of the recent LNP state conference. They have jobs lined up for something called the Office of Science Quality Assurance. I believe the uniform for the Office of Science Quality Assurance is going to be a tin hat. Everyone is going to get a tinfoil hat, and they are all going to gather around a flat table of the earth and make decisions about which peer reviewed science they are not going to accept. You do not need an Office of Science Quality Assurance, member for Nanango. We have a system which has been developed over hundreds of years. It is called peer reviewed science. Instead of picking and choosing what is comfortable for you and what fits your political views, perhaps rather than coming out with these ridiculous ideas of endorsing them you should be throwing them out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Greenslopes, I encourage you to direct your comments through the chair and not directly at the member.

Mr KELLY: I would like to move on and talk about Queensland jobs and how we are creating them. Firstly, investing in infrastructure is incredibly important. Projects like the veloway, which I recently visited with the member for Miller, the minister, are not only creating great cycling infrastructure in our area and getting people to and from work and home faster and safer but also creating jobs along the way.

The schools in my electorate are benefiting from significant investments in infrastructure. When you do that you create jobs. Not only do you create important social infrastructure but you create jobs along the way. Of course, those opposite would not know about that because they did not build anything except perhaps one big building across the road and a hall that was supposed to be built at Cavendish Road but was moved over to Ashgrove—I wonder why that was—but beyond that we saw nothing.


Small business has also been a focus of this government, and linking tax incentives to businesses that employ people has really been showing results. When I go out and talk to small businesses in my electorate about these initiatives they are extremely excited and supportive. Diversifying the economy is also very important. This morning in her ministerial statement the Premier announced an exciting outcome, with Tassal creating 1,000 new jobs in the Mackay region. In our own region advances in film and television have seen significant employment opportunities created.

If you are going to create jobs, you also have to focus on skills and training. With the member for Mansfield we fought to save the TAFE campus at Mount Gravatt, but we have seen further investments in TAFE. With regard to the announcements concerning free TAFE and free apprenticeships, whenever I go to a P&C or a P&F, particularly at high schools, parents are extremely pleased about this because one of the biggest concerns for people in my electorate is making sure that not only do their kids get a good education but they get a good start through a good job. We as a government are totally focused on that.

I have already mentioned Tassal. When I stand at bus stops talking to commuters, when I knock on doors or do mobile offices, one of the most common things I find is that we have so many people who live in my electorate that have a job in Brisbane because there is a job somewhere else in the state. As a government we are focused on creating jobs right around the entire state. While something like Tassal will create 1,000 jobs in Mackay, there is always the potential for flow-on benefits into the Brisbane region. Certainly there are hundreds, if not thousands, of people in my electorate who are in jobs because of our statewide focus. Infrastructure, small business, diversifying the economy, skills and training and creating jobs right around the state: this is how you create jobs.

(Time expired)

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

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.27 pm): The Premier's integrity and the government's integrity are in complete tatters. When the *Courier-Mail* ran this photograph of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer pointing at Cross River Rail, little did we know that at that time the Deputy Premier was actually pointing out her new house purchase to the Premier. I table that for the benefit of honourable members.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad [\[1285\]](#).

'Which one?' 'Oh, that one.' 'Yes, there would be a good uplift in value on that one,' she would have said at the time. When we look at this integrity scandal it is important to look at the history of what has gone on in terms of the flip-flopping and the changing of the story each day by the Deputy Premier. The facts are these.

On 27 March a contract was signed for the sale of 48 Abingdon Street by the VB Family Trust—formerly known as 'Tradster Pty Ltd', I might add. On 29 March there was a CBRC meeting. What was discussed at that CBRC meeting? Was Cross River Rail on the agenda? Who knows? On 4 April 2019 the Cross River Rail contracts were announced. A week later the contract to purchase this little investment property was signed by the Deputy Premier. On 1 May the property at Abingdon Street settled and was registered with the Land Titles Office. On 18 July the *Courier-Mail* published an article with the first public details about the purchase of the property.

The Deputy Premier's excuse at the time was that she had spent months seeking advice from the Clerk. If the advice took months, how is it that all of these complexities of the property were able to be in the pecuniary register within half an hour of it reaching the front page of the *Courier-Mail*? That is very intriguing. Methinks the Deputy Premier spent five months finding out how to avoid putting this house on the pecuniary register.

The Integrity Commissioner gave advice on 19 July to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier undertook to sell the house in the media. She tweeted on 19 July—

Today I received advice from the Integrity Commissioner, and will continue to do so.

In order to remove any doubt, I will sell the property at the same price it was purchased for.

That was on 19 July at 4.58 in a tweet the Deputy Premier sent out. She then said she asked for further advice. On 21 July, which was a Sunday, the Deputy Premier referred herself to the CCC. She said to the CCC chairperson—who said he was in his trackie daks and putting Ikea furniture together on that Sunday when he answered his mobile phone—that she just wanted to make it abundantly clear that she did not intend to interfere with the CCC investigation. Wouldn't that be obvious? Then we just happened to have this file note that answers the five main questions the journalists had been asking over the last two weeks of this integrity scandal.

An opposition member: Nice and neat too.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was a nice and neat file note that just happened to answer the questions. Why on earth would you ring the CCC chair and say, 'It's not my intention to interfere with your independent investigation,' if you have nothing to hide? That was on the 21st. On the 22nd, the Deputy Premier issued another statement by Twitter. She said—

Over the last week, a lot has been said and a lot of allegations have been made about a Woolloongabba property my husband purchased.

Originally, she did not know about it, then her husband purchased it but she still did not know about it, then she advised that she got a \$700,000 text message about it. Then she put out a statement on Twitter that afternoon where she said—

I made clear my intention to sell the property when the outcome of the CCC consideration is known.

No, she did not. The Deputy Premier tweeted three days before that saying, 'I will sell the house because I've got Integrity Commissioner advice to sell the house.' The CCC was not involved on 19 July. The problem is that the story changes each day with the Deputy Premier.


Then of course at estimates we heard that the Deputy Premier was putting out press releases very enthusiastically about the new inner-city state school in her own electorate just down the road from the house she purchased at Abingdon, which just happens to be in the catchment area for the new school. Guess what? The CBRC approved the school a month after the Deputy Premier's investment company had signed the contract for the purchase. The education minister did not even show up at the

CBRC meeting, nor did the Department of Education. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer signed off on the school in her own meeting with the Premier and failed to declare the conflict of interest that she had a house in the catchment area. That is what we are seeing.

Let us not forget that the company linked to the Deputy Premier's husband received \$5.4 million in legal fees in the 2018-19 period for workers compensation. Let us not forget the skiing holiday and the sponsored accommodation the Deputy Premier took with the member for Waterford. The best one was Minister Dick saying, 'Let's just see what happens in a few days.' We know what he wants. We know what job he wants.

(Time expired)

Budget, Health

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.32 pm): It is rather edifying to endure a five-minute lecture on integrity from the member for Kawana. May I remind the House that this is someone who saw fit to slug Queensland taxpayers \$15,000 in order to charter two helicopters to visit a youth justice boot camp. This is the same member who oversaw a boot camp blow-out of \$16.7 million that had no effect on recidivism. It is the same member who as attorney-general sacked the PCMC over their handling of the Ken Levy affair and was sent into hiding during the 2015 election so we could forget about his particular brand of integrity for the LNP. After that edifying lecture, I am going to talk about something more positive—that is, what a record health budget will deliver for Queenslanders in my electorate of Bancroft.

The three opposition speakers in this debate whinged and whined about properties and the right thing to do, but I want to talk about what really matters to the people in Bancroft—that is, providing a health system that is first class and reliable with great staff and hospitals. The Palaszczuk government is in the midst of a nearly half a billion dollar massive reconstruction of the Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals. These are our local hospitals. I know that our residents are much more interested in finding out what is happening in the health system and what we are delivering through a \$19.2 billion investment where we can treat more people, build more hospitals and strengthen frontline services as well.

Let me tell the House about the Redcliffe Hospital and the \$114 million refurbishment and redevelopment. This includes a \$4 million maternity package, with a new maternity ward, a special care nursery, a new paediatric ward and birthing suites; \$9.5 million for the installation of a new day surgery ward and a sterilisation facility; \$8 million to build new cancer care and kidney dialysis facilities; \$5.5 million to build an extra operating theatre; and \$6.8 million to redo the electrical system and reinstall 30 kilometres of cabling to make sure that hospital is secure.


There is also a massive redevelopment at Caboolture Hospital. This is a \$352.9 million redevelopment with a new four-storey clinical services building that will introduce these new services to the Caboolture Hospital: a 20-bed rehabilitation unit and a 10-bed palliative care unit; expansions to the emergency department; a special care nursery; an intensive care unit; and the list goes on. The expansion of the emergency department will obviously get some of the most traction with local residents. That is a \$4.8 million project to double the size of the hospital's emergency department to deliver 18 new treatment spaces, refurbishment of the existing waiting area, three new assessment rooms, a dedicated mental health assessment area and a dedicated paediatric assessment area. This is on top of what we have already delivered, including a new 300-space graded car park, a new outpatient services building and a new state-of-the-art medical imaging facility delivered with a private provider.

One of the biggest things that people get excited about is what we are doing with the car parks at our local hospitals at Redcliffe and Caboolture. A \$46 million multistorey car park is being built at Caboolture Hospital. Once that is complete, more than 1,600 car parking spaces will be available on site, which is a net increase of 500 spaces. Let us look at what is happening with the Redcliffe car park. Construction of the car park on the corner of Anzac Avenue will start very soon and will take 12 months to build. That will create 603 car parking spaces at a cost of \$36 million. The good thing about that is that it will be owned and operated by Queensland Health, and there will be affordable daily parking rates with a maximum car parking charge of \$15 a day.

We are not just investing in these massive programs to build the better hospital systems for our local residents; we are also investing in the people—the workers—inside these hospitals. For example, we are putting on new midwives at both the Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals. There will be six new

midwife positions at Redcliffe and two at Caboolture. There were 1,700 babies born in the Redcliffe Hospital last year and 1,900 were born at Caboolture. These midwife positions are part of the overall investment that we are providing to Queenslanders, with 3,500 additional nurses and midwives by 2020. These are the things that people in my area are really interested in, and that is what they want to hear—that we are delivering a better health service.

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

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.37 pm): The integrity crisis gripping the Palaszczuk Labor government gets murkier and murkier with each passing day. Indeed, it really is a tangled web the democratic socialists have been weaving. There are still a number of unanswered questions about the location of the Cross River Rail stations and what influence the Deputy Premier exerted about the selection of the Boggo Road station site.

Initially, it was revealed that the Deputy Premier failed to declare a \$695,000 investment property just hundreds of metres away from the Boggo Road station. The purchase of this property occurred just one day after the Deputy Premier's meeting with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. That was on 26 March, which was a few months ago. On 1 April the Deputy Premier met again with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. Had she disclosed the house? No. On 2 April this year, the Deputy Premier again met with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority but this time with the Premier. Had she declared the house? No. On 3 April, the Cabinet Budget Review Committee met and approved the Cross River Rail preferred proponent. At this stage, was the house declared? No. Then on 4 April the public announcement about the Cross River Rail project was made. Again, was the house declared? No.

Why is this so fundamentally important? Not only should the \$695,000 investment house have been declared by the Deputy Premier to meet her obligations under the ministerial code of conduct, the Cabinet Handbook and parliamentary standing orders; there are still some serious questions about the decisions made in relation to the project that benefit the Deputy Premier's investment property. It was revealed by Steven Wardill, state affairs editor for the *Courier-Mail*, on 24 July that one of the consortiums short listed for the Cross River Rail project did not include a station at Boggo Road, near the controversial property purchased by Jackie Trad, in its proposal. I quote from that article on—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, can you refer to members by their correct title, please.

Mr MINNIKIN: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. I quote from an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 24 July. It states—

The revelation contradicts Ms Trad's claims that Cross River Rail's route—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock again. Refer to members by their correct title, either Deputy Premier or the member for—

Mr MINNIKIN: I will add to the quote then. It states—

The revelation contradicts—

the Deputy Premier—

Ms Trad's claims that Cross River Rail's route had been decided and public knowledge for years and any investor could have speculated on property near the planned development.

Steven Wardill uncovered sources close to the bid team that said the station would have been known as 'new Dutton', positioned on the other side of the rail corridor and would have resolved some of the technical issues. However, the proposal was rejected by the Palaszczuk Labor government despite being similar in price to rival bids and supported by the Cross River Rail authority. Then a further bombshell was delivered when the consortium chosen to construct Queensland's biggest infrastructure project advised against the proposed Boggo Road station because of significant extra costs and technical concerns. The article headline said it all: 'Cross River Rail: unwanted station to boost value of—the Deputy Premier—Trad house'. The *Courier-Mail* went on to state—

It's the Cross River Rail station planners didn't want—and it will benefit the investment property purchased by Treasurer Jackie Trad.

It seems the only person who did not want the station moved was the Deputy Premier. She has not explained the station location but potentially she could have personally benefited from this decision, given her secret investment property is just hundreds of metres away. Whilst she has stated that she will sell the investment property, this does not pass the pub test. The Palaszczuk Labor government

has failed to answer questions about the station location, hiding behind cabinet discussions. However, we know those cabinet discussions were possibly compromised by the member for South Brisbane's failure to declare up-front her secret investment property.

Just to show how absurd the situation is, we now have Minister Mark Bailey, the Labor member whom Alan MacSporran described as 'very foolish' after the investigation into his mangocube saga, involved in the state's largest infrastructure project. Talk about putting the fox in charge of the henhouse! Now the CCC described 'foolish' member for Miller is in charge of the state's largest infrastructure project because of an integrity scandal engulfing his factional leader whom many would describe as the real leader of the Palaszczuk government.

It is time indeed for this weak Premier to finally show some leadership, backbone and some mettle and to sack the absolute incompetent member for South Brisbane, the Deputy Premier.

Aged-Care Sector



Ms SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (2.43 pm): The aged-care sector has become a national disgrace and recently my electorate has been at the centre of this failure. I have been talking about this issue for some time now and I will continue to advocate until real action is taken. On 21 September 2018 the *Gold Coast Bulletin* published an article, which I will table.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 21 September 2018, titled 'Staffing shortage "unsafe"' [\[1286\]](#).

In the article titled 'Staffing shortage unsafe' I commented on a statewide audit which showed the electorate of Moncrieff had the worst hours of care provided to residents in the state. On 16 November 2018 again the *Gold Coast Bulletin* published an article, which I table, titled 'Elderly deserve better level of care', which outlines the issues I was hearing from aged-care staff on the ground at the time.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 16 November 2018, titled 'Our elderly deserve better level of care' [\[1287\]](#).

On 30 October last year I stood in this chamber and articulated my concerns as a matter of public interest in relation to the insufficient staffing levels and associated elder neglect. On 9 May this year I spoke in this parliament about the impact that privatisation of the aged-care sector is having on our public hospitals. I started a petition almost a year ago now calling on the federal government to ensure that the aged-care sector has a safe level of staffing. I articulated my concern that the privatisation of this sector means operators are propping up their profits by cutting corners and shifting their costs onto the public healthcare system. I knew the system was bad. I did not think it was so bad that we would reach the point we did on 11 July when I received a phone call stating that triple 0 had been called—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Mudgeeraba, your interjections are not being taken.

Ms SCANLON:—to relocate over 70 elderly residents from Orchid House and Hibiscus House at Earle Haven over what we now understand appears to be a contract dispute over money. I drove to the facility that evening where I remained with the Minister for Health until the late hours of the night. What I witnessed was akin to what we would see during a disaster. I want to thank all of the emergency services, health staff and those aged-care staff who stayed behind to ensure that everyone had a safe place to stay.

I want to thank the over 500 people who signed my petition calling on the federal government to conduct an inquiry into this incident. While I am somewhat disappointed that this was not the independent inquiry we were hoping for, with Kate Carnell, the previous Liberal Party chief minister of the ACT appointed, I do hope that we get to the bottom of what happened in our community to ensure that something like this never happens again.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Ms SCANLON: What has come to light since this incident is that there were a number of red flags that raised some serious questions of the federal government which is responsible for the regulation of this sector. On 30 April 2007 Peoplecare, the approved provider, was sanctioned. They were again sanctioned on 3 June 2016 with a report identifying an immediate and severe risk to care recipients' safety and health and wellbeing. This detailed a failure to ensure appropriate clinical care that is consistent with general health, adequate nutrition and hydration and a failure to provide care recipients with a safe and comfortable environment. On 11 May 2017 again Peoplecare Pty Ltd were sanctioned

and on 22 January this year they were issued with a noncompliance notice. We have also learnt that 22 complaints were made against the nursing home to the aged-care complaints commissioner since January this year.

We have to ask: at what stage do we say enough is enough? In a country like Australia it is inexcusable that we are hearing stories that aged-care staff are being asked to buy their own disposable gloves at a for-profit aged-care facility. I have heard from family members whose loved ones continue to suffer from UTIs because incontinence pads are being rationed; elderly people whose wounds are not healing because they have not been showered due to insufficient staffing levels; incorrect dosages of medication being given without appropriate training or supervision; and facilities receiving federal government funding requiring four elderly men to share a room with each other with no bathroom attached.

We are doing what we can at a state level by making a commitment to mandate minimum staffing levels in our 16 publicly owned facilities and providing an online tool for public disclosure of these staffing levels in private and public facilities on a quarterly basis. Not only is the Morrison government now refusing to follow our lead by implementing the same measures at a Commonwealth level; it is also actively trying to stop our government from implementing these sensible measures, stating that these changes could 'create a reporting burden on providers with no clear benefit to consumers', which is absolutely ridiculous. We report the ratio of teachers to students in classes, so why on earth can we not—

Mr Lister: No focus on outcomes. Stop pandering to the unions.

Ms SCANLON: I will take that interjection.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, you have been cautioned several times. You are now warned under the standing orders. Order, members. Member for Gaven, you have six seconds left on the clock.

Ms SCANLON: I will take the member's interjection and make no apology for standing up for aged-care workers, and I will continue to do so.

Whitsunday Electorate, Schools



Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—Ind) (2.48 pm): Today in the House I would like to call upon members of the Palaszczuk Labor government to let me do my job as the Independent member for Whitsunday. I say that because in recent times there has been a growing trend among certain individuals—as to who they are, who knows—running interference in the execution of my duty.

Recently we had the official opening of the new performing arts centre at the Mackay Northern Beaches State High School. This is the first government school since the late 1990s to be built in the city that I represent. It was promised by my Labor predecessor in 2001. Some years ago when I came into this place I was proud to see it delivered.

Last Thursday at the official opening of the new performing arts centre, the member for Mackay represented the minister. I get that. That is how the system works—it is how it has always worked—but where was the invitation for the Independent member for Whitsunday? I am particularly supportive of that school and am proud to support the bursaries at the school each year, but there was no invitation whatsoever—nothing at all. The mayor of Mackay was there. Yesterday, regional daily the *Daily Mercury* covered the official opening. The member for Mackay represented the minister, but there was no local MP at this state high school in the southern part of my electorate.

This comes hot on the heels of what happened in March this year when the minister appeared in the northern part of my electorate to turn the first sod for new facilities at Proserpine State High School with the mayor beside her. Again, there was no invitation for the Independent member for Whitsunday. You have to wonder: what is going on here? As far as I am concerned, it is part of a deliberate strategy to silence me, to starve me of oxygen. I have a message for members of the Palaszczuk Labor government: I have big tanks and a big ticker and I am not going anywhere. It is wrong. It has been noted by members of the community.


Six months ago around Proserpine and Cannonvale mums, dads, carers and grandparents came up to me and said that it was disgraceful. It was well reported in the local media. The irony is that last Thursday I happened to be in the city that I represent, Mackay, meeting with a constituent from Bucasia. The Northern Beaches State High School is only five minutes away. I was blissfully unaware of what was going on there.

The week before, I was at St Brendan's Catholic Primary School in the northern beaches in Bucasia with my good friend from St Mary's—we went to school many moons ago—David Paul, the principal. It was a warm welcome from not only Mr Paul but also members of his teaching staff and even some of the students. It is like chalk and cheese. I cannot get over the fact that in the space of six months I have been snubbed at two different state high schools.

It would be remiss of me not to remind everyone that back in May last year, as I recall, the Premier, the education minister and the member for Mackay were at Northern Beaches State High School to check on the construction of the performing arts centre. Again, there was no invitation for the local state MP in terms of a local state school. That goes against convention and longstanding arrangements in this House. No matter on which side of the aisle we sit or our political colours, every member knows that it is a given that an invitation is forthcoming.

It was interesting to hear that the member for Nanango did not turn up at the hospital in Kingaroy, but at the end of the day invitations should be issued. I cannot believe that we were not invited to these events in our local community. I point the finger at the Whitsunday Regional Council, because six months ago it suddenly decided that it had some God-given right to stick its beak into what was the domain of the state government in relation to schools. The failed Labor candidate for Dawson, Councillor Mike Brunker, the de facto mayor of Whitsunday, moved a motion to try and curtail my activities at schools. I have been going to my schools, be it in the Catholic or the government sector. In fact, last Friday I was at the smallest school in my electorate. I fought for it to be retained in the wake of Cyclone Debbie. Hayman Island State School, the most northern school in my electorate, has only six students. I was there. I will continue to visit schools in my electorate as I so desire.

Domestic and Family Violence; Gleeson, Cr P

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.53 pm): On Friday, 26 July I attended the Red Rose Rally outside the Cleveland Library, where the council donated red bench seat is located. I was joined by Anna McCormack and the invaluable Betty Taylor, the CEO and founder of Red Rose Foundation, for a sombre ceremony to remember those women who had lost their lives to domestic violence. When the red bench was donated by Mayor Karen Williams, she said—

Domestic and family violence thrives on anonymity and secrecy which is why a very public reminder such as this bench is so important in ensuring we all remember the victims and their pain and anguish are real and that we all can do something to help.

Just over two years ago, in a contribution to this House, I called out the shocking online abuse of Councillor Paul Gleeson. In that contribution I outlined how Councillor Gleeson joked about running over his ex-wife with a bus, called her an 'incubator' on his Facebook profile and attacked and discredited a local domestic violence service in Redlands via his council email. Unfortunately, two years on I am sorry to inform the House that the actions and behaviour of Councillor Gleeson are worse. I thank those constituents who forwarded me the following disturbing material. I would like to table two documents. The first is a response to a Facebook post that reads—

Does any one know if the 'CSA No Fly' rule affects anyone with even a relatively small child support debt?

Councillor Gleeson on his personal profile replies—

A shotgun. That'll fix it.

This was followed by an emoji depicting a smiley face with glasses.

The second is a response to a Facebook post from a ninenews.com.au story titled, 'Sydney woman dead in suspected domestic violence-related murder', to which Councillor Gleeson commented—

She must have done something bad to deserve that.

A woman never deserves to be murdered at the hands of her partner—never. Words matter. Many took the first public statement from Councillor Gleeson as a throwaway line. Now we have three separate occasions on which Councillor Gleeson has referred to murdering women or thought it deserved that a woman be murdered. These were shocking comments, and they need to be called out. I cannot be the only one to call them out. Just like the red chair Mayor Williams donated, I call on Mayor Williams to denounce the comments and to call on Councillor Gleeson to resign.

From court listings last year I saw that Councillor Gleeson was charged by the police for breaching a domestic violence order. This is a criminal matter heard in a criminal court. I table the listings for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to domestic violence [[1288](#)].

Councillor Gleeson has made public comment about this case, saying that no conviction—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Sorry, member for Capalaba, if it is before the courts—

Mr BROWN: No, it is no longer before the courts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies.

Mr BROWN: No conviction was recorded. This leads me to believe that he was found guilty and no conviction recorded. I and my fellow ratepayers at Capalaba would be deeply disturbed if a council supplied phone and/or iPad were used in the breach of the domestic violence order. This is why I call on the mayor and the council to investigate to ensure this was not the case. I know that my constituents would be outraged if their hard-earned rates were aiding a councillor in breaching a domestic violence order.

This is not the only red cross against Councillor Gleeson's name. This councillor has 13 inappropriate conduct and misconduct findings against him just for this term—everything from bullying, harassing and defaming online to threatening to bash a constituent at his front door, which we all remember from the Channel 7 reports. The councillor even copped a misconduct finding for staying in the chamber and advocating that his brother's property be rezoned into smaller lots. There is more to come. There is another matter before the tribunal. I hope to update the House when that matter is finalised in the near future. Again, it involves psychological abuse and defamation.

To conclude, I call on the mayor—just like the aims of the red chair that she donated—to join with me to call for the resignation of Councillor Gleeson. These comments are outrageous and completely inappropriate. Three times now Councillor Gleeson has mentioned murderous intent to a woman or thought that it was warranted. In light of these comments and the charge of a breach of a domestic violence order, I also call on the mayor and the council to investigate to ensure that a ratepayer supplied phone and/or iPad was not used in the breach of this domestic violence order.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 2290.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.59 pm): I would like to thank members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for their work over the past 12 months and for the report they produced following their examination of the proposed expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year for the portfolios of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning.

For every rule there is often an exception. In this case the exception is the LNP's statement of reservation, tacked onto the end of the committee's report. It turned up like an unwelcome guest at the end of a party, just as the chairs were being stacked. What a miserable and inept contribution it was by the LNP members of that committee. Their rambling about infrastructure showed they have no understanding of the value of infrastructure. Their whining about state development areas showed they have no grasp of the purpose or the planning needs of state development areas. Their attack on the fire levy showed they have no sense of its history, purpose or importance.

The estimates process provides an opportunity for members of the parliamentary committee to test the budget of the government of the day, to interrogate its programs and priorities, to weigh its objectives and allocations against the public interest, and to ensure that ministers are discharging their responsibilities in a way that delivers solid outcomes and value for money. I thank the government members not only for their conscientious contribution to the estimates process but also for what they do on that committee. That compliment cannot be extended to the whole committee. The LNP members

of the committee brought to that process the same obdurate negativity that characterises the performance of those opposite in this House every time the parliament sits. Under the leadership of the member for Nanango, the opposition has mired itself in a swamp of negativity—no contribution but to complain, no response but to attack, no instinct but to oppose for its own sake, irrespective of the policy and benefit that might be delivered to Queenslanders. They are like hamsters in a wheel—unable to escape and going nowhere.

I must make special mention of the contribution made by the member for Glass House. He sat at the table like Perry Mason, firing off his cross-examination with all the effectiveness of every other contribution he has ever made in the parliament—questions asked in the wrong section of the estimates session; questions asked of the wrong area of the portfolio; questions that were irrelevant, repetitious and unclear. Nearly every question was directed to the Public Service and almost none to the minister responsible.

LNP members love to talk about how they are holding the Labor government to account but, given the opportunity, they could manage to direct to me only four questions in I think three hours. One of those was from the member for Buderim, who asked me what I was the minister for. He did not even have to ask the question; he could have just read the sign in front of me.

Mr Mickelberg: You don't do infrastructure. You don't do Cross River Rail. What do you do?

Mr DICK: There he goes, the member for Buderim. I have set him off. It was the worst performance by opposition members of a parliamentary committee that I can recall since I was the attorney-general and the then shadow attorney-general, Lawrence Springborg, came into the estimates hearing—this is the person they ran three times to be premier of Queensland—and named someone in a witness protection program. He asked me a question naming someone in a witness protection program. That is what he did. You might have been there, Deputy Speaker McArdle. Thankfully, we scrubbed the record clean to protect that person.

This was the worst performance I had seen in 10 years, but it is symptomatic of the general malaise affecting the opposition. Lack of direction in the estimates hearing reflects the lack of direction in their leadership. They have no plan, no vision and no agenda—just a single objection and obsession with whining, relentless negativity. Fortunately, Queenslanders have put their faith in Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Queensland Labor Party. I am proud of everything we have achieved in the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning since I have had the privilege to serve. I thank the department for their professionalism and for the work they do for Queensland every day—building an economy of optimism and opportunity for Queensland. We are not just the Sunshine State; we are the sunrise state, building those new industries and those new jobs that Queenslanders deserve.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (3.04 pm): It is fortuitous that I am following the minister for—I take the earlier interjection from the member for Buderim: the minister for what? The minister did take four questions. The most pertinent one was from the member for Buderim, who asked what he is the minister for. In the past five minutes we have had yet more proof. In his last 20 seconds the minister thanked his department for the wonderful things they are doing for this state, but he did not mention a single one. The reason we asked all of our questions of the public servants is that he is the minister for literally nothing. He is the most emasculated infrastructure minister the state of Queensland has ever had and it was always someone else's problem.

The minister also said that the purpose of estimates is to test and interrogate the government's budget. The Palaszczuk Labor government's budget was bad for infrastructure, bad for jobs, bad for regions and bad for the future of the state. It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. Labor and the minister always talk big about infrastructure but, as we have heard, he cannot mention a single project because the Treasurer has taken all of the decent projects off him. He has none to be responsible for.

The reality is that Labor is borrowing more and building less. Infrastructure spending across the forward estimates has decreased by \$23 million compared to last year. The member for Inala has invested less in infrastructure than any premier in living memory. Queenslanders are sick and tired of their lucrative royalties, delivered to the state from resources dug up in their towns, going to the member for South Brisbane's pet project—Cross River Rail—to boost the value of her personal property portfolio.


Not only is government infrastructure investment down; Labor has killed off job-creating private sector projects worth billions. Estimates revealed a litany of promised infrastructure projects that have been delayed, reneged on or their business cases locked away. It did not matter where the project was

or what it was—the Cairns Convention Centre, on which we have belatedly seen some action from the government, Brisbane Live or Nullinga Dam, which has been shelved forever. All of them have been delayed, postponed or reneged on. It did not matter if it was a state development area or a regional plan. If it had been announced by the Palaszczuk Labor government there was almost an implicit guarantee that it would be delayed, scrapped or reneged on.

I give Townsville as an example. It has been three years since it was promised a North Queensland regional plan by the member for South Brisbane. Guess what? They are still waiting. Perhaps if the member for South Brisbane spent as much time and effort working on the land use plan she promised Townsville as she did on planning her personal property portfolio, it might have been completed by now. Unfortunately for Queenslanders, that is just the way it is with the Palaszczuk Labor government. Irrespective of who the Labor minister is, their own self-interest always takes precedence over the interests of Queensland. Again we saw it evident from the contribution of the member for Woodridge—yet another audition for leadership of the Labor government.

With this Labor government devoid of leadership, it is always spin over substance, always policy on the run, always promises with no delivery. I genuinely feel sorry for any industry that the member for Woodridge takes a feigned interest in supporting. Take Queensland's craft brewing industry—a strong industry that is a showcase of the great manufacturing ability of our great state. I have to mention Brouhaha in my own electorate of Glass House. First the minister gives taxpayers' dollars to a Scottish multinational company to move to Queensland and directly compete against our own industry. Then his colleague the member for Barron River introduces a beer tax specifically targeted at Queensland craft brewers, hiking their fees tenfold. It is no wonder, as the *Courier-Mail* revealed in April this year, that more than 18,000 manufacturing jobs have been wiped out under the Palaszczuk government, with the sector now employing its lowest number of workers since the 1990s recession.

Queensland cannot afford too many more budgets of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. The Palaszczuk Labor government is well and truly taking a pound of flesh from hardworking Queenslanders. Its 10 new or increased taxes are ripping \$3.5 billion from the Queensland economy across the forward estimates. These taxes have consistently been cited to be costing jobs and reducing economic activity by a range of third-party stakeholders, whether it be the Property Council, the Queensland Resources Council or commentators in the *Australian*. Queensland cannot afford Labor.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (3.09 pm): Another estimates, another lost opportunity for those opposite. This was another failure for the LNP in terms of reading the SDS. I want to thank the chair and the committee for their interest in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries SDS as well as the commitment that the Palaszczuk government has to this portfolio. This budget is a budget delivering for agriculture and fisheries in Queensland. It is a budget that stands in sharp contrast to the LNP's effort in agriculture. Those opposite like to trumpet their record in the portfolio, so let us compare and contrast. Labor's 2019-20 budget was \$525 million whereas the LNP's budget when it was last in power was \$408 million. Regional Queenslanders and industry remember what the LNP was like in government and Queenslanders never forget—600 Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff sacked when those opposite were last in government.

I am proud of what my portfolio has delivered for agricultural businesses in this state through RED Grants. These Rural Economic Development Grants have seen some great businesses supported by the government. These businesses are across regional Queensland and this investment is assisting in employing extra people and making businesses more profitable, which is good for Queensland and great news for local towns. There will be 600 Queensland jobs as a result of the first tranche of the RED Grants.

One of the key commitments of this year's budget that was raised at the hearing in terms of the investments being made to the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is this government's ongoing fisheries reform process. On the day of the hearing I had much pleasure welcoming new Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers. These new officers will be posted across Queensland to ensure that fisheries in Queensland are protected from black marketing and illegal fishing. Conversely, the LNP sought to water down new laws and let black marketers off the hook for five days. The LNP is soft on crime. There are also new Indigenous and multicultural liaison officers employed to ensure that our fisheries message is promoted across our diverse state.

It was interesting that the LNP did not have too many good questions on fisheries and my only thought was that it could be the fact that the LNP does not have a clue on where it stands on fisheries. The LNP does not know where it stands on the MRAG report and it does not know where it stands on


fisheries. All Queenslanders need to know is that when the LNP was in government it sacked 28 per cent of fisheries staff, and it is important to highlight a matter I spoke of during the estimates hearing when I said—

It is disappointing that the LNP has repeatedly reneged on their own election commitment to support the spirit of the MRAG reforms, many of which were articulated in the 2016 green paper on fisheries management. Our 10-year reform strategy is showing significant progress, and I am proud to be part of a government that is making a financial investment in our public service and our fisheries so that we can manage them effectively and sustainably into the future.

It is important that those opposite appreciate that we need to ensure that we have a sustainable fisheries in Queensland so that we do not end up like other states that have had to close fisheries because stock has become dangerously depleted through poor management practices, and I refer to the South Australian model as an example in that it is closing down snapper until 2023. I recommend that those opposite re-read MRAG, look at the sustainable fisheries reform and seek a briefing maybe from my department or my office to ensure that we keep this resource for their children and their grandchildren into the future.

Given recent media, it was a credit to the committee to raise the issue of fire ants and the ongoing eradication effort. This, like the LNP, is a pest that needs to be eradicated. It is disappointing when the opposition plays politics with biosecurity. It is even more disappointing when it plays politics without having the facts. This is a nationally oversighted program with expert advice from all over the world. Again I offer the opposition a briefing and I encourage those opposite to get the facts on this program and not listen to those few who try to talk the program down.

I want to highlight the ongoing work my department is doing with the strawberry industry as a case in hand. I want to thank the committee in allowing me the opportunity to promote the #eatqld campaign. It is a very simple campaign that even those opposite can follow—that is, when you are out having enjoyable Queensland food, take a photo of it and put it on social media under #eatqld. In conclusion, I thank the committee, the government, the opposition and crossbenchers for their engagement during the estimates process, the committee secretariat, Hansard and my department. Next year all I can hope for is that the LNP has an agriculture policy and a half decent budget reply speech that deals with agriculture.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.14 pm): It is clear that the budget handed down for agriculture, fisheries and forestry is lacking in almost all capacities. The estimates process has confirmed what industry is saying about the lack of leadership from the minister for agriculture. Most of the hearing was an exercise in filibustering by Minister Furner and his departmental staff. Rather than giving Queensland taxpayers factual and relevant answers, they indulged in long and irrelevant monologues. It showed a disconnect with the issues facing businesses and workers in these industries. It made a mockery of being answerable to the Queensland taxpayer.

Minister Furner provided a strange recollection of events about why he has failed to deliver \$5 million he promised in March to fight prickly acacia. Instead of admitting that he either never had the money or had it reallocated after a federal coalition victory, the minister claimed that the promised co-funded \$5 million from the federal government was a bad deal and was an offer from Canberra that is not good for everyone. How can \$5 million to fight prickly acacia be a bad deal? Equally frustrating were the non-answers to questions about the success and progress of the 10-year fire ant eradication plan. The targets for eradication continue to be missed and funding for the 10-year plan is being moved forward to try to urgently bring the project back from the brink. These issues were not admitted.

It was very concerning to discover that the minister was not aware of and would not even refer to the Integrity Commissioner's concerns about Professor Coaldrake's donation of \$1,760 to the Labor Party in June last year. The donation was made just two weeks before the delivery of his report to the minister recommending the closure of the Emerald and Longreach agricultural colleges. It compounds the distrust and anxiousness caused by the lack of certainty in those communities which are dealing with the forced closure of the colleges. This revelation and the decision paint a dire situation. Oddly, the minister even failed to acknowledge that the Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance, an advisory committee which he funds, had provided him with an agricultural education and jobs plan. Rather than answer questions on the progress of implementing the report, he simply described what the Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance was.


There are grave concerns about the management of Queensland's biosecurity. Revelations that the key industry advisory group, the Biosecurity Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee, has not met since January 2018 are seriously concerning. Our key biosecurity advisory group has not met for

19 months even though the Biosecurity Act and regulations are undergoing a review. What is even worse is that the minister admitted that the reason the committee has not met is due to its inability to meet gender quotas. What a glaring example of priorities about industry issues in this portfolio!

The most extreme example of Labor's agenda to undermine our primary producers is the concerted attack on Queensland's commercial fishing sector. A clear demonstration of this overriding agenda is that the minister's public comments about the justification for mud crab quota restrictions was contradicted by his own department. The minister's claims that the mud crab population was in dire straits were confirmed as being entirely false. Given the justification was not scientific, the minister and the department were unable to answer what the actual justification is they are using for these and other quota reforms. The disregard for commercial fishers continues.

The minister refused to apologise for the botched rollout of the vessel monitoring system through the government certified provider of the YB3i option audio. Despite a complaint by commercial fishers to the Queensland Ombudsman that confirmed that no regulatory impact statement or modelling on the impact of the VMS systems were completed, the minister remains unflinching in the delusion that there were no major issues with the rollout.

While some issues were aired in estimates, even with little new information being provided, industry, stakeholders and workers are frustrated that more time could not be spent examining the budget and the government's activities. Estimates are when we are supposed to examine the use of taxpayers' dollars. There are many more issues which are confronting this portfolio and the minister is dodging them. On behalf of industry and taxpayers, the lack of openness and transparency during estimates is disappointing. The minister is clearly distracted and more concerned about damage control due to the integrity crises surrounding the government than providing fulsome answers on behalf of Queenslanders.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.19 pm): I refer to the estimates hearing of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee held on 24 July and the funding arrangements for cluster fencing. I was pleased to see that the Palaszczuk government has provided a further \$6 million for the construction of cluster fencing in Western and Central Queensland. This is a great initiative that deserves bipartisan support from all political parties.

The term 'cluster fencing' is used to describe a situation where a number of farmers or graziers with adjacent properties form a cooperative group and decide to build a dog exclusion fence around the group of properties. As a cooperative, if they abide by certain rules, they can apply to the government for financial support to build a fence. Basically, they receive about half the cost of the external fence from the government and the rest they provide themselves. Within the group, the cost is divided according to the percentage of external fencing belonging to each property. Internal fencing remains the responsibility of the individual property owners.

The cluster fencing program delivers on the Palaszczuk government's 2017 election commitment to provide an extra \$5 million for cluster fencing in Queensland. We know that wild dogs pose a huge problem for producers in Western and Southern Queensland. That is why my government has allocated more than \$36 million for the construction of cluster fencing since 2015.


Protecting farmland from the ravages of wild dogs and invasive pests was the target of round 3 of the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Feral Pest Initiative. Through this initiative, funding is allocated to support cluster fencing arrangements in areas where wild dogs have a high density. This round of funding targets drought affected sheep and wool-producing areas with cluster fencing projects managed by the Western Downs, Maranoa, Goondiwindi and Southern Downs regional councils as well as the Remote Area Planning and Development Board and the southern Queensland natural resource management group. These projects will provide an additional 2,000 kilometres of cluster fencing, bringing the total amount of cluster fencing in Queensland to close to 9,000 kilometres. Round 3 builds on the great work done under the first two rounds of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative, which saw almost 7,000 kilometres of cluster fencing built on 423 properties in priority sheep-growing areas.

The dramatic fall in sheep numbers in Queensland from 17 million in 1990 to just two million in 2016 contributed significantly to a decline in regional jobs in Queensland and a decline in regional economies. A robust and thriving sheep and wool industry will help revitalise our regional centres in Western and Central Queensland, bringing more money and more job opportunities to our rural communities. Initial data from the completed cluster fencing projects indicate that lambing rates and sheep numbers have increased dramatically in most areas.

In the early 1990s, there were nearly six million sheep in Queensland's Central West but, prior to the introduction of the cluster fencing program, those six million had been reduced to just 200,000. After wool prices slumped in 1992, the industry went into freefall. Even as prices recovered, the growing

wild dog problem forced graziers to quit the industry and move into cattle, but that requires fewer staff. Reports on the ground indicate that, as a direct result of the Palaszczuk government's cluster fencing program, lambing rates have increased from 40 per cent to upwards of 90 per cent and, in some areas, sheep numbers have almost doubled. It is estimated that, in the Central West, as a result of the cluster fencing program, there will be one million more merinos grazing in that area by 2025. This growth in sheep numbers will bring back to the region much needed jobs and make the area the wool powerhouse it once was.

This is great news for our sheep industry in Central and Southern Queensland in our great state of Queensland. It is a great program of which the Palaszczuk government can be proud and it is one that I will highlight at every possible opportunity. When I do so, I hope I enjoy bipartisan support.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.23 pm): This budget estimates hearing was my second budget estimates hearing. Just like I did last year, I went in with a positive outlook and an open mind but, just like last year, my disappointment with the process did not take long to surface. Just like last year, ministers attempted to shut down countless questions, showcasing Labor's lack of openness and transparency.

During the estimates committee hearing I asked about a number of issues related directly to my electorate of Bundaberg. The government's responses were disappointing, to say the least. It has been more than two years since a state development area was declared at the Port of Bundaberg so, obviously, I asked whether work had commenced on the approved solar farm, which was mentioned at last year's estimates hearing, and if any other projects were available or had begun within the state development area. The response confirmed that the site for the solar farm remained untouched and the only other approved project is an area for spoil disposal. Any other projects that were mentioned during the estimates hearing were located outside of the Bundaberg state development area. After more than two years, a spoil dump is not much for the government to hang its hat on. Do those opposite really consider that to be progress? I can tell members that the residents of Bundaberg certainly do not.


As Labor has invested nearly \$13 million into the Gladstone State Development Area, I was keen to see if Bundaberg would receive a similar commitment. In stark contrast to the nearby city of Gladstone, Labor made it clear that there are no plans to replicate an investment in the state development area in Bundaberg. In an area with historically high unemployment, Bundaberg's state development area is a priority for my region. It has the potential to provide opportunities for local industry to grow, creating jobs along the way. The people of my area are crying out for jobs, development and government commitment, but all we are seeing from Labor are broken promises and ongoing delays.

Just as this anti-region Labor government does on a regular basis, during the hearing it also confirmed that it has failed to update the Wide Bay-Burnett regional plan for eight years. Of course, Brisbane's plan is up to date, but Labor does not see fit to spend any time updating any other plans. Regional plans address critical land use issues affecting the regions. If they are not kept up to speed, they stop being commercially viable. Over the past eight years, the Wide Bay-Burnett area has changed a lot, so it is disappointing that not even this regional plan can be kept up to speed by this Labor government.

To develop projects that help drive the local economy and create jobs, we need to see cooperation between all levels of government.

Mr Power: Yes. Tell that to the feds.

Mr BATT: It is great to hear the member talking about the federal government. Just as Labor has done with the Hinkler Regional Deal, championed by our federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt, when it comes to my region, all we are seeing is broken promises, neglect and political games. Bundaberg is clearly not a priority for this Labor government and these estimates hearings certainly showcased that.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.27 pm): How fun is estimates! Certainly, the contributions of the previous members would reflect that. I always like to say that an estimates hearing is like question time on steroids. Last year, I had the pleasure of bringing in a community group to observe an estimates hearing firsthand. I think it is a great opportunity—and an underrated one—for our communities to see the nuts and bolts of how this place operates.

At the outset, I thank the many departmental staff and ministerial staff who put so much effort into preparing for the day to ensure that all of the questions could be answered and that no questions had to be taken on notice. I think that is really commendable. Estimates hearings are so important for our democracy, especially with Queensland having a unicameral parliament. I also place on record my thanks to the residents and businesses of the Mount Ommaney electorate who have written to me, met with me and visited with me over the last year, giving me plenty of inspiration for my questions.

Today I want to talk about jobs and specifically jobs in the resource sector and, more specifically, in my fantastic electorate, the wonderful community of Mount Ommaney. My electorate is home to 3,500 jobs in the resource sector across a variety of different areas. In attending the friends of resources industry event last night, it was great to hear about the connections that are being made between the gas industry and the agricultural industry. The resources sector is a massive jobs creator and I am very grateful that so many Mount Ommaney electorate residents are finding employment in this sector.

Although jobs are important, so is safety. That is why the mine safety reset has been so important. I know that over the weekend Minister Lynham attended the mine safety reset conference on the Gold Coast, because no family should have to go through the agony experienced by families, friends and co-workers when there is a death in the workplace. That is why the Palaszczuk government is conducting two reviews into fatalities, examining the efficacy of current legislation, employing three new inspectors and considering additional workplace protections.

Finally, on the day of the estimates hearing we had some fun with Minister Furner—the farmer's friend—the minister for agriculture, learning more about food, fibre and all things agri-delicious.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PUGH: Those opposite will like this next one: we heard today about a statement of reservation from the LNP. The only reservation I am interested in is one at our great Queensland eateries. The new #eatqld campaign has given Queensland diners an easy way to promote the local provenance of the delicious and delightful produce they are already enjoying in Queensland restaurants and eateries. Whether it is the beautiful Sunny Coast strawberries, the Kalbar carrots or the bananas from the Cassowary Coast, there is lots to enjoy. I would, however, like to place on record my disappointment that there was no prop basket of snacks this year from the minister's office and I trust that will be rectified next year—no strawberries for me!

As the former manager at Restaurant II, which featured Queensland produce proudly in every single dish, I was beyond excited to hear about Minister de Brenni's new Queensland government food and supply directory as part of the Buy Queensland program when I visited the Ekka with Minister Furner last week to enjoy a classic strawberry sundae. I know that for local businesses like Gutsy Ferments based in Darra but sourcing Queensland produce from all over Queensland it is going to make it easier than ever for amazing local producers to get in contact with food retailers and vice versa.

Indeed, a few weeks ago at the behest of Minister Dick's office I visited the office of 17 Rocks Chocolate, another family owned business selling a truly world-class product. Previously, for eateries to find out about a local product it might go something like it did in our family, which was, 'Hey dad, did you know right up the road from your house is one of the best chocolate manufacturers in the state?', and dad, being not only a smart man but the executive chef of the Convention Centre, goes off, checks it out and absolutely loves it. This will give that kind of exposure to all Queensland producers. As someone from a hospitality background, with amazing food manufacturers like Majans in my electorate, which produces the Bhuja snacks that we all buy in Woolies—I am so proud—this is wonderful news for Queensland venues.

There is a lot to like in this budget for food and that is great news if you are a foodie, a food manufacturer or a small business manager like I used to be. When it comes to produce you cannot beat Queensland so get on board and eat Queensland!



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (3.31 pm): That is the quality of the members opposite: in the five-minute contribution from a member of the committee she used the last two or three minutes to talk about her electorate, chocolate factories, strawberries and whatever else.

Ms PUGH: I take personal offence. This was clearly written before I got up and spoke. It is personally offensive. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member, you have been asked to withdraw.

Mr HART: I withdraw. This is a government that tells us that it is transparent, accountable and open. We have continuously seen debates in this House guillotined and Question Time where questions are not answered so it is surprising to see the members get up here one after another today and tell us, as the minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said earlier, that it is fundamentally important for the government to be held accountable at estimates. If the government is going to be held accountable at estimates I suggest that the best way to start that is to allow us to ask some questions. I had three opportunities at estimates to question ministers about energy. We got one hour to talk about something that earns this government over \$2 billion in dividends. Of that the opposition gets a piddling 30 minutes. The chair of the committee may think he gave us more time, and possibly he did, but 30 minutes is not enough to question the government about something as important as energy.

I asked the minister about using electricity as a hidden tax. Quite frankly, that is what this government has been doing. I asked him that at estimates and I will continue to ask it at every opportunity. In his speech the minister said he makes no apology for reinvesting the dividends that the government is ripping out of the people of Queensland as far as hidden taxes go. What he is doing is drawing more than \$2 billion a year out of the people of Queensland and giving a small part of that back in subsidies to some of the people in Queensland at the expense of everybody else in Queensland who is paying very high electricity bills—in fact, paying way higher than they should be.

The minister also talked about the transitional tariffs that are being made obsolete by this government. Deputy Chair, you would remember from the time that you were a minister that we were on a pathway to make transitional tariffs obsolete. As at 1 June next year it will have been happening for 10 years. For the minister to come in here and tell us that the people who are on transitional tariffs need more time to arrange what tariffs they are going to go on in the future so the government has given them an extra year is an absolute load of bull dust. The Labor Party has pushed this back so it is off the agenda for the next election. Come 1 July next year many farmers would have been taken off these transitional tariffs and would have had to pay a lot more money for the tariff that involves pumping water onto their crops. Without that water crops do not grow. The government has shifted that back for a year which pushes it past the next election. The people of Queensland are not that silly. They know what the government is doing and they will punish it for that. I can tell the members opposite they will punish them for that because 12 months after that time they will make those tariffs obsolete and farmers will have to pay through the nose for their electricity once again.

I will finish where I started: this government has said it is transparent, accountable and open, but it is far from that. The people of Queensland are seeing that it is involved in a massive integrity crisis at the moment. Those opposite are tearing themselves apart. The best way to fix that would be to be what they actually say they are being which is open, accountable and transparent. I will not hold my breath because I do not see that happening any time soon.

Report adopted.

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): The question is—

That the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee be adopted.



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.37 pm): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. As the deputy chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee you know the extensive work that went into the estimates process. I rise to speak in support of and commend the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year.

I start by thanking the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Each of the ministers and their departmental staff gave significant information to the committee process. I also thank the committee members for their hard work and valuable contribution to the estimates process.

There was a significant increase of 6.6 per cent on last year's health budget, going from \$17.3 billion to \$18.4 billion. In Townsville there was a significant increase of 5.5 per cent in the operating budget of the Townsville Hospital and Health Service, going from \$938 million to just over \$1 billion. Recently the member for Townsville and I joined the health minister to see a linear accelerator being placed into the hospital. We have also seen completion of the paediatric ward. There is more to be done. The Palaszczuk Labor government cares about the health of Queenslanders and is clearly investing in HHSs right across the state.


I was particularly happy to see \$132 million over four years to be distributed across the HHSs for renal care, frail and older persons care, and cardiac care initiatives. Our committee is currently working through the aged care, palliative care and end-of-life care inquiry and I welcome the \$17 million for community based palliative care services. We have been told that in the Bundaberg area there is a \$7 million investment in the service provision for palliative care. There is \$37 million for the Health Promotion Agency and, importantly, \$61 million in new funding over four years to address gaps in Queensland's approach to suicide prevention. I am very happy to see the Enhancing Regional Hospitals program receive funding of \$78 million.

The Queensland Ambulance Service has received a record budget of \$885 million. Funding for an additional 200 ambulance operatives will meet the growth in demand for ambulance services throughout the state. That is something that I am very proud to have been involved in and seen delivered. It includes nine positions into the Townsville Local Ambulance Service Network, as well as some for the Kirwan station. The service will also receive significant funding for the third year of the Queensland Ambulance Service Certified Agreement.

In my time remaining, I turn to the portfolio of disability services and seniors. I congratulate the minister on the announcement of \$2.9 million for the Townsville Women's Centre, which was discussed through the capital program at the estimates hearing and, importantly, the \$4.1 million to construct the Oasis Townsville to provide a one-stop shop for support services for our veterans and ex-Australian Defence Force personnel and families.

I touch on that point because recent media reports quoted the Australian Minister for Defence giving a \$5 million commitment to that project. That was a federal election commitment. We get to actually see that. I think the words they used in the media were something like, 'Look, it's dependent now on relevant legislative and budget processes.' What a load of rubbish. We are the ones who got it going through the good work of the member for Mundingburra and we can deliver it. We can talk about real funding for the Oasis, because we know how important veteran support is in our garrison city of Townsville. The federal government has let us down with a wishy-washy approach to a \$5 million promise to finish the complex. We care about it and we are getting on with the job. I make special mention of that project because we know how important it is to the veterans in Townsville.

There is a whole heap of the usual whining and moaning in the statement of reservation. I point out that 245 minutes was allocated to non-government members versus 185 minutes for government members. They wasted their time and did not contribute anything.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate before the House. From day one to day end of the estimates hearings, one thing that came across was a whiff of desperation such as has not existed since 2010 and 2011 under the Bligh government, particularly around the issue of health. You could almost sense the desperation in relation to what was being asked and how things were being conducted. In terms of the health portfolio in 2010 and 2011, who could ever forget the health payroll debacle, the fake Tahitian prince or the plan to divide the health department into two separate departments? From the health portfolio today we get the same sense.

Ms Bates: Deja vu.

Mr McARDLE: It is deja vu; I take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. Questions swirled around the Deputy Premier and the Premier's chief of staff; the debacle unravelling in the health portfolio; the rollout or the nonrollout of the ieMR upgrade against the advice of the AMAQ; the departure of a former CEO of e-Health Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby; the termination of the CEO of Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Dr Richard Ayre; and the bungle in Metro North Hospital and Health Service in which 8,000 pages of patient documents literally fell off a truck. That is so much like 2010 and 2011. I am sad to say that today we have a health minister whose competence matches that of the health minister in 2010 and 2011.

During the estimates a lot of questions swirled around, but the shadow health minister and the opposition were given very few answers to their very pertinent and very important questions. In his opening comments to the committee, the minister said—

It is always an honour to talk about the amazing work that is done every day in Queensland's health system.

We on this side of the House agree that our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals provide exceptional service, but the big problem is that you cannot get in to see them. The problem facing the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and others is the incompetence that sits in George Street, the operation of Queensland Health and the inability to roll out an effective plan to deal with the needs of Queenslanders right across the state.


I turn to some of the figures for the Sunshine Coast HHS, as outlined in the SDS document. What a debacle. On 21 March 2017, the hospital opened to its first patients. Two years and five months down the track and the waiting times for emergency department patients are an absolute shambles. The target for category 1 patients is 100 per cent; the actual figure for a category 1 patient—the most seriously ill or injured patient—is 98 per cent. For category 2 patients, the target is 80 per cent; the actual figure is 68 per cent. For category 3 patients, the target is 75 per cent of patients seen on time; the actual figure is only 61 per cent. On a regular basis the health minister claims that the Sunshine

Coast hospital is an icon in relation to what the Labor Party can do. I say to the health minister, this chamber and the people of the Sunshine Coast that it is a debacle. Whether or not the problem lies in Queensland Health or in the hierarchy on the Sunshine Coast, it has to be worked out.

I turn to patients who have had their elective surgery within recommended times. For category 1 patients the target is 98 per cent and the actual figure is 87 per cent. For category 2 patients the target is 95 per cent and the actual figure is 78 per cent. For category 3 patients the target is 95 per cent and the actual figure is 86 per cent. That is an abysmal record for a health department. That hospital cost \$1.8 billion to build and has been operating for over two years, but it cannot get the basics right.

In her contribution the Premier had a crack at the LNP in relation to jobs. One thing we did is we paid our nurses. Two ministers from that side of the House—Lucas and Schwarten—would not take responsibility for their actions. Once again, they blamed somebody else for all the problems that Queensland nurses faced on a daily basis. They have never accepted responsibility for the pain and suffering inflicted by their government.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.47 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2019-20. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the budget bills be agreed to without amendment. The 2019-20 Queensland state budget delivers for all Queenslanders. This record health investment of \$19.2 billion is an investment in the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state.

More people are choosing to use our public hospitals than ever before. The latest data shows that in June 171,287 people sought treatment at Queensland public hospitals, including 1,441 critical category 1 patients and 25,377 urgent category 2 patients. The vast majority of all patients were treated and admitted or discharged from the ED within four hours and all of the critical category 1 patients were seen within two minutes.

This huge increase in demand means we need to ensure we have enough doctors, nurses, specialists, allied health workers, midwives and support staff. That is why this budget funds a 3.4 per cent increase in hospital and health service staff across the state. To improve flow and help patients navigate the system and better support our maternity services, the 400 nurse navigators and 100 additional midwives we committed to at the election will be made permanent.


We are also hiring 200 more paramedics. The Queensland Ambulance Service budget is getting an increase of more than 10 per cent on last year. Their \$885.7 million budget includes funding for new and refurbished ambulance stations across the state and 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. For patients, we are slashing specialist outpatient wait times, with \$77.4 million for the Specialist Outpatient Strategy. A \$17.5 million boost to aeromedical services will provide vital emergency transport for sick and injured people in Queensland, especially those living in rural and remote areas. We are investing in preventive health through our flagship Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

Then there are the major redevelopments of the Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, the redevelopments of the Roma and Blackall hospitals and the new Kingaroy Hospital and the upgrade of the Gladstone and Maryborough emergency departments and the continued expansion of the Redland and Redcliffe hospitals. We are investing in better imaging technology, like the new MRI for Redcliffe as well as a second CT machine and a new MRI for Ipswich.

This year's health budget also confirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queenslanders' mental health needs. The budget has funds for the new Adolescent Extended Treatment Centre at the Prince Charles Hospital, two new youth adolescent step-up step-down units in Logan and Caboolture and the refurbishment of two adolescent day program spaces at Logan and the Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$39.61 million for a new acute mental health inpatient unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and refurbishment of the existing acute mental health unit at Maryborough Hospital.

The Leader of the Opposition has not made a single, significant proposal for health care in this state—no commitments to new hospitals or more staff or services. The LNP has never had a plan when it comes to health care in Queensland, except to undermine public services to help line the pockets of its mates and donors in the private sector. The Palaszczuk government has rebuilt the public health

system and its workforce after it was decimated by the LNP. We will continue to support Queensland Health workers by making sure they have what they need to take care of Queenslanders when they need it most.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.52 pm): Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. The 2019 budget is a bad budget for Queenslanders. It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. At a time when we have seen a major bed shortage and ongoing code yellows in hospitals across the state, it is staggering that the Queensland Health capital budget is being cut by more than \$200 million, compared with the budget for last year. Queensland Health was a basket case under Labor's Anna Bligh and it has been bedlam under Annastacia Palaszczuk.

Once again, we have seen a litany of Queensland Health digital disasters that is putting patient care at risk. It is not only the integrated electronic Medical Record rollout, it has now extended to other IT upgrades, with the latest debacle about the broken FAMMIS where we see staff putting band-aids on the bankcard. The LNP has consistently called for the Palaszczuk Labor government to halt the rollout of the ieMR, in line with calls from the AMAQ. While the minister takes his advice from spin doctors, we listen to calls from real doctors. We will always put patient care ahead of politics. The system is putting pressure on staff and impacting on clinical care provided to patients, putting their safety at risk.

The bungled rollout of the ieMR has also been mired in corruption allegations with the departure of the former CEO of eHealth Queensland who was responsible for the rollout of ieMR. We asked questions about the departure of the former CEO of eHealth Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby, which were not answered because of a current Crime and Corruption Commission investigation. That is despite advice from the Clerk earlier that day that any investigations by the CCC did not prevent ministers from answering questions in breach of sub judice standing orders.

In relation to the FAMMIS failure, Labor's latest IT debacle, the new system was over budget, a year late and it does not even work. From what we know, the failed replacement upgrade is causing chaos for staff in our hospitals. It was completely crazy to launch this new system in the middle of flu season. Labor cannot run the health system and it cannot run IT systems.

What is clear 10 years after the payroll debacle is that Labor has not learned a single thing. Our hospitals are overwhelmed most of the time and now staff are wasting precious time that should be spent on sick patients. Labor still has not fixed the payroll debacle and the electronic medical records system is a shambles. If I were Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk I would not let health minister Steven Miles touch a keyboard. Put simply, Labor and health and IT just do not mix.

During the estimates hearing, we raised concerns on behalf of some very distressed parents about the care of their baby who was born at the Rockhampton Hospital in July last year and allegations about incorrect insulin levels administered at the hospital. Those parents deserve answers around what happened to their little baby.

We tried to raise questions about the recent termination of the CEO of Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Dr Stephen Ayre. However, answers to our questions were not forthcoming and the unfair dismissal claim was used as an excuse. Let me assure those opposite that we will not be letting that issue go. We still maintain that the wrong Steven was sacked and it should have been the health minister who faced the axe. The debacle involving Dr Stephen Ayre is yet another example of Labor trying to hide behind bureaucrats to avoid accountability.


In relation to the recent patient document bungle in Metro North Hospital and Health Service, the estimates hearings revealed that the incident occurred on 20 June 2019, the minister's office was notified the same day and yet the public were not notified until 26 June. These were the documents—approximately 8,000 pages—that literally fell off the back of a truck.

It was also revealed that the Darling Downs HHS has no date for when maternity services will be restored at the Chinchilla Hospital, an issue that was raised last year as well. Regional families in the Chinchilla community deserve a lot better than they have seen from Labor. Dalby Hospital also recently went close to being on maternity bypass. It is the latest example of Labor's bush maternity crisis.

In relation to ice rehabilitation, the implementation of Labor's one and only new facility promised at the 2017 state election has been a complete and utter debacle. The Rockhampton community has voiced their concerns about Labor's proposed site for a new drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Given the delays in finding a site for this project and the significant lack of consultation, the budget confirms that the project has now been delayed.

There have been incidents at Logan Hospital last year where we saw disputes between ambulance officers and nurses. This came about because of significant ambulance ramping, which has continued to rise under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The 2019 estimates hearings were dominated by the Palaszczuk Labor government's ongoing integrity crisis. In the 30th year since the Fitzgerald inquiry report was published, these latest scandals provide significant questions about the government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity that have engulfed the leadership of the morally bankrupt Labor government.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.57 pm): I want to place on record my appreciation for the work done by the parliament's Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee both generally and during estimates. I thank them for their report. I was reflecting on the process and on the wonderful and really important opportunity estimates provides for scrutiny of government.

Estimates was something that was instigated by a Labor government and absolutely squandered when the LNP was in power. They contracted the time for estimates hearings to two days. Sometimes there were seven committee hearings occurring at once. There was a Labor opposition of seven—it is so important to have an effective opposition and so important to have that scrutiny that is critical for democracy—and the LNP did everything it could to ensure that the Labor opposition was not able to conduct that scrutiny. It even had the temerity to attack opposition members and reflect on their absences from hearings when they were in other hearings.

I have listened to all the talk about integrity coming from the other side of the House. We are talking about estimates today. There was not a greater breach and a greater travesty in terms of integrity than the way the LNP treated the estimates process. They again squandered the opportunity. The members of the LNP in my estimates hearing were so lazy. They asked a question that had already been asked in the questions on notice. They asked questions that were subject to court proceedings or confidential. They asked questions about the same thing over and over again. Such little effort went into providing the scrutiny of government that estimates provides. They did an injustice to the vulnerable people in my portfolio and everybody in Queensland by not undertaking the proper democratic process of estimates.

I want to place on record my appreciation for the work of the staff in both of my departments—the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Youth Justice—not only in preparing for the estimates process but for the work they do and that of the staff of our government and non-government agencies who are such important partners for us. These are people who face the extremes of humanity. They see the impacts on our children and young people of the deepest trauma. They see the depths of the evil that can be perpetrated against a human being that another professes to love. They also see the absolute best of kindness and generosity from the many people who help our most vulnerable. They have the great pleasure of seeing lives being turned around because of their work. I have the greatest admiration for each and every one of them and again say how privileged I feel to be the minister for their portfolios. That is again why the performance of the LNP at estimates was really so disappointing. It is a slap in the face to the many people who would like to think that a party that sees itself as an alternative government would care about them and what they do.

This is a party that did not even take a child safety policy to the last election. When they were in government they ripped the insides out of the budget and they slashed child safety staff numbers, and again at estimates they barely asked a legitimate question about the state's most vulnerable children. Clearly, it is not a priority for them. However, I was delighted to talk with the committee about the record \$1.33 billion budget provided by this government for child and family services in 2019-20. In contrast to the LNP's cuts and sackings, Labor has employed 458 extra child and family services staff since 2016 to provide more and better services to the community, and we are employing an additional 116 frontline staff over the next three years.

We have committed to continuing the Carmody reforms and we are seeing the results of those, which I was so happy to discuss with the committee. I was very happy to speak to the committee about the historic commitment we have made to youth justice reform in this state. Speaking to members of the party whose sole contribution to youth justice reform in this state is boot camps was a bit like throwing pearls before swine. However, we are already seeing the results of our investment. We are seeing that we are stopping that cycle of reoffending. We are determined to change the story for those

young people who have got to this point because of severe disadvantage and trauma in their lives. We need to change the story for the community and change the story for those young people, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

I want to commend the initiatives around our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, around domestic violence and addressing the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I thank the committee for its wonderful work.

(Time expired)



Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. We hear a lot of figures coming from that side of the House about record budgets, record staff, record this and record that, but numbers do not equal outcomes. That is where it is lacking—the outcomes. The results are just not showing. This year's state budget was a typical Labor budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. We all know—and we have heard it before—that when Labor governments run out of money they dip their hand further into the pockets of Queenslanders taking more and more cash from them to deliver less and less, borrowing money to cover their wasteful spending rather than borrowing to build.

Starting with health, the current crisis in our health system is a symptom of the poor management by this Labor government. They come in here spruiking about new hospitals and refurbishments but—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Order! Members to my right, thank you.

Mr HUNT:—I have a prime example of how talking things up is very different from delivering. The example I refer to is in my own electorate—the Nambour Hospital refurbishment. It was first announced by Labor in 2015, to be completed by 2018. Where are we with that? It is late 2019 and construction is just starting—four years later. It has been four years of having a hospital in Nambour with 1,800 staff removed and never replaced, four years of elderly patients being required to travel further for their health care to other facilities while Nambour Hospital laid effectively in mothballs totally neglected by this Labor government.

The minister came to Nambour last year reannouncing the refurbishment as apparently a new project, but the people of Nambour and its surrounds are not fooled by Labor's smoke and mirrors, pretending that it is delivering for our area when it has just been delay, delay, delay. Meanwhile, the people of Nicklin suffer under this generation of Labor neglect—

Mr Purdie: Generation of failure.

Mr HUNT: Generation of failure.

Government members interjected.

Mr HUNT: I will keep saying it.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, thank you.

Mr HUNT: I will move on to another important part of our committee's portfolio, child safety and youth justice. There is a youth justice crisis in Queensland. This youth justice crisis is a symptom of a generation of mismanagement of this Labor government being in power for 25 of the last 30 years. When you fail in child safety it later becomes a problem in youth justice. The minister admitted as much last year in estimates as she profiled the typical young person who is in and out of our justice system—a life of abuse and neglect, which is exactly where we need to start to tackle this problem of skyrocketing youth crime.

Labor's bandaids policy-on-the-run approach resulted in the children in watch houses crisis—a race to pat themselves on the back for removing 17-year-olds from prison but then a total failure to plan for the flow-on effects of filling our youth detention centres. This has left a shameful situation of having younger people in high-security adult watch houses. In the race to remove older offenders from adult prisons, ironically and shamefully we now have younger offenders pushed out into high-security adult watch houses—a disgraceful situation. Only Labor could mess this up this badly. Only Labor could lack the foresight in their blind race to virtue signalling and then cause more harm than they sought to alleviate. Children do not belong in high-security adult watch houses. Labor is lost, Labor is incompetent and Labor is dangerous to the safety of children of this state.

Only a future Frecklington LNP government can fix the youth justice crisis. Only a future Frecklington LNP government can fix the health crisis. Only a future Frecklington LNP government can manage the finances of this state with no new taxes, manage the justice system, manage the health system for the benefit of all Queenslanders and bring an end to Labor's waste and mismanagement.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.07 pm): On Thursday, 25 July I was pleased to be part of the estimates hearing for the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I would like to take this time to thank the chair, the committee members, my department and all those who participated in the hearing.

This committee and the estimates process play an important role in our parliamentary system, providing accountability and transparency. The hearing provided an opportunity for me to speak about important initiatives, policies and programs provided by my department and to answer questions about the department's expenditure. I was also able to introduce Disability Connect Queensland—a new area that has been set up in my department to provide oversight and advocacy for Queenslanders with disability and their families and carers.

With the full scheme implementation of the NDIS in Queensland on 1 July, the state government's traditional role in disability services has changed. Our focus is now on supporting and advocating for people with disability, along with monitoring the NDIS to ensure that it is delivering the outcomes we all expect for Queenslanders with disability.

The full scheme rollout of the NDIS has changed our role, but it has not negated our responsibility for people with disability. As part of our new role and focus, the 2019-20 state budget provides more than \$200 million in funding to ensure that vital supports and services for Queenslanders with disability will continue post NDIS. Our investment in the NDIS is an example of our pledge to invest in jobs today and for the future by recognising the opportunity presented by the NDIS in delivering jobs in the growing disability services sector.

Within the committee's report the LNP raised concerns about investigations into staff conduct and supervision in relation to the Forensic Disability Service. As I have said before, my department takes matters of staff conduct and responsibility very seriously, and all allegations and areas of concern are thoroughly investigated and dealt with appropriately. Where it is proven that staff have done the wrong thing or actions can be improved, appropriate action is always taken.

Making sure that we are doing everything we can to support those in need in our local communities is incredibly important, and Thriving Queensland Communities is an important focus of this budget with quality community and senior services that are connected and support the social and economic inclusion and wellbeing of people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Our vision is to create thriving communities in all areas of the state.

Neighbourhood and community centres are at the heart of Queensland's communities and provide a range of vital services and supports, particularly for some of our more vulnerable community members. That is why in 2019-20 we will continue to build on our investment in neighbourhood and community centres across Queensland. This includes providing more certainty for the future of Community Connect services in 12 high-demand communities. This \$1.5 million in recurrent funding follows the success of the two-year Community Connect trial in 12 neighbourhood and community centres across the state. We are also continuing to deliver and upgrade neighbourhood centres including centres in Moranbah, East Murgon and Thursday Island. Additionally, we are funding services such as financial inclusion, safe night precincts, food rescue and security, community resilience and recovery and social participation services that make a real difference to Queenslanders.

This week is Queensland Seniors Week, our state's premier event for older Queenslanders and a time for people of all ages to celebrate the achievements and contributions of seniors. It is fitting to mention the Queensland government's budget allocation of \$280 million for concessions that help Queenslanders. I am delighted to report that, from next month until the end of May next year, we will be visiting 21 shopping centres across the state from Cairns to the Gold Coast to talk to seniors about services and supports that we can provide to show them how they can benefit from our seniors cards and concessions.

The estimated total expenditure of the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors for 2019-20 is \$1.973 billion, so we can carry out this important work. This funding will help Queenslanders regardless of their age, ability or where they live to participate and be included in their communities and to be resilient and enjoy social and economic wellbeing. It was a pleasure to update the committee and the people of Queensland on the great work being done by my department.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings and the Appropriation Bill 2019, specifically that area of responsibility in consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I will also address the committee's consideration as it pertains to my shadow ministerial portfolio of communities, disability services and seniors.

Whilst an integrity and accountability crisis engulfed the Palaszczuk Labor government, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee was primarily preoccupied with yet another crisis: Labor's failed administration of Queensland's health and hospital system. If nothing else, this budget and the subsequent estimates process laid bare the absolute failure of Labor's Minister for Health to properly manage Queensland Health and deliver the world-class health and hospital system that Queenslanders deserve.

Indeed, even leading into this year's state budget it was revealed that close to half a billion dollars had already been overspent by Labor thanks to its failed implementation of IT projects, including nearly \$300 million in cost blowouts under Queensland Health. Some 10 years after Labor's disastrous \$1.2 billion Health payroll debacle it is clear that those opposite have learned absolutely nothing. Through estimates this year it was also revealed that, whilst spending a record \$19.2 billion on Queensland Health, incredibly our public hospital system is more than \$30 million in the red largely thanks to the poor implementation and rollout of the \$1.5 billion integrated electronic Medical Record.

Whilst it has been a common feature of this Labor government time and again during the budgets and estimates process, this year it was particularly evident that, under Labor's failed Minister for Health, the Palaszczuk Labor government's priorities when it comes to Queensland Health are simply all wrong.

As the committee examined the portfolio responsibilities of community, disability services and seniors, serious concerns were raised as to the management of the Forensic Disability Service by the Minister for Disability Services. On more than one occasion when the minister was asked a question that pertained to her direct knowledge of matters involving and decisions taken by her the minister instead chose to obfuscate before deferring to her director-general. Critically, it was revealed that having exercised her powers under section 87 of the Forensic Disability Act 2011 to request reports from the then director of forensic disability—a power that can only be exercised by the minister if it is in the public interest—the minister did not adequately disclose all of the circumstances surrounding these requests.

Whilst the minister did eventually disclose that a report was requested into the very serious incident of a client of the Forensic Disability Service absconding during a supervised outing—requiring the involvement of the Queensland Police Service, which was not communicated to the public—the minister's responses during estimates would suggest that there is a lot more that needs to be transparently disclosed on these issues. As I said, these reports can only be requested by the minister 'if the matter is in the public interest'; therefore, it is not unreasonable to ask the minister to further detail to the House just how many times she has exercised her power under section 87, the justification for each instance and the surrounding circumstances.


In my contribution today I would also like to note my great disappointment that the minister was prevented from explaining the Labor government's inadequate support of neighbourhood and community centres. Such centres are often at the very heart of a member's electorate. Indeed, I know just how important it is to the member for Lockyer following a recent visit to his electorate to see some of the amazing work being done by such centres, including the Laidley Community Centre. Understanding just how important these centres are I asked the reasonable question of the minister—

Given that car registration rose 2.25 per cent on 1 July 2019 based on an estimated CPI increase, why have neighbourhood and community centres not received a rise equal to this rego increase, based on the same CPI estimate?

Unfortunately, the chair of the committee chose to protect the minister and ceased questioning with more than eight minutes left for the committee's session. Both the member for Lockyer and I—and many others on this side of the House—would appreciate it if the minister could inform the parliament why she has chosen not to fund our Queensland neighbourhood centres at the rate of CPI indexation.

Before concluding I take this opportunity as the Liberal National Party shadow minister for seniors to acknowledge and congratulate all Queensland seniors during this week's Seniors Week celebrations. Our seniors make an invaluable contribution to our communities, and I look forward to once again hosting my Seniors Week morning tea in the next few weeks in the electorate of Moggill. I also thank

all members of the committee and acknowledge the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for her attendance on the day. I also acknowledge all of the hard work of the committee secretariat and all staff.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.16 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 23 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee and the chair, the member for Thuringowa, and my parliamentary colleagues, although we did not get a chance to hear from them during the estimates hearing. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their constant professionalism. I also acknowledge the Hon. Steven Miles, the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke and the Hon. Di Farmer, who each displayed an outstanding in-depth knowledge of their portfolio areas. I thank them for their vision, commitment and dedication to the people of Queensland. I also thank the chief executives and departmental officials who assisted in the inquiry process. I would also like to acknowledge the great work of all departmental staff who each and every day tirelessly work to deliver for Queenslanders. We value their contribution and I value their contribution—unlike those opposite, who have a track record of sacking Queenslanders including nurses, midwives and healthcare workers, with no regard at all for the impact that would have on families, the community and our economy.

The process of estimates is an important one, providing an opportunity to hear about government expenditure for the coming year in detail. Therefore, members can imagine my disappointment when, rather than examine the expenditure, the LNP members, with their usual lacklustre performance, turned their backs on the budget. They have a habit of doing that. We all know that, and baysiders have well and truly felt the effects of this total disregard. With the flick of a pen the former LNP government—with its current leader, the member for Nanango, who sat at the CBRC table—decided to slash health services and other services in Lytton: the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit closed and 85 residents lost their home that day; the department of housing closed; child safety closed; bayside tenancy advice closed; manufactured home advocacy closed; 24-hour primary care closed; mental health services closed; and Skilling Queenslanders for Work was just gone.

These services were so important to my community, local traders and our economy, but apparently baysiders were not entitled to good local health services. Nor did we need an aged-care facility, palliative care beds, rehabilitation beds or 24-hour primary care, but we know differently and we know that we deserve best practice healthcare services that are free, easily accessible and state-of-the-art. We needed to be listened to, because the LNP surely did not.

Thank goodness the Palaszczuk government listens and we now have a fabulous range of outstanding, free, accessible health services, and more services are being delivered continually. The palliative care beds at Camellia Lodge deliver palliative care services within an aged-care setting ensuring that, at a very difficult time, each and every person is cared for in a familiar, homelike environment that can include personal touches such as soft lighting and their favourite music. The extra funding that was allocated in the budget is welcome.

As I have said, the LNP slashed services by closing the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and cutting the 24-hour primary care service. It was the Palaszczuk government that restored health services and ushered in a new era of healthcare services for the region. It opened Gundu Pa, the state-of-the-art Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre. It really is an impressive and state-of-the-art facility. Gundu Pa is delivering a wide range of expanded services and continues to expand these services, including a 24-hour primary care centre for treating minor injuries and illnesses, with weekly specialist outpatient clinics of endocrinology, diabetes, gastroenterology, podiatry, respiratory medicine, cardiology, child development and mental health, among many others. Between 1 July 2018 and 31 May 2019, Gundu Pa delivered 4,479 specialist outpatient services. During that same period, 13,124 visits to Gundu Pa were made. Obviously, Wynnum Manly did require good quality health services—unlike when the opposition decided with the stroke of a pen that we did not.

Baysiders will also benefit from the increased number of paramedics who are operating out of the state-of-the-art ambulance station located right next door to Gundu Pa. I can also report that 70 patients were cared for at Pandanus ward, our rehabilitation ward, and 96 patients were serviced by the hospital in the home service. This is a budget that delivers for all Queenslanders. Unlike the proforma negative speeches from those opposite, I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that has delivered another great budget because that is what good governments do and that is what the Palaszczuk government is.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (4.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill for this year. I will begin with some comments on the estimates process. I along with many other commentators have highlighted previously just how broken estimates is, and I have made a number of suggestions to improve the process which are now on the record in a statement of reservation to the health committee's report on this year's estimates hearings.

When I asked the Premier about these suggestions in estimates, her response was dismissive and disappointing to say the least. She and the government have clearly decided that it is not in their interests to make estimates a robust, meaningful mechanism to hold ministers and the executive government to account. It will indeed be a very sad thing if Labor leaves government at some point in the future but has not improved this process because, while the LNP enjoys excoriating the government for its approach to estimates now, we would be foolish to think that its interest in estimates reform would extend into any future term of an LNP government.

A comprehensive review is required, but Labor could right now make the following simple changes to improve this process. Firstly, we could abolish or severely restrict Dorothy Dixers from government MPs. If Labor MPs cannot get answers outside of estimates from Labor ministers, then there is something seriously wrong with the government. Otherwise, if the ministers' answers to Dorothy Dixers are so important, then they can go and read them to a press pack on the green.

Secondly, we could double the amount of time available for questions by having two committees sit simultaneously for the full seven-day period of estimates. I am not talking about running every committee hearing concurrently over two days, as the LNP did previously, but instead allowing for twice the time we have currently and continuing to run it over a full two weeks of hearings.

Thirdly, we could make sure all hearings are chaired by non-government MPs. Non-government MPs are all entirely capable of running proceedings here in the House, so why could we not have non-government MPs chairing committees to prevent chairs from shamelessly abusing their position and allowing baseless procedural points to protect the ministers' and the government's interests? Fourthly, we could allow all interested MPs an opportunity to ask questions on notice ahead of the hearings, rather than limiting this to the six members of each committee.

Finally, we could publicise the hearings a little more widely and encourage ordinary people to attend so that all ministers, chairs and every MP in attendance could have that extra motivation to be on their best behaviour. The thing that perhaps worries me most about this broken process is that it can create the illusion of transparency without really allowing us to hold the government to account.

Despite all this, having attended seven days of estimates, I did learn a few important things about the budget this year. I will not confine my comments to health, having been to all seven days. The Premier has made statements previously that she would like to see fewer pokies in Queensland, and I have been curious ever since whether this is a position Queensland Labor has adopted in policy. The Premier could not give me an answer straight up, but the Attorney-General subsequently confirmed that the government has no policy to reduce the number of pokies in Queensland. Despite the ample evidence of the harm caused to Queensland communities by pokies, we have nothing but a thought bubble from the Premier. One day she thinks it might be a nice idea to reduce the number of pokies. The next day, nothing.

We can only hope it is the same with the disgusting, draconian, anti-democratic proposal that was flagged this morning in another thought bubble. Is the Premier really prepared to legislate away our right to peaceful protest without any evidence of the supposed 'locking devices that are laced with traps which are dangerous'?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member for Maiwar, with respect, I am a bit concerned that you are drifting away from the estimates process and into comments made by the Premier today. Unless you can bring it back, I ask you to please move on to a new topic.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly. They were thought bubbles on pokies; hopefully, we are seeing thought bubbles on peaceful protests.

I have been keenly interested in what, if anything, the government is doing to work with thermal coal mining communities to deal with the transition away from thermal coal and the decline in our thermal coal exports. The budget tells us that this is already happening and we know it must continue very rapidly if we are to meet our targets under the Paris Agreement. I had to ask questions of four ministers to get a clear sense that, no, there is no plan and no funding in the budget to plan for the transition in thermal coal communities. The department of communities is funding specific programs in the North West Minerals Province 'to adapt to changing economic conditions', but there is no equivalent

for those in the Bowen Basin, where any downturn in thermal coal exports will hit the hardest. Queensland does have what is called a Just Transition Group, but this will only address the energy sector. The Minister for Employment and Small Business clarified—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Member for Maiwar, I appreciate you are the only member of your party in the chamber, but with respect this is about the health committee's estimates proceedings and you need to confine your comments to that or at least draw some analogy with what you are going to say to the committee itself.

Mr BERKMAN: I thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is yet another disappointing facet of this process that, having appeared before each of the committees and with only an hour here to debate the reports of each committee—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Logan. I will take care of the chamber if you do not mind. Member for Maiwar, I am going to bring you back again to the report before the House. Please come back to the health committee's report and talk to that.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you. I thank the committee for its work. I especially thank the secretariat, as always. I can only say I look very much forward to next year's budget estimates process.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.28 pm): I rise to speak in regard to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year. The estimates process allowed the committee to ask questions of Minister Miles, Minister O'Rourke and Minister Farmer. I congratulate the ministers, their staff and the government employees from the various departments. All were very well prepared and I appreciate the amount of work that takes place.

It was a great acknowledgement from Minister Miles as we heard about the great work done across Queensland's health services by the doctors, nurses, paramedics, allied health professionals and all the thousands of staff who have made the health system work to look after more Queenslanders than ever. We have seen a continual increase in patient visits to our hospitals, with more care being provided within the clinically recommended time frames.

Unlike the LNP, who cut thousands of staff from our health and other front-line services—did they really care about providing high-quality services to Queensland, or were they more focused on the cut, sack and sell agenda?—our Labor government has employed more doctors, more nurses and more allied health professionals than ever before. We are seeing more health services being provided in the regions to better meet the needs of our local communities. I would like to thank all the health staff, particularly those in Central Queensland, for the great work they do each and every day.


Minister O'Rourke reminded us that there is virtually nowhere in Queensland that has not faced the possibility of a disaster at some point in time. We live in a great place—one of the best places on earth—here in Queensland, but we seem to get more than our fair share of significant weather events. Queensland needs to be prepared for the possibility of severe storms, cyclones, bushfires and other weather events. I think we saw all of those last season. I know in Central Queensland we saw the worst fires around Baffle Creek, Mount Larcom and, of course, Stanwell, which led to the evacuation of 8,000 people at Gracemere near Rockhampton. Thanks must also go to the numerous volunteers who worked under extreme conditions to control these fires.

The department of communities is responsible for the human and social recovery aspects of disaster management in Queensland. Staff focus on the social, emotional and psychological wellbeing of individuals and communities. The community recovery ready reserve workforce is made up of more than 2,000 public servants from across government agencies. The LNP sacked 14,000 public servants, so I am not sure how they were going to provide community recovery staff. Maybe they were going to outsource that, too. I would like to put on record my thanks to the community recovery staff for the great work that they do.

Minister Farmer praised the dedicated staff of her department, who work with some of Queensland's most vulnerable who need our help. They work with an ethos that every child, every young person, every woman, every man deserves the same hope and opportunities as the next. They have a very challenging job and we should all be thankful that they do it day in, day out. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be over-represented in all areas of her portfolio and steps have been put in place to address this. We are seeing investment across all portfolio areas to meet the

increased community needs. We have also heard about the great work of the 5,250 carers, who give their hearts and homes to the most vulnerable children, and the dedicated partner agencies and their staff.

Finally, I thank the committee secretariat and the Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process as well as Deaf Services Queensland for the interpreting services at our hearing.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.33 pm): The lack of action of the Palaszczuk government to fully implement the *Not now, not ever* report is concerning. Even after 4½ years of government—we received this information during the estimates hearing—11 recommendations remain to be fully implemented. The Palaszczuk Labor government should be getting on with the job of delivering the *Not now, not ever* report rather than wasting time and money by commissioning a study on domestic violence perpetrator tracking and on giving domestic and family violence perpetrators paid leave. No-one in their right mind would think that giving wife-beaters 10 days taxpayer funded leave to rehabilitate is anything but a bad idea.

In the past 12 months—August 2018 to July 2019—alone there have been over 28,400 breaches in Queensland, an increase of 8.3 per cent, or more than 2,186 breaches, and 13 out of 15 districts have seen increases in domestic violence breaches. It is distressing to see that not only is domestic and family violence continuing to plague Queensland communities, it is becoming worse than ever before due to the reckless inaction of this government. When in government, the LNP introduced the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Bill 2011 and we funded new initiatives that provided safety upgrades to homes of victims. While Labor like to talk about domestic violence, the LNP provided real support and real action to tackle the issue.

The LNP remains concerned about the management of residential care. These are some of our most vulnerable kids and the system is failing them. Labor's residential care program is a costly experiment that is not working. Concerns about inadequate training and police call-outs are clearly being ignored by the government. Unfortunately, we are not seeing any significant gain following the LNP's child protection inquiry where the LNP allocated \$400 million to reform the system. The child protection system needs to provide better protection and care for children than the situation they were removed from, but sadly we are seeing more and more children entering care than ever before. Their outcomes are simply not improving.

We promised to reform a broken and unsustainable child protection system and we were making inroads. The Palaszczuk Labor government has all but forgotten why reform was needed and we are back to the bad old days of Labor failing our most vulnerable children and families. Child safety staff can only be as good as the system allows them to be. They are wonderful men and women working in Child Safety. They have the hardest job to fulfil yet the government prefers to spend money on American consultancy companies rather than doing the right thing by workers and looking into what is going wrong. A fish rots from the top and a full top-down inquiry into the child safety department is urgently needed. The increasing calls from within and a reflection on the number of petitions being signed show that we have a problem. Kids in care on the Gold Coast are being let down, placed in residential care and virtually forgotten about. More needs to be done for these kids. Only the LNP can reform this broken department and the child protection system. Labor's child safety crisis started under Minister Fentiman and it has not improved under Minister Farmer.

During the estimates hearing it was revealed that the department issued not only one but two contracts to a United States based contractor, the latter of which started in May 2019, for almost \$95,000. This is an obscene waste of money and a major slap in the face for Indigenous Queenslanders. The initial contract should not have been issued in the first instance, but handing out a second one is appalling. It is another sign of the Palaszczuk Labor government having its priorities all wrong. Labor's child safety minister is aware of this failure and has done nothing about it. Looking after our most vulnerable kids should be Labor's priority.

It was revealed that the department will invest record funding of approximately \$1.6 billion to respond to child abuse and neglect. On behalf of those vulnerable Queenslanders, we will all hold this government to account in this vital area to make sure these kids get the services they need. We all know that much more needs to be done to end domestic and family violence and sexual violence. We need real action to address the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in child protection, in domestic violence and in youth services. The responses received at estimates do not give us confidence—


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): The time for debate of this report has expired.

Report adopted.

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.37 pm): I rise as the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to the 2019-20 Appropriation Bill for the portfolio areas of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice; the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services; and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. I present report No. 44, which is on the Appropriation Bill 2019. The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee I thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice; the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services; and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services as well as their staff for their attendance and providing details in answering questions of the committee during the estimates hearing. In my contribution today I intend to highlight some of the important aspects of the estimates hearing as highlighted by the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. As highlighted in the Attorney-General's opening remarks to the committee on Friday, 26 July, the Attorney advised the estimates hearing that this was her fifth year of reporting on the government's progress on its justice initiatives which, as the Attorney alluded to in her opening comments, continue to foster safer communities for our state.


The Attorney advised estimates that as the state's population increases there are many increasing demands on the justice and court system. The budget for 2019-20 will provide more resources to meet these demands. Some \$57.7 million is allocated over the next four years for the operation of the Queensland courts. Work has commenced on the refurbishment of Bundaberg courthouse, and by the end of the year major capital works will be completed on Rockhampton, Townsville and Beenleigh courthouses. The total budget for these major capital works is \$32 million, and the capital works are progressing on schedule. The capital works are a further commitment by the Palaszczuk government to the expansion of the government's policy—a key plank in addressing domestic and family violence issues and in assisting victims with the best possible support.

The 2019-20 budget also significantly increases funding for child protection and support initiatives by providing increased funding of \$13.5 million for Child Protection Litigation services and increasing funding over three years for the Queensland Family and Child Commission to continue research, evaluation and awareness initiatives. The 2019-20 budget is also investing in additional specialist court magistrates, staff, security and legal advocates to increase the number of cases able to be heard in the Childrens Court. The program is directly designed to reduce the number of children on remand or having their matters finalised by a court.

The examples I have referred to in my contribution are only some of the budget items that show the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the people of Queensland. The 2019-20 budget continues the Palaszczuk government's responsibility of keeping communities safe by the injection of funds into vital services under the guidance of the Attorney-General.

I now move to the estimates hearing of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. As the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services advised, Queensland has in excess of 11,000 sworn police officers working hard to keep Queenslanders safe. As the minister alluded to, the Queensland Police Service is a modern policing service—a service characterised by transparency and accountability, a service that is always looking to the future and embracing cutting-edge technology, a service that always responds quickly to community needs and a service that is unafraid to adopt the latest strategies and philosophies of policing to deliver a world-class level of service to the Queensland community.

The estimates hearing also heard from the minister that the Queensland Police Service has adopted a borderless policing model. The police now are able to flow in numbers to where they are needed. The model governs the way that the police operate on a daily basis across Queensland. I commend the Palaszczuk government, the government's budget and the report to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.42 pm): The words that I would like to start with in my contribution to the estimates debate today are 'unusual', 'unwise' and 'unfortunate'. They are not the words of the LNP opposition; they are the words of the chair of the CCC when reflecting on the

phone call to him by the Deputy Premier on the Sunday afternoon—unusual, unwise and unfortunate. Certainly, the first couple of hours of the estimates hearing of the legal affairs committee were entirely avoidable—had the Treasurer not bought a property so close to Cross River Rail and then not sought to make a phone call to the chair of the CCC on that fateful Sunday afternoon.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer should never have bought the property in the first place. We know that. That has been well established. However, to make that phone call on that Sunday afternoon, as the chair of the CCC said, was extremely unwise, unfortunate and unusual. There are so many questions now that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer must answer. It remains under assessment. That day the chair of the CCC commented on the self-referral by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in that it would assist in the timely assessment of the matter. Now, nearly a month on, we still await an assessment from the CCC.

I also note the member for Kawana's earlier contribution, when he commented on the file note. The file note, as conveniently tabled, addressed a number of the key problems, but this was a conversation that the chair of the CCC said during estimates was not worthy of a file note given its insignificance. If this phone call were not even worthy of a file note for the CCC chair but of such comprehensiveness for the Treasurer and Deputy Premier in that it answered all the unanswered questions, questions remain absolutely in play. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer has a great deal to answer. We await the CCC's assessment, the results of which will be intriguing.

I want to spend a little time on watch houses, because what we saw when questioning the child safety and youth justice minister, the member for Bulimba, was that there was a series of questions that the minister would really avoid. She did not say what she observed. She did not say what she thought of the circumstances she saw when she went and visited watch houses. During the questioning of the Attorney-General we saw the frankly farcical display of the Public Guardian in the gallery being ready to stand up and speak to the circumstances that she witnessed in watch houses, but it was the farcical display from the Attorney-General that forced the Public Guardian to remain quiet. This went on for some time—an hour to an hour and a half—until there was a flurry of yellow post-it notes among her staff behind her. The message must have come in: stop shielding, stop cloaking this supposed transparent process of estimates behind this protective veil. The Public Guardian was there and was being refused the opportunity to speak. It was a shameful display from the Attorney-General.

When the Public Guardian finally came to the table to answer questions, I was forced to ask the question through the director-general. I was forced to ask questions about what the Public Guardian recollected and saw via the director-general or through the Attorney-General, who were shielding the Public Guardian from a public display of what she knew and saw. It was a shameful display from the Attorney-General and the Labor government for which they ought be condemned.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.47 pm): I am pleased to follow the member for Toowoomba South to correct the record. Once again he misleads this parliament by making such claims. What occurred in estimates was simply applying the standing orders. If the member for Toowoomba South is not familiar with the standing orders he should read them, because members have the opportunity to ask questions of statutory bodies and the CEOs listed in schedule 7. They also have the opportunity to ask questions of the minister and the director-general. They cannot randomly call up anyone else within the department of whom they want to ask questions directly. That is the standing orders. That is the way it applied when members opposite were in government and that is the way it is applied while Labor is in government. I did not hear them in government complain at all—other than changing the estimates process in that all estimates were on the same day so that media could not cover all of what was happening in the committees. When we talk about transparency and accountability in the estimates process, we certainly have it all over the LNP when compared to its record.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's 2019-20 budget estimates report. In fact, I will talk about the budget. This is my fifth year reporting on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to delivering for all Queenslanders and keeping Queenslanders safe. This year's budget continues to build on previous budgets to support this.

We have seen an additional \$57.7 million allocated over four years to support the operation of our courts right across Queensland, providing access to justice for Queenslanders. As we know, our courts undertake a difficult but important job in ensuring that justice and the rule of law are upheld in our state. This funding will go a long way to support this vital work.

The government investment in the justice system includes upgrade works to a number of our courthouses across Queensland—in particular in regional Queensland, in Rockhampton and Townsville. I had the great pleasure recently of joining the members for Rockhampton and Townsville to visit these courthouses to see firsthand the work being undertaken, in particular to modernise our courtrooms for victims of domestic and family violence.


Some \$13.1 million over five years has been allocated to support the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal in its delivery of the new lemon laws, which passed this House in April, and, I am pleased to say, will commence on 1 September this year. These new laws will provide Queenslanders with greater protections, if they get stuck with a lemon vehicle, to take steps to rectify the situation by allowing them to take the matter to QCAT.

It is pleasing to note that the implementation of our government's no-card no-start blue card system, I have been advised, is on track, with continued funding allocated to support this vital program, which, when completed and live next year, will strengthen the already strong working with children check system. I have taken the absence of any questions on this topic from the opposition members at the hearings as them supporting the government's work on this important project.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of protecting the most vulnerable in our community. That is why we have continued or provided increased funding in a number of areas, including but not limited to an increase of \$9.7 million over three years for the QFCC, \$2.5 million over four years to establish the new independent child death review board, increased funding of \$13.5 million in this year's budget for Child Protection Litigation services, and an extra \$2.3 million over two years to continue an additional Childrens Court magistrate and associated staff.

I was pleased to release the Quantem report—an independent evaluation and the most comprehensive evaluation ever done of alcohol fuelled violence initiatives in this state and liquor policy. That report showed a very promising reduction in key measures such as a 29 per cent average reduction per month statewide in serious assaults between 3 am and 6 am; a 29 per cent reduction in ambulance call-outs in safe night precincts between 3 am and 6 am; a 12 per cent reduction in hospital admissions of ocular bone fractures in Greater Brisbane; and, importantly, at least one serious crime, including rape and grievous bodily harm, solved per week across Queensland using ID scanner data. I look forward to working with all of the stakeholders in relation to the recommendations in that report.

Unfortunately, time does not permit me to outline all of the strong initiatives provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, but I am committed, just like everyone on this side of the House, to continue every day to deliver for all Queenslanders. I thank the members of the committee and the members who sought leave to attend for their engagement in the budget estimates hearings. I thank the parliamentary staff, Hansard and my department and team, who all play their part to make estimates happen. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.52 pm): It has been said many times before—I will say it again now—that this budget, just like the government that proposed it, is bad for Queensland. It is a budget of more taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, in this world nothing is more certain than death and taxes. You can be sure that this government is trying to tax Queenslanders all the way to the grave. Trying to tax your way to prosperity is like standing in a bucket and trying to lift yourself up by the handle. It just does not work. Neither does this Labor government.


Queenslanders cannot afford Labor and Queenslanders cannot trust Labor. These sentiments became even more apparent during the estimates hearing of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee about which I speak today. Over the course of the hearing, or at least when they were not being overshadowed by the Labor leadership's latest integrity crisis, committee members, stakeholders and members of the public were regaled with tales of the government's latest flips and failures across the breadth of the committee's areas of responsibility. Interesting, of course, was the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission's description of the Deputy Premier's 'unwise' position when calling him.

Beginning proceedings with questions to the Attorney-General and the heads of a number of organisations under the minister's responsibility, the committee did come face to face with a number of ugly truths. As well as hearing further about the details of the Deputy Premier's latest issue with transparency, it was also revealed that during the period 2016 to 2019 the Crime and Corruption Commission received 1,803 complaints against the Public Trustee, seven of which resulted in the trustee being ordered to pay a combined \$347,000 in compensation.

The Office of the Public Guardian also fronted the committee to make some startling revelations. It was revealed that the state's police watch houses were now home to only 11 children, down from the 86 present in watch houses when the LNP first brought this to the government's attention. While this number had decreased, it was also revealed that these children received no access to educational services during their stay in the watch house. When questioned over what the budget means for his department, the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services also showcased how this Labor government has failed Queenslanders on crime. The commissioner, through a question taken on notice, admitted that the state now had 12 fewer police officers per 100,000 people than it did nearly five years ago—that is, from 245 officers per 100,000 people in 2015-16 to 233 officers per 100,000 people in 2018-19. I understand that the minister is trying to get more resources for police, but obviously his cabinet colleagues do not share that interest or priority of safety for Queenslanders. While the government's election pledge to prioritise the employment of 535 additional officers over four years is in line with the LNP's commitment, it is well behind, with less than half that number being deployed since the government took office.

The minister does talk about record budgets, and I understand that, but the growth in the police budget has been 0.07 per cent—nowhere near population growth let alone CPI. Crime rates have risen across the state, prison overcrowding and assaults on staff have increased, and outlaw motorcycle clubs have returned, yet this government still grossly underfunds Queensland police and corrective services.

The failures I have mentioned here are just a sample of many revealed at the committee's hearing. It is clear that the Labor government has no plan to safeguard Queenslanders from crime or disaster. Its only plan for Queensland is more taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. Queenslanders cannot afford Labor and they cannot trust Labor. They deserve better. That is exactly what they will get in October 2020, when the LNP's Deb Frecklington takes government in Queensland.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.57 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate. I take this opportunity to acknowledge members of the committee for their report on the budget estimates for my portfolios of police and corrective services.

I note that the committee recognised the significant investment by this government in community safety. The numbers are there in black and white—a record \$2.6 billion police operating and capital budget, which is an increase of almost 20 per cent since we came to government. What does this mean for Queensland? It means more resources for our police, more police in Queensland than ever before and the building of a new counterterrorism and community safety training centre. It also means jobs. We see in the corrective services space 700-plus jobs for new corrections officers over the next year. There will be a massive expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre in the Lockyer electorate—although the member did not mention it in his contribution. There will be more than 1,000 beds and more than 400 jobs during construction, with more than 500 jobs when it is fully operational.

This government is about building infrastructure and creating jobs for Queenslanders. Our government is about creating jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever before, but this is in direct contrast to the claims made by the LNP in its statement of reservation. These claims should not be left unchallenged. Therefore, it is timely to remind members of this House of the poor track record of the former LNP government when it comes to law and order. It slashed police numbers—more than 330 police positions gone when it was in government. While this Labor government is rolling out body worn video cameras to every uniformed first responder police officer in Queensland, under the LNP our police had to buy their own. This is the same LNP government that reneged on a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police and police training to patrol safe night out precincts. It made that promise to the president of the Queensland Police Union, and we can all remember the TV ad that the president of the Police Union had to take out where he said that the former premier lied to his face. The LNP promised that \$20 million in funding for the antiviolence campaign, but it did not deliver.

Mr McARDLE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister used the word 'lie' which is unparliamentary in this chamber and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Thank you, member for Caloundra. Member, I ask that you withdraw that word please.

Mr RYAN: I withdraw that word. The former premier—and I cannot believe he wanted me to say it again—was dishonest in his dealings with the president of the Queensland Police Union.

Mr McArdle interjected.


Mr RYAN: As the president of the Queensland Police Union said—you opened this opportunity, mate; you should have kept quiet—if you can be dishonest to a police officer, you can be dishonest to anyone. That is its record and the LNP today—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr RYAN: The LNP today is cut from the same cloth. Let us talk about bikies. Everyone knows that Queensland has the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive anti bokie gang laws in the country under our government. Police are arresting the bikies and last year police arrested more bikies in Queensland than in any year since Taskforce Maxima was formed. Those opposite criticise it, but do members know who says our laws are the best? The police. Our police say that our laws are the best, so the opposition refuses to accept the advice of the Queensland Police Service. Shame on it.

Our government will also always put victims first. We delivered the nation's toughest laws when it comes to dealing with child sex offenders and we backed those laws up with \$27 million for extra police surveillance, monitoring and equipment. The LNP's laws on the other hand were unworkable. They did not even stand up to the scrutiny of the courts. We will always act to protect the innocent and condemn the guilty.

Let us also look at the LNP's record with its budgets when it was in power. There were miniscule increases in the budget compared to our record budget, with an almost 20 per cent increase since we have come to power, and it gets worse. When it was in government, it did not properly fund operational equipment for our police like police cars and accoutrements. It is a Labor government that backs our police. It is a Labor government that supports our police. Those opposite are clueless when it comes to police. They never backed them. Cut, sack and sell is all they know, but you will not read that in their statement of reservation.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I note that a number of my colleagues have started their contribution by saying that it is a budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure, and that is completely correct.

Apart from the sheer budgetary implications, we saw some astonishing revelations during the estimates process this year. I was very fortunate to sit next to my colleague the member for Toowoomba South when he had the opportunity to ask questions of the chairman of the CCC and what we saw was probably unprecedented in Queensland parliament—that is, to see the chairman of the CCC talking about how a senior minister in this government who is under assessment for allegations of wrongdoing called the chairman of the CCC on a weekend on his private mobile phone to discuss things. That, if I am correct, would be unacceptable if you are a councillor. If you tried something like that you would probably find yourself before the tribunal, but we have the Deputy Premier of our state doing these sorts of things.

The Deputy Premier has been accused of some very serious matters to do with conflicts of interest, yet she, unlike most Queenslanders who do not have the mobile number for Mr MacSporran in their phone, was able to ring Mr MacSporran and have a discussion, the account of which came from both her and from Mr MacSporran. We did see that the Deputy Premier made some file notes to account for her conversation. We have only her word that those file notes were not produced with the purpose of providing her pre-emptively with an excuse for what she had done. That aside, I think the chairman's description of her conduct as being 'unwise' puts it very mildly indeed.


I heard the Attorney-General say that she was proud to be speaking about the budget, implying that we should not be speaking about other matters. I might speak about the person whose responsibility it is to deliver that budget and to manage the financial affairs of Queensland. Some of these revelations go right to the core of that person's fitness for office and I think it reflects very poorly on the Labor government that the Treasurer still sits on the benches in the House during these proceedings with no sanction on her so far in spite of what appears to be very flagrant breaches of the ministerial code of conduct.

We also saw the Public Guardian matter. Earlier I heard the Attorney-General say that it was a matter of standing orders but that just does not wash, because I was there and I could see the flurry of notes, text messages and post-it notes backwards and forwards to the Public Guardian. I could see there was a conga line of apparatchiks going backwards and forwards in between the time when my good friend the member for Toowoomba South asked to be able to bring her to the table when the Attorney-General first refused to the time when she was eventually allowed to come forward.

We do not know what the content or the basis of that exchange was—it is left to our imaginations—but it was very instructive that when the Public Guardian did come to the table I thought that her performance demonstrated that she was particularly concerned about how she should speak. I noticed a number of pauses and I felt awfully sorry for her, I might say, because of the grave matters that she was having to talk about in the presence of the Attorney-General. One can only speculate what the relationship between the Public Guardian and the government is at the moment because the Public Guardian has not made the government's life easy with her work, but I think that speaks volumes about her usefulness and her value as an officer in the service of the people of Queensland.

Turning to corrective services, I asked a question of the commissioner but, as is typical at these hearings, the police minister wanted to jump in and answer the question for the Police Commissioner. I quite enjoy the answers given by a sworn officer of the police force because they are direct and informative and I as deputy chair had to make representations to the chairman to force the minister to desist and allow the commissioner to speak for herself. One might wonder why. With only five minutes to speak about this report it is impossible to go through all of the matters that concern me, but I am not impressed by the performance of this government in estimates.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.08 pm): I welcome the opportunity to endorse and comment on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report to parliament. I want to thank the chair, the members of the committee and the secretariat for their hard work. The Palaszczuk government has been and will continue to be committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. Nowhere in Australia is the public more at the mercy of natural disasters than right here in Queensland. That is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world. It is also why the Palaszczuk government are focused on maintaining their high standards.

Queensland is growing and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it. I want to mention the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group meeting that I attended in Cairns last week where our Urban Search and Rescue Team, AUS-1, was hosting its colleagues from around the world. This is a world-class Queensland based urban search and rescue team—the type of team that responds internationally to earthquakes, tsunamis and cyclones like those that occurred at Christchurch and other places. You name it, that team is out there, three months on notification for a two-hour response anywhere in the world and three months off when the New South Wales team fills that void. Australia has been part of the regional INSARAG network for several years, with Queensland's disaster assistance response team recognised as a leader in the field, with the capability to be deployed overseas to help in times of crisis and to provide training to countries such as China to gain international accreditation. This is one example of a range of world-leading capabilities that QFES delivers.

That brings me to the opposition's statement of reservation—statements that my department batted off questions, statements that my department refused to take ownership, statements that my department used excuses peddled by QFES. Wrong, wrong, wrong. When the members opposite signed that statement of reservation, they attacked the professionalism and credibility of every single member of QFES—its commissioners, its senior officers, its staff and its volunteers.


I refer to Rural Fire Service funding. In 2018-19, 119 rural appliances were delivered and in 2019-20 a further 25 will be delivered. That will mean an average of 58 vehicles for our Rural Fire Service for every single year of this Palaszczuk government. Let me compare that figure to the figure provided by those opposite: 33. I will say the numbers again. There were 58 from us and 33 from them. Those figures do not include the full increase in our investment in rural firefighting in this state. As outlined in the budget papers, additional funding has been provided to QFES that contributes to the Rural Fire Service response and delivery capacity. That includes \$26 million to upgrade the radio network. A major beneficiary of this upgrade is our rural firefighters. That funding also includes \$457 million over 15 years in relation to the government wireless network from which, again, the Rural Fire Service benefits.

This year's fire season is already underway. The cool-burn period has ceased. The fire season is very much with us right now. In fact, in the last few days we have seen some significant fire developments around this state—certainly in the Gladstone region, the Bundaberg region and out the back of the Gold Coast. QFES is very mindful and very concerned about it.

In addition, last night on the north coast 100 of our volunteers from the SES and the Rural Fire Service searched unsuccessfully for that missing three-year-old. At the same time not too far away a further 50 SES members are searching for a 14-year-old. In the last few days there have been clifftop

rescues in the south-west and on the north coast. In the last couple of minutes I have heard that, in my electorate, six crews are working on the side of the Kuranda Range trying to stabilise a vehicle that is 50 metres down an embankment.

Labor backs our fire and rescue, Labor backs our Rural Fire Service, Labor backs the SES and Labor backs our marine rescue. Labor would never sign a deplorable statement of reservation like those opposite did.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.13 pm): A budget is about a government setting its priorities. We have seen from this government more tax, more debt, more waste, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. In terms of the Police Service, what we see is a little more worrying. We know that, under the LNP, 4.39 per cent of the budget was allocated to law and order. That was because the LNP is serious about law and order. Under the Labor government, 3.98 per cent of the budget is allocated to law and order. That does not seem like a big difference until we calculate the difference in terms of the budget figures. That shows a shortfall per annum of \$234 million. I will say that again. The shortfall in not maintaining the budget at the level the LNP had for the Police Service is \$234 million a year. In the five years of this Palaszczuk government, which supposedly prioritises law and order, \$1,173 million has not been spent on the Police Service. In fact, this government has reduced its law and order priority.

Of course, that is why the crime statistics in this state have gone up. In Townsville, there has been a 113 per cent increase in the number of robberies. The people of that area are crying out for extra police. At the last election, they were promised 53. Two years later, we do not see any evidence of that. In fact, when the LNP was in government, there were 245 officers per 100,000 Queenslanders. There are now 233 officers per 100,000 Queenslanders. Twelve may not seem a big number but, when it is multiplied to correlate with the population number, as we should, we find that we are 610 officers down.


The minister can come in here and talk about record budgets. There are records being set in terms of debt and tax. He should not be very proud of those increases. After he banged his hand on the cabinet table, he walked away with empty pockets and those Queenslanders on the thin blue line are the ones who are paying the price. When our officers, who are stressed and overworked, ask themselves why they are working so hard and making so little progress, I ask them to consider where that billion dollars is. I ask them to consider where the 610 additional police officers could be deployed.

There was a promise made about an extra 535 officers over a four-year period. If the government were on track with that promise, we would now have 260-odd additional police but, so far over the term of this government, we have seen 131 additional police. The government is well short of reaching its target of 535. I suspect that is because the budget was cut last year and the police department had to go over budget to keep things rolling.

We are \$1 billion short, 610 officers short, the crime statistics are up and the minister's solution for all of this is to go back to the cabinet table and lose again. Clearly, the Palaszczuk government is too weak to give the minister what he needs to be able to do the job in the Police Service. He needs the extra money—\$234 million a year—and he needs the extra police officers, the 610. That is what is missing and that is why the crime statistics are up. Queenslanders need to know about that.

During the estimates committee hearing in relation to corrective services it was revealed that overcrowding still poses a significant challenge for the commissioner. The commissioner is going to have a significant change to legislation and regulation. Fundamentally, corrective services will have to alter its practices to be able to deal with the Human Rights Act, which commences in January 2020. We know that this act is going to be a problem. In that regard, we are expecting to see some legislation introduced. The prisons are in enough trouble as they are. They are overcrowded. We have had the Flaxton report refer to corruption. We look forward to the additional accommodation being provided in our prisons, but double bunking is no answer. It is leading to corruption and a chaotic environment for our corrective services.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the report of the deliberations of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during its estimates hearing on 26 July 2019, report No. 44 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I would like to thank the secretariat and the work of all the support staff throughout the day—the attendants and Hansard—for making the logistics of the day run smoothly. It was much appreciated. I thank the ministers and their staff and the representatives of the various statutory bodies and government departments. I know that preparations for the day are long and somewhat consuming processes within departments.

The estimates process shines a light on some great expenditure and initiatives within the relevant portfolios. Specifically within the Attorney-General's portfolio there was some significant capital expenditure to upgrade courthouses throughout Queensland but in particular the Beenleigh Magistrates Court in my electorate of Macalister. The Service Delivery Statements detailed spending of some \$7 million this financial year upgrading the Beenleigh Courthouse. This is a commitment that we made in 2017 before the election and we are delivering.

Just last month I joined the Attorney-General to inspect the works. These works are designed to accommodate the expansion of the domestic and family violence specialist courts. Not only will the capacity of the courts to deal with these matters be increased, but the facility will also boost increased security for families and victims attending court. The renovations will provide separate and secure entries for victims so they do not have to sit in company with perpetrators whilst waiting for their court appointments.


During deliberations of the police minister's portfolio the commitment to the Wacol police precinct was outlined. The \$28 million commitment to the counterterrorism and community safety training centre at Wacol will also come with an increase in special emergency response team numbers. Boosting safety for Queenslanders is what is in this budget. It also contained a commitment for all uniformed first responder officers to be equipped with body worn cameras with funding of \$6.3 million over three years.

It was not just police response measures that received a boost—although I note the positive, proactive impact that body worn cameras do have in reducing not only vexatious complaints about police but also lengthy court matters by providing clear evidence of police interactions with the community—a positive policing initiative was the \$1.8 million allocated to Project Booyah. Project Booyah operates in nine locations throughout Queensland but is based out of the Tudor Park PCYC in Loganholme. I have attended a number of graduations over the past 18 months. Project Booyah is proactively identifying young people who are at risk of ongoing contact with the criminal justice system due to a number of factors. I commend the work of Inspector Steve Pyne and Acting Inspector Ian Frame. They and their team are deeply committed and go above and beyond for the participants.

There are some great stories in this budget, but it would appear that the members opposite could not care less about what is being delivered in their electorates and for Queensland more broadly. I had a look at their statement of reservation to see what it is they took from the proceedings. If fellow members look at the statement of reservation tabled as part of my committee's report it may look familiar. That is because it is a cut and paste. We know those opposite like to cut and sack, but apparently cutting and pasting is also their forte. We are used to filibustering during speeches on various bills where the same talking points are stated and rehashed time and time again, but for those opposite to cut and paste from report to report is just lazy. Really? Submitting someone else's work would not cut it in the education system, it should not cut it in this House. To come in here and provide lectures on integrity when they cut and paste between reports is hypocrisy writ large.

To back this in, they have consistently chosen to cherry-pick words from the transcript of the proceedings. Obviously the responses from the CCC chair would attract attention, so one would think those opposite would take care to listen or read the transcript. Mr MacSporran stated that he received a phone call on a business mobile, yet the member for Everton stated in the House that the call was received on a personal mobile. Just read the transcript! They were quick to pick out terms like 'unwise' or 'unusual', but omit the words that followed: 'quite harmless, frankly'.

The statement of reservation goes on to highlight that 1,800-odd complaints were made about the Public Trustee over a three-year period but neglects the context, which is that that represents less than one per cent of the some 140,000 interactions over the same period. To decide to highlight seven instances of those 140,000 interactions is absolutely spurious. This is disappointing, but not unexpected.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.23 pm): The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services stated that he was disappointed in our statement of reservation. The job of a shadow minister in opposition—any opposition in any part of this country—is to keep the minister accountable. My concerns about the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services are about the minister not about the staff. I have complete admiration for all who are involved in the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. They do an absolutely wonderful job. As the son of a rural firefighter who has just resigned from his position with the Rural Fire Service in the Emerald district I think they do a fantastic job.

Once again the estimates process proved to be a disappointing situation, burying scrutiny rather than allowing the accountability of government that Queenslanders deserve. A key frustration from the opposition was the fact that the inspector-general was not present at the estimates hearing to explain and articulate certain concerning actions he undertook in relation to the bushfire report. The acting

inspector-general was unable to provide any rationale behind why on the day of the report's release the inspector-general wrote to the minister to clarify a recommendation to the report requiring changes to the vegetation management laws.

We know in this House that the government is vehemently against changing the vegetation management laws. The refusal to engage and discuss the effectiveness of the management of state controlled land and its fire mitigation continues to be a key source of frustration for the LNP. Excuses continued for Labor's failure to implement any of the recommendations from the 2014 Queensland Audit Office report *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness: Report 5: 2018-19*. The report which assessed the department's response to preparedness was accepted by the government in 2015. When the Labor government came into power it accepted the report but five years later there has not been a single recommendation actioned.

Issues around the where and why of the brewery tax were not answered, rather there was further confusion in relation to who was responsible. There was conflicting advice on the responsibility regarding industry engagement, about the levy increase and what support would now be offered to assist craft breweries staring down the barrel of a tenfold increase in levy fees—\$520 to \$5,200—which is a big increase. It was confirmed that no modelling was completed by either the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning or Queensland Fire and Emergency Services into the impact of the levy increase. There was no proof that any fires in breweries had taken place to justify the new category associated with the levy increase.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning seemed to be under the opinion that it was Queensland Fire and Emergency Services that was managing the impact of the levy increase on a case-by-case basis and providing support, but the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services confirmed there was no avenue to provide assistance through the emergency management levy structure. To make things worse, there was no cabinet consideration and changes had been introduced without consultation on these regulations.

Issues on the management and increased preparedness required for combustible cladding on Queensland buildings were also raised. The Labor government remains tight-lipped on which buildings are noncompliant and how many people live and work in them. This is lacking transparency. This side of the House believes people deserve to know if they are in a potentially dangerous and combustible building.

It appears the issues with the much maligned Nexus HR software continue. Training certificates are still not able to be printed and general issues with the software continue to plague the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' ability to properly and effectively manage its employees and volunteers.

The issue of faulty and incorrect Rural Fire provided maps to local brigades was raised and promptly batted off by the department in a classic 'not our department' moment. The refusal to take ownership of the incorrect maps and commit to providing new maps to brigades was astounding and concerning.

The decline in the SES was an issue not properly addressed by the minister. Between 2015-16 and 2018-19 there were 1,000 fewer volunteers across the state and there have been 19 SES groups closed right across Queensland. We need to make sure we have our volunteer groups ready and we need to be prepared to support them when we need them.

Debate, on motion of Mr Millar, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Notice of Motion Out of Order



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 8 August 2019 I tabled a ruling that general business notice of motion No. 1 standing in the name of the member for Burleigh should not proceed. In my ruling I stated that the member should be permitted the opportunity to withdraw the notice of motion in accordance with standing order No. 68. If the notice of motion is not withdrawn, the assembly may order that the notice of motion be expunged from the *Notice Paper* under standing order No. 70.

Three precedents have been brought to my attention where Speakers have held that it is out of order to discuss statutory instruments that are no longer in force, those being Speaker Muller on 4 August 1981 at page 1368, Speaker Warner on 21 March 1985 and Deputy Speaker Goss on 13 May 1988 at page 1147. It appears that in each of those instances the member was unable to move the

motion and the notice of motion simply lapsed. If the member for Burleigh is not intending to seek leave to withdraw his motion, I will call the member for Broadwater to move general business notice of motion No. 2.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 33 of 2019, tabled in the House on 26 March 2019, be disallowed.

I move this disallowance motion because the waste tax is a fundamental breach of trust as the government went to the election promising only four new taxes. Although that commitment came very late in the cycle, indeed after the blackout had taken effect, it was still a commitment taken to an election at the eleventh hour. However, this levy was not part of that commitment. It came after the election. What sticks most in my craw is that it is a larger impost on businesses and on families than the other four taxes put together, yet it was not mooted even once during the campaign. It was not even a little thought bubble. There was not a single mention of it during the campaign.

This levy will raise \$1.2 billion in the next three years. I think Queenslanders would begrudgingly accept paying a tax if they saw a benefit. However, with this waste tax they see a government in search of a reason for implementing it in order to get the revenue. First we were told it was because China was no longer taking our rubbish. When that did not float, we were told that it was because one South-East Queensland council was no longer recycling. When that did not float, we were told that it was because truckloads of waste were coming across the border, although interestingly the problem related to only a handful of dumps in one city. Eventually the government settled on an excuse for the waste tax, which was that it would be used to fund environmental initiatives.

During the estimates process the nonsense of that argument was shattered. Of that \$1.2 billion, in some way, shape or form almost 90 per cent ends up with the government. That is not a waste strategy; that is a revenue strategy. When you consider the money to administer the scheme, the money given to councils to offset the cost of wheelie bins and the fact that most of the revenue will end up in the hands of the state government, and particularly the hands of the Treasurer through consolidated revenue, the nonsense that this is an environmental initiative is shattered into many pieces.

Already we see the impact of the levy on families. When the tax was mooted, the Premier said that Queensland families would not face the cost of the levy. That showed either a complete and utter lack of understanding of economics or sneaky behaviour. It has to be one or the other. Surely no-one can believe that you can take \$1.2 billion out of the economy without there being an impact on people? I saw it firsthand the other day when the Leader of the Opposition and I spoke to an operator who collects skip bins for a living. He told us a story about picking up a bin from a normal suburban house owned by an elderly gentleman. It cost the consumer \$350 to collect that bin. When the waste tax was implemented the following week, the collection cost \$580. I ask members of the House to think about that. Something that cost \$350 one week will now cost \$580. That is not a transition. That is not a structured process. That is a tax and the gentleman who empties the bin cannot absorb that cost. That cost is not met by the business owner. The cost is met by the gentleman who owns the bin. The consumer who puts his rubbish into that bin bears the cost and the government cannot hide from that.

Do members know who else will wear the tax and who is feeling the impact of it now? It is now costing small business more to have the bins at their business premises emptied, but they do not absorb that cost. They pass it on to the consumer. Do members know who else wears the cost? The councils. Councils receive an offset to empty residential wheelie bins at the moment—and more on that later—but they do not collect waste just from people's houses. Every day councils do things that produce waste, such as building roads and taking care of parks.

Do members know what industry is at the coalface and wears the cost of this levy the most? It is the building industry. I am delighted to have my colleague the member for Burleigh sitting beside me, because he has travelled across the state to talk with representatives from the Master Builders and the Housing Industry Association who have told him that right now their members are paying an up-front cost that is adding a couple of thousand bucks to every home they build. If members think, as the Premier said, that somehow that cost will not be met by families, they live in a vastly different world to

those builders. The member for Burleigh has been in Rockhampton, he has been on the Gold Coast and he will be in North Queensland this weekend. He is hearing these stories from builders at a time when they can least afford it.

When a levy is put in with such little thought and ability for people to transition, members always know what it is about. The waste industry has put forward a couple of suggestions. One of them is to have a different rate in different parts of the state. One of the reasons given for the levy was to stop waste from interstate being dumped in Queensland. There is not an army of people travelling from Byron Bay to tips in Cooktown, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rocky, Gladstone or to the vast majority of dumps across the state. That was always a nonsense argument.

Whether we like it or not, due to their smaller populations and larger areas the opportunity for recycling initiatives will always be tougher in regional areas. We have to acknowledge that. That is why the industry put that case forward so forcefully.

When the government commissioned its own report—spending 50,000 bucks for the privilege—what did that report say? That report said that it is inevitable that these costs will be passed on. There is no denying it. They can come up with a myriad of excuses and a myriad of reasons that it is a tax on big business, but it is not a tax on big business. It is a tax on individuals. People would grimace but they would cop it a little better if they saw a government that was spending their money wisely and particularly thought that it was being collected for the purpose for which it was outlined. If they are going to call it a levy it should be just that and it should be used for environmental purposes.

I started asking many months ago when this thought bubble first occurred for the government to please show me where it will be spent on environmental initiatives. The minister spoke about a waste to energy fund which was about \$100 million, spoke about collecting some vehicles from Palm Island and spoke about a number of smaller projects. No matter the numbers we crunch it barely gets to 10 cents in the dollar. Barely 10 cents in every dollar is going to an environmental initiative. How can we call that a levy?

Mr Minnikin: More like a tax to me.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection. A levy is collected for a purpose. If the final purpose the government settled on was an environmental levy we would expect that a portion of the money would go to running the scheme but we would not cop nearly 90 cents in every dollar going back to government in some way, shape or form. I would love the minister to debunk those numbers in her contribution.

Remember when all this started we heard that 70 per cent of this was going to go to the environment, but it is not. If it were going to the environment it would be in funds dealing with waste to energy and the better use for plastics and getting new industries to come on board. It would not be offsetting costs or in consolidated revenue. That is government money.

The other day the member for Buderim, the member for Ninderry and I went and saw a gentleman who is doing amazing work recycling plastics. I applaud the Prime Minister for putting the issue of waste on the national agenda. We cannot ignore it. No-one on this side of the House is for one second saying we do not have an issue in terms of dealing with waste. I believe what the Prime Minister is doing is a massive step in the right direction in dealing with it. We cannot continue to think that an overseas nation will continue to take it. There is no value in it. As we said in estimates, there are things we are collecting that we do not have a use for and they therefore go into storage.

Today, the member for Noosa asked a very direct question of the minister and did not get a direct answer. She got three minutes of all sorts of other things rather than an answer to her question, which was, 'Are containers that are being collected under the container deposit scheme going to landfill?' I think that is a fair and reasonable question. The minister could not clarify that in her response because we had three minutes of waffle today. We did not get an answer to what I thought was a very sensible question.

There is a reason we have moved this disallowance motion. When governments go to an election they should be up-front with people. In the same way that those opposite said that they would not sell assets and then did, they knew all along about this tax. They knew all along about this, but they did not have the ticker to introduce it at two minutes to midnight like they did the others. The others were buried in the dark of night, but at least we can say that at the eleventh hour they had the ticker to do it. This one was not the same situation. This is the mother of all taxes. We have not even started to see the pain yet. We have not even started to see it wash through the economy for those small businesses that are just starting to get their bills.


I was speaking to a builder the other day who had given someone a quote to build a home. He has had to go back to the consumer and say, 'I'm sorry, when I gave you that costing it did not have the waste tax in it.' Do members know what the extra expense is? It was \$2,100 on the cost of building a home. They are experiences that we will continue to see. The minister can shake her head, but what really upsets me is when they say that people will magically get better at their processes. I am sorry, but I do not know too many concreters who waste their concrete. I do not know too many tilers who say, 'You know what boys, we need 200 square metres but bugger it'—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Broadwater, you know what I am going to say. Would you withdraw, please.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. We do not have too many tilers saying, 'For fun let's order 250 square metres of tiles and see how many we can throw out.'

The disallowance motion has been moved because it was a poorly thought out tax. It was a breach of trust. Those opposite know full well that it is nothing more than a money grab.

(Time expired)

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (5.45 pm): I find myself once again in the invidious position of following the member for Broadwater—something that happens a bit too frequently for my liking. Listening to the member for Broadwater takes a lot of patience. That is something that the member for Broadwater is not showing in relation to the waste levy. The waste levy has been in place for 50 days. If this disallowance motion is defeated I will be very interested to see whether all the doomsday scenarios put forward by the member for Broadwater come to fruition. Along with those on this side of the House, I will be looking to hold him to account for that.

The member for Broadwater has not shown much patience in relation to the waste levy—50 days it has been in place. How long has the member for Nanango been the Leader of the Opposition? It has been over 600 days. The member for Broadwater has shown plenty of patience up until this point in relation to the leadership of the member for Nanango. He has not made a move yet—at least not overtly.

When it comes to the waste levy and protecting the environment in Queensland and stopping Queensland becoming a dumping ground the member for Broadwater has shown absolutely no patience at all.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections from the member for Logan. I think it is important to note in this debate that the member for Broadwater mentioned the Prime Minister. That was interesting. Earlier today we heard some remarks about the Prime Minister's endorsement of a waste levy. We have a situation where the Prime Minister endorses a waste levy—he was a member of the Liberal Party the last time I checked—and the member for Broadwater and those opposite do not endorse a waste levy.

Once again we see division within the conservative ranks in Queensland. Historically, that is something we have seen so often not just in relation to policy but also in relation to personality. The division between the Prime Minister and the Queensland LNP has not just been seen in relation to the waste levy. During the federal election campaign the Prime Minister wanted to be absolutely nowhere near the member for Nanango. The feeling was completely mutual. The member for Nanango did not want to be anywhere near the Prime Minister. We have a situation where the federal coalition and the Prime Minister endorse a waste levy and the Queensland LNP is against a waste levy. It is a very interesting position. We have a situation where the Prime Minister believes in miracles and the member for Nanango does not believe in miracles.

I was very interested to hear those remarks about the Prime Minister from the member for Broadwater. I was also really interested to hear about the tour that the member for Burleigh did. He rattled off a couple of regional towns that he attended. We do not quite know who the member for Burleigh talked to. We do not know whether he will make a contribution to this debate. We are all aware of the fondness of the member for Burleigh for Canada. He must have quite a liking for maple syrup—so much so that he saw fit to go to Canada rather than sit in this place, which is what he is elected and paid to do.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Burnett because the member for Burnett would be very interested to know that Canada in fact has a version of a waste levy. I wonder whether the member for Burleigh in his travels up and down Canada and throughout the wilds of Canada,


dodging bears and sucking on maple syrup, bothered to have a look at some of the environmental policies that are in place in Canada. The member for Burnett would be very interested to know that in fact Canada has a version of a waste levy.

We all know that when it comes to the environment those opposite always—and the member for Broadwater is a type A example of this—say that they support the environment, that they support conservation and that they support protecting the natural beauty of this great state but, when it comes to doing anything about it at all, that is where they are always found wanting.

When the member for Broadwater represented another seat a long way away from the one he represents now, he was part of a government—the Newman government—that repealed the waste levy. It turned Queensland, this great state, into a dumping ground. What happened was that millions of tonnes of waste were dumped here from interstate. I for one am not prepared to stand here and support a motion that will make our state a dumping ground again. I know that the members from Ipswich particularly, and in fact members on this side of the House from all over the state, are 100 per cent behind me and the government in relation to this.

Since 2012 over 3.7 million tonnes of waste have been trucked across the border into Queensland, including 1.2 million tonnes in 2017-18 alone. The member for Broadwater talked about some business owners in his electorate. I can tell the House about a business owner in my electorate who saw this waste being trucked past all the time and he told me how disgusted he was to see Queensland becoming such a terrible dumping ground for waste from interstate. That is certainly not a great vision for our state, but it seems as though it is the member for Broadwater's vision for our state.

In conclusion, I say particularly to the member for Broadwater that you cannot just talk the talk when it comes to the environment; you have to walk the walk. We hear time and again the member for Broadwater say that he is about protecting the environment but, when it comes to any initiative whatsoever to protect the environment, to conserve native species and to protect the natural beauty of our great state, the member for Broadwater, as always, is found wanting. I am against the motion.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion. I acknowledge the many who have engaged on this subject, and my contribution tonight reflects many of the views that have been articulated. It has been said already that this is not a waste strategy; it is a revenue strategy. We know that locally receivers of waste are starting to set prices. These prices appear to confirm that the price to dispose waste is going to double or quadruple for many companies. This will translate to around a 25 per cent to 30 per cent increase in the prices companies charge—for example, supplying skip bins. We should oppose the mindset that financial punishment is the way to create change and that the Queensland government is willing to punish Queensland companies based on the failure of interstate legislation.

The premise of the levy was that we needed to deal with the issue of wheelie bin recycling, so the government linked this issue to justify a waste levy on the wrong sector, roping in the issue of trucks coming across the border to gain community support and to reduce the backlash. It is the same with waste, linking the household recycling failure to the need to have a waste levy that is targeting businesses and imposing another tax on business because this government has always believed that business can absorb it or that by penalising business it will create innovation. Business will simply find creative ways to reduce or avoid any associated costs—in this case, the waste levy.

'Reduce, re-use, recycle' is a wonderful catchcry and appeals to everyone's sense of saving the planet. However, what it means and how effective it can be is another issue. A case in point is that the waste levy and supporting legislation in other states has failed to ensure the outcomes they intended. The fact that trucks keep coming across our border is a testament to this. The companies undertaking this accept high gate prices, cull the valuable recyclable components and then simply send their remaining waste here to Queensland. It is not because we did not have a levy; it is because those states failed to manage their own waste with their own failed legislation.

I want to get back to the issue of filling the government coffers. Industry estimates that in the first year the levy will net about \$228 million to the government and that it will be \$1.3 billion over four years. This appears to be another example of the government misinterpreting data. Of this windfall, how much will actually be spent on education, keeping in mind the failure of education in our society around the recycling wheelie bins?

I still believe that locally many trades are unaware of the actual impact that the levy will have on pricing jobs. A recent example of this was a plumber who arrived at a job site and found that drains were blocked and he needed to dig up the pipework and replace it. This required about a six-cubic-

metre bin to be supplied. The bin had earth, clay, grass, pipework and a few shrubs that were in the way. The waste weighed 8.46 tonne. Recent changes to pricing—moving to tonnage rather than cubic-metre charges—pushed the cost of this bin from \$340 to \$616. This same bin will cost \$1,208 when the \$70-a-tonne levy is implemented. This means that a householder will pay an additional \$868 for the price of the work undertaken. A lot of people have written about this. Gene Tunny wrote in August 2017—

While Queensland businesses were supportive of the aim to reduce waste and increase the re-use and recycling of resources, they strongly opposed the introduction of the Commercial Waste Levy.

The reasons were many. They included very poor consultation with no regulatory impact statement. The state government essentially made up its mind that it would be introduced and that they would bulldoze this tax through. The levy threatened business viability, as we know. Outside of South-East Queensland mature waste markets and opportunities for recycling and re-use were limited, meaning the levy effectively acted as a tax on all business waste as there was no capacity to recycle in many regional centres. The starting price of \$35 per tonne was considered too high by many some years ago. Business waste reporting requirements were onerous and significantly increased red tape and the regulatory burden. Money collected went into consolidated revenue. The largest area of concern and hostility was that the waste levy unfairly targeted the business community.

The Queensland government is going to take one-third of the levy and place it into government coffers. We all know that the levy must be returned to drive investment and innovation. If we are going to follow the other states blindly, let us not make the same mistakes.

When I was building, the average four-bedroom home generated about 50 cubic metres of rubbish at an estimated weight of around 32 tonnes. Based on current disposal rates, the cost for disposal is \$1,365. When we add in the \$70-a-tonne waste levy, this figure increases to \$3,640. This is an increase of 167 per cent which business, as tax collectors, need to collect.

I also have extensive knowledge of pricing and ordering building materials. My view from operating in this environment is that much of the saving associated with construction through the reduction in ordering materials due to innovative construction ideas and techniques has already been achieved, leaving little room for this to be seen as a means to reducing waste. A case in point is framing and roof trusses, which are largely prefabricated and arrive on site with little or no waste.

I know that the levy will add to building costs, not reduce them. Figures of \$1,500 to \$2,100 have widely been distributed in the industry. I believe that allowing a large part of the community—mainly households—to simply keep doing what they are doing or not doing erodes the purpose and the very reason for having a levy, which should be to re-educate. Change can only occur through education and knowledge. Using money, penalty and financial punishment as a fundamental tool for forcing change is outdated and an impost on the Queensland way of life, as is expecting big businesses and small businesses, mum-and-dad businesses, to carry the burden of that change.

How can we trust this government to manage a waste levy policy, one that has not been proven to work from the delivery of waste to the final sale of recycled products in all but a few waste streams? There are limited examples that recycling processes lead to the development of new products or technology to handle and process waste, most especially the residual waste streams. It is called waste for a reason, and that is that there is no financial reward and nearly zero markets for products as a direct result of a waste levy in any state that did not exist prior to a levy. If a sound and correctly managed waste policy and legislation has not worked after 30 years of having levies in New South Wales, we would not be in this situation with trucks coming over the border.

The tax-grabbing waste levy will only hurt industry in the Wide Bay region. This waste levy will stifle growth and progress in our region, not to mention the huge costs it will mean for anyone who hires a skip bin. We know that the waste levy money should be returned to industry to educate and to make sure that innovation becomes a part of our future. There is no way Labor has understood the ramifications that this waste levy is having on everyone in our community. Small businesses everywhere in Queensland are being smashed by this new, big tax, with no reward and no real investment.

We know that significant money will be raised from the new tax but we do not see any reinvestment. On the back of the commitment from the federal government we would have hoped that the money raised from Queenslanders would be adequately reinvested for Queenslanders, not just used to plug government holes in a bad, bad state budget. Queenslanders are sick and tired of being sluggish with more taxes so that Labor can pay off their debt and plug budget holes. The construction industry will be the hardest hit, but as we know even fish and chip shops and mechanics are affected. Where is the benefit without policy, leadership, direction, or sniping from the sidelines?

Many in the Burnett electorate are concerned about the impacts of the levy. Has Labor stopped to consider the effect it will have on families and retirees? Many families in the Burnett region budget to the last cent. If they have to hire a skip bin it is already a big cost. This waste levy has now made this task impossible for some. Labor's waste tax means that it will cost businesses more to get rid of their waste, and they will have no choice but to pass this cost on to customers. It is a complete farce for Labor to say it will have no direct impact on Queenslanders. Labor's waste tax is toxic for business, it is already destroying jobs and it is squeezing household budgets. As I alluded to, Master Builders forecast that the waste levy will add between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to the cost of a new home at a time when Queenslanders are struggling to get a foothold in the property market.

I think it is important to reiterate the shadow minister's point. This is about wanting to use the money from the levy for more important outcomes such as innovation and real recycling schemes. It is a must for Queensland, a must for Australia and a must for the world. On the back of the federal government's renewed vision on recycling, we must have this state government reinvest in innovation and technology, not plug budget black holes. We want to see the benefits that can come from recycling, because we know that right now waste is a difficult industry to deal with and a difficult industry to store. More importantly, it is difficult to apparently see waste from container deposit schemes sometimes dumped back in landfill.

The call today is for the minister and the government to understand just how important the waste levy can be for Queensland. I am not denying that the waste levy is going to be important. Unfortunately, it is not going to be effective under a Labor government because a Labor government will find a way to waste money and not provide the innovation and outcomes that a waste levy should provide. This is another example of pork-barrelling, plugging holes and propping up the budget. Spending only a third of the budget on re-education and initiatives is not good enough.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (6.02 pm): Just as the member for Burnett says, the waste levy is important. Like others in this House, I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Broadwater. In particular, I want to address assertions surrounding the impact of the regulation on the building and construction sector, because what the construction industry in this country does not need right now is politicians like those opposite talking it down. I stood in this House this morning and talked up the Palaszczuk government's commitment to investing in housing and construction jobs and supporting the 230,000 workers like the plumbers and concreters that the member for Broadwater seems to think are incapable of addressing practices in their industry. The LNP in this state does nothing but talk down this state and the industries and workers that rely on investor confidence in Queensland.

None of us have forgotten that it was the LNP that pushed this state into technical recession, presiding over successive negative growth. It does not matter who you are in this state—the LNP is prepared to put your job at risk. They are prepared to chase developer donations rather than pursue construction industry reform. Just look at what their colleagues have done in New South Wales. They gutted building safety laws, smashing investor confidence in the building sector in New South Wales. This industry is doing everything that it can to play its role in reducing waste, and here we have the LNP undermining confidence in Queensland construction industry jobs.

Here we have the member for Broadwater—a master at desertion—deserting the 800 waste recycling industry businesses in this state as well. Why on earth would anyone come into this place and undermine an emerging recycling industry that is worth \$2.1 billion and supports 11,000 Queensland jobs? These guys have form. Before I return to the impact of this reckless disallowance motion on construction workers and the impact that the LNP's head-in-the-sand approach to waste and climate change has on investment and confidence in this state, it is important to remember that it was the former LNP government that repealed the waste levy in 2012. While the rest of the world has moved on, the LNP clearly remains stuck in the past. The only thing that the member for Broadwater wants recycled is his leadership opportunities.

Under the LNP's watch, as we have heard tonight, Queensland became a cheap place to dump waste. They did nothing but watch as truckload after truckload of waste came across the Queensland border. The figures say it all. Since 2012 over 3.7 million tonnes of waste have been trucked across the border into Queensland, including 1.2 million tonnes in 2017-18. Until this year, Queensland was the only mainland state without a waste levy. As I say, the rest of the world has moved on but the LNP has not. Those opposite are happy to make Queensland a dump. They are happy to trash the jobs in this sector. They do not mind imposing crippling confusion on the construction and waste industries for their own benefit.

Here they are, at it again—trying to grasp the mat from under the feet of the waste industry and take Queensland back to being the dumping ground of this nation. That is not going to happen on our watch because Queenslanders have moved on from the world that those opposite live in. Whilst those opposite do not have confidence in industries like building and construction to innovate and be sustainable, Labor does and so do Queenslanders and Queensland businesses.

I want to address the assertions regularly made by the opposition again tonight about cost impacts on the building and construction sector. This sector delivers jobs for 230,000 Queenslanders and contributes \$46 billion to the state's economy. Those opposite are very quick to talk down the industry and undermine investor confidence in the construction industry through a campaign of fear and falsehoods when it comes to the impact of the waste levy. Now is not the time to talk down the construction industry, but here we are—another day, another attempt to scare investment away from the Queensland construction industry.

When those opposite suggest to Queenslanders that the introduction of a waste levy will push up the cost of building a house, they are simply flat out wrong. The LNP sought to blame the difficulty faced by many Australians in buying their first home on the waste levy, but no-one buys that. Everyone who understands what it is like to get into the housing market knows that the lack of supply of appropriate housing is what is pushing up costs for all Australians. The federal LNP coalition's wage settings have seen workers' wages going nowhere. For many workers in Queensland, thanks to Morrison and company their wages are going down. This is also the mob whose answer to housing affordability is to tell already hardworking Queenslanders that they should 'get a better job'.

However, the opposition's views on this are far worse than that. They significantly undermine the capacity for innovation within the building sector, and from this lot it is unsurprising. It was the LNP that said that the problem with our security of payment laws was that subbies were not clever enough—that they were not smart enough—to enforce their rights. It is the sort of contempt that we continue to see from the member for Broadwater tonight which treats tradies as second-class citizens and the rest of Queenslanders like fools. Allow me to simply express some facts for the benefit of the opposition.

The facts are that the levy encourages and incentivises changes in practice. The national peak body gets it. They know the levy is a signal to the market that there is a real and positive value in resource recovery and a positive value in diverting waste from landfill. The fact is we all know that landfill destroys the natural value of areas, increases the prevalence of pests and weeds and is responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases. It is a burden to nearby residents and business, but reducing this waste is not just good for the environment; it is also good for the home owner's back pocket.

Estimates show that over-ordering concrete on an average four-bedroom home—this is before a waste levy is introduced into Queensland—already costs home owners around \$1,000 on an average home. Clearly, careful ordering will save home owners and reduce waste. This is not news to the construction industry, but it seems that it is news to the LNP and the member for Broadwater. If a builder has to choose between paying a levy to dump materials or sharpening up their order, it is pretty clear what they will decide to do. If a builder can bring down the cost of a building for their clients by using methods that reduce waste and pay particular attention to not over-ordering, the savings will only flow on to Queensland householders. Of course the LNP says that the way to address housing affordability is to get a better job. It is no surprise that a new system which will save Queensland householders money is of no interest to those opposite.


Those opposite claim to represent the interests of businesses in this state, but here they are again selling them short with a motion before the House. I know some of Queensland's longest standing builders have already started designing processes that significantly reduce over-ordering to reduce costs for their clients. This sort of incentive will now be applied across the industry. It is simply common sense, and I have said it before.

Mirvac have worked it out in other states. In 2017 they successfully diverted 95 per cent of their building waste from their new developments and are looking for ways to close the final five per cent. Lendlease have worked it out. At Barangaroo South, which is a \$6 billion multiaward-winning urban regeneration project, they reduced construction waste going to landfill by 97 per cent. The Master Builders Western Australia have worked it out. They have even produced a guide outlining the benefits of waste reduction. I suggest members opposite take a look at that and read it.

Woollam Constructions, which is one of Queensland's largest and oldest builders, has worked this out. They said it is all about getting lean. They understand it is about a simpler and smarter way of doing business. They understand that there is a bigger opportunity here to reduce waste and to save

their clients money. Woollam Constructions tell me that they are passionate about lean construction and understand that lean design drives lean construction, with less waste and less costs to their clients. They are putting this into practice at the construction of the Opal Aged Care facility in my own electorate of Springwood. I have been to that construction site and I have seen what a low-waste construction site looks like. It looks like a very, very good deal to their client—just ask Opal Aged Care. They are very, very happy with their deal. It looks like a modern, confident sector. It looks like a place where tradies want to go and work.

The only people who have not worked out the environmental and financial benefits to Queensland consumers of this levy is the Queensland LNP. My generation of Queenslanders will not forget that it was the Liberal National Party that made Queensland the dumping ground for New South Wales when they dumped the waste levy, but it will be the next generation of Queenslanders that asks who were those so-called leaders who sat on that side of the House and were so out of touch that they campaigned for more coal-fired power stations? They will wonder what sort of elected representatives in 2019 had their heads so deep in the sand that they denied climate change. I reject their motion.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion moved by the member for Broadwater. For the reasons he has outlined, we should all be supporting this. This waste levy and the regulation that is putting in place the waste levy is nothing but a tax grab. That has been set out by members on this side of the House tonight and at other times as well. This is one of nine new taxes that has been introduced by this government since the last election. It is a tax that will insidiously drive up costs for so many parts of our economy and we have heard about them previously. It will affect councils because of the unavoidable waste in their businesses. In the area I represent, the Scenic Rim Regional Council have already put up fees and charges for their services relating to waste as a result of the waste levy. There are costs that are incurred by councils that cannot be recovered or avoided; they can only be passed on.

This will drive up costs for business and for builders in particular, and we have heard about that. It will affect manufacturers as well. A vegetable processor in my electorate gave me a great example. In the process of chopping up vegetables from the farms and packaging them for sale into retail markets, they create a lot of unavoidable waste. When I mentioned to them recently that they might be able to avail themselves of some of the payroll tax relief in the recent budget, they said, 'It doesn't matter because that's been overtaken by the introduction of the waste levy. They're still getting more out of our pockets.'

Families will be affected when they construct a new home or renovate their home. Master Builders estimated that the additional costs will be well over \$1,000. We have heard about the skip bins and the additional costs that will be incurred by anyone who hires one of them. The price will go from \$350 to \$575 or thereabouts, which is what the member for Broadwater outlined in his speech. Council fees have gone up. All of these charges are being passed on to people in the economy, and it is just another tax on everyday Queenslanders. The worst thing about all of this is that only a tiny proportion of it is actually going back into activities related to recycling, which was the stated aim of this tax in the first place.

I want to talk about a real-life example which was given to me by my friend the member for Pumicestone about the impact it is having on a bowls club in her electorate, the Solander Lake Bowls Club. They wrote a letter to the member for Pumicestone dated 19 August where they outlined the impact it will have on their club. They said there will be a levy of \$6.95 per metre of waste. Taking out a three-metre bin will be an extra cost of \$20.85. They do two lifts of them per week so that is \$41.70 extra per week which amounts to an extra \$2,168.40 per year.

We all know how clubs, especially bowls clubs, have struggled in the past few years. We have all seen *Crackerjack*. We have seen people having to go on campaigns to save their local bowls club. I read in the media about the struggles the North Rockhampton Bowls Club had to save their operations, and I think in the end they folded because of the extra costs associated with running the club. This tax is putting an extra cost on every single bowls club up and down Queensland where this tax applies.

Pamela Payne from the Solander Lake Bowls Club said that they think the state government's imposition of another sizeable and unavoidable tax in this matter is another grab for moneys which will probably not provide Queenslanders with recognisable benefits and will threaten industry survival. I say amen to that, Pamela, because she nailed it on the head in respect of the impact it will have on her club and thousands of other clubs like hers across Queensland. I refer in particular to the Ipswich Bowls Club in the electorate of Ipswich and the North Ipswich Bowls Club, which I think is in the electorate of Ipswich West. Where are our Labor members for Ipswich standing up for their community and rallying against this tax and the impact it will have on their community?

While I am talking about Ipswich, I want to talk about the constituents at Willowbank and the surrounding areas who reject this tax. Willowbank risks becoming the new ground zero for dumping in Queensland. They reject this tax. Unlike the stories spun by Labor about the tax actually reducing demand for dumping, even of interstate waste, I understand there are at least five applications in train at the moment for new dumps in Ipswich, including at least two around Willowbank. The waste companies are not worried about this tax. They are going ahead with 50-year plans for new dumps despite the tax.

This is not going to reduce the dumping in Ipswich. It will have absolutely no bearing on the dumping in Ipswich, unless of course the government steps in and puts a stop to these dumps. The government said it would reduce interstate dumping, but it did not. Interstate dumping went down when we were in office and it started going back up again when the ALP got into office again. This is a Labor problem.

Mr Russo: Oh, it's our fault?


Mr KRAUSE: It is a Labor problem. We have spoken a bit about David Barbagallo today and the problems he had in the past. Let us remember Paul Pisasale, the Labor mayor of Ipswich who created the waste industry in Ipswich and created the problems for the Labor members in Ipswich, especially the member for Bundamba. I see her nodding over there because she knows the truth about what Labor did to Ipswich when it comes to dumps. This is a Labor problem created in Ipswich and this tax will do nothing to solve it. As I said, Labor said this tax would reduce landfill in Ipswich but it will not. It is based on a series of falsehoods. I am told that Ipswich now takes 75 per cent of South-East Queensland's waste—I repeat, 75 per cent. So much for Labor looking after Ipswich. They are dumping on Ipswich and they are taking it for granted.

What is worse is that, as I said, the Ipswich City Council has five applications before it for more dumps, including at least two around Willowbank. Has the waste levy done anything to reduce them? No, absolutely nothing—except take more money out of people's pockets, including the Solander Lake Bowls Club, the Ipswich Bowls Club, the North Ipswich Bowls Club, the Beaudesert Bowls Club, the Canungra Bowls Club, the Tamborine Mountain Bowls Club and all the bowls clubs that have that waste where the cost is going to go up at least \$6.95 per metre as a result of the waste tax.

We have not heard anything about this from the Labor MPs in Ipswich. The silence is deafening. They should hang their heads in shame. They should vote against this tax because their community does not want it. They are taking them for granted and treating the voters of Ipswich with contempt. I am asking the Minister for Planning to call in these five dump applications that are on the books with the Ipswich City Council. As I said, 75 per cent of South-East Queensland's waste is going to Ipswich. He needs to call them in and make a decision on them in the state's interest. They need to stop dumping on Ipswich and stop taking Ipswich for granted.

It is no wonder Shayne Neumann had a nine per cent swing against him in the latest federal election because Ipswich is taken for granted by Labor. The state should call in these applications. They should make the decision to ensure that Ipswich ratepayers do not have to deal with the consequences of the legal appeals which will result if these applications are approved.

Of course, that involves costs through the courts that could run into the millions and millions of dollars. So much for this tax trying to scare off the waste industry from dumps in Ipswich! It is nothing more than a tax grab when \$9 out of every \$10 raised is going straight into Treasury coffers no doubt to prop up projects like Cross River Rail, a vanity project in the electorate of South Brisbane. They need to find the money from somewhere. It is mums and dads; it is small businesses; it is councils and it is everyone in Queensland who is paying this waste tax to prop up the bottom line of this hopeless Labor government. We should all support this motion.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion. I am having a bit of déjà vu because I was fortunate—or unfortunate—enough to be on the parliamentary committee during the term of Labor government from 2009 to 2012 when we introduced the waste levy. It was very tedious having to go through that process and sit and listen to the LNP members carrying on about the waste management levy. Having to listen to it another time, I wonder what I did to deserve a second go around with them.

Back then the sky was going to fall, it was going to be terrible and everyone—Queensland—was going to go broke. It was absolute Armageddon and disaster; it was awful. We brought in the waste levy despite them in December 2011. They hated it, and quick as a flash when they got into government they went for it and it ceased to apply from 1 July 2012. They tried to send us backwards then, meaning

that until this year we were the only mainland state in Australia without a waste management levy. How embarrassing is that! While that was going on, 3.7 million tonnes of waste were trucked across the border; that was since they made that change. That is really embarrassing and it is bad for Queensland.

I am very proud that our waste management levy came back in again. These people are absolute troglodytes. They are at it again. They want to turn Queensland back into a dumping ground for the rest of the country. They were just saying, 'Come and get us. Come and dump it. Here is Queensland, come and dump it here. We want it. Give us all your waste.' We have already built a formidable track record in sustainability. I want to congratulate Minister Miles, the previous minister, and Minister Enoch for their absolute groundbreaking and reforming carriage of some of the most transformational initiatives that we have seen in this state with regard to sustainability. We have seen the introduction of the single-use plastic bag ban, the introduction of the container deposit scheme, which Queenslanders have taken up in droves, and now we have seen the introduction of the waste levy, which came into effect on 1 July 2019 and has been operating for almost two months now.

Contrary to the dire predictions of those opposite, the sky actually has not fallen. In fact, business confidence is up according to the CCIQ's most recent pulse survey. Since 2015 we have created 216,000 jobs in Queensland and the waste levy will help to create more. More than three times as many jobs are created by recycling than they are by landfill. The more we can divert away from landfill and into recycling, the more jobs we will create. The waste levy serves as a price signal that encourages businesses to both reduce waste wherever possible and invest in new industries that provide alternatives to landfill. We simply must support initiatives like this if we are to make a difference to the future sustainability of our state and our country.

I can tell honourable members that my community is absolutely passionate about finding alternatives to landfill. I would like to thank Minister Enoch for coming to speak at my eco forum that I held in Bulimba over the weekend. I heard over and over again that the community wants us to invest in our future and in reducing waste and recycling and reclaiming whatever we can. They know that we cannot keep on doing what we have always done if we want to create a sustainable future. It was absolutely brilliant to see the number of people at that forum who are really committed to this.

It was great to see our local schools—Cannon Hill, Murarrie and Morningside state schools—at the forum with stalls that their students ran. They were having the most intelligent conversations about these issues. The principal from Norman Park was there, and I held it at Bulimba State School—another two schools that are absolutely passionate about sustainability and personal responsibility.

There were other community groups and businesses in attendance. I want to acknowledge the Tangelooma EcoMarines, Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, Perrin Creek bush care, Myuna bush care, Care Kits for Kids, Beelarong Community Farm, Bulimba Community Garden and Boomerang Bags Morningside and Hawthorne. I also want to acknowledge some businesses: Brett Robb Consulting, Dion Seminara Architecture, Little Things Sustainable Products, the FROOZi Bar coffee and smoothie van and the Brisbane City Council waste education unit. I want to thank Jean from that unit, who came and taught us quite a bit, as well as the literally hundreds of people who came along to hear our excellent panel comprising Minister Enoch and Jon Dee, who founded Planet Ark, and Benita Tiernan from Foodbank, which is one of our leaders in food recycling in this country. They wanted to learn and they had really strong feelings about this.

It should not really come as any surprise that the LNP wants to turn back the clock on this important reform. They are boldly striding backwards into the past on just about every front possible—and do not even go there about gender equality. We are just not going to even talk about that when we talk about them being troglodytes. We know that on this particular issue they are centuries behind us.

I was interested to hear the newly elected LNP MP for Longman, Terry Young, in his inaugural speech to parliament outline how he wants to see Australian kids being taught climate change denialism in schools. How good is that? He is a good one! Then there is the LNP state conference where they passed a motion. I noticed that the member for Nanango was a bit keen on the proposed 'office of science quality assurance'. They are going to make sure that when any of those scientists who have those ideas come in, that office will check that that science is right. We can just imagine who is going to be in charge of that. The member for Nanango was a bit keen on that. Every time Queensland wants to take a step forward they want to take two steps back, so it is no wonder their climate change policy clings so desperately to the past. What is the member for Nanango going to do when 'ScoMo' wants to talk to her? What is that conversation going to be like, because he is a bit keen on it now. I think he thinks climate change does exist.


In contrast, I want to talk about what we are doing to support the waste levy. We are providing advance payments to councils over and above the rate of household waste that goes to landfill to make sure that waste levy costs are not passed on to ratepayers. If people believed all of those opposite, they would not know that that existed. Never let the facts get in the way of a good story! In fact, we have provided more than \$30 million to the Brisbane City Council to cover the cost of municipal solid waste plus an extra five per cent to run waste programs and build new facilities. That extra five per cent was \$1.4 million to help that council improve their waste and recycling practices.

Minister Enoch was telling everybody this at my eco forum the other day. I can tell you that they were all very interested to hear about that. They had not heard from the Brisbane City Council that they had received that money or what they were going to do with it. They were pretty keen to know what the Brisbane City Council is doing with that money.

There were several media reports a little while back that council was blaming the government's waste levy for an increase in fees. They increased their fees to \$221.20 a tonne. The waste levy is only \$75 a tonne for general waste, but obviously it has increased its fees significantly more. As a ratepayer, I would like to know what the Brisbane City Council is doing with that money and how it calculates its fees. I look forward at any time to seeing that breakdown. That would be absolutely brilliant.

There is a lot of support for what we are doing. The national peak body, the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia, expressed concern about the fact that parliament is being asked even to debate this disallowance motion. We must listen to organisations such as that. There are independent stakeholders everywhere. The Local Government Association of Queensland's target is zero waste by 2025, and the waste levy supports that goal. There are so many reasons it is really important that we keep this waste levy in place for our environment, our economy and the people of Queensland. That is why I absolutely oppose the disallowance motion and thank the environment minister for her excellent work.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Before calling the member for Traeger, there is audible conversation across the chamber making it difficult to hear. Can we keep the noise down.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate and to support the disallowance motion against this waste levy. I refer to my colleagues, the members for Hill and Hinchinbrook, and note as well their support of this disallowance motion. What about the old adage that Queensland is too big a state for one set of laws to apply everywhere? There is no better example than Mount Isa in terms of this waste levy. I understand that this waste levy will be \$75 a tonne with the initial 105 per cent rebate downgraded to 85 per cent. When I initially saw that, I thought, 'That makes sense when it applies, because they are trying to stop rubbish going across the border.' I get that part of it, but then I saw that this applies to Mount Isa by virtue of the fact that its population exceeds 10,000 people.

What I do not understand is: who sat down and looked at the cost impost and the barriers to try and build industry in this remote part of Queensland when we apply the same levy to places on the coast? How can you transport material 1,000 kilometres when energy costs \$150 to \$200 a megawatt hour but is only \$60 a megawatt hour on the grid? How can they be expected to compete and make an industry out of this? Then we pay \$4 million to \$5 million profit in terms of water to the state government which comes from the general revenue of Mount Isa ratepayers. On top of that, it is 1,000 kilometres from the coast to the nearest metropolitan area or 20 hours drive to Brisbane. How on earth are we supposed to build an industry with those cost imposts? It is not comparing like with like. It is an unfair imposition and is throwing the Mount Isa City Council and its ratepayers under a bus. In terms of the lack of volume in such a remote area, there is no capacity to capture wider, vast amounts from another area or to do anything clever. You are very much constrained by your remoteness. That is an unassailable reality that we cannot get past.

We talk about alternative industries. I watch very closely the future of Alan Rowe's little enterprise in Charters Towers. I say this in all earnestness. I hope he is successful, but he will be outcompeted by companies from China. He makes bollard bases out of granulated rubber and is attempting to get some uptake in this area. I imagine that is a pretty good and sensible re-use of waste material. That is an example of something that could be successful in using some of this waste and trying to meet the government's objectives. I acknowledge that TMR is meeting with him to look at purchasing some of that product, but if that fails it is not a good look. Let us keep our fingers crossed. I hope Alan Rowe is successful, but it would be a pretty negative sign for a very successful businessman of many endeavours whose business is close to a large population base but who is caught out by this waste

reduction levy. If he cannot make a business out of that and does not get support from the government—and let us support this bloke and buy his product because we know that we want to encourage that—I would put a very big question mark over this entire endeavour.


I have had representations to my office from people in the tyre industry who say that large stakeholders in the industry are spreading a lot of misleading information. They say that there is a lot of environmental concern about the granulated waste from tyres. There are a lot of challenges associated with that style of waste management. I am no expert, but I believe there are some enormous challenges there. In relation to waste management and the ability to try to encourage it and build some industry around it, we all would agree that we would love to achieve that. It is the means by which we do that. We cannot forget how tough it already is out there for businesses with existing cost imposts. Certainly, I know that in Mount Isa even the really good businesses are struggling to make ends meet. Another levy with a rebate that phases out will end up being a levy imposed on these people. It will be a cost to them—something that they cannot bear.

There is a lot of talk about the environment. I am drawing a bit of a long bow, but everyone says that if we are not in favour of the waste levy we are not for the environment. I am sick and tired of hearing about the environment in this place. When I drive through my electorate, I go past millions of hectares of prickly acacia—an environmental scandal—and the worst woody weed in the country. We have just said that we will not match the federal government's \$5 million in terms of prickly acacia, but we get nothing in our area. I find it hard to say that we all care about the environment. It must not be the environment in my electorate, because up to 20 million hectares is infested with prickly acacia. That does not seem to be a problem for anyone because no money has been thrown at that. Excuse me if I think there is an element of insincerity in relation to trying to fix all aspects of the environment.

The other day I spoke to Katrina Gall, a proprietor of perhaps one of the best cafe/restaurants in the north-west. I reflect on that conversation, because it is a really good and very busy business. She does a great job but is struggling with all of the costs associated with running her business. It is very hard for her. As I understand, there will be a rebate for ratepayers through this initial period to get this levy up and running to try to induce some industry in Mount Isa, but it probably will never eventuate. I hope it does. I would love to be part of the solution, but I cannot see that happening in terms of all those cost pressures to which I alluded.

Builders and other commercial users who recycle their waste will still pass those costs back to businesses. It will still circulate back around Mount Isa as an impost. People like Katrina Gall and these cafes and businesses are already struggling. Even with the slightest bit of pressure, these very fragile businesses cannot withstand it. I am sure that everyone appreciates the attempt to recycle, manage waste and improve what we are doing. I am all for it. All I know is that we in Mount Isa cannot bear these sorts of costs and that we will not get an industry going. There must be some way we can, but we cannot do it in this manner and it will not just pop up overnight.

Again, we cannot have energy at \$150 to \$200 a megawatt hour when it costs \$60 a megawatt hour on the coast. We cannot be 1,000 kilometres from the largest metropolitan area or 2,000 kilometres from Brisbane, with water costs being gouged by the state to the tune of \$4 million or \$5 million, and expect to run a profitable business when at best those on the coast are lean businesses. That is just unrealistic and will end up being a very unfair impost. It is already a very difficult environment for businesses from those areas. That is why we will support this disallowance motion. I hope there are members on the other side of the House who see sense and reason in supporting this motion.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.38 pm): What an abysmal effort from the opposition in debating this disallowance motion! We had the member for Broadwater saying that this was a terrible levy, and then straight after him we had the member for Burnett saying 'there is no denying that the levy will be important'. Then we had the member for Scenic Rim saying it is a terrible thing. Who knows where they stand? Tonight we have had confirmation of what we have long suspected—that is, the LNP would once again repeal Queensland's waste levy, robbing industry of certainty and investment and welcoming trucks back over the border to dump interstate waste here in Queensland.

For months the member for Broadwater has tried to play both sides of the fence, trying to avoid admitting the LNP's secret agenda, but now their motives have been laid bare. In 2012 the former LNP government including the members for Nanango, Everton and Broadwater, who all apparently proudly sat around the cabinet table, repealed Queensland's waste levy and robbed our state of investment and job opportunities in resource recovery. They have done it once, and we know that they will do it again.

They are very proud of that. In fact, back in June the Leader of the Opposition posted on Facebook about how the LNP had moved a motion to try to stop the waste levy altogether. I am happy to table that post so that members of this House can see the member for Nanango and the member for Broadwater standing side by side, proudly threatening investment and long-term certainty for the waste and resource recovery industry.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 25 June, from the Facebook page of the Leader of the Opposition, Ms Deb Frecklington MP, regarding waste levy [1289].

This motion demonstrates that the LNP does not understand the challenge we are facing in our state or the war on waste that Queenslanders are trying to fight. Queensland's performance in relation to waste management and recycling is the second worst in the country. According to the latest recycling and waste report 2017-18, Queensland's recovery rate sits at around 45 per cent. That means that less than half of our waste is being recycled. The national rate is 58 per cent. In the past five years our recovery rates have barely increased, but the amount of waste being generated and disposed of has skyrocketed. We are now generating waste faster than we are growing in population.

In 2017-18 the amount of interstate waste disposed of in Queensland was over one million tonnes—an increase of 198 per cent since 2013-14, after the LNP repealed the waste levy in this state. That means that when the LNP recklessly scrapped the previous waste levy, like they are trying to do here again tonight, they opened up our borders for trucks to dump cheap interstate waste. Until July this year, Queensland was the only mainland Australian state that did not have a waste levy. That made our state an attractive place to dump.

The levy is not just a disincentive for interstate waste; it is also a signal to the market to value the opportunities that exist in recycling and resource recovery and to create jobs. There are three times as many jobs created in recycling than in landfill. That is an economic opportunity for Queensland.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Of course, the member for Burleigh has just popped his head up. There is no support for this job creation in Queensland.

The industry recognises the importance of market signals. Recently I received a letter from the national peak body for the waste industry, the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia. It is important for members to hear the sentiments of the business community as we consider this motion tonight. I table the letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 June 2019, from the Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association Australia, Ms Gayle Sloane, to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, regarding Rescission motion in relation to Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2019 [1290].

The letter states—

WMRR supported and continues to support the reintroduction of the Waste Levy by the Queensland Government in July 2019 ...

...

A landfill levy is a proven economic tool that supports diversion targets, and is a positive step for the resource recovery sector.

It continues—

The levy signals to the market that the Queensland Government recognises that there is a real and positive value to resource recovery, and it wishes to create jobs in Queensland to support and grow this industry. The ongoing certainty of the waste levy on the disposal of waste in Queensland, is integral to investment decisions currently being made by a number of WMRR members. The fact that the Queensland Parliament is about to consider a rescission motion of the levy is of concern to industry, and ignores not only the future possibilities in Queensland but dismisses the hard work and investment done by so many people to date, including local government and industry, in getting levy ready for 1 July 2019.

The message from the industry could not be clearer. The LNP is playing with the job opportunities and investment certainty of businesses right across Queensland.

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Continue, Minister.

Ms ENOCH: The LNP is playing with the job opportunities—

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh, you are warned.

Ms ENOCH: Third time lucky. The LNP is playing with the job opportunities and investment certainty of businesses right across Queensland. We all know their track record when it comes to jobs in this state. It is a sack, cut and sell approach.

Tonight we are seeing in this disallowance motion once again the LNP putting jobs at risk, sending a signal to the market that job opportunities in this particular industry are not welcome in this state. To make matters worse, they are divided from their own federal colleagues. The LNP government in Canberra has recently made moves to encourage recycling and resource recovery, but here in Queensland they are still standing in the way of the growth of the industry. As I mentioned earlier this morning, at the recent COAG meeting in Cairns the Prime Minister was very supportive of state waste levies. In fact, at the press conference he said—

There is already various levies in place and funds that are held at state levels which are there to support the development of and capability of our waste management industries.

He then went on to say—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Here we hear the member for Broadwater pop up again. Which side of the fence is he on this time? Is he for or against the waste levy? Is he supporting or against the Prime Minister? Is he supporting the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Bennett interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Who was that? You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: Is he supporting the Leader of the Opposition or is he out there doing his numbers? From the contributions of his colleagues tonight, I can pretty much tell members that his leadership aspirations are going straight to landfill. Further, during that press conference the Prime Minister stated—

... it is about building that industry capability, but it is also about ensuring that we've got the pull through from the users of recycled and converted waste.

...

So there is the work on the science, but there's also the work on the economics ...

There you have it. The federal LNP get it. They appear to understand what is needed in order to grow jobs and expand this industry. Why is this so hard for the Queensland LNP to understand? Is their party so deeply divided that they cannot even have a conversation about recycling without trashing their own Prime Minister's ideas?

The fact is: the damage the LNP did to Queensland in 2012 by repealing the previous waste levy is still being undone, and we cannot afford to let them wreak havoc again. Queensland's previous levy, which started in December 2011, was beginning to deliver real results until it was repealed. Our state was starting to see significant investment in recycling infrastructure, and new jobs were being created to deal with the volumes of material being diverted from landfill disposal. The most significant improvements were starting to be seen in construction and demolition waste, with considerable reprocessing infrastructure being established; however, the announcement by the then LNP government to repeal the levy halted any further expansion in new equipment and technologies. This led to lost job and industry investment opportunities and loss of industry confidence in establishing facilities in Queensland.

These opportunities simply went elsewhere. They went to other states. This is demonstrated by the limited expansion of regional recycling and reprocessing capacity that has been developed in this state since, and Queensland fell further behind other states when it came to attracting new business investment and recovering valuable resources.

On 1 July 2019 the Palaszczuk government released a new Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy which provides a way forward to create jobs, protect the environment and create jobs in the emerging circular economy. The waste levy is a key tool that supports the implementation of that strategy. In the first year after its introduction, the levy is likely to generate 300 new jobs by generating more recycling and resource recovery. Within a decade, that number is expected to grow to a further 3,000 new jobs in the sector.

Levy revenue will restore business confidence and encourage industry investment in new and expanded infrastructure in Queensland. These outcomes will be further supported by the development of a Queensland waste and resource recovery infrastructure plan which is currently being prepared and will help identify where critical infrastructure is needed. Some \$100 million over three years has already been allocated to the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program administered by the department of state development to incentivise industry investment in new or expanded infrastructure that will help divert waste from landfill and increase recovery and recycling.

Importantly, the Palaszczuk government has committed to reducing the cost impact on households as a result of the introduction of the levy. In June this year, prior to the commencement of the levy, 43 local governments were provided with advanced payments totalling \$143.5 million to ensure that there is no reason for household rates to increase. A further \$2 million is allocated specifically to assist the construction and demolition industry to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. There have been claims made in the past and tonight by the LNP that the waste levy will add \$1,500 to \$2,100 to the price of a new house. For this to be true, every newly constructed house would have to produce more than 25 tonnes of waste and have all that waste go to landfill.

Ms Jones interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Cooper, if you are going to interject, I ask you to move to your seat please.

Ms ENOCH: In reality, a better estimate of waste generated during construction of a single-storey, three-bedroom house is less than eight tonnes. Much of this waste, including any clean earth excavated from the site, is recyclable.

The introduction of the levy has already helped improve waste management by local governments, with over \$5 million provided to help install weighbridges and improve landfill security for councils in and bordering the levy zone. We know that compliance is an important part of any new regulatory approach and I can inform the House that as at 16 August this year 127 waste levy related compliance inspections have already been conducted across Queensland. Regional compliance staff have conducted two static vehicle intercepts to gather intelligence on waste transport operations and drone training is continuing across the state.

The government is aware that one of the potential perverse outcomes of a waste levy could be an increase in illegal dumping, so we have invested in a strengthened compliance program. Funding has been provided for an additional 16 compliance officers working across Queensland including North Queensland, Cairns and Townsville as well as officers supporting Central Queensland from Rockhampton and Maroochydore, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. There are also officers covering South-West Queensland in Ipswich and Toowoomba. These compliance officers have hit the ground running and have observed firsthand how some operators are looking for opportunities to re-use waste and reduce the amount going into landfill.


In a further effort to reduce illegal dumping, the government is also investing \$2 million over the next two years to enhance the compliance capability of local governments. Several weeks ago I announced that four agreements between local governments—Townsville, Fraser Coast, Bundaberg and the Gold Coast—and the department are in place for additional illegal dumping compliance officers funded by the state. An expression of interest is currently available for additional councils to participate in the scheme. We have a choice. Queensland can remain the second worst recycler in the country or, off the back of the levy supporting the implementation of a new waste strategy, we can encourage new investment, new industries and new jobs for Queensland.

Our government is already creating policy settings and implementing programs that are creating new jobs in waste management. The container refund scheme, which we introduced on 1 November last year, has demonstrated that a price signal, no matter how small, can have an enormous impact. In the first nine months of the scheme's operation, over 700 million containers have been returned through 307 refund points across Queensland and more than 600 jobs have so far been created as a result of that scheme. The success of the scheme demonstrates just how passionate Queenslanders are about what they can do to recycle more and reduce landfill.

We know that Queenslanders are passionate about recycling. We know that they want to see their government do better in this space to support good recycling and to reduce landfill. What we have seen from the LNP tonight is nothing more than scaremongering and of course a promise to repeal the levy in the future. It has no regard for the jobs that are being created and that will be created as a result of this levy. It has no regard for the certainty that industry requires to be able to invest in this state. The Palaszczuk government supports jobs in Queensland and it supports investment in Queensland. We want to see the resource and recycling industry grow in Queensland, and we want the jobs that come along with that. That is why the waste levy is an important part of being able to send the strongest possible signal that Queensland is valuing the resource recovery industry and the jobs that come with it.

What we have seen here tonight is the work of an opposition that does not understand how important and effective a market signal can be and it is so caught up in the politics of opposing everything that seems environmental that it risks the certainty that the waste management and resource

recovery industry needs in order to grow. When it risks that industry certainty, it puts jobs at risk. When it is risking that kind of certainty, it is risking the jobs of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will not stand for that. We will not allow the LNP to once again do to Queensland what it did in 2012 and make our state a cheap place to dump and where we do not see the economic value of recycling and we lose job opportunities. We will fight the war on waste and we will support industry, councils and Queenslanders as we do it. I strongly oppose the motion and I call on all members in this House to do the same.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.58 pm): The government knows this tax is wrong. It knows it is wrong because it did not announce it before the last election.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Sorry, member, and sorry, Minister. The minister has closed the debate.

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

AYES, 43:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.


Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before moving to our next order of business I want to acknowledge that we have the former member for Aspley, Councillor Tracy Davis, in the public gallery.

ADJOURNMENT

SandTunes 2019

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.04 pm): Coolangatta hosts lots of events that activate the town and are embraced by locals and businesses, such as Surf Life Saving titles, Cooly Rocks On, Opera on the Beach and the Quicksilver Pro. Coolangatta is blessed with magnificent beaches—beaches that the Labor Party recognised as special with a 2015 election promise that granted them the status of World Surfing Reserve—WSR—a title that was meant to maintain beach and surf amenity.

Members could imagine our disbelief when the very same Palaszczuk government and Minister Kate Jones decided to pour money into a huge music festival that would consume the entire Coolangatta beach and nearby QEII park. For two days—from 30 November to 1 December—Coolangatta beach almost to Greenmount will be off limits to the public as 35,000 revellers trample the beaches each day from midday to 9 pm, drinking alcohol that will not even be supplied by a local business. The Gold Coast City Council approved the event in 2017. Local councillor Gail O'Neill opposed it and the state government declared it a major event, investing in it for several years.

Opposition to this event has been fierce for the following reasons. Coolangatta is the wrong location. Byron Bay would not spoil its beach. Splendour in the Grass is held in a paddock. Big Day Out was not held on a beach. The event will be held at the wrong time of the year and be bad for Coolangatta's reputation. Many visitors have already booked, unaware that they will not be able to go onto the beach or open their windows for the noise will travel up to three kilometres. So much for TEQ's major events objective of community pride! There has been no public consultation—none at all—nor any community information. It is appalling that residents have been ignored.

Massive disruption will occur for 21 days with little if any economic benefit for small businesses that are still recovering from losses caused by the Commonwealth Games last year. There will be no pass outs, so patrons will not be spending in town. SandTunes will set a precedent for more large music

concerts. It will kill local trade in Coolangatta. The people of Coolangatta love to party, but they do not want Coolangatta to be thought of as a party town. It took years for Coolangatta to regain its reputation after being labelled 'Coolangetto'.

There are also environmental concerns about damage to dunes and beaches. Drugs will be rife. SandTunes is a high-risk event at this location. Heat, sand and water equals dehydration, drugs and alcohol. The people of Coolangatta are being told to suck it up, because the Gold Coast will benefit, but not them. Hundreds of buses will converge on Coolangatta's compact precinct, as the majority of people will come in from outside Coolangatta.

Countless locals have voiced their opposition to this event, as has the local chamber of commerce, Gecko and the World Surfing Reserve, whose chairman said that massive beach concerts are in contrast with the values and beliefs of the WSR and not in line with respect for the beach. Our reputation as a natural destination is at stake. SandTunes must be moved to another location. If Labor is serious about protecting our environment, it is time it walked the talk.

Toohey Forest



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.08 pm): As a former chair of the Toohey forest management committee, I rise to speak on a matter of great importance for southside koalas: the preservation of the environmental jewel that is Toohey Forest. For many decades the state government has owned a small number of lots near University Drive on the doorstep of Griffith University's Nathan campus. This land is not under threat of development by the government and is managed appropriately, given koalas use it for habitat.

On 26 February 2019, Councillor David McLachlan of the city council's cabinet wrote to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning asking for the land to be sold to the council at a concessional rate. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 February 2019, from the Chairman, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Brisbane City Council, Councillor David McLachlan, to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding a parcel of land adjoining Toohey Forest [1291].

Nonetheless, the city council, in a petty political stunt, asserted that the land was not safe while owned by the state government. That is according to Deputy Mayor Krista Adams, who wanted it under local government control. I lobbied for the option to lock this land away to local government at a discounted rate to be wrapped into the larger parcel that is Toohey Forest. I table this public comment by Deputy Mayor Krista Adams.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, of Twitter exchange between Councillor Krista Adams and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding Toohey Forest land [1292].

Consequently, on 15 July this year, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning formally wrote to Lord Mayor Schrinner to extend an offer from the Palaszczuk government to permanently lock away for conservation these undeveloped state owned blocks in Toohey Forest at below market rate and below book value with the Brisbane City Council's bushland levy. I table for the benefit of the House this letter dated 15 July from Minister Dick to our unelected Lord Mayor Schrinner offering a negotiation that would preserve our koala habitat and forest forever and seeking to meet to discuss it.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 July 2019, from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, regarding land adjacent to Toohey Forest Park [1293].


This was the first chance for the new Lord Mayor—the self-proclaimed green Lord Mayor—to not only talk the talk but walk the walk and negotiate with the state at a discounted rate, as requested by the council, a package including the bushland at Toohey Forest, Carseldine, Oxley and a remnant piece of small park at Woolloongabba.

A short time later, on 19 July, Mayor Schrinner responded refusing the offer going back on his council offer via his own Councillor McLachlan. Council refuses to keep its word to accept it at a discounted rate or even to meet to discuss it to lock away this koala habitat. However, the Brisbane City Council has spent \$5.2 million from its Bushland Acquisition Levy on land at Carrara Street and Nurrn Street, Mount Gravatt East, and there is not one single tree on the land. I table a picture of this barren site for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting house and land [1294].

The council is not willing to use the fund to secure actual bushland as the fund was intended. The mayor and the deputy mayor have not kept their word and are misusing the bushland levy for non-bushland purposes. I call on the mayor and the deputy mayor to come to their senses, sit down to a meeting with the state government and keep their word to secure bushland at Toohey Forest at a discounted rate for future generations.

Seniors Week


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (7.11 pm): This week is Queensland Seniors Week. As I did last year at this time, I want to pay tribute to and acknowledge our Nicklin seniors in this House. Nicklin has a higher than average population of seniors and as a community we punch above our weight in terms of community organisations and volunteerism mainly due to these dedicated seniors. I have found that seniors make up the bulk of our local volunteering force. Many would be quite entitled to put the cue in the rack, put their feet up and relax after a lifetime of work, raising families and contributing to the state and country, but they decide to put their hand up and help out in the community.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending many of the Rotary annual changeover dinners in Nicklin: Nambour Rotary, Nambour 76 Rotary, Cooroy Rotary and Woombye-Palmwoods Rotary. Also our local Lions clubs. Most of the volunteers in these service clubs are our seniors. Our seniors also volunteer in various other organisations locally where I have recently attended many of the annual general meetings: the Sunshine Coast Genealogy Society, and I pay particular tribute to outgoing president Marie Warren; Nambour Red Cross; Woombye Community Library; Sunshine Linus; the various Men's Sheds; the Police Citizens Youth Club in Nambour that I was manager of for many years; and the many, many more community organisations that hold the fabric of our community together. Community organisations also provide an avenue for our seniors to socialise, connect and add tremendous value to our community.

I would also like to mention the great work of the many organisations that exist in our community to look after seniors as they age, organisations I have visited recently such as Nambour and District Care; Blackall Range Care; Woombye Care; Sundale; and the many others. Meals on Wheels Nambour does a tremendous job providing meals for our elderly citizens. I want to pay particular tribute to Linda Law, a local volunteer who looked after our seniors and who sadly passed away recently. Linda was a long-term volunteer at Meals on Wheels Nambour, along with performing other voluntary work across the community. Rest in peace, Linda, and thank you on behalf of the community that you served for so long.

Last Friday to launch Seniors Week I was pleased to host a lunch and movie in Nambour for our local seniors. It was a great afternoon catching up with some of the many seniors in my community that I mentioned earlier, particularly from the community organisations, to say thank you. Our seniors deserve our support and Seniors Week is a great opportunity to shine a light on them and the contribution they make to our community.

Waterford Electorate, Apprenticeships

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.14 pm): Earlier this month it was fantastic to host my cabinet colleagues in Logan in the seat of Waterford. I was delighted also to visit Marsden State High School with the Premier and the education minister to announce that we are delivering free apprenticeships for people under 21. Access to education and training should be the right of all Queenslanders. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering on this commitment and extending our free TAFE for year 12 graduates. An apprenticeship is not just a great training opportunity, it is also a job and the start of a great career.


Marsden State High School was the perfect backdrop to launch this game changing \$32 million investment. Marsden State High School punches above its weight when it comes to VET in schools and has the fourth largest uptake of VET in schools across Queensland. This means a large number of their students already have a qualification before they even leave school. I am pleased to say the leadership shown by the school community, led by principal Andrew Peach, is making a real difference.

As I talk to small businesses in my electorate of Waterford I am hearing that our government's programs are making such a difference to enable them to grow and employ more people. Last Friday I met 16-year-old Bailey, an automotive spray painting apprentice, from Bayer Smash Repairs. Bailey is one of the 60,000 apprentices across Queensland who will benefit from our initiatives. Travis Cowley

of Bayer Smash Repairs said it is not easy finding young people to take up apprenticeships and welcomed our new announcement. The manager welcomed the initiative, saying it was important to teach young guys now so that there would still be skilled tradesmen in 10 or 20 years time.

As part of our small business roadshow I attended the Logan Chamber of Commerce AGM and spoke to them not only about free apprenticeships but also about our \$885 million payroll tax rebates. We are increasing the payroll tax threshold, the biggest change to payroll tax in a decade, and we are continuing our apprenticeship rebate. These initiatives are making it easier for Waterford businesses to grow and employ more locals. It was great to speak with business owners Laura and Eric Guthrie from Munster Mechanical in my electorate about how they can continue to grow their business. Munster Mechanical is a fantastic local business that has taken on a school based apprentice, Ihaka Tango. Ihaka is a Mabel Park State High School student and he will continue on as an apprentice boilermaker once he finishes high school. Free apprenticeships, payroll tax initiatives—we are backing Logan businesses, we are backing young people in Logan and I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is making it easier for businesses to grow and employ more Queenslanders.

Parliamentary Democracy

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.17 pm): To most Queenslanders our parliamentary democracy seems normal. It makes sense. It works—to poorly paraphrase—better than any other approach. Too many people take it for granted though. For us here we are incredibly lucky to not only sit in this room as representatives, but to have the system of government that allows us to do that.

I had a very real reminder of that luck from Dominic, a young man interning in my office. Dom is from Hong Kong. He is a brilliant Griffith University student studying urban planning, making the most of the opportunities he has while in Australia. For the last few months I have seen his rising fear and frustration as he has kept me updated with what is happening back home. Every day he comes in and he says, 'Sam, have you read this? Have you seen what is happening now?' He messages me political cartoons and articles about protesters who have been injured or killed.

The proposed extradition bill has given many residents of Hong Kong real concerns that people would be extradited to China to face judgement without an independent judiciary. This could open the door to citizens being prosecuted for political reasons, such as criticism of the ruling Chinese Communist Party. Although the bill has been suspended, until it is completely off the table these protests will likely continue, with an extraordinary over two million people of a population of seven million having joined in so far.

Violence in any form from any side is never acceptable. It is why that mace sits in front of us: it is a reminder of a time gone by where we did use violence. Now we have our fights in this place using words.


Only around half of the states in the world are called democracies and the trend is going in the wrong direction. In the past year, the democracy index shows that 89 countries have been downgraded since the previous year, which is three times those that have been upgraded. Dom says that for the people of Hong Kong this is a matter of wanting more freedom and stability. He put it in these words—

Hongkongers are busy people. In these two months, their days are like: wake up—check the news, fight, go to sleep, fight in their dreams, and then wake up to check the news to make sure everyone is safe.

There are others like Dom who live here but call Hong Kong their home. Their hearts are breaking and they are angry with the tragic events happening there.

I proudly represent many Chinese people, many of whom have come here because of the opportunity our country offers. I know these events are affecting them in different ways and that there is not just one view on this issue. However, my hope is for all in Hong Kong to be safe, to be heard and to be free.

Townsville Intercultural Centre

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (7.20 pm): Queenslanders live in a proud and inclusive multicultural society. If not for organisations such as the Townsville Intercultural Centre located in my electorate, our communities may not actively engage in opportunities that allow them to understand the diverse number of cultures we associate with in our everyday lives. Annually, the Townsville Intercultural Centre hosts the major multicultural event held in our city. I am pleased to say that over the weekend they celebrated their 25th annual festival, the theme of which was Unity in Diversity, and I had the absolute pleasure of


attending. We were also fortunate and thankful to have the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, in town to officially open the event on Friday evening. I know he enjoyed meeting many of the members of our community and was able to see firsthand the benefits of supporting such events in our region.

As a teenager, the Townsville Intercultural Centre's Dr Farvardin Daliri fled religious persecution in Iran, eventually settling in Townsville during the late 1980s. Farvardin is incredibly passionate when it comes to embracing and celebrating multiculturalism. He is an extremely proud Australian citizen who calls Townsville home. For some time, the Townsville Cultural Fest has seen an increase in local and typically Australian sculptures that have been constructed through Farvardin's exceptional creativity. Those sculptures create a talking point for motorists as they pass their location just up the road from my electorate office on Nathan Street.

During the past few years the festival has showcased the giant sculptures, which include characters such as Slim Dusty, Johnathon Thurston and Ned Kelly. The most recent sculptural addition is that well-known Australian icon, the koala. The amazing five-metre tall, 700 kilogram piece of artwork was constructed in Brisbane earlier this year. To celebrate the 25th anniversary, Farvardin and the koala made the long trek to Townsville, touring through Maroochydore, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Bowen along the way.

The annual Townsville Cultural Fest provides us with a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together in a relaxed and harmonious environment, to celebrate the diverse humanity of our local community with traditional foods, art, language and dance. I am very proud to be part of a government that recognises the outstanding efforts of the multicultural organisations within our local communities.

North West Minerals Province, Energy Costs; Water Trading


 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.22 pm): I rise to speak on two separate issues, the first being a sustainable resources corridor between Townsville and Mount Isa, servicing the North West Minerals Province. One of the greatest projects we have at the moment is CopperString, which is finally connecting the North West Minerals Province to the national electricity grid. At the moment, users are paying between \$150 and \$200 a megawatt hour. For an individual mine out there, and there are a number of them, an energy bill could be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. They are paying \$150 to \$200 a megawatt hour. If they were based in Townsville or on the coast and were connected to the grid, they would be paying around \$60 a megawatt hour. If we can build the transmission line to connect that area, we could bring the price down to at least \$100 a megawatt hour.

Members can imagine what would happen if we said to a large energy user in Queensland that we would reduce their energy costs by a third. Can members now imagine the stimulus that would give to a great-performing minerals province? This project does not need a lot of government money. It does not need a lot of state contribution. It needs a little assistance at the front end and the rest will take care of itself. The project already has good support from the federal government, but it needs someone from the state to drive it so that it gets done.

This project means a lot to Townsville. It does not affect just Mount Isa. I would love to hear people such as the member for Thuringowa talk about it in this place, because it is important for Townsville. Over 1,500 workers from Townsville work in the North West Minerals Province. We talk about Queensland Nickel and its impact on Townsville. Can members imagine if we brought the price of energy down by a third out there? But this is not just about bringing down energy prices. It is about connecting that area to the grid and protecting it from a monopoly situation involving a large gas producer. APA owns the power station and the pipes. Mica Creek is on wobbly wheels out there. It does not have many customers left. No-one wants to be left with only one provider.

Finally, I want to talk about water licences. There is a lot of focus on the Murray Darling, but we need the Hughenden irrigation project and the Hells Gates Dam project to go ahead. We must remember that if the focus is on water trading and the price of water in those areas, it will always be about the price of the water and not about stimulating agriculture. We should be stimulating agriculture to provide a broad-scale economic benefit, not only to some big wealthy developer but also to a lot of little farmers and to the little bloke who can get in there and have a go. Eddie McGuire is one of the biggest water licence owners. He is there not to stimulate farming but to make money from water. When that is the focus, when there is an ideological shift from a development ideal to the pricing of water, people will suffer.

Stafford Electorate, Sporting Clubs

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (7.25 pm): This evening I rise to acknowledge the highlights of Stafford's sporting clubs this year. I have the pleasure of partnering with many clubs, as well as attending home games on the weekend. While I congratulate all of the clubs on their success, there are a few I would like to make special note of.

The growing number of female athletes in the electorate has been very pleasing to see, especially in three of the clubs that I partner with. The Brisbane Netball Association is going from strength to strength. As a sponsor of the division 1 and intermediate 1 teams, last Saturday I was very pleased to be on hand to watch some very hotly contested matches and present trophies to both the winners and the runners-up. The Grange Thistle Soccer Club Women's City 5 team is currently third on the ladder. As a partner of this team, I cannot commend enough the commitment of the team and especially their coach, Matt. It was also great to see the Newmarket Soccer Football Club double the number of women's teams competing, growing from two to four in the past year alone. Their enthusiasm was on display when I recently watched the under 13 girls run onto the field in their new away kit, an initiative that I was very proud to sponsor.

In swimming news, at the recent championships, under the expert coaching of Bob and Steve Miller, our local Newmarket Racers brought home four gold, five silver and two bronze medals.


A government member: Hear, hear!

Dr LYNHAM: That was a great result. They were recognised as the 11th most successful swim club in Australia. I thank the sporting clubs, committees and parents for their work. I look forward to continuing to support those clubs and to see their growing success. It is an honour to represent them, along with all the other sporting groups in the Stafford electorate, and to work alongside them to strengthen the community.

I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of the Somerset Hills State School's new outdoor learning area. Somerset Hills State School is a small inclusive school that is very dear to my heart. It has outstanding facilities and staff who work to cater to the educational and social needs of all their students.

Finally, we had the pleasure of having the Premier open the Wavell State High School performing arts centre. I acknowledge the sincere efforts of Leanne Linard, in whose electorate the school was prior to the redistribution. Leanne's efforts succeeded in having that performing arts centre built. I am very glad that I was at the opening with the Premier, as I now represent the area following the redistribution. There are great schools and great sporting clubs in my electorate. It is a pleasure to be the representative of Stafford.

Tripcony Hibiscus Caravan Park

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (7.28 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about Tripcony Hibiscus Caravan Park which has been an iconic site in Caloundra for many years. In 1877 the land was reserved for a wharf purpose and in 1912 it was designated as a camping reserve and used as such for the following four decades. In that time it was known as Black Flat Camping Reserve, Tripcony Camping Reserve and South End Reserve. In 1957 it was converted into a caravan park. In 1979 the reserve for camping was divided into two, with the names of Hibiscus and Tripcony given to the various portions. In 1993 the department of natural resources and water issued a lease to SEQ Properties Pty Ltd for 15 years. In 2009, SEQ Properties Pty Ltd was offered a 30-year lease.


Through the years Tripcony Hibiscus Caravan Park has been a regular destination for Queenslanders. Over the years many families and permanent residents have enjoyed the view from the caravan park. The view takes in Pumicestone Passage, the Glasshouse Mountains and opens on to Bulcock Beach and Golden Beach plus Moreton Bay. It is indeed a pristine site of great beauty.

I have little doubt that at the end of the 30-year lease the people of Caloundra would have sought to reclaim the land for themselves. In fact, before the 30-year lease was given to SEQ Properties Pty Ltd there was a move to return the property to the people's hands. However, that cannot happen now because on 19 February 2016 the Palaszczuk government sold the land to SEQ Properties Pty Ltd. That sale took place without the people of Caloundra being consulted.

At the very least, this government owes the people the disclosure of the sale price and how the money was used. The government is trying to say that a covenant on the land saying that it can only be used for a caravan park should be sufficient. The fact is that this was Caloundra's land and it was sold by this government. The government owes the people of Caloundra a full explanation as to why they decided to sell this pristine block of land.

The minister is in the House tonight. I ask him to consider this matter carefully and explain why the Palaszczuk government put pen to paper and sold off this pristine block of land to SEQ Properties Pty Ltd.

Organ Donation

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.31 pm): Attending a funeral is always tough, but it is extra devastating when the person whose life you are celebrating was a young person. Over the parliamentary recess I attended two such funerals and came away from both with a strong message about organ donation that I want to share tonight.

Nicole Donaldson was a teacher at Centenary State High School. She looked after the school's major musical productions and she taught in the visually impaired unit. Nicole was a leader in the field in Queensland for visually impaired students. Indeed, there were countless former students at her funeral. One colleague from the visually impaired community commented, 'I've never met a sighted person who understood visual impairment like Nicole. Her loss is immeasurable and I don't know what we will do without her.'

Nicole was born with a heart defect and was not expected to live long, but day by day she proved the doctors wrong and went on to get a teaching degree and travel the world while teaching at her beloved Centenary State High School. She was on staff at Centenary from the year 2000—the year after it opened, meaning that almost every student who has ever attended the school was blessed to know Nicole.

Her brother gave a beautiful eulogy and commented that when Nicole knew her time on earth was coming to a close she was not ready to go. She still had more to do and more to give. Literally the last thing she did was give. She could not donate many organs, but she could donate her eyes and she did.

Earlier that week I attended the funeral of my father's best friend, Peter Mulvey, who thanks to a generous organ donor had lived with blood cancer for over 10 years. He was on the waiting list to receive a bone marrow transplant from a German donor when he passed away aged just 58. Dad was honoured to deliver his eulogy.

Nicknamed 'Perfect Pete' by his friends and family because of his propensity to keep an immaculate house and garden while spending lots of family time with his loving wife, Simone, and his daughters, Anna and Kate. Perfect Pete struck up an unlikely friendship with my potty mouthed, workaholic chef father and has given my dad such support through some very hard times. I also know that my dad is a better dad because of his friendship with Pete, who loved his daughters so and was not afraid to show it.

At Pete's funeral his daughter Kate made a heartfelt plea to all of us attending to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation. I am using my platform here today to amplify the message of a grieving daughter and friend. It is organ donation month and approximately 40 per cent of people do not tell their families if they would like to donate their organs. That means that when the time comes for families to decide they have no idea what to do. Studies show that the best way to lift organ donation rates is to have the discussion with your family as they have the final say and they are very likely to respect your wishes as long as they know what they are. Remember, as Nicole showed, almost everyone can donate something. So tonight please send a simple text message to your family saying, 'I'm an organ donor—are you?'

The House adjourned at 7.34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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