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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 21 August 2019

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WEDNESDAY, 21 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 26 June 2019 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House in response to question on notice No. 872. The matter relates to a statement that young offenders in watch houses receive regular visits from independent agencies including the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC.

In her letter to me, the Leader of the Opposition contended that this statement was misleading because the CCC does not have a general program of work where it visits individuals in watch houses. In accordance with standing order 269(5), I sought further information from the minister about the allegation made against him.


In his correspondence to me, the minister advised that his original response to question on notice No. 872 was based on a miscommunication in earlier advice provided to his office by the Queensland Police Service. The minister had since been advised that the CCC has an oversight role only and, subsequent to that advice, the minister tabled a replacement response to question on notice No. 872 on 26 June 2019 to correct the record. I note that yesterday the minister apologised to the House in relation to the matter.

I consider that the minister has made an adequate apology under standing order 269(4). Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring this matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence and documents regarding the allegation made by the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, that the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, deliberately misled the House and the minister's response [\[1309\]](#).


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise honourable members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Stretton State College in the electorate of Stretton.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Drought

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): Sixty-five per cent of Queensland is in the grip of drought. Many are enduring their seventh year without decent rain and the forecast offers us little hope of reprieve. In fact, cabinet was briefed on Monday about the forecast and it is not good. The impact of this was all too clear when I also visited the Southern Downs last Thursday. Agriculture minister Mark Furner and I met with the mayor, Tracy Dobie, and the councillors in Warwick and in Stanthorpe where people are confronting critical water shortages. I will not let these communities run out of drinking water.

Measures my government is taking include \$3.9 million replacing pipelines between Storm King Dam and the Mount Marley Water Treatment Plant. This is ahead of schedule and will be ready to open next month. Further measures include \$950,000 to the Southern Downs Regional Council to progress water security projects related to new and rejuvenated bores and fixing leaks in the reticulation system, \$600,000 in freight subsidies and \$300,000 in emergency water infrastructure rebate assistance to 56 producers.

Almost \$700 million in assistance has been provided to producers and communities across Queensland since the current drought began. There was more than \$74 million in this year's budget alone, and Minister Lynham has just announced our government's \$13.6 million to kickstart the new Emu Swamp Dam. I thank the minister for reacting so quickly. When we were in Stanthorpe people stopped us in the cafe and on the street saying that was a great announcement.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is good to see that those opposite are supporting it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are also keeping a close eye on 14 communities in Queensland at risk of joining Stanthorpe: four in the Toowoomba Regional Council area, the two I mentioned in the Southern Downs Regional Council area, three in the Goondiwindi Regional Council area and five in the Isaac Regional Council area. My government provides a 50 per cent emergency water infrastructure rebate. That compares with only 25 per cent provided by the Commonwealth.

The federal government has \$5 billion in a drought resilience fund that it will not spend until July next year. Today I am writing to the Prime Minister to ask that Queensland should be able to have access to this funding and that we should not have to wait until next year. I ask the opposition to join with me because our farmers need this money now for drought resilience, preparedness and recovery, and we need to be working together to be prepared for future droughts.


Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is an important issue.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is a serious issue. If we are to save jobs in regional communities we all need to work together. I will also be writing to the New South Wales and Victorian premiers to ask for their support, and I ask the opposition for theirs.

Rheinmetall, Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): My government is creating and fostering new jobs, new skills, advanced manufacturing and economic stimulus for local areas and the entire state. Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Ipswich ticks all of these boxes.

Just nine months after we turned the first sod on the Redbank site, the Minister for State Development and I, and the member for Bundamba, saw the exceptional progress that has been made on this megafactory—and that is what it is: a megafactory. It is one thing to plan and talk about job-creating projects, but to see it become a reality before our eyes proves again that advanced manufacturing is now a key part of our economy—in this case, advanced manufacturing in Ipswich.

The centre of excellence is a \$1 billion economic injection to the state and to the local area, with trade packages of \$100 million already awarded. That is because the entire supply chain is locally based—the Army combat reconnaissance vehicles are being designed, built and tested right here in Queensland. As a global defence contractor, Rheinmetall has more than 100 production facilities around the world. Their CEO, Armin Papperger, has already seen enough at Redbank to declare that it is the best his company is building anywhere in the world.

When we visited, there were almost 250 tradies on site including 33 apprentices and 20 trainees, and there will be hundreds more skilled jobs to come when Rheinmetall starts building the Boxers as part of Land 400 phase 2. Also, it puts Queensland in a very strong position for phase 3 of Land 400, and we welcome and support Rheinmetall's bid for that next big step. It illustrates Queensland's growing defence manufacturing capability and our research and development capabilities.

Exports

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Queensland continues to break records with our exports. The latest ABS data shows the value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports hit a record \$87 billion in 2018-19. Once again, that is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined. It is also 17 per cent higher than the previous record set in 2017-18. As we know, trade means jobs. In fact, we have broken the record three years in a row—something the previous government was not even able to achieve once.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not like good news. They do not want to talk about the economy. They do not want to talk about jobs. They do not want to talk about skills and training and the future of Queensland. No, they are not interested in that.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please continue with your ministerial statement, Premier.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Coal exports have risen \$5 billion over the year. This has been driven by metallurgical coal. Our proximity to Asia and our high-quality coal are the reasons we are proudly the world's largest exporter of metallurgical coal for steel making. Our LNG exports grew 43 per cent over the year, hitting \$15 billion. That is a \$15 billion industry which did not exist 10 years ago. It took the vision of a Labor government to turn this industry into Queensland's second largest export and to ensure that Queenslanders benefitted from the jobs which came with it.

Even though people are doing it tough with natural disasters and drought, our farmers are continuing to contribute in a huge way to our economy. This is a remarkable story. Beef exports reached nearly \$6 billion, which is \$900 million more than a year ago—another record. Despite dry conditions in many planting regions, Queensland still exported nearly \$2 billion in crops in 2018-19, with cotton exports accounting for over \$1 billion. It is not just the goods we are sending overseas that are driving Queensland's economy and creating jobs: we are also seeing strong growth in our service exports.

International student enrolments are up 10 per cent. This is on top of a 55 per cent increase over the five years to 2018. The annual number of international tourist nights remained high in March 2019 following a record number last year. International tourist nights have grown by 31 per cent over the decade and domestic tourism has been booming, with interstate tourism nights growing by 10 per cent over the year. As Minister Jones told me on the weekend, tourism has increased \$4 billion over this term of government—\$4 billion—and created an additional 30,000 jobs in the tourism industry.

With exports being strong, Queensland's economy is strong and our exports have never been stronger. Exports mean jobs, particularly for regional Queensland.

Distribution of GST

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk government always stands up for Queensland and fights for our state's fair share. That is why it is so disappointing that the federal government is interfering in the way the GST is distributed amongst states and territories in a way that will not only disadvantage Queensland but also punishes us for developing our gas industry.

I can inform the House that two weeks ago the federal Treasurer finally provided state and territory treasurers with a draft report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission 2020 Methodology Review. This was after the report lay on his desk for more than six weeks without any explanation. The commission only delivers a review every five years. Each review determines the share of GST funding that states and territories will receive for the following five years, so it is crucial that the report is received promptly by states for their input and analysis. I am very much looking forward to having a public conversation about the contents of this report once the federal government lifts the current embargo. However, I can comment on the additional terms of reference issued at the eleventh hour by Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, which confirm that the Morrison government has continued to interfere with the GST distribution and the independence of the Commonwealth Grants Commission.


The supplementary terms confirm that Treasurer Frydenberg issued a direction to the commission not to review the way mining royalties are assessed. Mining royalties are currently assessed on a mineral-by-mineral basis. Resources which generate the most royalty revenue for a state are assessed individually and the remaining resources are assessed as a group. This approach penalises states which expand exploration and dominate the production of certain resources, such as Queensland with LNG. The Grants Commission has acknowledged the mining assessment process is not policy neutral and that it was investigating improvements which would have acknowledged the fact

there is no policy neutrality when it comes to gas industry development and the continuation of this current royalty calculation for GST distribution results in a significant GST disadvantage for Queensland.

As a result of this direction the Morrison government is actively discouraging Queensland resource sector jobs and investment, including in our LNG sector, which now accounts for \$15 billion worth of Queensland's exports. It means that the more LNG Queensland exports—and subsequently the more royalties Queensland earns—the more money is sent to states like Victoria and New South Wales. They have refused to develop their gas reserves but they expect Queensland to provide with them cheap gas. The Morrison government is rewarding New South Wales and Victoria and robbing Queensland of an estimated \$435 million in GST revenue through this decision.

In total, interventions by the Morrison government will reduce Queensland's share of GST revenue by \$866 million in year-on-year terms. This revenue supports the high-quality health, education and community services that Queenslanders quite rightly expect. I have written to the federal Treasurer to demand that the Commonwealth Grants Commission review be allowed to proceed and that other changes be reconsidered. I have successfully lobbied Treasurer Frydenberg for the chair of the Commonwealth Grants Commission to attend the next Council on Federal Financial Relations, which is meeting in October. Queensland gets a raw deal out of the Morrison LNP government on infrastructure, health and education and when it comes to getting our fair share of the GST.


Toowoomba; Infrastructure; Qantas Group Pilot Academy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): I am pleased to report to the House more good news when it comes to jobs in regional Queensland. Two weeks ago in Toowoomba I helped turned the sod for the new Qantas Group Pilot Academy, a facility which is taking shape thanks to the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. The academy, which is based at Wellcamp airport, will create up to 100 direct jobs over the construction period with the building of a hangar, classroom and student accommodation facilities and more than 300 additional jobs in the broader construction sector. Up to 160 ongoing jobs in training and support are expected as the academy scales up to its full capacity of 250 students.

We worked harder than any other state to secure not one but two Qantas training facilities, the first of which is at Toowoomba. Qantas has announced that a second academy will be located in Mackay. The academy at Toowoomba builds on the growing reputation of Wellcamp airport and the vision of the airport's owners, the Wagner family. Facilities like the Qantas Group Pilot Academy do more than bring jobs to our state: they grow skills, capability and industry confidence in our regions. The academy is further proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering more jobs for Queenslanders in the private sector.

We are also delivering more infrastructure jobs, as outlined in the recent Building Queensland Infrastructure Pipeline report. This is part of the government's infrastructure policy reforms which have helped drive infrastructure underspend to near zero compared to a 15 per cent underspend under the previous Newman LNP government. The pipeline report shows that over 70 per cent of proposals received or initiated by Building Queensland have progressed to further stages of development since the previous pipeline report, including six funded projects. This includes stage 3A of the Gold Coast Light Rail project, to which our government has committed \$351 million. Our government says to Scott Moreton, 'Stop dithering. Stop dudding Queensland. Fund this project and give Queensland our fair share.'

NRL Magic Round


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.47 am): New economic modelling released today shows that the first ever NRL Magic Round pumped a whopping \$20 million into the Queensland economy. I think that with numbers as good as this even the member for Everton should dust off his whistle and give it a blow! Today I can confirm that in May more than 116,000 fans attended Brisbane's NRL Magic Round, with more than 48,000 of those fans travelling to Brisbane specifically for the event. The four days of football action generated 105,000 room nights for Queensland, proof that footy fans turned their Magic Round experience into a holiday here.

The NRL Magic Round was a huge win on and off the field. Local businesses recorded a trading boom, with thousands enjoying the Caxton Street precinct. Suncorp Stadium recorded its biggest ever weekend with 230,000 beers sold, 10,000 hot dogs, 25,000 buckets of chips and—for the more health

conscious in the crowd, Minister for Health—2,000 ham and salad rolls. It does not matter what your tastes are there is one thing that footy fans agree on: they want to watch more Rugby League here in Queensland at our Suncorp Stadium. It is about time the NRL listened to fans and brought more content to Queensland such as the NRL Grand Final.

We invest in events that support local jobs. As we heard yesterday, the Palaszczuk government has created 30,000 tourism jobs since we were elected in 2015. Today's Magic Round data proves the value of major events when it comes to supporting local workers, local businesses and jobs. We will continue to work with the council to grow the Magic Round in years to come.

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is on target to deliver eight new schools for the 2020 school year, and we are also delivering more jobs in the building and construction industry in all parts of Queensland. There are currently around 1,000 tradespeople, including around 120 apprentices, working across the eight new school sites alone as construction hits top gear, all on time and on budget.


Recently I was delighted to join the Premier, the member for Logan and a number of very excited future students to visit the construction site of the new Yarrabilba State Secondary College. There are currently around 110 tradies working on the site of this project every day, including 12 apprentices. It is unbelievable to see this school rising out of the ground, with the new sports and information services and technology centres, administration building and junior learning centres almost complete.

I recently joined the member for Morayfield to inspect construction of the new special school in Caboolture. There are currently 90 tradies working on this site, including eight apprentices. Internal fit-out of the administration and general learning buildings is underway and will commence shortly on all other buildings. There are 130 tradies, including 20 apprentices, currently hard at work on the site of the newly named Foxwell State Secondary College in the electorate of Coomera. Work is progressing on the new administration building, and the new sports centre is starting to take shape. There are currently 200 contractors, including 27 apprentices, working to complete the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College in my own electorate of McConnel. Construction of the first new high school to be built in Brisbane's inner city in 50 years—and Queensland's first vertical school—is progressing well, with the fit-out of the learning centre almost complete.

There are currently 131 contractors, including 18 apprentices, working to bring the new high school at Calliope to fruition, a project I know the member for Gladstone is very proud of. The administration building and resource centre is nearing completion, while the junior learning and ICT building, science centre and junior applied technology building are all well advanced. At Ripley Valley in the Bundamba electorate, the new primary and secondary schools are rising from the ground. The member for Bundamba is taking a very keen interest in this work. At the primary school, structural works on the multipurpose hall are complete, and progress is being made every day on the prep learning areas. Meantime at the high school, excellent progress is being made, and the internal fit-out of the classrooms will provide a great learning outcome. In total, some 175 contractors, including 27 apprentices, are currently working on these dual construction sites every day.

At Mango Hill in the Murrumba electorate, 120 contractors, including seven apprentices, are currently working on the site of the new high school, where the administration building, classrooms and science centres are well underway. The Palaszczuk government's \$1.5 billion infrastructure budget this year alone is delivering world-class education facilities and, at the same time, driving much needed jobs right throughout Queensland.

Health, Career Opportunities

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): The health sector is one of the biggest contributors to jobs growth in Queensland. Whether it is one of the new nurses, doctors or ambos we hire or the medical innovation jobs of the future, I would urge every young Queenslander, including those in the gallery, to consider health care if they want a skilled, well-paid, secure job that also has the added reward of helping people every single day.

The Palaszczuk government is ensuring the sector attracts and develops this future workforce by adopting smarter, more contemporary and innovative workforce planning models. Today I am launching a new website called 'Choose your own health career'. It highlights the career opportunities available in the health sector through vocational education and training pathways—from entry level


roles to more senior positions. This will be particularly valuable in our regions. Evidence shows people who grew up in the regions, were recruited there or were trained there are more likely to take up a role in regional Queensland and stay there—where we need them most.

This career development tool provides a snapshot for students, teachers and parents of the different pathways available in secondary school and when they leave secondary school. It particularly highlights non-tertiary pathways. It includes 14 clinical and non-clinical career pathways—detailing qualifications, training courses and subsidies available for the job. It also features 25 personal stories of young people who commenced their careers in health via a vocational education and training pathway, as well as six patient journeys, to illustrate the number of healthcare and other support roles involved in their care.

One example is Megan, who is an enrolled nurse in Goondiwindi. Megan was always interested in nursing, starting her career in aged care while completing a certificate III in aged care as a school based trainee. Megan then went on to complete a diploma of nursing at TAFE, even completing the last semester remotely from Kingaroy. Megan is now working in an aged-care facility in Goondiwindi as well as doing a day a week at the medical centre. Early exposure to the health environment helped Megan through her studies and she is loving the diversity that health provides—even considering studying further once her kids are grown up in the hope of becoming a midwife.

This new online resource was developed following extensive consultation with clinicians and industry to identify job and skill shortages and project areas of demand in the future. The ‘Choose your own health career’ website is an example of how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our young people and investing in our future health workforce and the value we place on practical and vocational training.

Mines and Quarries, Safety

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.56 am): Six Queensland families are mourning the loss of loved ones who have died in Queensland mines and quarries in the past 12 months. As I have said repeatedly, this loss of life is totally unacceptable. Last month I brought together industry leaders, company executives, union representatives, my department and the Mines Inspectorate in this House. Collectively, they committed that every one of our 50,000 mine and quarry workers, at every worksite, would attend a safety reset by the end of August.


They also committed to working together on further reforms to strengthen the safety culture in the resources sector. This includes sanctions for reckless behaviour and legislative reforms, such as the government’s proposal to actively consider the offence of industrial manslaughter. As part of the safety response, the government is also recruiting three more mines inspectors and a chief inspector of coal mining. Two independent reviews are also due to report back by the end of the year.

More than 23,000 workers have now taken part in safety resets at more than 160 mines and quarries. There are 10 days left now for every one of our 50,000 mine and quarry workers to complete a workplace safety reset. I will report to the regional parliament in Townsville on the safety reset, and this report will include me standing in parliament if necessary naming any site or operator whose workers have not undergone a reset.

As I told the Queensland Media Club last week, one of the strengths of Queensland’s resources sector is our skilled workforce, and this sector will continue to provide jobs for Queenslanders and opportunities for Queensland businesses well into the future, but every new and existing worker must be safe. Safety is the lead; it is the emphasis. It should be thought of with every breath, with every step and with every journey.

The world needs our resources, whether it is our high-quality metallurgical coal to make steel or our new technology minerals like cobalt and nickel for batteries. That is going to mean jobs for years to come—not just in regional Queensland but in the south-east corner as well. Every time I am at Brisbane airport, I see mine workers in high-vis heading home, and that is the most important point—that they are heading home to their partners, their children, their parents and their friends, because the most important thing to come off site is a worker.

Waste, Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): Illegal dumping is an important environmental issue across Queensland. Our state has such beautiful public spaces, national parks and waterways that any illegal dumping of waste into those areas is a serious problem for local communities. As such, the


Palaszczuk government has initiated the local government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program to support councils to hire compliance staff who can combat this issue. The objective of the program is to act on and prevent illegal dumping by funding and training additional compliance staff within local governments.

As always, our government recognises that improving waste management is also a job-creating opportunity. We are investing \$2 million over two years in grants to local governments, including an initial six-month pilot program, which is allowing four councils to employ two full-time compliance officers in each area who are solely dedicated to the investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping. Councils chosen for the pilot program are the City of Gold Coast council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Bundaberg Regional Council and Townsville City Council. These councils were selected because of high numbers of illegal dumping reports, dumping in built-up areas close to sensitive environmental areas and a demonstrated commitment to achieving compliance outcomes.

I am pleased to report to the House that the City of Gold Coast commenced two compliance officers on 5 August this year. The remaining local governments—Fraser Coast, Bundaberg and Townsville—are expected to have compliance resources commencing in the coming weeks. Ongoing training and support will be provided by the department to all four local governments as part of the partnership program. Building on the pilot program, the department released the local government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program on 31 July this year, inviting other local governments to apply to join the program. A maximum of \$200,000 funding per local government is available for employing additional field officers and for the purchase of surveillance and other equipment to assist in investigating illegal dumping incidents. This is an exciting opportunity for councils to partner with the state government and create local frontline jobs performing an important environmental compliance role.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to fighting the war on waste, which is something we know Queenslanders are passionate about. We are investing in a range of measures like this that are creating new jobs, supporting the industry and helping the environment.

Rail Services

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): On 29 July, 430 extra weekly train services rolled out across South-East Queensland. Those services included 85 additional trains in peak times each week and the restoration of an extra 142 services each Friday to provide a consistent timetable Monday to Friday. Coupled with an upgrade of 59 three-car sets becoming six-car sets, the rollout of more services delivered 200,000 more seats for South-East Queensland commuters each week. We need those seats because a record number of people are catching public transport in South-East Queensland—more than 189 million trips last financial year, a 3.7 per cent increase, the second record year in a row.

The return of those services has been supported by the largest recruitment campaign in Queensland Rail's history. Hard work behind the scenes to bring more train drivers and guards into the system means there are now 8,290 weekly rail services, more than 700 additional services than were operating at any time under the previous Newman LNP government. I would like to thank the hardworking Queensland Rail staff: our drivers, our guards, our station staff, our track workers and all those people in the Rail Management Centre.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Their support and efforts were crucial to those achievements. It is disappointing to hear interjections opposing my acknowledgement of the work of workers at Queensland Rail by those opposite in the LNP—very disappointing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The Palaszczuk Labor government—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Please continue with your ministerial statement, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to invest in public transport to deliver more services for commuters. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is entirely funding the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project and has \$351 million on the table for stage 3A of Gold Coast Light Rail. That is why we are developing a new smart ticketing system that will give commuters multiple ways to pay on any form of public transport across the whole state for the very first time.

The Queensland LNP's rail record was to cut services, cut the Cross River Rail project, sack workers and suspend driver training. That short-term thinking damaged confidence, patronage and capacity in our rail system that took years for our government to fix—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY:—and the member for Chatsworth was directly responsible for some of that. At the last parliamentary sitting the opposition leader predicted that it would take 36 years to fix the mess the LNP left South-East Queenslanders. She was only 13,500 days out, again showing a lack of judgement and a clueless approach to public transport.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Members, the interjections will cease. Minister, I ask that you ensure that your ministerial statement is about the facts and in the public interest.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Mr Speaker. I thank you.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I do not need your assistance. The minister has the call.

Mr BAILEY: In contrast, it is this Labor government that is investing in major public transport upgrades, in more drivers and in more services, which will mean more passengers into the future.

Local Government, Grants

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.05 am): One of the significant ways the Palaszczuk government creates and supports jobs in regional and remote Queensland is through our grants programs in partnership with local governments. In 2019-20 the Queensland government will provide \$1.468 billion in grants to our local councils. This is more than double the baseline funding of \$600 million for which the LGAQ advocates.

This is an acknowledgement of the vital support the Palaszczuk government gives our local governments. This support not only enables service delivery but also provides essential maintenance and upgrades to water and sewerage infrastructure. It has not always been easy to find out about these grants and to apply for them or to create long-term planning around them. That is why councils have asked us to make the grants process easier, more streamlined and more consistent.


We have listened because we value the partnership we have with our councils across the state. Councils tell us that they love these grants programs and we know that they are essential to Queensland's economy. Why? They equate to jobs. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has supported or created hundreds of thousands of jobs—more than 216,000 jobs to be precise. That is homes where mums and dads can sleep a bit better at night because they have more financial security; that is young couples starting a family rather than worrying about whether they are going to be able to pay the rent; that is saving for a home deposit rather than searching the jobs vacant ads day in, day out.

Yesterday I hosted a workshop with stakeholders and council executives to help finalise the new grants to local government model. We received fantastic feedback from our council CEOs, the LGAQ, the Local Government Managers Australia organisation and the Local Government Finance Professionals organisation. I am looking forward to the model's continued rollout, which includes setting up a steering group to help oversee the implementation process. This model means consistency and certainty with the grants process, including more streamlined administration, greater certainty of project time frames and funding, and alignment of funding programs with council budget cycles. Streamlining the grants process is a Palaszczuk government election commitment which we are delivering. Councils will begin to see these benefits sooner rather than later.

I have just been in North Queensland and inspected the progress on the Beautiful Bowen project. It is a \$5 million election commitment made by the Palaszczuk team which has supported or created about 55 jobs in Bowen. While I was in that neck of the woods I also visited two projects under the Works for Queensland program that are on the go at Plantation Park in Ayr. Together they are worth \$2.8 million and, again, that investment means jobs and job security.

These are just a couple of the thousands of job-creating projects happening across the state because of the work and the vision of the Palaszczuk government and our partnership with local governments. The dividend is jobs—almost 220,000 since 2015. Under this Premier we are about creating jobs, not cutting them.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government has done more than any government before it to tackle the scourge of domestic violence. Four years into a \$326 million 10-year program of reforms, we have already implemented 104 of 121 recommendations for government from the landmark *Not now, not ever* report ahead of schedule.


Government cannot do this alone. Addressing domestic and family violence is everyone's responsibility. That is why in September we will host the first Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Community and Corporate Forum, 'Safe at home, work and play', to continue building momentum in our workplaces and our communities to end domestic violence.

Queensland's corporate and community sectors have an incredible capacity to reach people, especially large corporations. Every single day the corporate and community sectors come into contact with millions of Queenslanders, whether they be employees, volunteers, customers or members. That is why we have called on leaders from the community and corporate sectors to take greater ownership and leadership in helping embed the cultural change that is needed to end domestic violence, including using their unique skills and capacity to reach into their networks and communities.

I am pleased to inform the House that already representatives from Rio Tinto, Telstra, Microsoft, Seek, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Brisbane Broncos, Clayton Utz, Commonwealth Bank, Queensland Resources Council, National Retail Association, Energy Queensland civil contractors and Queensland Rugby League have signed up to the forum. I am also delighted to announce that attendees of the forum will be able to hear from leaders in the field—Patty Kinnersly from Our Watch and Shaan Ross-Smith from Griffith's Mates program—on the significant steps they have made to build better, stronger and smarter processes to help families affected by domestic violence.

I am very pleased to advise that today Clubs Queensland, which represents more than 1,100 community clubs and its 2.4 million members, is launching its 'My Club Says Yes to Respect' campaign here at Parliament House. This is a fantastic example of leadership, and I congratulate them. The campaign will include bystander education for club staff to help them know how to react when they witness or suspect violence, information on places to call for help on the back of toilet doors, and making material about support services easily accessible. Everyone can do something when it comes to taking a stand on domestic and family violence. Businesses and workplaces have an immense capacity to be a force for good. Even if it is taking the very first steps by doing something as simple as holding a morning tea at your workplace to talk about domestic violence, we are calling on our big corporate and community organisations across Queensland to join us on this journey.

Corrective Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.11 am): There are two things I love to talk about: promoting community safety and creating jobs. This government is doing both. We are giving regional Queenslanders jobs and keeping the community safe. This is something about which even the Debbie Downers on the opposition benches can get excited. Queensland Corrective Services has embarked on a recruitment drive, with a target of employing up to 700 new staff over the next 12 months. This is a massive opportunity for people—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House.

Mr RYAN: Some 700 new staff for Queensland is significant.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I just asked the member for Glass House to cease interjecting and you immediately interjected.

Mr RYAN: They hate jobs, particularly public servant jobs, which is of course why the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, that is not helpful. Please continue with the statement.


Mr RYAN: This is a massive opportunity for people in regional Queensland seeking a rewarding, satisfying and secure long-term career. Our corrective services network is expanding and we need more people. We have corrective services facilities right across the state. For example, the \$241 million expansion of Rockhampton's Capricornia Correctional Centre is well advanced, with commissioning due to start next year. When it comes online, we will need more than an extra 200 corrections staff to run the expanded facility.

It is not just Rockhampton that will benefit. There are corrections facilities right across the length and breadth of our great state. Places like Cairns, Townsville, Maryborough, Gatton, Ipswich, the Gold Coast and Brisbane all have correctional centres in their regions. We will be looking for new staff at all of them. It means that there are job opportunities for people right across Queensland. Working in Corrective Services is a rewarding career. It means working in a frontline public safety agency. It means working for the benefit of your fellow Queenslanders by keeping the community safe. I say to people right across Queensland: if you want a rewarding job, if you want a secure job, if you want a job that promotes community safety, Queensland Corrective Services wants you.

This is just the start. We are further expanding the corrections network capacity. In the budget we announced funding for the construction of a new facility at the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct. This project will create more than 400 jobs during construction and, once complete in 2023, the new prison will need more than 500 new staff to operate the facility. We are doing two very significant things for regional Queensland: building the infrastructure our growing state needs and investing in long-term, secure jobs for regional Queenslanders. That is a win-win for Queensland.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.14 am): I table the following Crime and Corruption Commission reports pursuant to sections 314 and 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and sections 138 and 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001: the annual report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 on compliance requirements under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 for assumed identities in relation to corruption offences; the annual report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 on compliance requirements under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for assumed identities in relation to criminal activity; the schedule of controlled operations applications for corruption offences for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019; and the surveillance device warrants annual report 2018-19.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on compliance requirements under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* for assumed identities in relation to corruption offences [[1295](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on compliance requirements under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for assumed identities [[1296](#)].


Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on the schedule of controlled operations applications for corruption offences for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [[1297](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2018-19 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [[1298](#)].

The committee is required to table the reports within 14 sitting days of receipt. The committee received the reports on 18 July 2019. There were no issues of concern identified in the CCC reports.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mine Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—


That this House—

1. directs the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 25 November 2019 on the effectiveness of the mine safety regime in Queensland.
2. In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider:
 - (a) resourcing and operations of the mine safety inspectorate, including the inspectors in regional Queensland;
 - (b) review the legislative framework to ensure it is the most effective in the world to protect mine workers;
 - (c) why the Palaszczuk government dissolved a Mining Safety Advisory Committee and the impact this has had on Queensland mine safety;
 - (d) the circumstances that have led to six fatalities in Queensland mines and quarries in the last 12 months; and
 - (e) the stories of regional Queenslanders employed in the coalmining industry and their views about the health and safety systems in Queensland.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. As opposition leader, the Premier said—

It is time the Premier stood up, took control and showed some leadership.

When will the Premier take her own advice, stand up, take control, show some leadership and sack the Deputy Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question, because once again they use that word ‘sack’ when they know all about it. Those opposite want to talk about leadership. Let me tell them what leadership looks like. It looks like not sacking public servants. That is what leadership is. It is about creating jobs in Queensland. It is about growing our exports in Queensland.

Dr Rowan: Weak Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, you are warned under the standing orders. I ask you to withdraw the language.

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The same member for Moggill who would not stand up for the doctors. Do members remember that debate? That was Campbell Newman’s leadership. The members sitting opposite sacked Chris Davis. They did not want him. He disagreed with the government.

Ms Trad: Actually, he resigned.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Resigned, that is right. He had had enough. He left and we got a better doctor into the House—Dr Lynham. What a great asset he is to this government—a man of compassion.

We know from those opposite that they have no new policies, no new ideas, no vision for Queensland. They have zero vision for Queensland. It is absolutely embarrassing. They wake up every morning and they ask, ‘What do we do today?’ ‘I don’t know.’ They do not know what to do. ‘I know, we’ll talk to Jarrod Bleijie. He might have an idea.’

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, members will use members’ correct titles.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Kawana—the brains trust of the LNP, the worst Attorney-General Queensland has ever seen.

Mr Bleijie: At least we’ve got brains on this side of the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will put that to a referendum. We will put that out for a poll. We had a budget about backing Queenslanders’ jobs, building our regional communities. What do we hear from those opposite? What are their plans? What are their alternatives? They have announced \$7 billion worth of unfunded policies. The state is facing a crippling drought. What do we hear from those opposite about the drought? They are supposed to be the party of the farmers, the party of the bush. They have forgotten the bush. They have forgotten them all. They have turned their back on the regions and they have turned their back on farmers. We will look at the issues. We have 14 communities facing water shortages. We will look at the issues of getting young people into work.

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. Former Labor ministers Miller and Donaldson resigned for far less than what is alleged to have been done by the Deputy Premier. Why are the Premier’s integrity standards so much lower for the Deputy Premier than they are for other members of her government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I have said very clearly in this House, and I will say it again, there are processes that are underway—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, they are.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I have given you enough warning as Speaker. When members are being responsive to the question asked, I expect to be able to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Heaven forbid if the Leader of the Opposition were at the Salem witch trials. Everybody would be found guilty. Let me say very clearly that these are serious issues. There is a process that is underway and that process will be followed.

Let me say this. The Leader of the Opposition called for an audit. There is an audit underway. The Leader of the Opposition, after the Deputy Premier referred herself to the CCC, referred her as well. There is a process—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let the CCC do its job. That is why we have an anti-corruption watchdog in this state. Let me also say this. When those opposite were in government, what did they do about the CCC? They hated the CCC. They politicised the CCC. They would not allow an independent chair of the CCC. They axed staff to the CCC—from memory, around 25. They axed the CCC parliamentary committee in the middle of the night. One of the new members—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I hear the tones of the member for Kawana. You should know all about it, member for Kawana.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Very clearly, we will follow the process.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Mudgeeraba, I would not be interjecting if I were you with your track record.

Ms Bates: In the gutter, where you belong.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think the last person interjecting should be the member for Mudgeeraba. Health issues, was it not?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have asked you to put your comments through the chair. That is the last time I will give you that warning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Mudgeeraba could not front the media because she was shopping.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, do you have anything further in add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Protesters

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Could the Premier update the House on her announcement regarding protecting emergency services from dangerous devices used by extremist protesters?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Rockhampton for this question, because this is a very serious issue and one that I talked about in this House yesterday and one that the police minister and the minister for agriculture spoke about. Let me make it very clear—and let me say it again for the benefit of this House and for the members of the public. Ninety-nine per cent of protesters are doing the right thing. The police have confirmed that to me. However, there remains one per cent who are not doing the right thing. Evidence has been clearly presented by the Police Commissioner and the assistant commissioner to both the police minister and me that dangerous devices are being used in this state that have the potential to cause harm not just to the protester but to the emergency services personnel. Enough is enough. Queenslanders have had enough. It is time to act and we will act.

Let me also make it very clear that these dangerous devices can contain glass and butane gases. That presents enormous complexity. Also, when these devices are used—for example, at railway yards or mining sites—our police have to travel vast distances away from their normal jobs in their local communities to deal with these extremists. I have just been advised that only this morning a person has locked themselves onto equipment with one of these devices at Belyando. I am also advised that police had to travel for over 2½ hours to deal with this issue.

Enough is enough. I reiterate that 99 per cent of protesters are doing the right thing. I encourage people in this state to exercise their democratic right in a lawful way. Everybody on this side would agree with that and I hope that everyone in the parliament would agree with that. When it comes to utilising dangerous devices that have glass inside them and could contain gases, or if a train is suddenly dangerously derailed and in those circumstances a train driver accidentally runs over one of these people because they did not see them, I do not want anyone in this House to feel responsible. They need to be banned. We will give the police the powers to search for these dangerous devices and to take appropriate action.

(Time expired)

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

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. In estimates the CCC chair confirmed that the Deputy Premier had previously called him while allegations were raised that she had failed to deal with complaints of corruption in the Ipswich City Council—a second call, which yesterday the Deputy Premier disputed, in addition to the call about her Woolloongabba house purchase. How can Queenslanders trust anything the Deputy Premier says?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. To be abundantly clear, these were statements that were made in this House. They were not allegations put before the CCC. They went to my time as the local government minister in relation to issues that had been put forward to me and my dealings with those matters. Those matters had been dealt with by the CCC. The call to Mr MacSporran at the time was in relation to correspondence—going over to confirm the fact that these matters had been dealt with by the CCC.

This was not an allegation before the CCC. This went to the administrative handling of matters during my time as the local government minister. The inference yesterday was that this was an allegation that the CCC was investigating or assessing, and that is not the case. As I said yesterday, I will be writing to you about this matter. I think it was deliberately misleading.

Cairns, Infrastructure Projects

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please update the House on plans to refurbish the outstanding Cairns Convention Centre and other projects in the Cairns area?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for that question. The member for Cairns was with me when we announced \$176 million to upgrade the Cairns Convention Centre. The Cairns Convention Centre was the site of the first ever regional sitting of COAG in Australia. I am incredibly proud that I was able to encourage the Prime Minister and other first ministers to travel to the beautiful city of Cairns for the COAG meeting. The Prime Minister did make the statement that it was the first time ever that it was held outside a capital city in a regional setting. Hopefully, it will be a sign of things to come.

Ms Trad: Next time an NRL grand final.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right! That would be fantastic. In relation to the upgrade of the Cairns Convention Centre, we will see a new entry space for 30 exhibitor booths, three meeting rooms covering a total of 420 square metres, a flat floor space for 450 people and a beautiful rooftop banqueting space for 410 people, which I know the people of Cairns and the tourism industry have been after for many years. It will be a premier site for attracting tourism, conventions and exhibitions all over the Asia Pacific region. I could not think of a better place to have a conference for many people than in Cairns itself.

Unfortunately, when the Prime Minister came to Cairns he did not have anything new to give to the people of the federal electorate. The Cairns Base Hospital emergency department needs upgrading, and we have put \$7½ million on the table to help with those preliminary works. We would like to see the federal government come to the party to help with that. The sooner they do that the sooner we can get that underway.

My government is also delivering \$152 million for the Smithfield bypass. The member for Barron River and minister is very excited about that. It is good to see the work underway at the moment. There is \$41.4 million for the Wangetti Trail and \$127 million for the Cairns Shipping Development Project. The member for Cook also joined Minister Lynham and me for the opening of the brand-new Ratch wind farm on the Atherton Tablelands which will be able to supply 80,000 homes. It was great to officially open that wind farm. It is a huge investment, from memory over \$400 million, and will create hundreds of jobs.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. As opposition leader, the Premier said any advice from the Integrity Commissioner should be released publicly. Will the Premier order the Treasurer to publicly release the advice she has received from the Integrity Commissioner, or has the Premier reduced her integrity standards for the Deputy Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the member knows, Integrity Commissioner advice can be released by the member who requests it. However, in this situation the matter has been referred for assessment to the CCC. You need to let the CCC do its job.

Regional Queensland, Economy

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier outline how the Queensland government is building a stronger regional economy?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Gladstone for the question. On this of the House we understand that without strong regions we do not have a strong Queensland economy. Almost 30 per cent of our population resides outside the South-East Queensland corner. A third of our economic output comes from regional Queensland. We know that 80 per cent of all of the exports we ship to the world go from one of our regional ports. Since we were elected in 2015 the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested 70 per cent of our capital works program in areas outside Greater Brisbane. We are determined to make sure that Queenslanders, no matter where they live, have the same access to services and quality of life through quality infrastructure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, member for Glass House and member for Toowoomba South, you have been repeatedly interjecting. You are all warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: Fundamentally, infrastructure is about quality of life, and quality of life can only be secured through a great job, the dignity of work and making sure that we are attracting industry to our state. Our plan is clear. Our plan is working. The jobs figures speak for themselves. All of this is at risk from a Commonwealth government that refuses to give Queensland its fair share. It is at risk from a Commonwealth government that decides to fund infrastructure projects on the never-never. It is at risk from a government that refuses to give Queensland hospitals and schools their fair share.

What do we hear from those opposite? We hear nothing from the Queensland Liberal National Party or from their leader, the member for Nanango, who is too busy focused on recruiting members to their new 'diamond club', or the member for Southport who is too fixated on his business dealings in China. I have found one member of the LNP who is prepared to stand up to Canberra. I did not think it was going to happen, but last night it became clear. The member for Broadwater is prepared to stand up to Scott Morrison on the waste levy. There is a defining difference between the Queensland LNP and the federal LNP, and it comes down to how they deal with waste. They are literally fighting over rubbish. It is only this side of the House that cares about our regions, that does the right thing and stands up to Canberra.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier table all Integrity Commissioner advice in relation to the purchase of a Woolloongabba property by her family trust?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question and I refer him to the answer given by the Premier previously. To make it a little bit easier, as the Premier said, all information—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left! The Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

Ms TRAD: All information has been provided to the CCC to allow them to conduct the investigation that they have commenced because I referred myself and those opposite referred me. Process and the rule of law is very important. Those who do not believe so have received criticism. For example, and I will quote from a particular individual who is in this House who said at the time, referring to the opposition—

It does not believe in the rule of law, it does not believe in a fair trial, it does not believe in putting evidence before the appropriate authorities.

It has no comprehension of a fair trial and the just society that we ought to live in.

...

Let us go through the processes of the investigations ...

...

I say to those opposite: Put the complaints into the appropriate authorities ...

Who was that? It was none other than the member for Kawana! It is okay for the member for Kawana to defend the process when the process applies to him or his own, but if the process was to apply to all then that is not fair; that is not correct.

The process is underway. All of the relevant information is before the appropriate authorities. Members opposite should get out of their way and let them do their job.

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Hydrogen Industry; Energy Industry

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please advise what the government is doing to promote the development of a hydrogen industry in Queensland and is the minister aware of any other approaches to developing new energy industries in Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Redlands for her strong support for the emerging hydrogen industry in Queensland, including the export of Queensland's first green hydrogen sourced from her electorate of Redlands. Queensland is becoming known as the sunrise state, the home of new and innovative industries including hydrogen. Last week I met with a high-level delegation from South Korea, including a member of the National Assembly, to hear about their nation's plan to build a future powered by hydrogen. Their modelling predicts that hydrogen will account for 18 per cent of the world's energy needs by 2050, generating US\$2.5 trillion in value add and creating over 30 million new jobs around the globe. South Korea is looking to Queensland as a key partner in their hydrogen supply chain.

Of course, the Queensland LNP has a different approach to the future of energy. Members opposite will be pleased to hear this. Our plan is about coal- and gas-fired power that is publicly owned, as well as solar farms, wind farms, biofuel and bioenergy, including green hydrogen. Their plan is all about Geiger counters and radiation protection suits. The Queensland LNP's push for nuclear power champions the most primitive energy source since Tom Hanks created fire in *Cast Away*. Members should make no mistake: the Queensland LNP is absolutely at the forefront of this with Keith Pitt, Ken O'Dowd and even Senator James McGrath, who was in parliament last night trawling around his nuclear blueprint. This is being led by the Queensland LNP.

The LNP's answer to climate change is to generate nuclear waste with a half-life of 200,000 years. Queensland: beautiful one day, radioactive the next, and the next, and the next for hundreds of years. The member for Nanango is on the threshold of a legacy no-one thought could be more toxic than that of Campbell Newman, that is, a nuclear legacy for Queensland. They do not believe in climate change, because the hard right extremists are now in control of the LNP. They do not believe in climate change. They do not believe in women's rights. They are the standard bearers for the sanctity of marriage—just ask Barnaby Joyce!

Let me be clear: the extremists, the cranks and the weirdos of the hard right are taking control of the LNP. Bernard Gaynor is getting into the LNP and last night we had Lyle Shelton, an LNP staffer of the member for Oodgeroo, in the parliament. The cranks and weirdos are taking over the LNP. There is a reason that the Leader of the Opposition will not say no to nuclear. If she says no to the boys in the right wing, she knows she will be next. Only Labor stands against a nuclear powered Queensland.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that, in all the Deputy Premier's representations or communications in relation to the Inner City South State Secondary College and Cross River Rail, the Deputy Premier complied with standing order 262?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that on notice.

Local Government Partnership, Jobs

Mrs LAUGA: 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 strategy to partner with local councils to create jobs in new industries?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question and I know that the member for Keppel is singularly focused on creating jobs in her community. As we know, the government is very proud of the fact that we have created more than 200,000 jobs because we have—

Mrs Frecklington: Two hundred thousand jobs?

Ms JONES: Yes, that is correct. We have created 200,000 jobs, 30,000 of them in the tourism industry. If I was the Leader of the Opposition, I would not want to talk about creating jobs when the only record they have involves sacking. We saw unemployment reach levels higher than we had seen in more than a decade under the global financial crisis, when she was the self-confessed right hand of and assistant treasurer to Campbell Newman.

Dr Miles: Very proud.

Ms JONES: She is very proud of that record. That is why people such as the Toowoomba mayor, Paul Antonio, the Gladstone mayor, Matt Burnett, and the Mackay mayor, Greg Williamson, want to come on board with the Palaszczuk government in our partnership with MIT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and its Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program. We have announced a partnership with the councils so that we can work with them to create new jobs in new industries in regional Queensland.

The partnerships that our side of politics rejects are ones such as are revealed in today's *Courier-Mail*. Lyle Shelton is now a paid-up member who works for the opposition here in Queensland. Who does Lyle Shelton have his photograph taken with? He has his photograph taken with the Proud Boys. I will table a tweet from Lyle Shelton, an employee of those opposite, who said, 'Good to catch up with the Proud Boys at the Mt Gravatt Bowls Club.'

Tabled paper: Article from the *Eternity News*, dated 18 June 2019, titled 'Lyle Shelton, right-wing men, a drag queen and a split in the Right' [[1301](#)].

Who are the Proud Boys? For the benefit of the young women in the gallery, I will tell the House who the Proud Boys are. They are a far right Neo-Fascist organisation that admits only men as members and promotes political violence. They also say that they glorify a time when boys were boys and girls were girls. Can the Leader of the Opposition explain why she has employed in her ranks someone who harks back to the days when the housewife was revered and girls were girls? Can she explain to my five-year-old daughter what they mean by 'girls will be girls'? We know what that means. We know it is about not allowing women to be educated, we know it is about not giving them the best chance in life and we know it is certainly not about them having an equal standing in society.

I am sick to death of the conservatives who are taking over the LNP in Queensland. We know that the leafy Liberals whom I grew up with are the most endangered species in Queensland right now. It is about time that the Leader of the Opposition stops trying to appeal to the latte set and—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling for the next question, Premier, I wanted to clarify your answer to the previous question. Will you be taking that on notice under standing order 113(3)?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

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

Ms SIMPSON: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier confirm that, in all communications and representations in relation to the Inner City South State Secondary College and Cross River Rail, the Deputy Premier disclosed her ownership of a Woolloongabba property in her family trust, located in the proposed catchment area of the new school and adjacent to a new Cross River Rail station, in compliance with standing order 262?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question, which was very well read out.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I was repeatedly calling the House to order. I will not have a repeat of that. I will start throwing out members.

Ms TRAD: As I said, I thank the member for the question. I refer the member to the responses to questions given at the estimates committee hearing only last month by both myself and the registrar of interests, the Clerk of the Parliament. I can confirm that all matters are before the CCC for them to conduct their assessment.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Electoral Donations

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the minister outline to the House the Palaszczuk government's achievements in electoral transparency and any alternative policy approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Jordan for her question. I know she absolutely supports the need for transparency around electoral donations in this state and is very proud to be part of a government that made sure that one of its first acts as a government was to bring in the \$1,000 threshold so we have transparency around political donations in this state. When the LNP came into government in 2012 they lifted the threshold to align it with the Commonwealth threshold which, at that stage, was around \$12½ thousand. I can advise members of the House that as at 1 July 2019 that threshold has now hit—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport, you are warned under the standing orders. You will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: As at 1 July this year that threshold has now hit \$14,000 under the Commonwealth legislation. That means that if the LNP were still in government someone could walk into the electorate office of the Leader of the Opposition, for example, with \$13,990 and they would never have to disclose who that donation was made by and to. We brought in the \$1,000 disclosure threshold and did not make it subject to CPI so that we could permanently make sure that people would know with real-time disclosure who is donating, how much and to whom.

We know that there has been an announcement recently by the LNP—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. I gave very clear instructions, member.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 10.51 am.

Mrs D'ATH: We know that there is a new membership for the LNP called the diamond membership. Conveniently, it costs \$990—\$10 below the threshold for disclosure. Why is it called diamond? Is it because it is a marriage of convenience maybe or is it just that brown paper bag membership just does not have the same ring to it. What does this membership get people? According to the *Australian* article—

LNP acting president Dave Hutchinson told the party's state council that "diamond membership" would carry all the rights and privileges of a member, and allow free registration for state convention, state council meetings, free admission to gala dinners, cocktail receptions, and other fundraisers.

Pay \$990 and get free admission to fundraisers. Does anyone see a problem with that? I do not call that free—it is \$990 that they do not have to disclose because it is conveniently \$10 below the threshold.

The people of Queensland have the right to know what the LNP is up to. How many donors do they already have on their diamond membership or brown paper bag membership? How many have signed up for the brown paper bag membership? Who is denoting? This is appalling. The LNP should come clean and scrap this new membership.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Traffic Congestion

Mr DAMETTO: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The daily peak hour traffic jams at the notorious North Shore Boulevard, Shaw Road and Woolcock Street intersection is only worsening due to the expanding number of residents in the northern beaches and Bohle Plains area. Will the minister commit to future planning and development to relieve this bottleneck?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. In the Townsville area we are doing some broad traffic modelling which involves some assessments to look at priorities into the future. While at the moment there is no funding allocated for this intersection—and I understand there are some congestion issues in the local area—I am certainly happy for TMR staff to meet on site with the member to discuss the intersection in question and for us to look into it further. I am happy to report back to the member as we work through that.

Aged-Care Facilities

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Can I place on record our thoughts and wishes to Matt Scott, his family and all at the North Queensland Cowboys after Matt suffered a stroke on Sunday. Will the minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to protect elderly Queenslanders in aged-care facilities?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I caution you against making statements during a question. I appreciate the subject matter and I share your wishes, but it is inappropriate.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. I know that over recent months he has heard many horror stories about how elderly Queenslanders are being treated in aged-care facilities, as we all have as the media has reported on events at the royal commission into aged care. For the benefit of the House, I would like to read from a transcript of a triple 0 received by the Ambulance Service on 11 July 2019. It reads—

Transcript of Operator: Ambulance, what is the town or suburb of your emergency?

Caller: Oh hi. Um Nerang Qld.

Operator: What's the exact address in Nerang?

Caller: 62 Lawrence Drive.

Operator: Is that Earle Haven?

Caller: That is. Look I need to do, uh, like a bulk one. We've just gone into ... administration and staff have gone home and it's not safe for our residents to be here anymore.

Operator: Oh.

Caller: So I'm going to need to pick up any many people as I can and take them to as many places as they possibly can.

Operator: Oh gosh. How many ... how many potential patients are we looking at? ...

Caller: Ah, we have, I'm going to say, about 60.

...

Operator: Okay, so have all the staff just left, have they?

Caller: They have gone home, yes.

I table that transcript for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Transcript, dated 11 July 2019, of triple 0 call from Earle Haven [\[1302\]](#).

After all we have heard through our own parliamentary committee, the royal commission and Earle Haven, the only people left defending the for-profit aged-care sector are the LNP. The Palaszczuk government believes that residents, potential residents and their families deserve to know how many staff work there. We do not think it is too much to ask for an aged-care facility to tell us how many staff they employ. We do not think it is too much to ask to put that on a website for all to see. We have even said that if they do not want to do that they do not have to, they just have to tell us that they will refuse.

This week we learned that the LNP, through the Morrison government—and I table their submission—have opposed our proposal to disclose staffing levels in nursing homes.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 August 2019, from State Manager—Queensland and the Northern Territory, Australian Government Department of Health, Ms Nicole Jarvis, to the Deputy Director-General, Clinical Excellence Queensland, Queensland Health, Dr John Wakefield PSM, regarding feedback on the draft Health Transparency Bill 2009 and Health Transparency Regulation 2019 [\[1303\]](#).

Are they saying that these nursing homes should not even know how many staff they have or that they should not have to tell anyone how many staff they have? The LNP, through the Morrison government, have refused to even rule out a High Court challenge to our proposal to legislate this transparency. It is shameful and about time they stood up.

(Time expired)

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you were a little bit too late. You are warned under the standing orders.

Barbagallo, Mr D

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. Now that the Premier has had 24 hours to locate the required documents, will the Premier produce to the House the declarations of interest by David Barbagallo and also his conflict of interest management plan?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said yesterday in this House, my chief of staff has assured me that all processes have been followed and integrity advice has been sought every step of the way.

Waste Management, Jobs

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting new jobs in waste management?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and for her continued advocacy for better waste management for recycling and for sustainability in this state. The member for Ipswich, like all members on this side, support job-generating opportunities in this state. We also know that better management of waste and the support of the recycling industry does exactly that: it provides an opportunity for job-generating opportunities right across Queensland. We are seeing some of that already happening. Our hugely successful container refund scheme has generated more than 600 jobs in its first 10 months of existence. We know that already there are about 11,000 jobs in the waste and recycling industry. With the reintroduction of the waste levy, we will see another 3,000 jobs over the years to come in that industry.

In terms of the waste levy, we made some initial announcements around funding that will support more jobs into the future: 105 per cent of the cost of municipal solid waste to councils; providing extra funding for councils to look innovatively at the way they manage waste, potentially creating more jobs; \$6 million was announced—and this might be of interest to the member for Traeger—for the regional transport of recyclable materials, ensuring that there are opportunities in the transport and recycling industry for jobs; and \$1.8 million to the CCIQ to help small and medium sized businesses reduce their waste and their use of energy et cetera to free up funding to potentially create more jobs.

We know that the federal government has finally come on board and can see the opportunities in terms of recycling. At the COAG meeting that the Premier attended we heard from the Prime Minister, who talked about recycling opportunities in this country. He referred to the use of waste levies to be able to support recycling opportunities and jobs in our country. I look forward to the meeting of environment ministers to discuss more about the details with regard to that.

We have seen that the state LNP are hopelessly divided on this matter—hopelessly divided—and out of step with community sentiment, with their own federal colleagues and with their own Prime Minister. Last night during the disallowance motion, proudly led by the member for Broadwater, who was out there on his own—let me tell you, Mr Speaker, that he cut a pretty lonely figure, I must say—he put together his dream team. His very first speaker to back in his motion was the member for Burnett. What did he say? He did not deny that the waste levy is going to be important. That was his contribution. They are hopelessly divided. That is why this government is backing jobs and recycling in this state. Those opposite are hopelessly divided.

(Time expired)

Barbagallo, Mr D

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the payment of \$267,500 of taxpayer funds to a company part owned by David Barbagallo. Will the Premier now order her chief of staff to immediately repay these taxpayer funds?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Very clearly, the opposition asked for an audit. I initiated the audit. The director-general has chosen the company and the audit is underway. Okay? The process is underway. It is very clear.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Tolls

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the tolling arrangements for the soon to be officially opened Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and how these arrangements will impact on our freight industry?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Ipswich West for his question. He is a very passionate advocate for roads and road upgrades in his area and the Darling Downs area nearby. I am very pleased to announce to the chamber that the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, as has previously been indicated, will open to the public on Sunday, 8 September. There will be a number of public events over that weekend on the new road itself and in Toowoomba ahead of the road opening to traffic.

I am also pleased to confirm that the Palaszczuk government will not be supporting the LNP's plan to make the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Australia's most expensive toll road. The crossing is supposed to be an economic enabler, supporting jobs on the Darling Downs and in the surrounding south-west region and supporting the regional economy. The LNP's business case for this project was going to create the highest toll in Australia. That would have undermined jobs and undermined the economy. They kept this secret for seven years. For seven years they kept this a secret and it has only been revealed in recent times. There are some serious questions to answer because it certainly would have damaged the trucking industry, the freight industry and the economic viability of South-West Queensland and the Darling Downs. When they signed off on that business case in 2012—let us be clear what they signed off on. It is very quiet over there.

Mr Watts: Because we're listening. I'm happy to interject if you want me to.

Mr BAILEY: Here they come. They have woken up.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Toowoomba North. Member, he was not going directly at you as an individual member of the House, so you will take the advice.

Mr BAILEY: Let us be clear what the facts are. When the LNP signed off on their business case for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing in 2012, they were going to make it a toll road and charge trucks the equivalent in today's value of \$34.25 under a brand-new super heavy vehicle class so they could gouge the trucking industry. The doomsaying Leader of the Opposition and the member for Toowoomba North were part of the LNP government that approved that business case, but they did not share that with the public, did they? There are very serious questions to answer about why they wanted to impose the largest toll in Australia on the Toowoomba region and not tell the people of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs about it. They were keeping it secret, and their traffic projections were out more than 50 per cent.

Labor does not support this highway robbery by the LNP. We scrapped the LNP's super heavy vehicle class rip-off that they had proposed. The maximum toll will be \$22.85 under the Palaszczuk Labor government because we believe in jobs and we believe in economic development. We do not believe in destroying the economy like those opposite did when they were in government when growth fell to 0.7 per cent—an anaemic level—and the jobless rate went up to 7.1 per cent. We will invest in the economy and we will invest in jobs in stark contrast to their poor record.

(Time expired)

Barbagallo, Mr D

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the payment of \$267,500 of taxpayer funds to a company part owned by David Barbagallo. Will the Treasurer release the Business Development Fund application made by Mr Barbagallo's company?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. I refer him again to the response given by the Premier. This matter is being currently audited by an external auditor who those opposite tried to smear yesterday with a baseless smear that was fuelled by shocking information—porous information, quite frankly. As I was saying, this matter has been responded to by the Premier. It is currently being audited. Let the audit take place. Let the CMC have a look at the outcome—

Mr Powell: The CMC?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms TRAD: Let the CCC have a look at the outcome of that audit—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders. I cautioned you during the previous answer.

Ms TRAD: Once they have a look at that information they will make a determination.

Regional Queensland, Police Resources

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

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Logan because he is very excited about the Palaszczuk government investing its record police budget in his electorate with the construction of a new police facility—the Logan Village Yarrabilba police facility. We continue to invest in our police. Those opposite like to say things about our investment, but what they miss is that it is a record police budget with more police on the way. We are growing the numbers of police by 535 police personnel by 30 June 2022. They will be deployed right across the state including in the member for Logan's electorate.

We are a government that supports our police and invests in our police. We are investing in new facilities such as the one I mentioned in the member for Logan's electorate. We are also investing in facilities such as at Beaudesert, just down the road from Logan—a new police facility for the Beaudesert police. I was very fortunate to visit the team at Beaudesert only a few weeks ago. They are very excited about the new facility. They will soon be moving into temporary accommodation while the new facility is constructed. They are, as I said, very excited.

Right across the state we are investing our record police budget in new facilities for our police. We are also supporting our police with new resources such as body worn cameras for all uniformed first responders. This is something that the LNP would never have supported, because when in government what did they say to our officers about body worn cameras? 'Buy your own.' That is what they said to our police. When our police said, 'We need more resources,' what did the LNP say? 'Buy your own.' Our government backs our police. We do not just build new facilities for our police; we invest in additional resources for our police.

The LNP continues to show their lack of respect for police. Not only do they talk down our investments in police but when push comes to shove about backing our police they run the other way. Let us again have a look at their record when they were in government. Not only did they cut police positions when they were in government but they failed to properly fund resources right across the state. They failed to properly fund resources for our police when it came to new vehicles and accoutrements. They failed to deliver for our police. Contrast that to our government. Since coming to power there has been a 20 per cent increase in the police budget. This year there is a record police budget and more police than ever before in Queensland. Our government backs police. When it comes to police, those opposite cut, sack and sell.

(Time expired)

Crime and Corruption Commission, Jurisdiction

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General advise the House whether the Crime and Corruption Commission has jurisdiction to deal with the Ministerial Code of Conduct and the standing orders of this House?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am taking advice from the table. I ask for your patience. Member for Surfers Paradise, the way that I heard the question is that essentially you are seeking what could amount to a legal opinion, so I rule the question out of order.

Racing Industry, Events

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister update the House on the outcomes of the Winter Racing Carnival, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches to racing in Queensland?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Aspley for the question and I note his great interest in the racing industry across three codes. I can advise the member and the House that across all three codes the Winter Racing Carnival was a spectacular success. There were many highlights which I am very pleased to report to the House.

Turnover at the carnival was up three per cent in 2019 to more than \$274 million despite, as some members of the House will be aware, some heavy tracks and inclement weather on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. As a result of the Channel 7 broadcast of the four big days of the Brisbane portion of the carnival, there was a metropolitan audience of about 2.6 million. This, of course, was in addition to the international audience, with broadcasts to more than 60 countries. I can also advise the House that, as a result of the boost in prize money provided to Racing Queensland by the Palaszczuk Labor government, an extra 11 per cent in prize money was on offer—a record \$16.3 million.

A particular highlight of the extra prize money was the running of the Sky Racing Brisbane Cup. Worth \$375,000, it is now the third richest greyhound race in the country. This is a great example of this government supporting the code of greyhound racing. It would be remiss of me not to make mention of the return of Eagle Farm to the winter carnival schedule. The quality of the track was the talk of the southern jockeys, with many rating it the best racing surface in the country. My personal highlight of the carnival was the running of the TAB Battle of the Bush, which in its second year was won by Hanover Square, trained by Bevan Johnson from Miles. This is yet another great initiative making Queensland unique in its racing offering.

I have been asked if there are any other approaches to racing in Queensland, and the simple answer is that no-one knows. While the Palaszczuk government has given racing a rails run, the opposition seems to be three wide and tiring fast. The Palaszczuk government is committed to all parts of our industry, particularly racing in the bush and the furthering of TAB clubs and extra money for TAB events right across the state. In this regard I want to acknowledge the previous minister for her \$70 million Country Racing Package initiative, which has made a magnificent difference to racing throughout the state. We are focused on what we are doing for country racing. I cannot say the same for those opposite. It is very unclear what their position is.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. I table tweets by the Premier and Deputy Premier dated 9 November 2013 calling for the former CMC chair to be sacked while he was under an Ethics Committee investigation.

Tabled paper: Tweet by @AnnastaciaMP, dated 9 November 2013, and a response from @jackietrad, dated 9 November 2013, regarding the former Crime and Misconduct Commission [1304].

Why does the Premier now have a double standard, saying that the Deputy Premier should not be sacked immediately for her actions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to take that on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can I confirm you will be taking that on notice under the same standing order?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Buy Queensland

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach to procurement will ensure that taxpayers' money is invested in businesses that do the right thing by their workers? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

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

Mr de BRENNI: I am pleased to announce to the House that we have enhanced the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland procurement policy. From 1 August this year an ethical supply threshold will apply to suppliers and their supply chains who wish to supply to the Queensland government. Under this Labor government's procurement rules, if you are a business in Queensland you will not compete in government procurement with companies that engage in wage theft. That is right: you will not have to compete against companies that engage in sham contracting, you will not have to compete against companies that engage unlicensed labour hire workers and you will not have to compete against companies that pay wages below the award.


We all do remember that the LNP voted against holding the wage theft inquiry in the first place and they voted against the Buy Queensland policy back in 2017. The LNP voted against a fair go for ethical businesses in Queensland. They voted against a fair go for working Queenslanders—they always do.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—


1. That all remaining stages of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 22 August 2019.
2. That the minister be called in reply no later than 5.35 pm on Thursday, 22 August 2019.

Yesterday I postponed the debate on the business program motion to give consideration to issues raised in the Business Committee meeting on Monday evening and the request of the opposition to have additional time to debate the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

We have given consideration to that. As we did not use all of the time allotted yesterday to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, it means that we do have additional time this week to proceed to debate this bill. It is an important bill. The public expects us to debate legislation in this House. We will shortly finish the debate on the estimates reports, and it is appropriate that we move on to legislative debate on bills on the *Notice Paper*.

The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is an important piece of legislation which the people of Queensland expect us to debate and, importantly, vote on this week so we can implement these initiatives as quickly as possible and begin dealing with some of the important factors facing youth justice and the people of Queensland.

We have allotted time for this debate because we believe that, as important as it is to debate this bill this week, it is equally important to have this bill dealt with this week and to move on to other legislation in future sitting weeks. We believe there is adequate time allotted to this bill to allow for that to occur in this sitting week.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.19 am): We have not sat for some time, and I came to this week's Business Committee motion with a renewed sense of optimism and cooperation. I have been criticised somewhat for saying the same thing over and over again on the Business Committee motion and whingeing that the opposition and crossbench have not been given adequate time to address the important issues of the House, so I did come with a renewed sense of optimism and hope for the future. I was trying to give the Leader of the House the complete benefit of the doubt when she said she is genuine about listening to the opposition's hopes and dreams and all those things and I believed that would be given due consideration.

I left that meeting agreeing with the Leader of the House that we would hold over the Business Committee motion until today because the Leader of the House had given an undertaking that she would go and talk to the minister responsible for the important area of youth justice and come back to the House. I thought, 'Well, that's good. This finally might be what the government had intended.' However, I then got a text message from the Leader of the House and, as is the case today, the guillotine is on so all my sense of optimism and hope is absolutely down the drain and we are back where we were some years ago to the points I am now going to make again for the 300th time in this place.

The youth justice bill is an important bill. If we look at the unfortunate booming crime rates across Queensland, if we look at the children-in-watch-house catastrophe and crisis that has been overseen by the minister responsible for youth justice, if we look at the youth detention crisis, if we look at the debacle of putting 17-year-olds back into youth detention centres and if we look at the hundreds of millions of dollars the government is now having to spend to fix its own mess in the youth justice space, one would think the parliament would be given adequate time to address all of these issues in the debate on the youth justice bill.

The Leader of the House came in here just now and said that, because we did not use all the time in the first debate, there is additional time. For goodness sake, we saved 40 minutes, if that, yesterday on the one debate about the parliament funding. That will equate essentially to less than five hours of debate. If that is divided by two, it is 2½ hours, and then we take off the half an hour that the minister gets to reply. That is now about two hours of debate time for the opposition and crossbench to debate the youth justice crisis, children in police watch houses for days and days at a time—which is a terrible situation—and 17-year-olds being transferred to detention centres. That is not enough time to debate the important issues.


On Monday in the Business Committee, the Leader of the House gave an undertaking that she would go and talk to the powers that be and try to get us more time. I thought what would happen is that, if we did not finish the debate this Thursday, it would go over to the next sitting, and guess where we are sitting next, folks? We are in Townsville. Do members think this Labor government wants to discuss youth crime in the heart of Townsville? I do not think so. That is why the guillotine is on. The government will not front the people of Townsville, who are adversely impacted by the youth crime rate across the state, and have all the drama central to the North and Far North Queensland region. They are too scared to front up to the Townsville community.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the Leader of the House's interjection. We on this side are happy to talk about the crime rate in Townsville any day of the week. If they think stopping this bill being debated in Townsville will stop us talking about crime in Townsville, they have got another think coming. In fact, I have seen the program. We are organising a crime forum in Townsville, and I bet you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, that will be well attended. More importantly, the three North Queensland members do not want to talk about the crime rate in Townsville. Just imagine legislation on youth justice and crime being debated in Townsville and the three North Queensland members not wanting to speak on that bill. They would be rightfully crucified by their local community and paper.

Despite the government saying, 'Let's talk. Let's go away. Let's suspend the motion for a day. Let's have a chat,' the reality is what the government wants, the government gets. That is the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is the arrogance we have seen. There is not sufficient time to deal with these important issues caused by the Labor government in Queensland.

(Time expired)


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): I have a message for the member for Kawana: hold on to your hopes and dreams; hold on to your optimism; do not be forlorn, because the government has taken on board the contribution that you made on Monday night. We did listen to your request for more time to deal with the youth justice bill, and that is why the Leader of the House carried over the motion to today so we could see exactly how much time was left and ensure that extra time could be provided. I think there is something like 40 minutes of extra time according to the member for Kawana's calculation. Of course, if we shortened this debate a little, that would give more time for the youth justice debate that the member wants to talk about, but let us not get into that hypocrisy.

The member for Kawana was surprisingly frank, actually. He outlined exactly why the LNP want to extend this debate, and that is because they want to filibuster. They do not want to filibuster just through a sitting; they want to filibuster all the way from here to Townsville. That is why they want to extend the debate.

Here is the thing. I understand why their party room wants to do that. I understand why the leader and their strategy group—I assume they have some kind of arrangement there, although it is hard to observe—want to extend this debate. What I do not understand is why the member for Kawana wants to extend this debate. Just as many members on the other side might want to talk about youth justice, I am sure that, if the debate time was longer, there would be more time for people on this side of the House to talk about your record, member for Kawana. We could talk about boot camps and we could talk about catching helicopters to visit boot camps. There would be extra time for us to talk about how you personally failed on youth justice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Murrumba, please speak through the chair.

Dr MILES: Thank you. That is why those in the decision-making roles over there have hung the member for Kawana out to dry, but I will help him out. I will add another 2½ minutes to the debate time. I endorse the motion to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): In the spirit of the member for Murrumba, I will speak very slowly and very quietly to have maximum impact. There is a great struggle between the member for Murrumba and the member for Woodridge with regard to who is revelling the most in the Deputy Premier's issues of integrity. The member for Murrumba would love to take that role as the head of the left faction. It is one of his life goals.

It is ironic that we are debating how long we can discuss and debate the youth justice bill. What does this government know about justice? What justice is there when the parliament cannot debate a bill for as long as it sees fit? What justice is there in that? What justice is there when not every MP can get up and speak on an 'important bill', according to the words of the Attorney-General? As has already been outlined by the Manager of Opposition Business, we will have a very limited time to speak. There

may be 12 or 13 speakers when there are 38 members on this side of parliament. What justice is there when each member cannot get up and speak on a bill that has incredible relevance, I would say, to every electorate in this state?

We have a youth crime epidemic. There is no doubt that the epicentre is in Townsville, but it is also happening right across the state. It is happening in my electorate on the north side of Brisbane. It is happening in the outback and in Warrego. Everybody is putting up their hands—Nambour, right across the state, down on the Gold Coast.

If there was justice that should mean that each MP in this House would be able to speak for their allocated time. What justice is there when this Labor government has truncated the hours of parliament under the guise of being family friendly when we all know that that has meant—

Ms Jones: That is right, because women belong in the home like Lyle says!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Cooper.

Mr MANDER: What?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have the call.

Mr MANDER: That has meant that under the guise of family-friendly hours regional members have to leave their families a day early to get down here by Monday morning. It is fantastic for people who live in the city. They are so-called champions of the regions but do not care about the regional members who have to leave their families a day early. What justice is there when they want to knock off at 7.30 every night, again, not allowing us enough time for debate, so they can spend taxpayers' money on function after function with no bipartisan support—

Mr Watts: No invitation.

Mr MANDER: There has been no invitation to MPs on this side of the House on the majority of occasions. Where is the justice in all of those things?

We will get up at this time at every sitting of parliament to talk about the injustice of not being able to speak for as long as we want, for as long as the House wants and for every member to have their say on our incredibly important business. What is at the heart of justice? It is integrity and trust. Over the last five years, but particularly during the last six weeks to two months, this government has shown that they cannot be trusted, that they have no integrity, that the standards they proclaim and scream about from the rooftops every day are just empty words because they do not back that up with any action. This is a classic example of that. The Queensland public have woken up to what a bunch of frauds this government are.

Mr Stevens: Arrogant.

Mr MANDER: Arrogant. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr Watts: Weak.

Mrs Frecklington: Weak.

Mr MANDER: Yes, that as well. It is a shame that we have to have this type of debate every sitting of parliament about what is at the centre of democracy. At the centre of democracy is elected members of parliament having their say and not being forced to truncate debate on what is a very important issue.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 47:

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.

NOES, 45:

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.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.


PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCES (INTERSTATE TRANSFER) BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.37 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the interstate transfer of community based sentences imposed in participating jurisdictions to be transferred, by registration, between participating jurisdictions. I table the bill and the explanatory notes and I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019 [[1299](#)].

Tabled paper: Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019, explanatory notes [[1300](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. This bill creates a new standalone act in Queensland to implement a Corrective Services Ministers Conference agreement to establish a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate the interstate transfer of community based sentences. This bill extends existing legislation, in place to facilitate the interstate transfer of prisoners and parolees, to community based offenders. In doing so, it facilitates Queensland's participation in the national scheme, joining Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Community based sentences are a vital component of the criminal justice system. They are crucial in reducing the risk of reoffending and achieving rehabilitation outcomes through supervision. They also divert offenders from a sentence of imprisonment.

According to the 2019 *Report on government services*, in 2017-18, on any given day, an average of 69,634 offenders were serving community corrections orders in Australia. As identified in the Queensland Parole System Review, it is important that community based sentences are flexible and support effective rehabilitation, reintegration and supervision opportunities for offenders.

In Queensland, community based sentences include probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. For the majority of these orders, there are comparable community based sentences in other jurisdictions across Australia, depending on the specific conditions imposed.

This bill supports our government's commitment to the 'keep communities safe' priority in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities and enhances the flexibility of community based sentences by providing a formal process for offenders to have their sentence transferred, registered and managed interstate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders for the time and resources they generously continued to provide during consultation on this legislative reform. I acknowledge that stakeholders supported and welcomed this bill.

The passing of this bill is an essential component to ensuring Queensland's participation in the national scheme for the formal transfer and supervision of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. There are many reasons why offenders may wish to transfer to a new jurisdiction. Notable reasons include proximity to improved family and community support, to escape domestic violence, or to increase employment or study opportunities. Allowing a transfer to an area where the offender has good support increases the probability of the offender fulfilling the sentence, being positively reintegrated into the community and desisting from further offending.

For Queensland and New South Wales in particular, the current management of offenders across a shared border is difficult and unsustainable, presenting a number of risks which are resolved through this legislation. Under the bill, if an offender is approved for interstate transfer, the sentence is registered in the interstate jurisdiction and the offender is then managed in the new jurisdiction as though a court in the new jurisdiction had imposed the sentence. This includes dealing with any breach of order. For the purpose of review or appeal of the sentence, the originating jurisdiction retains responsibility.

This bill provides the ability to impose certain preconditions prior to registration of the sentence or deny registration of an interstate community based sentence even if all eligibility criteria and conditions are met. Additionally, the bill provides authority for ministers to enter into arrangements to facilitate the administration of community based sentences for offenders travelling to or residing in Queensland or an interstate jurisdiction and not subject to transfer and registration under the scheme.

As a government, we are committed to the safety and security of our community. It is always a priority for our government. Importantly, this bill resolves the risks and issues identified with the current informal administrative interstate transfer arrangements, including the limited opportunities for enforcement or extradition action following an offender's contravention of their order without significant

expenditure of resources by the multiple jurisdictions involved. The involvement of Queensland in this scheme highlights the contribution this state is making to support a cohesive national approach to corrective services provision and enforcement. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.43 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

Resumed from 20 August (see p. 2328).


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (11.44 am): I thank all members who attended the committee hearing, although we know that once again some found it difficult to ask relevant questions pertaining to the budget. As an educator, I understand the importance of asking good questions in order to be afforded the answers one seeks. The 2019 winner for 'inability to choreograph or rephrase questions to reflect the standing orders' must be the member for Toowoomba North. Further, I felt professionally empathetic and embarrassed for the opposition members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee as they were continually denied the opportunity to ask questions by their self-assured, learned scholar colleagues.

Estimates is a necessary process allowing all members of parliament, in particular the non-government members, to question members of the executive and senior public servants on the array of positive programs and initiatives being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Transparency and accountability are the hallmark of good government, and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government. Estimates provides members opportunities to explore areas of government spending, and the facts speak for themselves. On review of *Hansard* and on a rough calculation of questions, I have been advised that government members asked 50 questions and non-government members asked 132. This means that 27.47 per cent of questions were asked by the government and 72.52 per cent of questions were asked by non-government members.

I see firsthand in my community the record investments in police and the benefits of the expenditure noted during the estimates process—cutting-edge technology, new body worn cameras for every first responder police officer, QLITE devices, tasers, automatic numberplate recognition software, two brand-new high-performance vehicles, a flexible, agile and world-class leading borderless policing model and, of course, the new Wishart Road Crash Rescue Support Training Facility based at the Wishart Fire Station. I take this opportunity to thank the large number of public servants who prepared the comprehensive briefs for ministers and senior officials on all matters relating to the Palaszczuk government's budget.

As a long-term employee with the Public Service, I am well aware of the degree of rigour that exists regarding the expenditure of public money—as there should be. As elected officials, we should strive every day to ensure that public money is expended for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Of

course, the estimates process is a vital process to allow all members, in particular non-government members, to hold the government to account. Finally, I thank the Attorney-General, ministers Ryan and Crawford and their officials for their leadership, professionalism and commitment to the estimates process. I commend the Palaszczuk government's budget and the report to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.47 am): I note that the member for Mansfield opened with the words 'transparency' and 'accountability' in relation to the Palaszczuk government. Those are important words as I go through my few words today, particularly in relation to the justice and Attorney-General portfolio.

I note that the statement of reservation dealt with the Deputy Premier in relation to the CCC investigation and assessment of a house purchased by her in Woolloongabba. However, it was the facts that came to light during the estimates hearing that are very concerning. We learned that the Deputy Premier called the chair of the CCC after a referral had been made to that body. It is important to understand the role that body has in this state as being the primary body established to fight and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in the public sector in Queensland. Its powers are governed by the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. As such, this is a critical body that has enormous coercive powers and provides a very important protective security net for the public. This was highlighted by the then CMC investigation into Gordon Nuttall. We know that the outcome of that investigation led to charges, the finding of guilt and imprisonment.

The chair of the CCC advised that no other minister involved in corruption allegations had been in contact with him about those allegations and had labelled the phone call by the Deputy Premier as 'unwise' and 'unusual'. I suspect that the words here have a more stinging meaning and that the person in the street may have used more colourful language, but the intent is to portray a real concern and what I would call a serious breach of protocol as a major concern for the CCC.

While the CCC were only assessing the matters, the fact that the Deputy Premier made contact shows an appalling lack of judgement that led to the chair having to excuse himself. The chair in these circumstances had no option, but the reality is that he should never have been put in the position to have to make that choice.

It also reflects on the Deputy Premier. She has been a member of this House since 28 April 2012—a length of service of over seven years. She has held very senior positions in the government in that time. That she believed phoning the chair of the CCC was proper is beyond comprehension. One would anticipate that a member of the House who reaches the lofty heights of the Deputy Premier now and in the past would have a much better understanding of the protocols involved in relation to any matter before the CCC. As I said, the fact that a phone call was made reflects upon her and her practices in her position. This action alone raises serious questions about her judgement generally. Sometimes it is the small transgressions that are the cornerstones of character.

The other comment I wish to make relates to the office of the Public Trustee, referred to in the statement of reservation. My comment relates to Mr Peter Carne, the CEO of the Public Trustee, who is under investigation. I know Peter Carne from years ago as a practitioner. I always found Peter to be an honourable man. By no means am I suggesting that the investigation is in any way going to find him guilty or otherwise. That is a matter for the investigation. I hope that, because of who he is, he will be exonerated. This is being viewed by many in our society as one of many matters giving this government a bad smell.


Peter Beattie said, 'If you can't govern yourselves, you can't govern Queensland.' This government is mired in allegations of corruption that reach to the top. They need to be resolved because the people of Queensland deserve better than this. In October 2020 they will have the opportunity to cast a ballot as to who they see is more reputable and able to govern Queensland.

Report adopted.

Transport and Public Works Committee, Report

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

That the report of the Transport and Public Works Committee be adopted.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (11.52 am): I rise to speak to the report of the Transport and Public Works Committee in regard to the Appropriation Bill 2019. Our committee was so happy with the timings, order and overall conditions for the examination of each portfolio area last year that getting agreement this year was not a problem at all. We started off the day with transport, road safety and ports and finished with public works, housing, digital technology and sport. I would like to thank the

deputy chair, the member for Hervey Bay, and the committee members, the members for Aspley, Bundamba, Callide and Traeger, for their participation on the day. I thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general of departments and GOC executives for their participation. A number of non-committee members attended on the day to ask questions. I also thank them for their participation. I cannot go on without thanking Hansard, the parliamentary attendant staff and our hardworking Transport and Public Works Committee secretariat for their work in preparation for the hearing and on the day.

We started with the examination of main roads, road safety and ports. We talked about the return to a full timetable on our rail network. We heard about that again this morning. The minister told us that the performance on the first day was very strong—it was above the 95 per cent on-time running metric; that 430 additional services per week had been added; that there were 200,000 extra seats; and that on 59 of those services three-car sets had been replaced with six-car sets.

We also heard about the \$23 billion transport road infrastructure program over the next four years. This investment in roads and transport will sustain 21½ thousand jobs across Queensland during the life of the program. I was very happy to hear that this QTRIP reinforces that projects I have been pushing for in my electorate will happen, as the funding for them is clearly shown in the document—Dakabin station, Petrie roundabout, Narangba park-and-ride, Deception Bay Road and highway interchange, and the shifting of the bus stop on the service road at Burpengary, just to name a few.

The member for Chatsworth started a line of questioning that was an attempted gotcha, but it fell a bit flat as the semantics were wrong.

Mr Minnikin interjected.


Mr KING: I will ask him to bear with me here. He asked the CEO of Queensland Rail about the new rail services advertised. The point he tried to make was that the services were advertised as new when they were a restoration. However, the document he tabled showed that the services were actually advertised as 'extra services', not 'new services'. The member also tried to ask questions of the minister in his temporary role looking after the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority in an attempt to score political points, but we had already received advice that this was not appropriate. The statement of reservation said that I shut down the line of questioning. That is not completely true as it was out of order and everyone had already been informed of this. Kudos to them for having a go, though. To the member's credit, he moved on to other topics when the line of questioning was going nowhere. I thank the member for Chatsworth for his largely considered questions on the day.

The final session, on housing and public works, did not start too well when the member for Burleigh attempted to table a document of over 100 pages. Then he wanted to ask questions, without anyone having had time to read it, about issues that happened in 2014, when the current minister was not even a member of this place and the LNP was in government. The tie of this line of questioning to the budget was very tenuous. When the minister explained what it was all about, we were all able to move on to more relevant questions.

The minister was able to inform the committee about the delivery of social and affordable housing. He gave us an update on the North Queensland Stadium as well as on progress on again securing the Indy car race for the Gold Coast. As a motoring enthusiast, I think that is red hot!

Even though opposition members are constantly bleating about guillotining speeches, their own shadow ministers did that to their own committee members. Our committee members work hard and deserve a chance to ask questions, not just sit there all day or get asked to do silly stunts like the member for Callide was called on to do last year.

If you take away the attempted game playing of some of the opposition members, I believe that we had a decent interrogation of the budget in our allotted session. I still managed to give the non-government members a considerably larger share of the time allotted—over one hour more time than government members had. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.57 am): There is no doubt that the people of Queensland were hoping the Labor government would offer considerably more for transport infrastructure than is contained in the 2019-20 state budget. It is not just the LNP members who are raising concerns about the shortcomings associated with the budget. A major Infrastructure Australia report recently determined that infrastructure in Brisbane has failed to keep pace with the rapid population growth. In fact, the 2019 infrastructure audit says that even with the scheduled investment, which the government is spruiking, Brisbane's transport networks are forecast to become even more congested and with demand rising roughly in line with the forecast 30 per cent population increase. Despite the transport minister's claims to the contrary, Labor is not only struggling to catch up; it is in fact falling further behind.

Unsurprisingly, the report also points to the Beenleigh to city stretch of the Pacific Motorway as a further example of ongoing delays which are forecast to jump from 27 minutes in 2016 to 53 minutes in 2031. With a mere pittance in the budget for planning a second M1, under Labor there is no solution to South-East Queensland's traffic chaos on the horizon. Make no mistake: motorists will be forced to bear the costs for Labor's ineptitude, and not just through the above-inflation rises in registration costs, which the RACQ has labelled as unfair, with year-after-year rises under this high-taxing Labor government.


Labor is not doing nearly enough to address the major problem of congestion, which is costing the region in excess of \$2 billion annually in lost productivity. Furthermore, in relation to maintenance on the state controlled road network, it is disappointing that the estimated value of the backlog is well short of TMR's own guidelines for maintaining the existing assets. The Auditor-General has revealed in its report No. 4 for 2017-18 titled *Integrated transport planning* that the renewal of the existing network has been and continues to be underfunded. As at 30 June 2017, this figure was calculated at roughly \$4 billion and just a year or so later it has risen to \$5.312 billion. It is estimated that this renewal gap will increase to more than \$9 billion over the next decade. This chronic underfunding has serious consequences for road safety, productivity and our quality of life. It also has severe implications for employment opportunities for Queensland's regional and rural communities.

Even where money has been invested in roadworks, in the estimates hearings we heard how the bitumen approaches to bridges and passing lanes have been failing in major stretches along the Warrego Highway less than a year after the wide centre-line treatment went down. I am sure Queenslanders are expecting much better results for their taxpayer dollars.

At this point, the biggest infrastructure project for Queensland, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project, raises more questions than answers. The departmental executives were unable to respond to questions about the final determination for the location of the stations owing to commercial-in-confidence provisions. The minister could not answer questions, even though he was given temporary carriage of this project whilst the Deputy Premier was overseas. It is acknowledged that the Cross River Rail project does not exist in isolation. There are also other related pieces of infrastructure, such as the inner northern busway, station upgrades, stabling yards and the like. However, at this point it remains unclear what impact the extra train services will have on waiting times at level crossings and when, or even if, those level crossings will be upgraded.

Under Labor, level crossing removal in South-East Queensland has completely stalled. The last level crossings removed in South-East Queensland were the crossings at Telegraph Road, Bald Hills and Robinson Road, Geebung back in 2014. The Labor government needs to involve all three levels of government in a coordinated approach to delivering these essential level crossing upgrades. The Brisbane City Council has committed \$40 million towards the level crossing at Boundary Road, Coopers Plains. The federal government has previously indicated that it will allocate \$73 million. Surely, it is time for state Labor to step up with the balance to finally get this project moving.

The shortcomings contained within the budget allocations for Transport and Main Roads are to be expected from a minister whose behaviour the CCC described as foolish, a minister who, during the estimates committee hearing, seemed more intent on looking backwards at past administrations and trying to rewrite history. If the minister were serious about learning from the past, he would take on board the impact of how the massive deficits created under the Beattie-Bligh Labor governments has put Queensland's transport future at risk.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.02 pm): The member for Chatsworth lives in a parallel universe. When he was assistant minister for public transport under Campbell Newman, this was his record: \$600 million in cuts to road infrastructure across the state; a cut to the Sumners Road interchange; not a single new dollar spent on the M1 in three years; the Cross River Rail project cut; the active travel infrastructure budget cut; the second M1, or the Coomera Connector, blocked; no new light rail stages funded; and no new infrastructure. Under the LNP, public transport patronage plunged to the worst three years in the last decade. The LNP cut 48 train drivers, leading to the events of October 2016. The LNP ordered trains made overseas and not by Queensland workers. They were not disability compliant. The LNP's record of cuts and incompetence is absolutely appalling. To be having a little lecture from the member is a bit ridiculous.

I begin by acknowledging and thanking the work of the committee in this estimates hearing. The advocacy and interest of its members, not just in matters related to their own electorates but in matters that are important to all Queenslanders, is to be commended. I was pleased to have an opportunity to outline the Palaszczuk government's record QTRIP investment of \$23 billion over four of the last five budgets, supporting 21½ thousand Queensland jobs. An amount of \$14½ billion of that program focuses on regional Queensland, supporting 13½ thousand regional jobs.

We continue to reverse the Newman LNP government's job-destroying policies, such as sacking 14,000 workers, including hundreds of road builders in RoadTek. I think about 700 went from RoadTek. We have kept our assets, particularly our Townsville and Gladstone ports, in public hands and we are investing in them.

This record of investment will add to the 216,000 jobs that the Palaszczuk government has created since 2015. From the Smithfield bypass north of Cairns, to the Haughton River upgrade, to the sealing being done in Cape York, thousands of people are turning up to worksites today because the Palaszczuk government is backing roads, backing jobs and backing projects. Construction is underway on two M1 upgrades—with two more to come straight after—as well as on the Ipswich Motorway. There is also the Mackay Ring Road project, the upgrade of the Warrego Highway and our largest infrastructure project, the Bruce Highway upgrade. We are building the \$812 million highway upgrade from the Sunshine Motorway to Caloundra, spending \$157 million on the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade, and we will soon see the duplication of the Capricorn Highway to Gracemere, which is in the area of the member for Rockhampton.


Cairns port is undergoing a transformational \$127 million upgrade to unlock new tourism opportunities and create 2,700 new jobs. In Townsville, we are delivering the \$193 million port channel upgrade. At Gladstone, Rockhampton and Bundaberg, we have seen another record trade year, with 124 million tonnes through those ports during the last financial year.

I note the statement of reservation from the member for Hervey Bay, who asked very few questions, taking a special interest in Cross River Rail and our planning for the South-East Queensland rail network. It is pleasing to see the member for Hervey Bay highlighting how Cross River Rail will lead to more services more often. The LNP, at both state and federal levels, has failed to fund Cross River Rail. The LNP constantly talks down the project after it cut it when it was in government. As the honourable member would be aware, following the cuts of the LNP our government has put the focus back on public transport investment.

After the LNP failed to start the training of any train driver for an entire year in 2014 and cut 48 drivers, Queensland Rail has restored 430 weekly services in a consistent Monday to Friday timetable. As part of the largest recruitment in Queensland Rail's history, we now have 178 drivers and 331 guards trained and into the network, with a net increase of 106 qualified drivers. Thanks to our focus on public transport, passengers are returning to public transport. The last two financial years were two record years of patronage—a 3.2 per cent and a 3.7 per cent increase. Over the last financial year, there were seven million extra trips. Last month on the Gold Coast, for the very first time we had more than one million light rail trips. That was a great moment. That is just another reason to support our call for the Morrison government to provide a fair share of funding to get stage 3A of light rail on the Gold Coast. Gold Coast deserves a fair funding deal from Canberra.

Planning for the rail networks is currently underway. That planning includes infrastructure, including fleet and depot planning. TMR and the Brisbane City Council are undertaking a study of all level crossings in the Brisbane local government area. That study will prioritise level crossings and those at Beams Road, Coopers Plains, Cavendish Road and Lindum Road fall within the scope the study. We are seeing freight charges discounted on the Mount Isa-Townsville line. Our focus on jobs is not wavering. We invest in roads, we invest in rail, we invest in jobs. We do not cut, we do not sack, we do not sell like those opposite. We know that does not add up and that is what those on that side will do again.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (12.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the Appropriation Bill and report No. 24 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah's contribution. He is absolutely right: this year's estimates hearing was a little different from last year's hearings. There was absolutely no need for me to try to measure anything. As far as the integrity, transparency and accountability of the Palaszczuk government goes, it is impossible to measure, because it does not exist. There is none. It is zero.

The Treasurer has delivered a budget that delivers tax, tax, tax and more and more debt. The Treasurer is far more interested in her own personal gain than ensuring that the business of Queensland is managed effectively and efficiently so that ordinary Queenslanders can prosper. The Treasurer is more interested in her own prosperity and the Premier is powerless and weak. There is no indication that the Premier will take action and sack the Treasurer for a clear breach of ministerial rules—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is way off the budget and the estimates process that we are here to debate. I urge him to get back onto the topic that we are debating.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Your point of order is relevance?

Mr BAILEY: Yes.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, the minister has pointed out that you are indeed way off topic. I would ask you to come back to the title of what we are debating.

Mr BOYCE: Thank you for your guidance. These topics are covered in the statement of reservation that we have submitted which are included in the report. As I was saying, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has been delegated responsibility for relevant legislation in regard to the Cross River Rail project because of the Labor integrity crisis. However, the Transport and Public Works Committee were disallowed from examining and asking questions in relation to this project, the chairman ruling that this was not within the jurisdiction of the committee. I ask: are we to see more mangocube emails?

In estimates hearings I asked a question of Mr Neil Scales, the director-general of Main Roads, in relation to ongoing works and upgrades of the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Miles in the Callide electorate. The problem is that significant sections of completed new highway are failing and are less than 12 months old. I wanted to know who was responsible, who oversees this work and who is going to pay for it. I felt the reply from Mr Scales was inadequate. Whilst he is aware of the problems he said that the contractors would ultimately be responsible. I know at least one major contractor who has completed significant work on this road and now is insolvent and has been wound up. I would ask: how do you get blood out of a stone?

It was revealed in estimates hearings that the estimated value of the backlog of main roads maintenance has risen to \$5.312 billion as at 30 June 2018. It seems we will easily achieve the projected \$9 billion shortfall in coming years that the Auditor-General has identified in his report. I worry that if this problem is not addressed with significant monetary funding we will see road deterioration escalate significantly in coming years and then the repair bill will also multiply exponentially.

In relation to housing and public works, it was disappointing to learn that the government is yet to enter into new agreements with the Commonwealth in regard to remote and Indigenous housing, the previous national partnership having expired 12 months ago. This is not surprising as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships is the domain of the Deputy Premier and she is more interested in her own housing investments rather than those of our most vulnerable people. It is time for those opposite to demand she was sacked because the Premier will not do it, she is too weak. For me, overall the estimates process was once again disappointing.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.13 pm): I rise to speak to the Transport and Public Works Committee report on the 2019-20 budget estimates. I want to begin by thanking the members of the committee, as well as other members who participated in the hearing. I also acknowledge, as others have done, the continued leadership of the committee by the member for Kurwongbah.

I welcomed the opportunity that the estimates process offers to discuss what the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders. The budget reconfirmed our commitment to remain steadfastly focused on what really does matter to Queenslanders: that they have a well paying and secure job, that they have a safe, secure and sustainable place to call home and that their families are healthy and they are active. It is building on our strong record of delivery for Queenslanders.

We have commenced construction on 1,427 new homes for Queensland's most vulnerable—300 more than our two-year goal—and through our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program the hearing heard that we supported 7,539 jobs and 77,893 apprentice hours. Our Buy Queensland policy has seen 22,300 Queensland businesses benefit from winning Queensland government contracts. Our new \$1.3 billion sport and active recreation strategy called Activate! Queensland is levelling the playing field when it comes to getting active here in Queensland for all Queenslanders and continuing our record of investing in community infrastructure and supporting local tradies to build it, creating 518 jobs in the first four years of the strategy.

Over the next 12 months we will continue to build more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders, support more Queenslanders to be healthy and create even more jobs. We will deliver the new North Queensland stadium. We will break down the barriers to participation in sport and active recreation. We will continue to address security of payment for subbies and tradies in the building and construction sector. Over the next 12 months we will deliver for Queenslanders in every single corner of the state.

I note the statement of reservation from the member for Hervey Bay regarding the matter of occupational licences for plumbers. The performance by the member for Burleigh in this regard can only be described as appalling. This is the same member who came into this House yesterday and said—


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.

The member was given the opportunity to come into the estimates process and ask some questions but he was more focused on half-baked stunts than any full-blown questions. I guess at least the member for Burleigh had a crack—although it is fair to say it was a train wreck. The member for Burleigh knows a lot about trains. What a pleasure it has been today to finally hear the dulcet tones of the member for Callide. The member for Hervey Bay, his colleague, travelled all the way to Brisbane for estimates, with taxpayers footing the bill, and did not ask a single question during the hearing. He did not ask a question in 2018. The only thing the member for Callide did in 2018 was pull off perhaps the most offensive stunt in Queensland parliamentary history when he pulled out his tape measure. It begs the question: why were either of them there at all?

Nevertheless, on the matter of occupational licences the facts remain these: on 22 May 2014 the then minister Tim Mander published a media release that told plumbers they were only required to hold one licence and pay for one licence. On 17 October that same year he wrote to occupational plumbers and drainers advising them of the LNP's new policy. My advice—and this is important—is that the former minister came into this House on 20 occasions and failed to take any action to amend the act to make that even possible, to allow the QBCC to not charge a fee for their occupational licence where they held a contractor licence. On 20 occasions he failed to ensure that plumbers and drainers were still considered to be licensed under the Plumbing and Drainage Act even though they no longer held a licence. On 20 occasions he failed to deliver for plumbers.

The members for Burleigh, Hervey Bay or Callide could have asked about the success of the Palaszczuk government's minimum financial requirements reforms. I can announce to the House today that as a result of laws introduced by the Palaszczuk government and actioned by the QBCC that as of today \$1.17 billion of capital has been reinjected into the Queensland economy through the construction sector. This is a shot in the arm for the Queensland economy and the construction industry. It means more robust construction companies and a more stable industry which equals jobs for Queensland tradies.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I acknowledge in the gallery today the former member for Nudgee, Neil Roberts who I saw sneaking in earlier.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.18 pm): I am glad the minister has just given his speech as it gives me the opportunity to respond to him and to the previous minister who spoke. The previous minister told us that the Labor Party do not sell anything. I would like to remind the member of what actually happened in Queensland with sale documents. I table a document for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland assets' [1305].

It was only the Labor Party that sold anything in Queensland. It sold everything in Queensland. I would also like to challenge the transport minister on the light rail funding, \$351 million—late to the party as normal. Where is that money coming from? It is not in the budget. It was announced on the spur-of-the-moment. Perhaps it is GoldLinQ's money; is that where it is coming from? A route for the light rail has not even been gazetted yet, but the minister keeps telling us different. I challenge the ministerial statement made yesterday by the Minister for Housing in which he told us what a great job they are doing with public housing in this state.

I table another answer to a question I asked on notice about long waiting lists.

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 621 asked on Tuesday, 30 April 2019 [1306].

From that answer we see that when the LNP took office in 2012 there were 23,500 people on the waiting list. When we lost government in 2015, that number had fallen by 7,000. What has happened now? In the five years that this minister has been in charge and the Labor Party has been in government, the figure has risen to 19,900 people, which is a rise of 3,400 people. In fact, according to this answer, in the past month 1,000 extra people were added to the very high waiting list. That is an absolute failure by the minister.

I table the RTI document that I was unable to table during the protection racket for this government that is the estimates process.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, relating to occupational licences titled 'Released under RTI' [1307].

When people look at that RTI document, they will see that in numerous briefing notes by the QBCC the minister was told that the legislation needed to change to protect the occupational licences of plumbers. Over four years he was told that that needed to be fixed because it was causing a massive issue for the QBCC. In October 2016, the QBCC told him that it was causing reputational damage, that it was putting their reputation at risk. The QBCC told the minister that they could not take disciplinary action against or refer to QCAT plumbers who no longer held occupational licences, as the minister had failed to change the legislation, despite being asked to constantly by the QBCC. In fact, during that time over 5,000 plumbers lost their occupational licences and were at risk of doing illegal plumbing work. The minister had to come in here and retrospectively fix the problem before it created a massive issue for the people of Queensland and the plumbers in Queensland.

I refer to project bank accounts. In 2017 the minister stood in the House and told Queensland subbies that they would be paid on time, every time. It is now 2019. Where are those project bank accounts? We have had the trial, the implementation panel has been established and the minister has the report, but we have not yet seen it. We do not know how many Queensland buildings presently have issues with cladding.

The QBCC is telling builders on the Gold Coast that they are not complying with the National Construction Code of Australia with regard to the seismic requirements for their buildings. In this state we have a massive issue with certifiers, but the minister has done very little to fix the problem. Last week I met with the Master Builders and the HIA. They told me that the building industry is at breaking point over this. At the moment the certification industry cannot get insurance. They are struggling to find somebody who will give them insurance at a reasonable rate. This is going to cause a massive issue in the building industry very soon.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (12.23 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates report for the Transport and Public Works Committee. I think we could have saved everyone a bit of time this week, given the pre-empted opposition responses in their addresses and also in their statements of reservation. As the member for Macalister pointed out yesterday, about one-half to two-thirds—depending on the committee—of their statements of reservation are identical. It is the copy-and-paste opposition. It is sad to see that they have put the same effort into their statements of reservation as they did into their contributions to the estimates hearings.

It was interesting to see the member for Burleigh, who just spoke, trot out the same documents that he tried to table during the estimates hearing. During the estimates session he was not able to work out how to make them relevant so that he could table them, but we have them tabled now so that is all good. I recall that during the estimates hearing there was a bunch of draft or early-stage briefing notes that he was trying to flag as completed or signed briefing notes. The opposition really were not getting anywhere with a lot of their questions in a few of the sessions.

I thank all who attended the hearing from both our side and the other side. I thank the committee secretariat and the staff who put in a lot of work. In particular, I thank the two ministers and their staff, as well as the department staff, for all their work in preparing for estimates. A lot of preparatory work goes into an estimates hearing that is not seen on the day. It is a very arduous process. For all the pain that goes into it, it is very useful for government and the relevant departments to do a stocktake of the vast swathe of projects and processes that they have underway.

On the transport front, my community will get more train services more often, which was great to hear from the minister on the day. We have seen a return to the full train timetable, well ahead of the LNP's 36-year prediction. It is much in advance of what they were saying. A few questions were asked about whether those are returned services or extra services. There was a lot of semantics. However, the people of Aspley do not care about semantics. When they have to catch trains to the city, they are just happy to have more services running more often. I cannot help thinking about what things would have been like under a re-elected LNP government considering their track record of derailing our rail network with botched plan after botched plan, not hiring enough drivers and leaving us to deal with the fallout of that.

On the infrastructure front, the LNP do like to have a go at Cross River Rail, although a little less than they used to. Finally they are coming around to seeing it as the solution to the rail network that it is. Nowadays they are pretty quiet about the BaT tunnel, which was their made-up alternative to Cross River Rail.

Mr Bailey: It was batty.


Mr MELLISH: It was batty; I take that interjection from the minister. What madness that was. Busses over train tunnels—a world first. As soon as the 2015 election was underway, they madly issued briefs stating that it was Campbell Newman's idea and that no-one else had had anything to do with it. It was concocted in a hazy smoke filled room, but after it was exposed to the light of day it was very quickly dropped. As I said, it is good to see that at least they are slowly coming around to Cross River Rail.

It is great to see the local benefits that will come from the massive QTRIP investment throughout the state. We are contributing to the Linkfield Road project, which will be jointly funded with the federal government. It would be great if the federal government brought their money forward, but those discussions will go on. It is great to see money for the business case for the level crossing on Beams Road. It is great to see \$15 million for the Strathpine Road-Gympie Arterial Road interchange where a diverging diamond interchange will provide a very innovative solution. It takes a bit to explain to locals how it will work, but once they get their heads around it—as I had to get my head around it—they will see that it is a very real solution to a congestion bottleneck on the north side at Bald Hills.

Through the committee hearing we heard a bit about local projects, but we heard a lot of semantics about new or additional services. It would have been great if a bit more thought had been put into a few topics during the estimates session.

On the sport and public works front, as I said before, there was a bit of discussion about the tabling of documents and we went nowhere for about half an hour. However, we heard some great things from the minister, specifically around the new Sport and Active Recreation Strategy, which will be great for our area of the north side. From that strategy the Aspley Hornets will receive funds to upgrade their lights. It is a great sporting club and will put that to good use. I am sure plenty more will come out of that strategy in future years.

I commend the earlier comments of the member for Kurwongbah when he thanked people. I support the recommendations of the committee to pass the proposed expenditure.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.28 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Transport and Public Works Committee estimates hearing. It was a good opportunity to raise some of the priorities that I see for not just my electorate but also rural and regional areas in general. The most prominent issue, which I led with, is airline prices. That is a real issue for people in the west. Airline prices do not affect people just in Mount Isa. They affect people in Cloncurry, Burketown, Boulia and surrounding areas. I see the member for Gregory. They affect his area, as well. When markets are unfettered and unchecked, people take advantage of that.

In the regions airline prices impact people from every walk of life. If someone has a specialist appointment in Brisbane or Townsville, service can become an issue, as it can for people with unwell relatives. Small businesses have compliance issues that they need to satisfy for government, which can mean that they have to send staff away at their own expense. Kids may want to play representative sport, but if their parents cannot afford to send them away they cannot pursue that sporting opportunity, because it is simply too expensive.

I am finding that I am saying no to a lot of family things because we just cannot afford it. These days it is a massive issue. I believe the federal inquiry into these issues was a piece of wet lettuce. It did not do anything meaningful. At the very least we should have price visibility when it comes to the airlines and the airlines forced to produce that inventory, but that has not been done.

My questioning was around airline prices. I moved on to the more specific issue of the software that tracks prices. I know for a fact that the department does not have the software to track airline prices. That software is commercially available. I know people in Queensland have it. It costs about \$20,000. If we had this software we could track the pricing as best we could and then start to combat the pricing. It is very disappointing to know that the department does not have that software because that is the first step to take. I have made representations in that regard before to try to solve that issue.

The next issue I addressed was rail. I have spoken about rail a lot in this House before and I will speak about it again. Rail is a big problem. Some might say it is antiquated or an out-of-date business model. It is great that the government still owns that track. We do not own above rail as that was sold off, but we still own the track. I would say that all users would believe that the business case around running rail is severely flawed and does not get the best outcome for taxpayers or customers themselves. It is begging for action.

There were some announcements made by the Deputy Premier in Townsville which all sounded very positive. Some aspects of those certainly were. The construction of the container facility at Townsville port will be very good. My questions were then around the \$380 million announced by the


Deputy Premier. I have since had this clarified. The capital expenditure and maintenance for the piece of track between Mount Isa and Townsville is fully cost recovered from customers. Every time works were announced I used to think it was great, but customers would say, 'Rob, it is not that great because that just puts the price up for us which is the problem in the first place. Our problem is the price.' We have trucks on our roads because rail is too expensive.

I wanted to know whether the \$380 million would go on to the price which would then negate the \$20 million discount concurrently announced by the Deputy Premier. Would that offset the discount? I eventually got the answer afterwards. It was explained that the \$380 million was a pre-existing budget amount. I was probably confused like the rest of the public in terms of how that \$380 million played out. As it turns out, the \$20 million will be a good incentive. It does not fix the problem, but it is a positive step.

I also talked about housing in Burketown. Burketown is a good case in point because we have had problems in terms of the community having a say in who gets housing. In little communities if the wrong people get the housing then it can have a devastating effect. We could have a young family leave town. The community needs to have a say in the allocation of housing in those smaller areas.

I asked about financing. We are in desperate need of some sort of rural development bank for those small towns because traditional lenders will not lend in those areas. The taxpayer is left providing expensive public housing when it could be delivered privately by those who want to build houses themselves. That is the other issue I pursued.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.33 pm): It is great to be able to contribute to the debate. It is also very good that Neil Scales has again offered to come out to my electorate to discuss transport issues. The director-general and I seem to have an annual date. He has not rung so far. I say to the Parliament House operator, 'Can you please get me Neil Scales on the line?'

Mr Bailey: He's on leave at the moment.

Mrs MILLER: He is on leave, thank you, Minister. Now I know. If you can remind him to please ring me when he comes back I would look forward to spending all day looking at trains, buses and roads.

Many people in here would not recall, but the estimates process is actually part of the Fitzgerald reforms. It was instituted in this parliament in 1994. What we do is look at what the government has already spent money on and also look at the estimates for the future. That is why it is called the estimates process. However, what we do not look at is the efficiency and effectiveness of the money that has been spent or will be spent. I think it is high time all estimates committees had a look at those particular issues.

I will go over some of the issues that are very important in my electorate. We need an upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, which I want the federal government to fund, and not just what is currently underway. People are now calling it a car park again. The Centenary Highway is just a joke, let us be frank. With all the developments around Springfield, Ripley and Redbank Plains there are far too many cars on that road. That needs to be upgraded.

As I said in the estimates committee, we need to have a situation where the planners at the council level talk to the planners at the state government level. It is simply not good enough for council planners and councils to approve these developments which add thousands of cars to our roads and then the roads, such as the Centenary Highway, do not have the capacity to take the increase in cars. We also need the Cunningham Highway upgraded. That is very important particularly as it is on the way to Amberley.

I would like to thank the department for coming to the rescue of some of the people on Brisbane Terrace because there are far too many trucks hurtling down that local road. I would like to thank the director-general and his inspectors for coming out and reminding those truck drivers that it is not good enough. I would also like to talk about Collingwood Drive. It is now a major through road to Redbank Plains Road. Huge numbers of cars travel along that road. It needs to be four lanes all the way there.


I must ask the department to look at the TransLink FlexiLink taxi service because my old mate Tom is absolutely fed up with it. What happens is that people ring a number and they ask to be dropped off at a certain spot and then get picked up in another spot, but FlexiLink cannot seem to do that. I have been told that if a person books FlexiLink it goes through another system rather than the cab system and the cabbies are very reluctant to pick up people using that FlexiLink process.

I am very happy about the Ebbw Vale park-and-ride project. I would ask that one of our Ebbw Vale locals Mrs Lizzie Jordan be given the opportunity to turn the first sod at that particular site. I think she is 107 and she is the oldest resident of Ebbw Vale. I think she should be given that opportunity.

We also need the bus services where they link in with the train services reviewed. That is an absolutely desperate need. One of the issues I really want investigated is the Ipswich city cats. It would be great if we had city cats leaving Redbank, Riverview or Goodna. It would wipe out a lot of traffic on our roads. I commend the process and ask that those issues be addressed.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Hervey Bay, I acknowledge that in the gallery we have students and teachers from Stretton State College in the electorate of Stretton.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.38 pm): It gives me pleasure today to rise to speak on this committee report. I would like to thank all of the committee members, especially Shane King. I think Shane should be a minister.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Please address members by their correct title, member for Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah. I would like to thank Robbie Katter, the member for Traeger, and Colin Boyce, the member for Callide.

One of the committee's primary areas of responsibility is transport and main roads. The Department of Transport and Main Roads also has responsibility for ports. When you look at the list of ports, there is one missing, and that is the Port of Brisbane. The Port of Brisbane was sold off, I believe, by the then Labor government to pay off some of the debts. The Labor government go on about selling assets, but the Labor government under Bligh was fantastic at selling assets.

When I walked in here this morning I picked up this little pin that says 'Road safety first'. I just do not believe that. When we look at the Auditor-General's report back in 2017-18 in relation to pavement rehabilitation, only 16 per cent is being spent on the rehabilitation of roads. Boat Harbour Drive in Hervey Bay is cracking up. It is not being rehabilitated that is for sure. The road needs asphalt put on it to save it from deteriorating further. When you look at these photographs of the Warrego Highway, I would like to know who project managed those construction works on the Warrego Highway. I will table those documents.

Tabled paper: Photographs depicting the Warrego Highway [\[1308\]](#).


That just goes to show how a bad, newly built road was let through. How did the project manager ever let that through? I cannot believe it.

I put a question on notice to the transport minister back on 11 June 2019 about the boat ramp at Gatakers Bay and the dredging of the channel. The response was that the department 'does not have current plans to dredge at this location'. It took about a month to get that response. Yet, an article in the newspaper said that the works were going to be done this Christmas. Minister Bailey had a go at me and said that all I had to do was contact the department and they could have told me that. I had the opportunity to ask about this at estimates. Minister Bailey said—

I have just had a note from my chief of staff. Apparently the journalist involved ran an old story and it was dredged last December, I am informed. I hope that is of assistance to you.

Again in the *Chronicle* on 13 August an article said that the dredging of 400 cubic metres is going to occur at the toe of the boat ramp. As I understand it, the toe of the boat ramp is only about three metres out from the boat ramp. How are they going to dig 400 cubic metres out from an area three metres by 10 metres wide? I do not think the idea is to dig a hole about 13 metres deep at the end of the boat ramp. I am not quite sure where they are coming from. I would really like to get to the bottom of this and get a proper answer one day. Are we going to dredge the rest of the channel out to where the boats come in for safety reasons? Once again, I go back to the little pin that I picked up this morning that says 'Road safety first'. Whether it is road safety or boating safety, it is all about safety—but I do not see it happening.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Southport, I would like to acknowledge that in the gallery we also have students from Cleveland District State High School in the electorate of Oodgeroo. Welcome.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.43 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the estimates report of the Transport and Public Works Committee. I want to add to the comments from the member for Hervey Bay and also the line of questioning from the member for Chatsworth during the estimates process when concerns were raised about the Queensland Audit Office report into the backlog of some \$9 billion of road maintenance spending. I note that when the director-general, Mr Scales, was questioned about this particular issue, basically the response was, 'There's nothing to worry about here—nothing to see here. Aside from the fact that some costs have gone up, we think that the Audit Office report is a little inflated in terms of the rising costs in road safety measures around road construction and the rising cost of bitumen has been overstated at 30 per cent.' There were a number of excuses raised.

I thought the purler was the comment: 'It is all going to be okay because 695 kilometres of roads have been removed from the program.' Minister, I do not know if this is a classic three cups and balls magic trick, but I would like to know where those 695 kilometres have gone. Have they just disappeared or is it the case that we are not going to maintain them anymore? Is this a classic case of we have declassified them so they are no longer state roads—they are now council roads—and we are going to cost-shift the burden of that road maintenance to councils? That is what we saw previous Labor governments do to councils with respect to headworks charges. They removed all of the grants and subsidies for water and sewerage and council controlled roads and they gave council special powers to create the infrastructure charges evolution project, which was code for 'We're going to keep wasting Queenslanders' money on other things that we want to do as a state government and we are going to give council power to raise more taxes and increase the cost of housing and the delivery of public infrastructure at a council level.' This budget shows that the Labor government here in Queensland has no idea about financial control.

The other question I would have asked at estimates had I had the opportunity is that, with all of these extra public servants that we have seen employed in the last few years—some 30,000 I believe—why haven't we employed more people within the Department of Transport and Main Roads and put more people on those road crews to do something about this backlog of road maintenance?

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: My question to the minister then would be—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Southport. We do not ask direct questions.

Mr MOLHOEK: I can only imagine, but I would like to know how many extra employees there are who are directly involved in road maintenance across Queensland. I would still like to know what has happened to the other 695 kilometres of road. Is that something that has been moved over to councils and is now their responsibility?

The other thing that concerned me about the estimates report is that there were no real answers on the future of the Coomera Connector road, the second M1, in spite of the fact that all we have seen in the media for weeks and months now are concerns expressed about the rising cost of congestion in South-East Queensland and the impact that that is having on small business and the impact that it is having on families and their quality of life. I find it particularly concerning that the Labor Party love to boast about the fact that they are there for the workers, that they are there for the battlers, but what are they doing for the thousands of tradies who are having to get up at four every morning and commute across the south-east to get to work? What are they doing to reduce the burden of stress on their lives and improve their quality of life?


This budget and this minister, like so many of the drones on that side of the House in the Queensland government cabinet, are letting Queenslanders down. They are not really addressing the serious issues. What we see is weak leadership from Premier Palaszczuk and no real commitment to improving road congestion in South-East Queensland.

Report adopted.

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report

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

That the report of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 18 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. Yesterday I was bemoaning the fact that I always seem to find myself speaking after the member for Broadwater. This afternoon I find myself speaking after the member for Southport and before that the member for Hervey Bay. The member for Southport talked a

lot about jobs, and I will get to that in a minute in these particular portfolio areas, but I do note that he was part of a government that sacked 14,000 public servants, so for the member for Southport to get up here and talk about jobs I think is kind of ironic.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all of the interjections from the member for Southport. All I will say in relation to the member for Hervey Bay is they say that wisdom comes with experience. After listening to the member for Hervey Bay, there is always an exception that proves the rule.

When you talk about the portfolio areas of innovation, tourism development and environment, you think about the future. We have students here this afternoon from the Stretton State College, which has been fantastic. I want to acknowledge teachers and teacher aides Todd Leavitt, Megan Hinks, Jan Gray and Tracey Doig for helping to facilitate all of Stretton State College students here today to hear these important debates and talk about the future of our state. It is very, very important.

In relation to our report we did only make one recommendation, and that was that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill for our areas of responsibility be agreed to without amendment. I wanted to outline that and flag it for members at the commencement of this particular debate. I want to take members through some of the highlights of our report. I cannot speak to them all, unfortunately, as much as I would like to. In relation to tourism, there is development of the Wangetti Trail as a high-quality ecotourism experience.


Mr Healy interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all of those interjections from the member for Cairns. I know that he is a huge supporter of not only that ecotourism experience but also tourism more generally in this great state. In fact, he has fantastic experience and has made a huge contribution to tourism in this state over many years and, of course, he continues to do so in this House.

I was really pleased when the minister spoke about the Attracting Tourism Fund, which includes \$10 million for attracting aviation, and the \$46 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which includes \$10 million for the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund. If the member for Southport wants to get up here and talk about jobs, I tell you what, that is creating a lot of jobs in tourism for people in this great state.

Innovation is very, very important for the future of Queensland. When we talk about all of the Stretton State College students who are here today, I know they are into robotics. I was really pleased to hear that we are commencing work on establishing an industry robotics cluster in mining, defence and the environment, which is fantastic news. Another budget highlight includes targeting research funding on identified priorities such as water and energy sustainability, health care, climate change and the Great Barrier Reef. I was also very pleased to hear that improvements in the quality and speed of the internet in regional Queensland are being looked at. I know that regional MPs—at least on this side of the House—would be very supportive of that initiative. I would hope that those opposite would be supportive of that initiative also.

In terms of Tourism and Events Queensland, I was very happy to hear about highlights such as It's Live! in the Queensland Events Calendar. I know that Jeff Horn, who trains in the Stretton electorate, has a fight coming up soon in Victoria. It would be fantastic to see Jeff back in Queensland very soon, and I hope that he will receive some support from TEQ. I know that he has received some in the past. It has been fantastic for everyone to see Jeff and support him, because he is certainly a local hero out our way. It was funny to see Anthony Mundine shaking in his shoes as soon as Jeff Horn entered the ring for his last fight. He did not last too long. I think that if Manny Pacquiao has the guts to come back to Brisbane and fight Jeff he will probably come out of the ring the same way as Anthony Mundine, if not perhaps a bit worse. Time is against me. I commend this report to all honourable members, and I thank the ministers and all committee members.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.54 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to report No. 18 for the budget estimates of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I have participated in quite a few estimates hearings over the years. I must say that this was not quite like previous estimates we are used to, where the government would always try to highlight their accolades and achievements while obviously trying to rebut the questions of the opposition and crossbench. For the whole period of this estimates hearing it seemed that the government was in a damage control position. It seemed like somebody had let the seacocks out of the Queensland Labor Party before the integrity crisis enveloped the government. One of my residents recently said to me, 'Mark, how could a government possibly get into this kind of dilemma?' He agreed that the problem is—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as the member's ramble is, it is not related to the estimates process or the budget. On the grounds of relevance I ask him to come back to what we are debating.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Thank you for your point of order, Minister. I would appreciate an explanation of what a seacock is because I was just wondering. I would ask you to come back to the topic we are debating.

Mr BOOTHMAN: It allows water to flood into a boat. I thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. It highlights the integrity issues surrounding this government. Look at what has transpired with the Fortress Capstone issue, which relates to the Premier's own chief of staff and \$267,500 worth of taxpayers' money. As I was saying, when governments are more interested in looking after themselves—

Ms JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This was covered at estimates. This has nothing to do with the innovation portfolio. This is a fund which is in the Treasury portfolio.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I would ask the member to return to the matter we are debating.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Again thank you for your guidance, but I do notice that this topic was discussed during the estimates committee—

Ms JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It was discussed, and at that estimates hearing I clearly said that it was not in my portfolio. You were there. It is not part of the innovation portfolio.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will deal with the first point of order before I hear yours, member for Glass House. Minister, I appreciate your point of order but—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not need any guidance from either side of the chamber. Minister, this is not an opportunity for us to debate the point of order. There is no further point of order. I will now hear from the member for Glass House.

Mr POWELL: The member is referring to the estimates report tabled by the committee which contains a reference to this matter; therefore, it is clearly relevant to the debate at present.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I understand that based on the information provided by the minister the chair ruled that this was not within the portfolio responsibility. Whether it appears in the report or not does not make it relevant when it was ruled as not being part of the portfolio.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, I hope that you can keep your future contributions relevant to the estimates report.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you for your guidance again; I certainly can. Let us go to the issue of the Hot DesQ, which was a program that the government touted as a major investment to attract investment into the state through business. There was a Channel 9 report which highlighted that 52 overseas and interstate companies received taxpayer funds of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Of that, according to ASIC a total of 30 of these businesses—or \$1.125 million—have been deregistered and struck off. Furthermore, another seven of these businesses—a total of half a million dollars—left Queensland; therefore, it does highlight where taxpayers' money is being spent. It does highlight what benefit the Queensland taxpayer gets, especially when we are giving money to overseas companies. In this case, according to ASIC 13 of these businesses have been deregistered and struck off. One of my local constituents was very passionate when he saw the report. It upset him no end knowing that these funds were not being properly spent.

I will go back to the line of questioning. The shadow minister asked what will happen to Hot DesQ in the future. Queenslanders expect that the money will be spent in the best way to get the best bang for the Queensland taxpayer. I will wrap up now and keep my contribution to that. This government needs to be held to account to make sure the buck is spent in the best way for Queensland taxpayers.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (2.00 pm): It was educational once again to attend all sitting days, and I thank the portfolio committees, including my own, for allowing this and the 22 questions that accompanied me. Overall, it was pleasing to see improved behaviour, an increase in relevant questions,

as well as more consistent rulings from last year. However, there is still much room for improvement. Replication of questions and answers tested the boundaries as to what should or should not be allowed in fairness to the process and its allotted time frames. This type of strategy and tactic may grab headlines; however, it does little to impress Queenslanders or improve respect for the system or us as politicians.

The estimates process itself is being questioned by constituents as to its effectiveness and ability to deliver the required outcomes in a cost-effective manner. There are a number of reasons for this, including the time spent by all departments—in essence, a whole month prior—in preparation for questions that may be asked. This creates a backlog of issues from electoral offices, leading to increased frustration for constituents. There is also a lack of capacity within the allocated time provisions to obtain succinct responses due to at times lengthy responses from ministers that do not answer the question nor allow time for further questioning or clarification. At the conclusion of the estimates process, our office proceeded to write 20 letters to ministers on 30 different issues to cover questions that required clarification.

Suggestions offered for improvement have included that all questions should be on notice with responses provided prior to the sitting day, which would allow hearings to be used for questions without notice to get clarification to those responses. This would save time and money, as all departmental resources would be spent in obtaining the relevant information necessary instead of preparing for questions that are never asked.


As well, limiting ministerial response times and hosting two hearings at once would compact the current two weeks into one, making it resource sensible for all. Having written to the Premier about this after the last estimates and being in the process of doing so again, it is relevant to include these concerns in my statement of reservation within the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report No. 18 and in this estimates reply speech. Yes, it is essential to have a process that holds government to account. However, if that process could be more efficient and more economical and deliver the same, if not better, outcomes then it should be explored.

Within my own committee hearings, questions on behalf of my electorate targeted a common thread in Service Delivery Statements of whole-of-government approaches and interdepartmental collaboration, which are often frustratingly absent. These included within tourism development the ongoing short-term lets conflicts, rebranding of our key pillar industries into career options and resources to accommodate the impacts from increases in tourism numbers.

Funding was key within the environmental sector, including to purchase vulnerable sites to strengthen reef health and increase the percentage of protected lands as part of the 2017-21 target of 17 per cent, which seems to have disappeared from subsequent strategies. As well, questions on commitments to not-for-profits that work within this realm and the role of the mining rehabilitation commissioner were also asked.

Regarding innovation, it was pleasing that, following on from last year's question on funding for social innovation, we have seen the social enterprise group initiative, with our very own lovely Terri Waller from SevGen involved. There is also consideration from the department to review the criteria with Advance Queensland funding to accommodate projects that are of greatest concern to our communities, including affordable accommodation. The funding of innovation in thought is as important, if not more so, than funding the widgets and the projects themselves.

Even though I did not receive definitive clarity on all of my questions, I appreciate that many of these works are in progress and I look forward to updates on these, as well as clarifications from the letters written. In closing, I thank my fellow committee members, chair and secretariat, ministers Jones and Enoch and their departments. It is a hard task to address all of our communities' needs and the at times difficult questions from MPs. However, it is important that committees, ministers, departmental staff and MPs look at the estimates process and ask objectively whether it is serving its purpose to the expectations of them and their communities and, if not, how it can be improved.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): I would like to begin by thanking the committee including the chair, the member for Stretton, for their contributions during the estimates hearing and all of those involved. I would also like to acknowledge all of the staff from my Department of Environment and Science and from our statutory bodies who put in a great deal of work to ensure that they were ready for the questions that were posed during the estimates hearing.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our environment, supporting science and continuing our support for the arts sector. We have a plan to support a state that is more sustainable and to take action to protect our environment and the Great Barrier Reef. Questions at estimates

hearings are an important opportunity for the opposition to contribute to budget deliberations about some of the most significant issues facing Queensland. What I found most insightful was the questions that members of the LNP did not ask.

For instance, while Queensland farmers, tourism operators and businesses start to feel the effects of climate change, the LNP did not ask me a single question on that topic during our hearing. While those opposite want to bury their heads in the sand when it comes to our changing climate, the Palaszczuk government recognises that we are ultimately the last generation to be able to do something about it. That is why we have set ambitious targets, including zero net emissions by 2050 and 50 per cent renewables by 2030. We know that climate change and water quality are the biggest threats to the Great Barrier Reef, and we are continuing to protect the reef with record funding of \$330 million over five years. Protecting the reef, and the 60,000 jobs that rely on it, is one of our government's Advancing Queensland priorities and we are accelerating our work on improving water quality and tackling ongoing issues like the crown-of-thorns starfish.

It is a privilege and a responsibility that we have the world's largest coral reef system on our doorstep, so did members opposite ask me a question about the reef? No. Not one. Yesterday morning, the federal LNP's environment minister said that the federal government and Queensland are partners in protecting the Great Barrier Reef, so it is of course disappointing that the Queensland LNP do not feel the same level of responsibility.


Another area where our government is making real improvements is in waste management. Queenslanders are fighting a war on waste and, unfortunately, as has been pointed out several times, we have one of the worst recycling rates in the country. That is why we have developed and released a new waste management and resource recovery strategy underpinned by the reintroduction of a waste levy. What we need to see is the Queensland LNP join their federal colleagues in understanding the importance of waste levies as a market signal. Instead, it is more chaos and division from those opposite.

There are many other areas in the environment space where we are continuing our government's important work, including in koala rehabilitation, fire management and improving national parks. We are also continuing our support for science, because after all science is in our everyday lives. Disappointingly, this was yet another topic that LNP members failed to ask a single question about during our hearing. That lack of interest demonstrates the contempt that those opposite have for science in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government backs science and we will continue to advocate for our scientists and the important work they do.

We had a dedicated time slot for science questions during our hearing, but not one question was asked specifically about science. We know that all they care about is attacking science for political purposes with their plans to create an office of science quality assurance. This office of alternative facts would be used to undermine science in the state, and that is a serious concern.

Our government respects the work of scientists, we invest in scientific research—peer reviewed scientific research—and we also invest in the arts. The arts and cultural sector delivers social and economic outcomes for Queenslanders, and our government is leading the way in delivering and supporting programs that engage with audiences right across the state and tell our important stories. This government has a plan for Queensland: to help protect our environment and support important sectors like science and the arts. We are building a state that is more sustainable and supporting a Queensland that continues to prosper.

In closing, once again I thank the committee, the chair and all those involved in ensuring that this estimates hearing was able to proceed.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.10 pm): Apparently this government has a plan. I wish I knew what it was. It was a pleasure to question the member for Cooper and Minister for Innovation at this estimates hearing. I can summarise the responses to just about every question that I put to her: it's not my fault, I was not the minister at the time, it's all the member for Algester's fault. Unfortunately, this is how to throw one of your comrades straight under the proverbial bus.

Let's go through a few of these things. There is the Advance Queensland Hot DesQ program. That is a \$6 million program that was put in place. I asked the director-general if he could describe what that was. He said—

Hot DesQ, was derived around that notion of bringing in the best and brightest from elsewhere so that they could become part of the Queensland community. It is in that context that people were sought from interstate and overseas. To be very clear, specifically we were seeking people from outside Queensland to come to Queensland to help Queensland start-ups.

I then asked how many of these companies were still in Queensland. The DG said—

There are a number that have stayed on. Of course, others have returned to where they were previously, having discharged their responsibilities contractually with the state.

I asked how many of those companies were no longer in Queensland, and to that the minister jumped in and said that they did not have to stay in Queensland. We have to ask: what was the purpose of this fund if it was to attract people to Queensland to start with, but they did not have to stay? An amount of \$6 million was spent and what has happened to that? On 19 June the minister said on Channel 9 that she would evaluate each of these grants case by case. She must have done that because the program has been axed; it has gone; \$6 million has flown out of the state.

The small business innovation fund was \$2.6 million. The same thing happened there. We asked how many of those grants were made to companies outside of Queensland or overseas. The answer was that 22 grants were given out, half of them went to overseas or out-of-state businesses and some of them no longer exist.

On 16 June the minister said—

I actually think this program could have been run better ...

I think there is a better use of that money in a different project.

What has happened to that program? Scrapped! Again, 'It was not my fault; I was not the minister; you'll have to talk to the member for Algeester.'

Then we moved on to the Venturer Program—\$124,000 to design this program to encourage some of these start-ups to go on a trip and destress themselves. The convenor decided where he would take these people, and he took them overseas. They went to Mongolia, Tasmania and Victoria. Not too many of them made a trip to Queensland or stayed in Queensland. This is from the minister who is also the minister for tourism in Queensland: encouraging people to go out of the state.


Myriad was put forward by, again, the member for Algeester. Apparently it was not the member for Cooper's fault; she was not the minister at the time. We all saw what happened there with the Myriad flight out of Queensland and whether it was appropriate for some of the people who were on that aeroplane to come out here. Myriad has gone. The minister did not tell us, but it has gone and has been replaced by something called QODE. We are not sure what is going to happen with that. The minister tells us it will stay, but who really knows?

I also asked the minister if Mr Andy Greig or Steve Baxter or their associated companies had ever benefitted from a grant in Queensland. To that the minister, in a longwinded answer, ended up saying—

Absolutely, he has invested in Queensland businesses over many years.

We really do not know whether some of these people have benefited from grants, but I can tell honourable members that Mr Andy Greig was also involved with a cruise tracking program that we have talked about a lot in this House over the last couple of weeks. This is a failure. The minister has failed completely in her task.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.15 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report. As a committee member, I welcome the estimates process, the opportunity to delve into the Service Delivery Statements of the relevant departments and to directly ask questions of the responsible ministers, yet it would seem those opposite do not necessarily always want to hear what the ministers have to say. Unlike the mistruths, which those opposite spew out on a daily basis, the numbers do not lie. The facts are there in black and white and they are worth repeating. For example, we know that in the last year 2.7 million international tourists spent, for the very first time, a record \$6 billion in Queensland, which is up 8.6 per cent. More Australian travellers, some 24.6 million, spent around \$18.5 billion here in Queensland. For the first time in a decade, our tourism market share is growing faster than that of New South Wales and Victoria.

Those opposite must hate seeing those figures because they know that, in comparison, their record when it came to tourism growth was woeful. In fact, under the Newman government tourism completely flatlined. They must hate knowing that the Palaszczuk government has made a record investment in the sector, especially when they ripped \$188 million out of the tourism budget when they were in government. It must be terrible to know that when our government came to power the state's events calendar was worth around \$380 million and that today it is well in excess of \$800 million. It must be horrible for those opposite to see that more than \$700 million in new hotels and resorts have

opened in the last 12 months, with more than \$14 billion of tourism infrastructure in the pipeline. It must be horrible for them to know that only this Labor government is backing tourism because we recognise this industry is creating jobs not only in South-East Queensland but right across the state. No wonder the member for Broadwater always looks so sad.

The jobs keep coming. Through our whole-of-government Advance Queensland programs we have already supported more than 16,400 jobs, with almost half of these in regional Queensland. Those opposite did not want to hear that and they certainly did not want to know that one of the world's largest companies, Google, has chosen Queensland to launch its very first drone delivery service, Wing Aviation. They did not want to know that Queensland has staked out a leadership position in the advancement of drone technology, because our government has led the charge by releasing a drone strategy for our state. That must be so tough to hear.

They should not despair because the shadow minister for innovation and digital technology is all over this Google caper! The member for Burleigh has now turned up to the estimates hearings two years in a row with his gotcha question lined up, which always seems to involve some late-night googling. This year it was all about finding the old Myriad Festival website clearly marked with 2018 dates and loudly proclaiming that people could still look at booking a ticket to it. 'Gotcha, Minister. Why didn't you take the website down?' I thought the minister was extremely patient in explaining that the Queensland government does not own the Myriad website and that in Queensland we have actually all moved on now with our very own QODE Brisbane festival. Also, people could not purchase a ticket.


It was almost as good as last year's gotcha moment when the member for Burleigh googled 'department of innovation Queensland', went to an out-of-date website and claimed he could not find Minister Jones as the relevant minister. 'Gotcha!' One minute later and up she popped on the department's actual website. Thanks for nothing, member for Burleigh.

Something those opposite particularly do not like hearing are the words 'climate change', 'science' and 'facts'. They heard a lot of that in our estimates hearing because we as a government absolutely accept the science on climate change, which is why we have continued to lead climate change action, investing more than \$70 million in initiatives in the forward years with more than \$17 million in this year's budget. Why would they listen to fact and reason when they can attack science and scientists?

As the minister said, there is a clear, concerted attack on science in this state. It started with a simple—and I mean very simple—motion at the LNP state conference which recommended Queensland create an office of science quality assurance. The ability to pick and choose the scientific evidence that will be accepted and ignored depending on your political agenda—well that is just great stuff!

It is clear that those opposite did not see page 23 of the SDS, which shows that the Palaszczuk government spent close to \$88 million on science last year including research, staffing and, most importantly, quality assurance. Why let the facts get in the way of the tin foil hat brigade? The extreme right takeover of the LNP is complete! I thank ministers Jones and Enoch for laying out the budget facts within their respective portfolios. It is difficult for some to hear and understand, but it is an important process. I commend the committee's report and thank all involved in this year's estimates hearings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Before calling the member for Whitsunday, I advise members that in the gallery were students and teachers from MacGregor State School in the electorate of Toohey. Welcome to you and goodbye.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—Ind) (2.20 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of report No. 18 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee in the wake of the 2019 estimates hearing at Parliament House on 31 July this year. Given the events of the last six months, I was very pleased to have the opportunity to participate on the committee. Certainly, my interest and passion for tourism have not waned, despite the fact that I no longer sit on that committee due to circumstances beyond my control.

I did have the opportunity to ask some questions of the minister. It is of course an opportunity for non-government members—not just Her Majesty's opposition—and members of the crossbench to grill the government of the day. Whilst I asked only a couple of questions, it was not for the want of trying to ask more. I did chip the minister for tourism in her presentation on the day. I refer to what was said in *Hansard* when the minister said—

Hayman Island is reopening later this month.

The minister said that on 31 July. Last time I checked, there were only 31 days in July. Certainly, the minister did not later take too kindly to being chipped when I said that the resort had already opened. There was some argy-bargy about when it would be officially opened. Of course, for your benefit, Mr Deputy Speaker, and the benefit of members of the House, it officially opened last Friday. Last Friday Hayman Island officially reopened, and it was pleasing to see the Premier in attendance along with the tourism minister. Not everyone knows where islands are, because only last year the tourism minister was joined at a press conference by the member for Mackay. I recall that the member became mixed up between Daydream and Lindeman islands. In fact, it was Hayman Island, which officially reopened last Friday.

We all know about the importance of the Great Barrier Reef and our islands. Of course, recently there was a lot of public debate and commentary about those islands. Many members may recall the recent so-called expose by *60 Minutes* which carpeted the Whitsunday Islands—in fact, resort islands up and down the Queensland coast. It would be remiss of me not to point out that the redevelopment of Hayman and Daydream islands was ignored in that report.

There is genuine passion from the government, opposition and crossbenchers of the day to see our tourism industry grow. The argy-bargy occurs in relation to how we get there. It is good to see that the government is spending money on rejuvenating our island resorts. I appreciated the minister particularly outlining the money that is being allocated to establish a new jetty on South Molle Island, where of course the old resort is no more—something that has been pretty well documented.

There are 60,000 jobs that go along with the Great Barrier Reef. The Whitsundays play a key role in that, with about 40 per cent—if not more—of passenger movements into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park coming through the Whitsundays. Of course, the Whitsundays duel with Cairns in the far north for those bragging rights. I am sure that will continue for a long time to come. As I said, the minister did not appreciate being chipped in relation to the reopening of Hayman Island. It is important that we get these facts right.

It was interesting to hear the chair say what he said in relation to my return to the committee. I reiterate what I said a moment ago: there is no doubt that my passion for the tourism industry, which underpins the economy of the iconic tourist town of Airlie Beach, the heart of the reef, has not changed regardless of the political machinations of the last six months. No-one in public office has spent more time advocating for the Whitsunday Islands and standing up for people in the Whitsunday Islands than yours truly. That was underlined by my return last Friday to Hayman Island for the official opening of the resort, thanks to Mulpha Group and its latest investment.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that questions asked by members of the opposition left much to be desired. I do not think the crossbench had a fair say. I take on board the member for Noosa's comments. We are there to ask questions of the government; it is not just the domain of the opposition. Regrettably, the process is the way it is. Having said that, I stand up for the tourism industry 24/7.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.25 pm): I rise to speak to the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year. In doing so I thank Kate Jones, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Leeanne Enoch, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, and their departmental officers for their hard work and cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout this process. I also thank the members of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the hearing and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates. Finally, I thank the committee secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their professional assistance throughout.

Clearly, the 2019-20 budget is one that aims to stimulate strong economic growth and development for Queensland. Based on the LNP's poor track record of sack, cut and sell, Queenslanders certainly are much better off under the Palaszczuk government's primary interest of advancing this state as an economic driver to create opportunities that enable all Queenslanders to thrive successfully. Tourism is a thriving industry, one that enables us to showcase the beauty and uniqueness of everything this state offers. We saw total capital grants spending of \$93.4 million that will promote the long-term growth of the tourism industry by facilitating planning and investment in the state's tourism infrastructure, assets and products and the coordination and leveraging of key major events to generate jobs.


Some of the budget highlights include: delivery of the Queens Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development and progression of the procurement processes for the regional global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast; delivery of initiatives under the Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs policy including implementation of the \$48.6 million Attracting Tourism Fund, which includes \$10 million for attracting aviation, and the \$46 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund which includes the \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

The one that I am most excited about is the development of the Wangetti Trail in the electorate of Cook. Once complete, this project will give visitors a high-quality ecotourism experience—an experience I cannot wait to try. When it comes to advancing Queensland, this government knows that we need to invest in innovation to drive economic growth and job creation by harnessing Queensland's research strengths and entrepreneurship and by using new technology, capital and ideas to support business and industry creation and growth.

The budget highlights many great initiatives delivered under the Building our Innovation Economy Advance Queensland Strategy to accelerate innovation in Queensland's economy. There is no way the LNP will stand up for Queensland as the Palaszczuk government does, because its track record when in government was all about cut, sack and sell. When it comes to the environment, let us not ask what the LNP think because only yesterday it tried to revoke the waste levy because it wants Queensland to be a cheap dumping ground for interstate waste.

The capital program for the Department of Environment and Science is \$106.2 million, including capital grants of \$5.6 million. The objective of environmental protection services is to avoid, minimise or mitigate the negative impacts on the environment through design and implementation of regulations that guide and control the activities of businesses, individuals and state and local governments. This budget demonstrates this government's priority in protecting our natural environment.

Whether it is tourism development, innovation, environment, parks and wildlife, arts, conservation services or science, this government delivers. I come from a region where the rainforest meets the Great Barrier Reef and communities are separated by vast land mass or water—a region that is unique, with rich biodiversity and beautiful terrains. This budget estimates highlighted the extent to which this Palaszczuk government will go to advance and create opportunities to grow Queensland's economy. We are also not afraid to invest to protect our natural environment and biodiversity for generations to come. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the committee report on budget estimates. I will speak briefly about some of the topics raised, but in my contribution today I will talk about what I see are some improvements that can be made to the process of estimates. I hope that we can develop a system in which we are able to get answers to questions. In a unicameral parliament, the estimates process matters. It is only effective when people are able to ask a question and get a straight answer. I thank the chair of the committee, who I thought handled himself well in terms of allocating time. I thank the deputy chair and all of the staff.

I want to talk about two issues that I think highlight where the process can be improved. The member for Whitsunday spoke about the allocation of questions. I will let others talk about that. On two occasions I asked a question and was given an answer that, quite frankly, was not correct. I will highlight both of them. In doing so, I would like to get an answer to those questions.

I asked the minister for tourism if I could have a breakdown of the \$13.9 million that had been allocated for the global tourism hubs as well as ecotourism. Nowhere was it highlighted what portion was allocated to each of those things. Is it fifty-fifty? How much goes to Cairns and how much goes to the Gold Coast? I asked a straight question. The answer I got was that an answer had been provided to the question on notice. That is not the case. I again ask the minister to please provide an answer to that question. The answers provided in writing did not give that breakdown. I will continue to ask the question until I get that breakdown. That is fair and reasonable. If we are going to have estimates, straight answers to questions need to be given.

Likewise, I asked the Minister for Environment how many carbon credits the Land Restoration Fund had generated. I was pointed to a response that was given that did not provide an answer. I asked the minister: how many carbon credits has the Land Restoration Fund provided? I again point to the response that was given. Yes, we asked that question on notice, but the response did not provide an answer.


Finally, I want to make a comment about the conduct of the tourism minister. The minister interjected. The minister spoke over the top of people. The minister was very rude in her behaviour. I was not seeking to be provocative to the minister. I was asking questions of her staff.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I did ask the minister a question, but the minister was not over her brief. The minister can again interject now—not quite in the manner she did on that day. Her conduct was hardly becoming of her position. It is a little better today, which is good. I asked the minister a question, but she was not over her brief. Of course I turned to people who could give me a straight answer because I had only an hour and a half. We did not have a lot of time and there were a lot of things I wanted to prosecute. For example, I wanted to find out when the Wangetti Trail is actually going to open. The member for Cook proudly talks about it, but I have seen about a half a dozen different dates. I would dearly like a straight answer on that. When I asked that question I was told to ask the environment minister.

For estimates to be effective, people need to be given answers to their questions. It is not acceptable for a minister to get away with not answering something, particularly when the minister is pointing to a written response that clearly shows that the minister is not answering a question. You cannot refer to something that does not clarify what you are saying.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (2.35 pm): I object to being lectured to by a man whose ethics thought it was perfectly fine to walk away from the people of Townsville, knock a woman off in the process, and go for the seat of Broadwater. What a joke. This idea that I did not answer the question on the Wangetti Trail—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member for Broadwater.

Ms JONES: I refer to this idea that we did not answer the question on the Wangetti Trail. I think we said originally that construction was going to start in 2020. The good news, I advised the whole committee, is that construction is going to start this year. He is still not happy.

Mr Crisafulli: I wanted a straight answer, that's all.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection. You could stay for the answer.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you cannot interject from there. You know that.

Ms JONES: As I said, we are very proud that we on this side of politics are investing real money into building brand-new tourism infrastructure right across Queensland. This includes the Wangetti Trail. As I advised the committee on the day, we have brought forward construction. The original time frame we gave was that construction would start in the first quarter of 2020. It is now starting, on the latest advice, in the last quarter of 2019. I thought that those people who supported the construction of the Wangetti Trail would be delighted that we are building it sooner rather than later, but obviously the member for Broadwater is not very happy. I think he had grander plans when he left Townsville for the Gold Coast. I think he thought he would be leader of the opposition by now. That has not panned out for him. I get that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, let's come back to the portfolio and the report.

Ms JONES: That's life. What we prosecuted at the estimates hearing on the day and in our budget contributions is that we went to the last election promising to increase funding for tourism. That is exactly what we have done. For the first time ever we have seen a state government providing more than \$180 million to partner with the private sector to create brand-new tourism infrastructure and to create jobs. We know that by investing in tourism we are creating jobs right across Queensland. Since I have been tourism minister in the Palaszczuk government my eyes have been opened to the breadth of what this portfolio can do to stimulate the economy. Particularly in areas where there may be a downturn in other elements of the economy, investing in tourism makes sense. I know that Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle understands that, as he comes from the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast continues to deliver growth and jobs. That also creates a greater understanding of the importance of investment in infrastructure.

As the Premier said yesterday, we as a government are very proud that, because of this record investment, including in the most recent budget and the one examined at estimates, up to 30,000 tourism jobs have been created since we were elected. This is now supporting jobs across our state.

We also know that it is really important that we invest in the jobs of the future. That is exactly what the innovation agenda is all about. We have to ensure that we have the best and the brightest with new ideas. The Minister for Education and I have just been with school captains from two schools—The Gap State High School and Kelvin Grove State College. A few of us went to KG. I have my KG mate behind me. The member for Townsville is an ex-Kelvin Grove student.

Mr Stewart: Hear, hear!


Ms JONES: I know. Why would you want to move to Townsville? The minister and I heard that the goal of one young man is to establish his own business next year. He is an entrepreneur and that is exactly what he wants to do. They are the kinds of young Queenslanders with bright ideas that we as a government want to get behind.

We know that, through our Advance Queensland agenda, around 16,400 jobs have been supported through that additional investment. We understand that there are strong pillars—to steal a Campbell Newman phrase—strong industries in Queensland that will always be there: the resource sector, the tourism sector, our services sector, our environmental management services area and, of course, agriculture and agribusiness. We want to support businesses that are going to invest in new platform technologies that intersect with those traditional industries and create new jobs and keep those jobs in Queensland, not see them lost to other states or, indeed, overseas.

That is why I was also very happy to tell the estimates committee hearing that we most recently had the conservative South Australian Premier visit the precinct to learn firsthand about our innovation strategy, which he wants to implement. The South Australian government has already announced that it is also appointing a chief entrepreneur.

In closing, I want to say thankyou once again to all departmental staff and everyone who works at parliament who puts on the estimates hearings. I know that it is a big undertaking for the parliamentary team. I thank everyone involved.

(Time expired)

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.40 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings with respect to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee and, specifically, to address the committee's consideration as it pertains to my shadow ministerial portfolio responsibility of the arts. One of the key projects and areas of responsibility under the minister for environment and the arts is the planning, rollout and ongoing management of the container refund scheme. Although the government has placed the operation of this scheme in the hands of the not-for-profit Coex, as this year's estimates reveal, there have been serious issues arising from the rollout of the scheme and its operation.

Notwithstanding the questions raised by my colleague the shadow minister for the environment and LNP member for Broadwater as to the procurement process to appoint Coex as the scheme operator as well as the processes around the selection of the chair, the former Labor candidate for the seat of Warrego, it is a sad reality that no amount of good intentions by the Palaszczuk Labor government can mask what is happening on the ground, especially in my electorate of Moggill. Although the government may like to trumpet recycling rates, many residents in the western suburbs are still waiting and wanting to know when they will see a dedicated government supported refund site.

Nearly 10 months ago, after the removal of the Kenmore site on the eve of the full rollout of the scheme with no communication or consultation with my community, I wrote to the Labor government seeking an explanation of when residents could expect a refund site in their electorate. The response I received in December last year was that the government appointed company, Coex, was 'actively working to identify and provide refund points in Kenmore and surrounding areas as a priority.' With not a single dedicated Coex provided refund site to direct my constituents to, and as we approach the first anniversary of the Labor government's delayed launch of this scheme, serious questions must be asked as to whether the Palaszczuk Labor government is genuinely committed to improving recycling rates in Queensland.

What is more, true to the Queensland Labor Party's do-nothing approach to government, questions should be asked as to what constitutes a priority as residents in my electorate and the surrounding areas continue to stockpile their containers in the hope that one day a site may eventually come to fruition. However, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Kenmore, which has done an outstanding job in providing two of its own collection sites to residents and, in doing so, helped fundraise for this great community organisation and other local groups. In fact, recently, I was delighted to attend the Rotary Club of Kenmore's community award night where, thanks

to the club's fundraising efforts and the support of the local business community, a number of terrific community organisations were able to receive financial and other support to continue the great work they do in the western suburbs and in the electorate of Moggill. To that end, I congratulate president Martin Grabert, master of ceremonies Greg Adermann, and Stuart Stoddart.

I now turn to the ministerial portfolio of the arts. The 2019 estimates hearings revealed that, despite the public controversy surrounding the displayed work of Australian paedophile artist Donald Friend at the *Margaret Olley: a generous life* exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, no consideration had been given by the Labor government towards donating proceeds generated by this exhibition to child victim support groups. Whether these works should have been included at all is another matter. It is pleasing to note that the director of the Queensland Art Gallery indicated to the committee that he was prepared to consider this.

I also note that the Minister for the Arts informed the committee that she was 'happy to have that conversation with the board' regarding the proposal to donate proceeds to child victim support groups. It would be greatly appreciated if the minister could inform the House whether she has met with the board since her undertaking to the committee and, if so, the outcome of the meeting. During these estimates committee hearings questions were also raised in relation to the Labor government's intention to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural centre in Brisbane whilst at the same time serious concerns remain regarding the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment towards the Cairns gallery precinct project.


As the LNP shadow minister for the arts, I take this opportunity to congratulate Opera Queensland for their terrific 2020 season launch, which I attended on Monday night this week along with the Minister for the Arts. There is no doubt that Opera Queensland has an exciting program planned for the year ahead. Finally, I thank the Minister for the Arts for her attendance at estimates and acknowledge all the members of the committee who were present on the day. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the committee secretariat and the staff for their hard work, because there is certainly a lot of work that is put into preparing for these estimates processes. Once again, I thank them and acknowledge their contribution.

Report adopted.

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

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

That the report of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee be adopted.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's report on the 2019-20 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

It was a pleasure to chair the estimates hearing for the committee again this year, covering service areas so core to this government's jobs and skills agenda and the prosperity of all Queenslanders. The 2019-20 budget continues our government's investment in job-generating infrastructure and record spending in core services essential to meet the needs of our growing state. It means more teachers and teacher aides and investment in our schools, TAFE and apprenticeship and skills programs to make sure that we have the people with the right skills to take advantage of the opportunities created by economic growth across the state. As the Deputy Premier and Treasurer said during her budget speech, budgets are fundamentally about choices and the choice that we continue to make as a state Labor government is the prosperity of Queensland workers, their families and their businesses.

A record \$1.4 billion will be spent building new state schools and refurbishing, maintaining and expanding existing state schools across Queensland in 2019-20. This includes funding for an additional 1,000 teachers and over 200 extra teacher aides in classrooms across our great state; an additional \$30 million to support universal access to kindergarten; the continued implementation of the digital technologies curriculum, including coding and robotics in every state school; and \$100 million for priority state school air-conditioning projects following a review of state school needs—a big agenda by a minister who can deliver it. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank that minister, the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister Grace Grace, not only for her investment in students across the length and breadth of our state but also for the commitments made in this budget in my electorate of Nudgee at both Boondall and Nundah state schools.


During the hearing, I took the opportunity to ask questions about these commitments, as I did in regard to the industrial relations portfolio to raise an issue near to my heart in respect of wage theft following the inquiry I chaired last year. Although the minister has supported every recommendation in that report at a state level—and I acknowledge her long history of championing the cause of workers in this state—we continue to see no relief at a federal level for the hundreds and thousands of workers in this state not receiving their proper entitlements each and every year. That is a national shame.

Free TAFE, payroll tax initiatives and discounts, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Back to Work, Advancing Small Business grants, on-time payments, Supporting Artisan Producers and, lastly, again something close to my heart and my electorate, the Social Enterprise Strategy are all initiatives that are focused, as we are as a government, on creating the right conditions for small businesses to invest, grow and employ in this state and for Queenslanders to get the skills they need to get a job or keep their job. I acknowledge the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Shannon Fentiman, who is very passionate about her portfolio, clearly evidenced by the stories that she often tells and told during the estimates committee hearing of real Queenslanders benefiting from these programs.

Parliamentary estimates committees serve an important role in the concept of responsible government and their associated departments, and that is particularly so in our parliament, being a unicameral system. Estimates committee hearings provide an opportunity to scrutinise the immediate past and present budget expenditure in the public interest, but that purpose is not served when almost 75 per cent of questions asked by the opposition of the day are directed not to ministers, who are popularly and democratically elected, but to an appointed director-general or CEO. That is what happened yet again in this year's budget estimates hearing for this committee.

In 2011, when the Parliament of Queensland (Reform and Modernisation) Amendment Bill 2011 was passed that allowed chief executive officers to be directly questioned, I do not believe that the parliament envisaged that the role of ministers would predominantly become one of handing briefing notes to directors-general while they carry out the estimates hearing. With an estimated 82 of 111 non-government questions asked during our hearing directed to the director-general or a CEO, that is exactly what transpired.

To be clear, my criticism is not of the 2011 reforms; I absolutely appreciate their impetus and importance. Questions of a purely operational nature more appropriately put to DGs and CEOs should be allowed to be put directly, but what our committee saw again this year, particularly in regard to the portfolio area of employment, small business and skills, was an experienced minister across her brief sit and listen to her director-general peppered with unsystematic questions, which leaves but one question: why are the opposition so scared of our ministers? I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.50 pm): Since 2004 I have held various shadow portfolios and I have participated in at least 15 of these portfolio budget estimates hearings. Estimates continue to be a constrained process where every effort is made by the government to avoid in-depth probing that may embarrass or expose them. But this year they could not hide.

As the deputy chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee I thank fellow committee members, in particular our chair, our secretariat, departmental and parliamentary staff. Without doubt, the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2019 budget was a bad budget for Queensland. It brought higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. When Labor runs out of money they come after yours with a bunch of new taxes, taxes that were not announced at the last election in what was yet another major breach of trust to the people of Queensland.

When the current Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, was a backbencher and then minister in the Bligh government she agreed to sell off assets that belonged to Queenslanders. Some 12 of them were sold between 2006 and 2011: power companies, motorways, ports, forests, rail—you name it, Labor sold it all in a fire sale. Despite flogging off Queensland's assets, Labor is now borrowing even more to cover its wasteful spending and is plunging Queensland into more than \$90 billion of debt in this budget and slugging Queenslanders \$1.25 billion in new taxes on top of the taxes Labor has already inflicted on them since being re-elected.


It was the questionable actions by the Deputy Premier, with her undisclosed house purchase in Woolloongabba, and Minister Fentiman's stay at luxury ski town Whistler courtesy of a government contractor that raised real questions at estimates about the Palaszczuk government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity. Even though this portfolio was held on the final day of the fortnight's hearings, the stench of something rotten in the Palaszczuk Labor government was hanging in the chamber.

As I commented last year, the practice of crossbenchers floating in and out of hearings at their leisure should be reviewed. This year I must say the honourable member for Noosa did give an indication of her intentions, but as deputy chair I was not privy to her discussions with the chair. Once again the honourable member for Maiwar turned up when it suited him and attempted to have more time and questions than the chair indicated he could have. This member regularly votes with Labor on motions and legislation. As I have stated before, the time for questions from this member should be taken off Labor who are only asking Dorothy Dixers anyway. This year Labor MPs had done even less homework than usual as they asked ministers questions that were already answered in detail in the questions on notice lodged prior to the hearing. Ministers had the answers ready before the questions were asked. Could they not pretend to be just a tiny bit unaware so it was not such a farcical circus? I am not suggesting that members should not be heard, rather the process as it stands disadvantages the official opposition, which is exactly how the government wants it.

A number of topics were canvassed by the opposition, including the saga of air conditioning schools in South-East Queensland—one of my local primary school P&Cs has to raise \$250,000; union campaign materials hung on school fences; the alleged sexual assault of a child at a Gold Coast school; and recent appointments to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission which were not advertised, and that is why the LNP sought answers as to how many complaints were made about bullying and intimidation of work health and safety inspectors by trade union officials. It was disturbing to learn the Back to Work program is riddled with rorts and rip-offs and fraudulent claims totalling \$1 million of taxpayers money and that only 10 per cent of the \$5 million fund announced in 2016 has been distributed to North Stradbroke Island workers.

Supported by principals and P&Cs, Tallebudgera State School has been seeking help for years to gain adjacent land for more parking. Unfortunately their requests do not appear to be progressing and seem to have stalled, which is why I asked the education minister for an update. All I got in reply was the deputy director saying the department would continue to work with the school to seek an appropriate solution. It has been five years now and still no result.

The minister showed she is not serious about fixing the problem and tried to be funny saying, 'You would not have any parking problems like I have in my inner city electorate.' What a flick pass. I also asked about the teacher sick pay scheme and the effect it has on school budgets when the department only reimburses a minimum of days and payments are delayed for lengthy periods. The answer I received was not reassuring at all. Queenslanders cannot afford Labor.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.55 pm): The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee budget estimates hearing on 1 August reaffirmed that those opposite, the LNP, are not fit to govern—not now and not into the future. The government's 2019-20 budget for education is a record \$13.8 billion and the only question put to the minister is how much car parking do we have. We have built eight brand new schools that will open next year, we have new classrooms right around the state, there is \$1.5 billion worth of infrastructure spend this financial year alone and the priority of the LNP member of the committee is a car park on the Gold Coast on a site that would have to be five times the size of any site that I have in the electorate of McConnel. It is outrageous and goes to show that those opposite are unfit to govern—not now and not into the future.

The education of children is important. It is what makes the difference for students throughout Queensland. All we are getting from those opposite is political stunts and questions that have nothing to do with the essence of education. The chair, the member for Nudgee, did a wonderful job during the estimates hearing. As she has outlined, the majority of questions, 73 per cent, were directed to the director-general and others.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.


Ms GRACE: I can hear the member for Currumbin in the background. She is like a puppet. You cannot keep her quiet because she wants to know about the car park. It is so important for the education of the students in Currumbin. I have to answer the question about the car park because without the car park we cannot educate the children. That is how important it is. The member also, do not forget, does not want to allow any kids from New South Wales into Queensland. That was the big issue last time.

In all seriousness, the Department of Education has a wonderful budget. Our students are being provided with a world-class education and all we have from those opposite are political stunts. During the estimates hearing the member for Kawana chose to politicise a very sensitive matter involving some very young students in one of our schools here in Queensland. In spite of our pleas to refrain from continuing on with the discussion, his very first question exposed the identification of the issues at hand.

I am deeply concerned by the persistent line of questioning from the member for Kawana relating to a sensitive issue at a school involving very young and vulnerable children. I am concerned that the member may have breached standing order 117(2) by providing identifying information in his first question on the issue. I will be writing to the committee chair seeking that the committee investigate my concerns. I will be reading the transcript and will consider referring the member to the Ethics Committee. This was a serious issue that should not have had identifying information provided. It was a disgraceful display and our pleas continually went unheeded and the member continued on with his course of questioning.

As Minister for Education I am very proud of this budget. It is an honour to be the Minister for Education and to employ additional teachers and teacher aides over the next 12 months. Bringing in the \$1.5 billion infrastructure spend over the next 12 months will be an honour. An additional \$136.2 million over four years will provide additional support for students with a disability. Of course, the wonderful early childhood development program has been fully funded over the next four years to the tune of \$63.6 million.

We have increased the occupational health and safety budget by seven per cent to \$167 million. We will ensure compliance with our workplace health and safety legislation. Great work has been done on the state's workers compensation scheme, which is one of the best funds in Australia. It is an honour to be the Minister for Industrial Relations. I commend the report and I thank the committee and all those who worked hard to bring it together.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.00 pm): The Minister for Education wants to know why the director-general was asked questions and not the minister. There are two reasons: one, the minister would not know the answer; secondly, we want straight answers. I will give an example. The education minister is always squawking in this place about federal government funding cuts for education. We know that is not true, but she always says that the federal government is cutting funding to education. The director-general confirmed that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government is increasing funding to education in this state.

The education minister says that she is going to write to the chair of the committee about an alleged sexual assault that took place at a school. The minister confirmed the age and the gender of the students involved. If I were the minister, I would be very careful about writing letters about who identified whom. I did not mention the age or gender of anyone involved.

Ms Grace: Yes, you did. Read the transcript.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I did not. The Queensland Council of Unions and the Queensland Teachers' Union have said that politics has no place on our school gates and fences. I table photos of schools being politicised by the Fair Funding Now union campaign.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting 'Fair Funding Now' signs on state schools [\[1310\]](#).

I also table copy of a Redcliffe State High School's Facebook page showing Fair Funding Now.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the Redcliffe State High School in relation to QTU Fair Funding Now campaign [\[1311\]](#).

It is happening and yet the director-general said it is not political. Members can look at the Fair Funding Now website. Don't tell me it is not political. Of course it is.

The member for Mansfield has been whingeing about poor consultation by the education department. I table a copy of a Facebook post from the member for Mansfield in which she said that changes have been happening without community consultation. Labor members are complaining about their own government.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 16 October, from the Facebook page of the member for Mansfield, Ms Corrine McMillan MP, in relation to changes to catchment area for Mansfield State High School [\[1312\]](#).

As I said, federal government funding has increased. During last year's budget estimates hearing, the education minister asked us where we will get the money to fund our air-conditioning policy. She said, 'You don't need extra funding; you don't need air conditioning.' However, the budget they handed down contains an extra \$100 million for air conditioning, because they know our policy is hurting the government. They know our policy is great. They know our policy is supported—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Members, I appreciate there is a fair bit of topical debate. However, calm it a little bit.

Mr BLEIJIE: They know our policies are hurting them, because students and teachers want air conditioning in every state school and only the LNP government will deliver that air conditioning.

We have seen the new Inner City South State Secondary College, to be built right in the heart of the electorate of the Deputy Premier, get special treatment. I have always wondered why the Deputy Premier was taking a special interest in that particular catchment area with the press releases she was putting out about that school. Little did we know then, although we have since found out, that the school will be just a stone's throw away—just a skip away—from the new investment property that the Deputy Premier's family trust has bought and that will benefit from the uplift generated by the Inner City South State Secondary College. Then we found out that neither the education minister nor staff from her department showed up to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee that gave the final approval to the Inner City South State Secondary College. But who was there? The Treasurer was there! Did the Treasurer disclose the interest that she had in a property that is located just a stone's throw away—just a skip away—from the school zone? I doubt it.

I refer to Independent Public Schools. The minister refused to take on notice a question about whether this government had written to the federal government asking for an extension for the Independent Public Schools program and we know why. It is because they did not.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Can we stop the cross-chamber chatter, member for Chatsworth and member for McConnel. Member for Chatsworth, your interjections are not being taken.


Mr BLEIJIE: We know that the Independent Public Schools program had an extension under the agreement, but the government did not bother writing to ask for an extension for the Independent Public Schools program. It is a great policy. I can say that the LNP will continue the Independent Public Schools program after the next election.

The program to place solar panels on schools was meant to be rolled out a year ago, but the director-general decided not to put solar panels on roofs. That was another bungle by this minister who has had bungle after bungle. Let us not forget that she was the minister who had to make 200 amendments to her racing bill. She always blames the former minister, Minister Hinchliffe, but we know that she was the one who moved the amendments.

Finally, I turn to industrial relations. We now know that the Crime and Corruption Commission is investigating the Office of Industrial Relations. This minister's office is under investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission for collusion between the CFMMEU and the Office of Workplace Health and Safety. However, they will not tell us why. They refused to answer our questions, but we saw it in an ABC report.

Finally, Jacki Power, who used to be Jacqueline O'Mara from the Shepherdson inquiry—a self-confessed electoral fraudster—is now sitting on the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. That was a shameful appointment. She should not have been appointed and she should not have accepted the role.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.05 pm): I start my contribution by thanking the members of the committee and, in particular, the chair and member for Nudgee. I was pleased to read in the report that the committee recommended that the expenditure, including almost \$1 billion for skills and training, be agreed to without amendment.

It was very interesting to hear the questions put forward by members opposite in the estimates hearing, but there was not one question from those opposite about skills and training. I am not sure if they have noticed but a national conversation is being led by the Prime Minister, their LNP comrade, about the skills shortage in this country and how desperately we need to reform skills and training. Do these LNP members have one question about skills and training in Queensland? Were there any questions about how we will ensure that young Queenslanders have the skills they need to fill the jobs of the future? There was not one! There was not one question about employment or jobs for Queenslanders.

I am pleased to say that from government and crossbench members of parliament we had a number of great questions about skills and training. The member for Hinchinbrook asked a wonderful question about the quality of training, which is a very important issue that is being discussed at COAG, but on that matter it seems that the Queensland LNP are completely missing in action. It is little wonder because we know their record on skills and training: sack thousands of TAFE teachers and cut \$20 million from the User Choice budget, which is the budget that funds apprentices and trainees. Therefore, we should not have expected anything different from them this time around in terms of examining the training and skills budget. Even the Premier of New South Wales understands that the federal government needs to step up and start properly funding training and skills in this country.

At the committee hearing I was very pleased to talk about one thing that we have to do, which is to make things in this country fairer by giving kids who go to TAFE the same rights as kids who go to university. We want to make a great education at TAFE affordable by allowing kids access to student loans, just like kids who go to university. There was not one question on that subject from the member for Maroochydore, who did not ask one question about skills or employment either.

However, the member for Maroochydore did have something to say about Back to Work. I find the LNP's position on Back to Work very interesting. Almost every month they completely flip-flop, turn around and take a different position on the program. They went to the last election saying they would scrap Back to Work. That program has put almost 20,000 Queenslanders back into paid work, but according to their election costings they were going to scrap it. Of course, our short-term South-East Queensland program was only available in certain local government areas and we expanded the program—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have had your turn.

Ms FENTIMAN: We expanded the program to continue it in areas of South-East Queensland experiencing high unemployment and the member for Maroochydore wanted to bring it back for the Sunshine Coast. They were going to cut, then she wanted it back and now it seems that because 0.4 per cent of the program's budget has been affected by fraudulent applications, which we have caught and referred those involved to police and now one person is in jail, she thinks that we should scrap the program again.

I am not sure what the LNP's position is on Back to Work. On this side of the House we love it because we want to see Queenslanders who have struggled to find work gain employment. Everywhere I travel the small businesses I meet absolutely love this program.

Another thing I was pleased to talk about at the estimates committee hearing was our \$885 million payroll tax package. Again, this is something that those opposite promised to do and something that they never delivered. Of course, there were no questions from those opposite or the member for Maroochydore about payroll tax because clearly our record speaks for itself.

I wanted to mention two issues related to the LNP not listening. I note the statement of reservation raised some concerns about the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme. For the benefit of the member for Maroochydore and those opposite I will be very clear. Only a small amount of that scheme has been spent because the majority of workers are still employed on the island by Sibelco.

Dr Robinson: Not true.

Ms FENTIMAN: 'Not true.' I take that interjection. The local member does not even understand what is happening on Minjerribah.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order!


Dr Robinson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Oodgeroo. Resume please, Minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: We are working closing with Sibelco and that scheme will be continuing to provide assistance to workers.

I also want to quickly mention what is happening at the Cairns TAFE campus. They are clearly clutching at straws to try to say we are not meeting our election promise. That construction will start early next year. I will be there to turn the first sod with the member for Cairns because the record of those opposite when it comes to TAFE speaks for itself.

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.11 pm): The Labor lefties are so removed from their original roots of looking after the workers. The tree of knowledge has been left not in the dust but in the snow. For this mob the prime place for caucus and hanging out to discuss the future of Queensland is Whistler. It is pretty cute when we have a state Labor government that is so removed from the battlers and the workers that they do not get it that this is an integrity issue for this minister and this government.

This minister has had sponsored accommodation and lived the high life in a luxury resort in Whistler and not met the requirement of reporting it in a timely way to this parliament. Those who provided that sponsored accommodation were working as consultants for firms that had contracts with this government. These are integrity issues. The real concern is that this government is so out of touch with the real workers and those who have a focus on what matters in terms of jobs and skills that they are being left behind.

It is an integrity issue. It is interesting that Minister Fentiman did not declare this on the parliamentary record until, as I understand it, a newspaper journalist started asking questions about why this minister had not declared this sponsored accommodation. The rules of this House are quite clear. Where there can be a conflict of interest or a perception of a conflict of interest it should be declared. The minister only thought it was an issue when a newspaper journalist started asking questions.

We think it is an issue of not only integrity but also that the government's focus is not where it should be. We have the situation where there have been broken promises from this government. Perhaps it is a surprise to the minister, but when we talk about TAFE we know that it is a very important part of the training regime available to young and older Queenslanders.

We did talk about skills and training during the estimates by raising the issue of Labor's broken promise in delivering the Cairns TAFE. They have not outlined a road map for starting and finishing this 2017 election promise. When I asked questions about where the \$15 million upgrade was the minister was vague. There was no finish date. There were no details. Today we hear that apparently they have a date for turning the sod. They have no idea when they are going to finish turning the sod. The problem with this government is that they make announcements but do not actually have a program to get on and deliver what needs to be done—in this case in this particular community.


I now turn to the issue of the North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme. The minister claims that it is still okay and that people are still employed. We know from talking to the community—and certainly my colleague the member for Oodgeroo knows—that there are businesses going broke and people leaving the island because work is drying up. This government promised big when they announced they were bringing forward the closure of that mine and the associated jobs. They promised that they would help workers transition. We have heard that before—transitioning workers out of a mining resource. It is a transition to unemployment and off the island.

Only 10 per cent of the fund has been distributed to workers. That is a disgrace. It is typical of this government. They go off to Whistler and live the high life. They lord it around with high-paid consultants of government but the workers on Straddie have been hung out to dry. We are seeing people unemployed and leaving the island.

Let us talk about the Back to Work program. I have raised the issue that this scheme is not consistently applied across the state. Now the minister is almost boasting about the fact that there are areas where the Back to Work program is not available even though there is high youth employment—in areas such as mine on the Sunshine Coast. I am critical of the administration of this program because it is a play thing of government. They announce money for the program and now we find out that there have been rorts and rip-offs.

All the hardworking small business people who absolutely bust themselves to pay taxes turn around and find the government announcing that funds from their hard earned taxes are being ripped off and rorted in a disgraceful way. Something like \$20 million has gone into subsidising short-term employment. As I understand it, these people have only been employed for about four weeks. That is not helping the workers by getting them into skilled employment.

(Time expired)

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise to talk on 2019-20 budget estimates for the portfolios examined by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I thank the chair, the deputy chair and members of the committee for the great work they put in. I also thank the secretariat. I thank the departmental staff who put hours into making sure the correct answers are available.

This is the fifth estimates I have been involved in since being elected and nothing much has changed. We are still hearing the same questions from the other side. They are not interested in talking about policy. We are talking about an education budget of over \$13 billion and an education budget that is ensuring great things are being done in the schools in the city of Maryborough and the electorate of Maryborough.

I will go through what the minister was talking about during the estimates committee hearing. St Helens State School in Maryborough has funding of \$200,000 for upgrades and a hall. Maryborough Central State School has funding of \$210,000 to upgrade the school. Maryborough State High School, a great Maryborough school—and we all know that the legendary TJ Ryan taught there—has funding of \$11 million to upgrade that school. That is added to the funding in the last budget of \$4½ million for a performing arts hall. This is absolutely fantastic for the education of future generations in Maryborough.

Yesterday's headline in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* was 'Mary's making a comeback'. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 21 August 2019, from the Facebook page of the member for Maryborough, Mr Bruce Saunders MP, in relation to article, undated, from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, titled 'Mary's making a comeback' [\[1313\]](#).


This is the difference that can be made with a great government. Five years ago Maryborough was classified as the next Detroit city in Queensland. There we have yesterday's headline in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*—'Mary's making a comeback'. That is due to the great efforts of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the money we are spending in education and what we are doing in the community. This is part of what a Labor government does. A Labor government always invests in regional Queensland. We always put money into education because we know how important education is for the future of not only this great state but also this great nation.

I wish to talk about the minister, the member for Waterford, and what is happening in the great space of training and skills development and small business in my electorate. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a great program. I am hearing so much good news. I was talking to a gentleman in my electorate the other day whose son did a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. He said to me that it has changed his life. He used to walk around looking at the ground. He never looked up, because he never had the confidence. He did a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Not only does he have the confidence now, but guess what he got out of the program? He got a job. That is something we do well on this side of the House: we provide employment. We look after people to make sure that they have a future. They have aspirations to have a house and a family, but they cannot do that without a job. It has been fantastic.

We heard the opposition going on about the Back to Work program. Back to Work has been a very, very successful program instigated by the Palaszczuk Labor government once again. They are two great programs that have made Maryborough a fantastic city again as they have put young people back into work in the Maryborough electorate. That is exactly what we do.

I would like to thank both ministers because they sat there and answered the questions, as did the directors-general and all of the other staff who had to answer questions. They were not put under any pressure. It was like being hit with a wet lettuce leaf. Our ministers handled it very well. I am looking forward to next year's estimates because this Palaszczuk Labor government is going to deliver in spades this year on education and training and skills and small business throughout Queensland and particularly in the Maryborough electorate.

I cannot thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of the ministers enough because this is a government that is delivering for regional Queensland. It is delivering, as I said earlier, in spades. You can tell because when you talk to people they are engaging with us. They want to talk about education. They want to talk about their children going to Maryborough High and getting a great education so they can compete not only within the state and within Australia but on the world platform. They can go anywhere in this world with their education. That is what a traditional Labor government does. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to speak on the 2019-20 budget estimates report of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I wish to begin with feedback from my constituents regarding Labor's 2019-20 budget. A local shop owner contacted me and said that this budget is nothing more than higher taxes aimed at hurting those trying to earn a buck. Another local business said that they have no confidence in Labor's budget and that they see the Palaszczuk government as nothing more than a scandal-ridden joke. A local senior told me they that they fear for

the future of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren who are set to inherit a ballooning state debt of \$90 billion. They know that money has to come from somewhere to fix this debt, and we all know that when Labor run out of dollars they come looking for yours.

This year's budget is shameless and brings with it nothing more than higher taxes, ballooning debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. It is a budget that wreaks havoc on the average Joe and one that the Premier and her embattled Treasurer see fit to impose on those who work hard to make ends meet with their shameless tax grabs at every opportunity.

This government has breached the trust of hardworking Queenslanders by introducing a further \$1.25 billion worth of taxes in this year's budget, bringing the total amount of new taxes introduced since re-election in 2017 to \$3.5 billion. Notably, the Palaszczuk Labor government will not rule out imposing more tax hikes on Queenslanders. They are hurting every household and every small and family business in Queensland, and they do it all with a smile as their integrity crisis deepens.

People in my electorate are baffled as to why the Deputy Premier still has her job. Nothing that has been said and done over the past few weeks by the Premier, the leader of this state, passes the pub test, and Queenslanders are sick and tired of the arrogant self-serving interests of this Labor government.

Queensland parents expect our state education system to provide their children with the very best opportunity for a bright future. The LNP understands that concentration in the classroom is key to good learning outcomes, so why would we not commit to air-conditioning every state school classroom in Queensland? If we are serious about giving our kids the best education the system can provide then we must get the setting right. Labor does not see this as a priority and so our kids will continue to swelter and teachers will continue to struggle until the LNP is able to enact our plan. Kevin Bates, the President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, gets it when he said, 'It's not purely about comfort; it's about quality of student learning.'


The estimates hearing revealed that the Department of Housing and Public Works is still undertaking a review of air conditioning in schools, but it is unclear as to when this review will be completed. It is also worth noting that the department is unclear about how many classrooms outside the Cooler Schools zone will be air-conditioned after Labor's recent announcement.

I did ask the director-general questions regarding two of my local schools. Banksia Beach State School has an ongoing parking issue which the minister does not seem to care about, and Bribie Island State High School needs to know whether a new classroom will be delivered in time for the next school year. I am pleased that the director-general confirmed that, weather permitting, the new classrooms for Bribie High will be completed in time for the 2020 school year commencement.

With regard to Banksia Beach State School, since 2012 residents have endured traffic gridlock due to the extreme lack of school parking available. It was a great relief that the government finally heard the community's cries. A new car park is expected to have a contract awarded by November with the project completed within 12 weeks of commencement. This is certainly welcome news for the Banksia Beach community and locals. However, it does highlight just how slow the government is at delivering much needed projects for schools and the wider community.

In closing, what has become clear as day is that Queensland cannot afford Labor. They cannot be trusted. Their fiscal principles and forecasts are in the waste bin along with their integrity. There has been enough pain foisted on Queensland by this government. It is time for the Premier to step up and be the leader that Queenslanders expect her to be, sack her Deputy Premier and clean up her administration for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

I wish to thank my fellow committee members, the committee secretariat, Hansard reporters and departmental staff who appeared during the estimates hearing.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.26 pm): I must say, what an entertaining time it has been listening to some members in the chamber this morning and this afternoon. The Premier getting advice from backbench first-termers was pretty impressive!

I rise to speak on the budget estimates report of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. There are a lot of positive things happening in the ministers' portfolios. Before I acknowledge some of the outstanding ones, I want to pay my respects to those involved in the estimates process. Both ministers continue to do an outstanding job in this area, even though it has only been recognised by some members in the House. It is recognised by the majority of people in my electorate though. I also think it is important to recognise the directors-general who turned up and were exposed to some highly entertaining questions which were obviously not part of the process.

This morning the member for Bundamba took the liberty of giving us a run-down on where the estimates process has come from and what the estimates process is about. It is an opportunity to inquire as to how the government is spending its money, but we saw very little evidence of that. This being my second estimates, I was once again impressively disappointed to hear the line of questioning from the opposition. I would have thought that some politicians would have worked out by now that Queenslanders would far more prefer a calculated and genuinely critical analysis as opposed to childish and attention-seeking behaviour. Obviously that is not the case. I also add that at no stage was any alternative policy suggested or discussed. There was absolutely nothing but childish criticism.

Being a government totally focused on jobs whilst improving the quality of life for all Queenslanders, there were some very positive education policy additions. We recognise the importance of education in Queensland. We certainly do in my seat in Cairns. There are some important and positive changes worth noting that did not draw one single question.

In relation to the early childhood education and care service area, we are investing an additional \$30.4 million to support universal access to kindergarten. Anybody with half a brain would be able to acknowledge that statistically speaking kids who go to kindergarten are more likely to complete year 12. This is a long-term objective that continues to be well funded. We had not one simple question on this. We had not one single question—it could have been a simple one. I think that would have been appreciated.


We are investing \$25.6 million to support the operation of Early Years Places. We are investing an additional \$26.5 million for regulation of the early childhood sector. As this sector expands, we need these essential guidelines. This is what a government that plans does. This is what a government that has goals and objectives for expanding the education sector does.

We are investing \$7.5 million over two years to deliver Remote Kindergarten in 67 Queensland state schools. Up in our part of the world—Cairns—we do not have to go far to see isolated communities and to recognise how important these contributions are. How some people on the other side could stand up and say this budget is not good absolutely leaves me dumbfounded and, I suspect, a lot of the other electorates. We are investing \$136 million over five years to implement the Teaching Queensland's Future strategy. We are talking about 1,000 teachers in the next 12 months and 3,700 teachers up until 2022. Hello? Isn't this about jobs? I see that everyone has gone quiet on the other side, but these are pretty impressive details.

We will continue to invest up to \$235 million over four years from 2018-19 to modernise educational infrastructure under the Renewing Our Schools program. There was not one question from the opposition in relation to these key areas. We are completing the investment of \$250 million for additional facilities which are primarily in secondary schools. Most importantly, we are implementing the Digital Technologies curriculum, including coding and robotics. There are a huge number of positive things happening.

I have spent my entire working life in the private sector, and I can say that the initiatives coming out of the employment, small business and training sector are vital to growing businesses. I have been told that by many of the small businesses in my electorate, and 92 per cent of those businesses acknowledge its importance. There are 112 businesses in Cairns that will be impacted by the payroll tax initiative, including the changed threshold and discount for businesses outside the south-east. We also have grants to small business, including the Small Business Digital Grants Program, the Business Growth Fund and Small Business Disaster Recovery grants. All of these are initiatives which are helping people out there. One would expect that, if there was any decency on the other side, you would question those and there would be some form of engagement. There was none. The government continues to do an outstanding job for the people of Queensland—

(Time expired)

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.31 pm): As a member of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee I rise to speak to report No. 20 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee on the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of my fellow committee members: the committee chair and member for Nudgee; the deputy chair and member for Currumbin; the member for Maryborough; the member for Pumicestone; and the member for Cairns. I would also like to thank the ministers and shadow ministers who were involved in the estimates hearing this year for their contributions.

During this estimates hearing we heard from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. From my perspective, during the estimates hearing this side of the House asked


questions that were 'gotchas' and the other side of the House asked questions which gave their ministers an opportunity to talk about how great their budget was. From the KAP's perspective, we came in with a fresh approach. We are not here to attack both sides of parliament. We are here to ask real questions when we go into the estimates hearing. We want to find out what is important to our constituents and our electorates, and that is how I framed most of my questions.

I cannot criticise the other side of the House too much in relation to how much they have spent when it comes to education, especially in the Hinchinbrook electorate. We have seen lots of money spent in the Hinchinbrook electorate. We have new schools and money being spent on air conditioning and new blocks, including a new D block at the Bohlevale State School, and \$550,000 is being spent on maintenance over the next 12 months. My only criticism is that we could spend more money on maintenance. We have a lot of ageing schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate, including many of our smaller schools, which could take up some of that money.

One of the questions I posed related to small schools, which are very important in the Hinchinbrook electorate. Our small schools not only employ people but they also look after some of the kids who live in more remote areas. In some cases those schools are down to four or five children, so I asked the minister what the state government's plan is for these small schools. I asked whether there is any plan in this state budget to shut some of them down. I was pleased to hear the minister and director-general say that they will be doing all that they can to try and keep some of these small schools open. But as things ebb and flow you never know what is going to happen in the next 12 months, especially when student numbers may fall, so that was reassuring.

I was able to ask the Minister for Education, 'What are we doing to protect our teachers in some of the more violent schools in Queensland?' The point I was trying to make is that we have schools that have some quite violent children. In some cases they have actually attacked teachers, so I asked what we are doing to protect those teachers. That is quite important to me. The answers we received were mainly along the lines of, 'We're putting money into headspace. We're making sure there are protocols in place to make sure these kids are disciplined.' I was heading more in the direction that, if some of these schools are that out of control, then perhaps we have to look at having security guards in them. That is something I am looking at, and that is something that I think the government should be looking at if they cannot control some of these students.

As we headed into the afternoon I was able to quiz the minister for training and employment on things that matter to the Hinchinbrook electorate and things that have been coming across my desk. One thing that worries me a lot is the number of RTOs that have failed since 2016. Some of them have pocketed quite substantial sums of money but they have not been able to prove that they have been delivering great training outcomes for our students and apprentices. That is a big worry for me, because if we are spending all of this state and taxpayer money on employment and training, we have to make sure that that money is going to reputable RTOs and those students are coming out with the right learning outcomes. The last thing we want is what we are seeing at the moment. People are going through some of these RTOs, not getting the right training, and pretty much being told that their certificate is not worth the paper it is printed on.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.36 pm): The estimates process this year highlighted the failure of the Workers Assistance Package and the Economic Transition Strategy on North Stradbroke Island, among other things. The Redland City Council recently put together a document called the 2019 North Stradbroke Island State and Federal Advocacy Document.

Tabled paper: Redland City Council report, undated, titled '2019 North Stradbroke Island State and Federal Advocacy Document' [[1314](#)].

Under the 'need for assistance' it states—

There is an urgent need—

and I emphasise 'urgent need'—

for a strong local economy on North Stradbroke Island to replace sandmining, which ends this year. The end of sandmining doesn't just mean a loss of jobs—

so not only the loss of jobs—

but contributes to the breakdown of the island's social fabric.

What we have seen over the last few years of Labor policy on North Stradbroke Island is that there has been a loss of hundreds of jobs, and this is having not only an impact on the workers and employment opportunities but it is impacting the very social fabric of the island. The document goes on to say—

The end of sandmining on NSI in 2019 will impact both the island and Redlands Coast's economy with the loss of 141 jobs—

and I emphasise that that is a further 141 jobs—

and a \$55 million contribution per year to Redlands Coast's Gross Regional Product. For Queensland, the economic loss extrapolates from \$5 million to \$86 million in GRP per year due to a loss in mining royalties.

In exchange, the State Government originally provided \$20 million over five years for the island's transition, with an additional \$3.87 million identified as in-kind funding from Queensland Government agencies.

This represents a mere 30 per cent of what Redland City Council mayor Karen Williams has estimated the real cost of the rushed ending of the resource sector on North Stradbroke Island is costing the community, which would need \$110 million to plug the gap that has been left by Labor's laws. It is obviously not working. The document goes on to say that there is 'a related \$5 million Workers Assistance Scheme administered as grants.'

In relation to the Workers Assistance Scheme—which began as the Workers Assistance Package—in estimates it was revealed that only 10 per cent of the Workers Assistance Package has actually been spent, so 90 per cent of the workers have been sacked without support.

When the program first started, there was nothing set up on the island. People had to duck into the Little Ship Club to try to get a bit of help. The department officials were thrown in the deep end, and I say well done to them for having to salvage a lack of planning by this government. This is not aimed at the workers on the ground who were trying to help. They had no office to start with and they occupied a bit of space at the Little Ship Club for many months.

The workers who had been sacked—and there were 30 in one tranche—came to my office and said, 'What do we do?' We went to the offices of three government ministers and asked them what the process was from there, and not one of the offices of the three ministers could answer the question. In the end, it was my office providing the information as best we could about this plan which was just a plan to try to have a plan and an afterthought. The workers were an afterthought. I note that the Deputy Premier was the mastermind of this failed plan. The odium of it will land on her legacy for the rest of her life. It has caused all sorts of harm and damage to our community and it will be on her head.

The government did not have a plan to start with. They could not help the first lot of people who went to them. The people said, 'We want to study,' but they were told, 'We can't help you study.' The people said, 'We want to start a small business,' but they were told, 'We can't help you.' They could not help anybody. It showed that the Palaszczuk Labor government did not care about the workers and they had no plan for them at all.

The document goes on to talk about not only the Workers Assistance Scheme but the engagement. It was selective engagement and it still is. There are protests on the island happening every few months with hundreds of people because the people do not believe they have been listened to. Many Indigenous groups are part of that as well. Indigenous people are coming by the dozens and dozens because they are upset. The latest is that the chamber of commerce has been kicked off the process. This is an economic transition without a chamber of commerce on the committee. What a shame.


(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.42 pm): I move—


That the bills be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bills be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.43 pm): I move—

That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.


Question put—That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 June (see p. 2129).

Second Reading

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.43 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I was very pleased to introduce the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 on 14 June this year as it is another important milestone in our efforts to break the cycle of offending and reoffending and create real change for young people in the youth justice system. The Palaszczuk government is delivering the most significant reform of the youth justice system ever to be undertaken in Queensland. Since February 2018 we have committed over half a billion dollars to historic youth justice reforms, starting with the important transitioning of 17-year-olds out of the adult criminal justice system. At the same time, we appointed Mr Bob Atkinson to look critically at Queensland's youth justice system and report on how we could improve. He produced a comprehensive report in June 2018 which forms the basis of Queensland's first whole-of-government Youth Justice Strategy released in December last year.

As part of our half a billion dollar commitment we announced \$332.5 million in funding for initiatives to support this strategy, and that announcement was made in April. In May this year the Premier announced a standalone Department of Youth Justice with a dedicated director-general, Mr Bob Gee, to ensure the success of our reforms. We have delivered all of this with a sense of urgency because we know that the community expects us to sort this, and that is what we have committed to do.

This bill is delivering on that promise. After introducing the bill to the House in June it was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration. The committee tabled its report on 9 August 2019. I thank the committee for its detailed examination of the bill and its recommendation that the bill be passed. I also thank stakeholders who made submissions and provided input during the development of the bill. The majority of stakeholders were supportive of the bill and its objectives.

The bill removes legislative barriers that may contribute to kids being held on remand, refused bail and kept in watch houses beyond normal processing. Importantly, it does not remove judicial and police discretion to ensure community safety is paramount when making decisions about bail. The committee rightly acknowledged the complex and challenging circumstances of children who are involved in the youth justice system. Many also commended the government for its consultative approach during the development of the bill and for taking decisive action.

During the debate today I will move three minor clarifying amendments to the bill. The first relates to clause 5 of the bill and responds to submissions by the Office of the Information Commissioner and the Human Rights Commissioner. It will introduce a requirement that the provisions that relate to the operation of body worn camera amendments should be reviewed as soon as practicable two years after the amendments commence.

The second relates to clause 13 of the bill. This clarifies how the requirement for a child to be brought before the court within 24 hours of arrest operates with existing provisions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. These provisions allow police to detain a child for questioning in relation to an indictable offence for certain limited periods. The third amendment relates to clause 20 of the bill, which retains the requirement for pre-sentence reports to be provided to the court in a documentary form.

Overall, the bill provides a framework to: reduce the time it takes for youth justice proceedings to be finalised, including a requirement that young people who are arrested are brought before a court as soon as practicable and within 24 hours; remove legislative barriers to enable young people to be granted bail, making it clear that detention is a last resort and only applicable when there is an unacceptable risk to the community or the young person; and ensure that appropriate conditions are attached to bail so that children are not set up to fail. This includes consideration of the child's age, home environment and ability to comply with a condition.

As I have said before, children under the age of 14 should not be remanded in detention unless there is a clear risk to community safety if they were released. The bill also provides for a contemporary information-sharing framework to facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to meet the needs of young people in the system. All of these changes will finally allow courts and police to consider the individual circumstances and lived experience of children who are involved in the youth justice system when making decisions about their future. Importantly, the bill also achieves greater protection and safety for young people in detention by authorising the use of body worn cameras while allowing the Office of the Public Guardian to visit young people in youth justice accommodation services.


The committee's report overwhelmingly supports the passing of this bill but includes a brief statement of reservation from non-government members. The statement documents concerns about the bill's ability to stop children from being held in watch houses for long periods of time and calls for amendments to cap the maximum amount of time a child can be detained in a watch house to 72 hours.

The Queensland government has made a commitment that children and young people will not be detained on remand in watch houses other than for normal arrest and processing. A maximum period would likely become the standard time frame for children to be detained in a watch house. This is inconsistent with the government's commitment. The community does not want young people in watch houses, nor do I and nor does this government. That is why every effort is being made to ensure young people are not being held any longer than is absolutely necessary.

We know that reforming youth justice is challenging and complex and it will take time to see lasting results. However, this government is committed to long-term solutions which are set out in *Working together changing the story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023*. In July this year we published the Youth Justice Strategy Action Plan, which outlines current and future actions this government will take to address the causes of youth offending and reoffending to break the cycle. It will serve as an accountability measure to report our progress, which is why I will release an updated action plan every year.

This bill is an important step in our long-term strategy. We know the community expects young people to be accountable for their actions and so do we. However, if we persist with a 'lock them up and throw away the key' approach we know that there is an almost 100 per cent chance that young people will reoffend. If we keep doing the same thing we have been doing year after year we cannot expect different results.

I am proud of what the government, the department and stakeholders have achieved for our young people and for the community, but we still have a lot of work to do. We are determined to get that work done. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to the debate on the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.51 pm): Investigative journalism has a proud history in Australia. It has exposed excesses. It has shone a light on corrupt activities and allegations of corrupt activities. It has drawn attention to major social ills that may be facing the community. However, never before have we seen investigative journalism like that of Mark Willacy on *Four Corners* back in May get such a quick, hasty and extraordinary response from a government.

I take it from the minister's appearance on *Four Corners* back in May that she had filmed that a week or two beforehand. In April she announced \$320 million worth of investments into youth justice, so I would argue that we have seen a youth justice investment of \$320 million simply on the basis of what *Four Corners* and Mark Willacy reported about the crisis in Queensland watch houses. Never before have we seen such an outcome from an investigative journalist in Australia.

It is worth reflecting on some of that investment of \$320 million that was announced in May: \$177 million on a new 32-bed facility at Wacol and a further 16 beds at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. In the morning after the *Four Corners* expose on the watch house crisis in Queensland, which

shone a light on the inhumane treatment of kids in Queensland, the minister came into the House and gave a ministerial statement—and I had to read the ministerial statement a couple of times. The minister said—

If we continue to do the same thing in youth justice that we have been doing year after year—locking young people up and throwing away the key—we cannot expect the results to be any different.

I think the minister was trying to communicate that the Labor government had been locking kids up and throwing away the key and could not expect any different results. I accept that the minister is acting in good faith to try to solve these longstanding problems and I have some sympathy; she was given a very difficult job. She was given the hospital pass after the current Attorney-General, who formerly had responsibility for youth justice, legislated that 17-year-olds would move into the youth justice system. The current child safety minister, the youth justice minister, had a very difficult challenge given the difficult circumstances that the Attorney-General left her with.

The problem is that we have heard this all before from the Labor government. As the member for Nicklin is fond of saying, this is a government that has overseen a generation of failure. In youth justice we can reach no other conclusion than that. This generation of failure is perhaps best marked by former premier Peter Beattie, who had plenty to say on youth justice—and had a few crises in youth justice of his own to manage during his time. Bear in mind that the current minister was saying that if we continue to do the same thing in youth justice that we have been doing year after year, we cannot expect the results to be any different. In 2001 then premier Peter Beattie said something remarkably similar—

We know the old ways don't work. Our adult prisons are full of the failures of that system, so there has to be a better way and there is.

He went on in the same media release—

We can't lock young people up and throw away the key ...

The government must accept that there is a degree of scepticism from the opposition when we hear the Labor government again talking about turning over a new leaf and identifying new ways to address the youth justice crisis, let alone watch houses in Queensland, because we have heard it all before. The failures have been repeated year after year after year. Now we are left with a bill before the House but, more than that, hundreds of pages of reviews—nearly a thousand pages of review at my count—hundreds of recommendations and half a billion dollars in youth justice investment. Why is all that panic necessary? Is it all because of the *Four Corners* expose and the watch house crisis? Why has this been necessary? We know it is because they have not planned long term and in a strategic way for the development of youth justice policy in Queensland.

As I have said, we have heard all this before. In fact, we have heard about the youth justice crisis in relation to watch houses before. If honourable members talk to youth advocacy workers, they will tell them that we have been here before. Now that this Labor government has again taken their eye off the ball in relation to kids in watch houses I had to go back and track down where we had seen it all before. It was in 1999—again, this generation of failure. The then minister for families, youth and community care and minister for disability services, the Hon. Anna Bligh, was forced to arrange an emergency stakeholder meeting because there were too many kids in watch houses. In that media release she stated—

A range of practical proposals will be put to Government to help minimise the detention of young people in Queensland's watchhouses ... The proposals were generated during a four hour intensive workshop held last night in response to concerns raised about children being held in adult lock ups.

Then minister Bligh went on to say—

Unanimously, the workshop underlined the need to minimise the detention of young people in watchhouses.

And all agreed, Government should resist the temptation to build further youth detention facilities.

How far has the government come from those days? We again have a youth justice crisis. We have kids in watch houses brought about by a precipitous move of 17-year-olds into the youth justice system, but we have heard it all before.

The minister can pretend to take the moral high ground, but that high ground is very shaky. It was under Labor's watch that kids in watch houses had their fingers severed. It was under Labor's watch that kids were naked under their smocks for days at a time. It was under Labor's watch that we saw kids in watch houses unable to drink water because of faecal matter in the water system. It was

under Labor's watch that we saw kids in watch houses crying for their mothers for days on end. So the moral high ground that the Labor Party tried to take on this after the disaster was revealed so graphically by *Four Corners*—excuse me but I am sceptical.

The question has to be asked: how did we end up here? What brought about this mass panic from the government to get this bill done basically within a month of the *Four Corners* expose and after it had already committed \$320 million after presumably the minister was interviewed by *Four Corners*? How did we end up here? This immediate crisis, different to the one in 1999, related to the move of 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. When that bill was passed, the opposition opposed it. Primarily, it was opposed because of a lack of planning. In terms of the way I look at this case today, there are two major areas of putting 17-year-olds into the youth justice system worth exploring. The first is philosophical and the second is practical.

Philosophically, over time there have been seven Labor attorneys-general since the Youth Justice Act was introduced in 1992. If we go back through those times, each one of those attorneys-general considered whether to move 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. From 1989 to 1995 there was attorney-general Dean Wells; from 1995 to 1996 and then again between 1998 and 2001 it was attorney-general Matt Foley; from 2001 to 2005 there was attorney-general Rod Welford; from 2005 to 2006 there was attorney-general Linda Lavarch; from 2006 to 2009 of course there was the erstwhile member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine; and from 2009 to 2011 the attorney-general was of course the former member for Greenslopes who, may I say, shamefully still has not uttered in this House a public word on watch houses. In the week after the watch house crisis was exposed on *Four Corners*, I recall that the former member for Greenslopes, the current member for Woodridge, came in here and waffled on about the virtues of a Bill Shorten Labor government but made not one mention of the watch house crisis.

Between 2009 and 2011, the then member for Greenslopes decided not to move 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. Former attorney-general Paul Lucas chose not to move 17-year-olds into youth justice. In fact, probably the most coherent Labor position on why and the question marks over that—bearing in mind that the LNP opposition opposed it in 2016 on the grounds of planning and the countervailing arguments—occurred from 2007. An article quotes the then minister for communities, disability services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, Hon. Warren Pitt, saying—

For every argument in favour of the move, there is an argument that can be put forward to support the status quo. For example, it is the case that 17-year-olds would not necessarily be always better off if they were transferred to the juvenile justice system. This is because when determining a penalty against an adult offender, the court can take into account prior offences for which the adult has a conviction recorded as a child, whereas in the juvenile system any finding of guilt can be taken into account regardless of whether a conviction is recorded. As well, some judges may be reluctant to sentence a 17-year-old to detention in the adult system, but be more inclined to do so in the youth system. And while Queensland may be taking a different approach to other Australian States, our approach is similar to what happens in New Zealand.

The article continues—

Mr Pitt said 17-year-olds in adult prisons had access to specialised programs tailored to meet a range of needs.

On it goes.

In 2016 the opposition opposed the move on the basis that there was no real plan and there were strong arguments both ways for the move. As we now see, we already know that the Attorney-General oversaw a 12-month delay. All the children were meant to be in the youth justice system. It was delayed 12 months. We saw a philosophical overturning of what was the Labor Party position for a long period of time. When children were moved, it occurred too late. Clearly, it was done with no plan whatsoever, which increased pressure and caused this watch house crisis.

There is a second element to this, the practical element of planning. There were 28 submissions to this bill but not one from the Queensland Police Union. The *Queensland Police Union Journal* and the editorial from the CEO and president, Ian Leavers, is worth reading in relation to this matter, because the police are at the front line in managing these issues. In the April-May edition, Mr Leavers said of 17-year-olds moving into the youth justice system—

We needed proper planning and modelling before we transferred an entire cohort of offenders into the juvenile system. The Youth Justice Minister Di Farmer has clearly done nothing. No planning. No modelling. Nothing. What makes it even more of a failing is that companies like McDonald's restaurants can undertake proper planning and modelling for population growth. Why can't Youth Justice Minister Di Farmer do the same for the transition of 17-year-olds to juvenile detention centres? As a result of the Youth Justice Minister's inability to do her job, we now have more juveniles than adults in the Brisbane watchhouse.

Today, notwithstanding that the minister recently said that children were out of watch houses—there could be one left, as I recall—we know that in the last few weeks over 20 children were back in watch houses throughout Queensland.

The Labor government's plan to address all of these problems was contained in this bill. The government has set a number of objectives. The bill aims to reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised. They do this by introducing a number of amendments to reduce the period in which proceedings are finalised. These are: amending principle 7 of the charter of youth justice principles to make it clear that proceedings started against a child for an offence should be finalised as soon as practicable; introducing a new principle requiring the youth justice system to give priority to proceedings for young people remanded in custody; and requiring a child who is arrested for an offence or for a breach of a bail condition and is in custody to be brought before the Childrens Court as soon as practicable and within 24 hours after arrest. If it is not practicable for the court to be constituted within 24 hours of the arrest, the child must be brought before the court as soon as practicable on the next day the court can be constituted. These amendments do not go far enough.

This bill cannot guarantee that children will not spend days or weeks in a watch house. While the intent of the bill is for children to spend no more than 24 hours in a watch house, the bill fails to provide an express provision stipulating the maximum length of time children can remain there. That is why I will be moving amendments in this regard. I also note what the Human Rights Commissioner said about this. In the public hearing to this bill, the commissioner was asked what he considered is an appropriate length of time for a statutory prohibition. He said—

The average time for doing that should not extend beyond 24 hours in most cases. If there was an outside limit of 72 hours, that would certainly protect children who as we have sadly found out this year have been subjected to horrendous conditions, for weeks on end in some cases.

This is the government's attempt.

There are other areas of the bill that we will support. Increasing the information sharing across government departments is to be applauded, as is the authorisation of the use of body worn cameras and the capture of audio recordings through CCTV technology. This came out of a review of riots at various detention centres in Queensland, a review that was heavily redacted, as I recall, and took a very long time to release.

The other area of this bill that gives the opposition concern relates to section 48 of the Youth Justice Act which goes to the explicit presumption in favour of release on bail that can only be rebutted when the Youth Justice Act or another act requires a child to be detained in custody or where the court or police officer is satisfied that there is an unacceptable risk that, if released on bail, the child will fail to surrender into custody, commit an offence, endanger the safety or welfare of any person or interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice. These changes were made to address concerns from stakeholders; however, the opposition believes that they will ultimately mean that more youths who commit serious offences that put community safety at risk, such as unlawful use of a motor vehicle, will be let out onto the streets to reoffend. It is a question of balancing community safety with the appropriate and humane punishment of offenders.

In communities across Queensland, particularly Townsville and Cairns but increasingly across South-East Queensland, there is a growing belief that there must be tougher consequences for unlawful actions and that the tension in the act as it currently stands is appropriate. The government's amendment to the same in this regard will be opposed by the opposition. I also note that amendments will be made in respect of breach of bail being reintroduced as an offence.

Something that further highlights how muddled the government is in relation to youth justice in Queensland goes to a recommendation made by Bob Atkinson, the hand-picked reviewer of the youth justice system in Queensland. He was hand-picked by the minister to investigate youth justice and outline what steps could be taken to improve its implementation in Queensland. Mr Atkinson recommended offenders wear tracking devices when released on bail. As I have already said, there have been thousands of pages of reviews, hundreds of recommendations, half a billion dollars and a brand-new government department created on the fly—as the Premier, as I recall, said, for a fresh look at youth justice; this is after a generation of looking at it—with more bureaucrats, because that will help the young kids get out of watch houses! After all this, we now have a minister ignoring the recommendations of Bob Atkinson, the person who was personally appointed to make recommendations on youth justice. Now the minister is just ignoring them. I look forward to hearing from the minister why recommendations from her hand-picked reviewer are being ignored.

Why is all of this so important? We are off to Townsville in a couple of weeks. I was very disappointed that youth justice was allocated only one hour at the estimates hearing. That is very little time for half a billion dollars to be reviewed. One of the biggest areas in the budget—half a billion dollars of spending—was given such a short period for analysis and examination.

The reason this is so important is that in Townsville we will hear it. The government will not like it but they will hear loud and clear from the people of Townsville that they are sick to the back teeth of crime. It is good that the government stopped doing youth crime statistics in regions in 2016-17, because from the last year of the Newman government to 2016-17 unlawful entry was up 25 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle was up 34 per cent, robbery was up 16 per cent and offences against property were up 12 per cent. We do not know what the situation is today, but I am sure that the people of Townsville will have a lot to tell us when we get there for the sittings in a fortnight.

Why is this so important to the northern region? Why is it so important to Townsville? One of Labor's plans to overcome the challenges of letting kids out of watch houses and relieving some of the pressure on youth detention centres comes back to bail houses. If we recall, one of those bail houses was proposed in the electorate of South Brisbane. I hear there is a spare house going over there now! Maybe it is time to revisit the location of bail houses in Queensland.

This is an issue in Townsville. Initially the minister said that there would be nine bail houses in Queensland. That has been held back to four. In the 2018-19 budget we heard that there would be no more bail houses being developed. By 2022-23 this government will have spent \$70 million on bail houses in Queensland. All that bail houses have achieved thus far is 529 critical incidents around Queensland—breaches of curfew and other breaches. Bail houses have not worked. To see this you only need to go to the *Townsville Bulletin* and read some of the headlines: 'Bail house complete debacle since get-go', 'Bail house flop', 'Bail house fail', 'Kids crime takes toll', 'Youth justice system needs overhaul' and 'Premier clueless on justice'.

We know that one in six kids in those bail houses are reoffending. We know that it is a failed policy. Imagine what that \$70 million could do if it was put towards diversionary and prevention programs around Queensland instead of into this failed program that is under-utilised. Why would you double down on a policy that is not working? I look forward to the people of Townsville communicating to the government their opinion on bail houses. Once this bill is passed, with more kids out on bail there will be additional pressures.

A June *Townsville Bulletin* article titled 'Premier clueless on justice' states, among other things—

For far too long Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's government has buried its head in the sand. Last year the Bulletin reported extensively on overcrowding in detention centres and children being kept in watch-houses.

Yet those reports fell on deaf ears until the ABC picked up on the issue last month and the Premier ordered an overhaul of youth justice and set up a department to tackle the crisis.

We also reported on issues raised with the new bail houses that the Queensland Government built to ease the burden on the detention centres.

...

... last year, the State Government said it would review the youth bail houses due to the fact they were underused.

On it goes. It finishes—

What is this State Government doing?

Nothing it seems.

As I said, I am sure the people of Townsville will have a very strong, loud and consistent message for this Labor government in a fortnight when we go to Townsville for parliamentary sittings.


Above all, it is a crying shame, obviously, for the victims of crime and for people who have been impacted by this crime epidemic across the north and increasingly, as we are seeing, in the south-east corner. It is also a crying shame for the children who are in this system. The question I have is: can the minister assure the House that when this bill passes and more kids are being let out on bail these kids will have somewhere safe to go? It cannot be bail houses. Is there proper and safe accommodation? When young people are on bail or have come to the attention of the youth justice system, we know that if they do not have the support and accommodation they need then they are far more likely to reoffend.

My question to the government is: where is the whole-of-government solution to youth justice? Throughout the past 20 years we have seen a siloed approach to youth justice in Queensland as each minister passes on the challenges and the complexities. There is no doubt that this is a highly complex area of government policy—there is no denying that—but can the minister assure us that there have been meetings between the housing minister, the health minister, the youth justice minister and the police minister? Have government departments been brought together to create whole-of-government solutions?

We know that the first 1,000 days of any child's life are vitally important. We know that there will be indicators in the first 1,000 days of a child's life that show that they may come to the attention of the youth justice system. I ask the minister: has there been whole-of-government coordination? Unless a whole-of-government approach to the youth justice challenge is taken, we will debate this again in 20 years time. There must be a coordinated approach to the youth justice crisis in Queensland.

As I have said, apart from a couple of key areas of concern and a couple of amendments, we will be supporting the government's bill, as the National Party and the Liberal Party did back in 1992 when the predecessor to this bill was introduced. We know that this is a complex and challenging problem, but my challenge to the government is: where is the whole-of-government plan? At the moment, it is a crying shame for Queenslanders—it is a crying shame for the people of North Queensland in particular but increasingly across the south-east corner—who are caught up in youth crime. There are a lot of victims of crime. People should be feeling safe in their homes. The law must be upheld. There must be consequences for actions.


Where is the whole-of-government response? It is a crying shame for the victims of crime and, more than anything else, it is a crying shame for the young children who are caught up in this system that the Labor government has failed them. It has failed them from 1999—and I talked about that watch house media release—and Peter Beattie turning over a new leaf in 2001, to the minister today seeking to deal with the crisis. It has been Labor's generational failure. This bill is but a start. There must be a whole-of-government response to this crisis, because the Queensland community is sick of being failed.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.20 pm): I know what is a shame. It is a shame that the member for Toowoomba South could not tell us the LNP's solution to juvenile justice in this state. If anyone could understand what it is, I invite them to share it with me. I have just read the amendments to the bill. It is obvious that the LNP still does not get it. Children who have contact with the juvenile justice system are children and need to be treated differently from adult offenders. I question why the definition of 'child' is changed to 'arrested child'.

I have had the opportunity to speak to stakeholders who work in the juvenile justice system. I was not surprised to hear that, under the LNP, more 17-year-olds were held in custody in watch houses than were ever held during the recent events. I would also like to take this opportunity to give the LNP a history lesson on its role in dismantling the juvenile justice system. When the LNP was in power, because of its policy of naming and shaming, it closed the purpose-built Childrens Court in North Quay and moved it to the George Street facility, the adult court. Why did the LNP do this? Because the purpose-built court did not have a gallery and the Childrens Court is a closed court. I would like to highlight the advantage of the purpose-built court. It meant that children were dealt with the way they should be. I would also like to highlight that the Childrens Court had a canteen, which came in handy for disorganised lawyers who were always running late between courts. It allowed them to get a coffee and a bacon and egg roll. For some of the juveniles who appeared in the system, we have to remember that the meal that they got on that day when they came to court would have been the only meal that they received.

I support the bill before the House and recommend that it be passed. As was stated in the explanatory notes, on 11 December 2018, the Queensland government released the *Working together changing the story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023*. The youth justice strategy adopts four pillars as its policy position for youth justice reform: intervene early, keep children out of court, keep children out of custody and reduce reoffending. The fourth pillar of the youth justice strategy, reduce reoffending, commits to review the Youth Justice Act 1992. The bill supports the implementation of the youth justice strategy by delivering a commitment to commence the review of the Youth Justice Act.

In the time available to me I will not deal with the pertinent parts of the bill other than to say that the bill will help to deal with children in a speedy manner and relieve the pressure in watch houses that we have seen recently. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.24 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I have listened with interest to the contributions of the members before me. I heard the minister and my honourable friend the member for Toohey ask what the LNP plans to do and what is the LNP's solution. We are very clear about that. I say to the minister, who mentioned the statement of reservation in the committee report that bears my signature and how the LNP wants to have 72 hours mandated maximum stay for children in watch houses, that that is not just what I say; that is what the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner says quite clearly in his submission and he has been quite vocal about that in other forums as well.

I think the member for Toowoomba South made a very good point in his speech when he talked about the importance of investigative journalism. The truth is that we are having this debate because of Mr Willacy and *Four Corners*. It is a good thing that that *Four Corners* episode was aired. I hope it will have a lasting beneficial impact on those vulnerable Queenslanders who find themselves in watch houses for extended stays.

I heard the members who spoke before me ask, 'What is the LNP's idea?' Mr McDougall, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, appeared in the *Four Corners* episode saying—

We've written to the premier and suggested that they do what happened in 1994 and that is urgently build some purpose-built temporary accommodation at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. I don't know why it hasn't been done. It seems like a pretty simple solution.

I think the *Four Corners* report exposed real mismanagement on the part of the government in this whole affair. In the episode Mr Willacy asks—

As of today, right as we speak, 85 children in the watch houses, one kid's been in there, a 16-year old, for more than 40 days, which is a record now. Surely, that's something if you read the records every morning when you wake up that ... bothers you.

The minister replies—

It does.

Mr Willacy asks further—

And under your plan, those kids will be out when?

The minister replies—

Look, I don't like to give a definite date. Um, I would hope by the second half of next year, um, we can see that there are only kids in watch houses who are really just there as the general kind of process of things.

We did get down to zero children in watch houses, which was great, but the numbers have been climbing again. That goes to the heart of our concerns about how the government is going to sustain a change to make sure that young vulnerable Queenslanders do not have extended stays in watch houses.

I am concerned about how the government responded to the calls for intervention to stop this crisis. I pay great respect to the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and the Public Guardian. The *Four Corners* episode stated that the Public Guardian made revelations about her prior awareness of children being held in watch houses in terrible situations—children held near convicted paedophiles, or alleged sex offenders—in an email to the director-general of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General that said—

I'm very disturbed to know that a young girl was placed in a pod with two alleged sex offenders, but I think what that highlights for me is concern about the systems or the oversights that could have led to that situation in the first place.

According to the *Four Corners* report, the director-general responded by saying that a number of the allegations would be considered serious misconduct. When Mr Willacy put those comments to the minister, she said that she was not aware of that. When we consider that, in our system of government, the minister is responsible for everything that happens within his or her department, that suggests that there has been a serious failing in responding to the government's own watchdog raising matters of concern about the detention of youth in watch houses for extended periods.

This is a necessary bill, it is by and large a good bill, but the LNP does not agree with all aspects of it and will put forward some amendments. Its purpose is to reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised; to remove legislative barriers to enable more young people to be granted bail; to ensure appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail; to introduce a new information sharing regime to assist government and non-government organisations to assess and respond to the needs of young people in the youth justice system; and to authorise the use of body worn cameras and the capture of audio recordings through closed circuit television technology.

These objectives will be met by emphasising the importance of time lines and the priority that should be given to proceedings for children remanded in custody in the charter of youth justice principles under the Youth Justice Act and requiring young people who are arrested and detained to be brought before the Childrens Court as soon as practicable and within 24 hours or, if the court cannot be constituted within 24 hours of arrest, on the next available day.

The LNP opposes clause 10 which substantially amends the bail decision-making framework. The LNP will be moving amendments to restrict the length of time that children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours and also to restore breach of bail as an offence. We are very clear about this. We

feel that there needs to be a statutory maximum amount of time because, as the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South, has made very clear, there has been a lamentable history of failings in youth justice in this state over long years. Children need to be detained in appropriate facilities such as youth detention centres.


Under Labor, children as young as 10 have been held in watch houses for weeks on end while they wait for overcrowded detention centres to have space available. As at 10 May 2019 there were 89 children held in watch houses across the state. Since the revelations of children held in watch houses, which were aired on the *Four Corners* program, there have been significant concerns around the length of time children are held in watch houses. The longest time a child has stayed in a watch house is 45 days. Labor should be ashamed of this and ashamed of the slowness in responding to the clear indications from the community and from those whose duty it was to highlight to the government the failings that they were seeing.

Regarding the restoration of breach of bail as an offence, it is obvious that Labor wants to weaken bail laws in an attempt to reduce the number of children entering overcrowded youth detention centres. That is the bandaid, the papering-over-the-cracks fix. The Labor Party has put forward amendments to help take the pressure off its youth detention centre crisis which was sparked after its failed transition of 17-year-olds from adult prisons to the youth detention system in 2016.

Under this bill there will be more youths who commit serious offences putting the community at risk. This is a serious concern when one considers that 10 per cent of juveniles are responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences, as reported in the Childrens Court of Queensland annual report 2017-18. The residents of Townsville in particular are already at their wits' end and the last thing they want is more youth offenders out on bail going on even more crime sprees. This does beg the question: was this the reason that we have had yet another guillotine on this particular debate?

The LNP would like to see this bill debated much more thoroughly. We would like to see the debate go on until we have exhausted every LNP member, because every one of us would like to speak on this bill. It does strike me as being inconvenient for the government to have this bill debated in Townsville when we have the hastily announced sitting there next month. I do not think that making that point will change the government's view. We have failed on every single argument against the guillotine so far.

We support most of the bill, but have some amendments that we hope the government will take in the spirit in which they are offered and that are in keeping with the advice of experts such as the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner who has made the point that a 72-hour statutory maximum would have protected many who have gone before and have suffered at the hands of the government.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.34 pm): I rise in this House to make my contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The bill was considered by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee over June/July of this year and I would like to thank the committee secretariat, the Department of Youth Justice for its briefing, those who contributed to the 28 submissions and the 14 organisations that were represented at the public hearing.

The fact that we have to have this bill, the fact that we need to have policies and procedures around custodial matters involving children, the mere fact that we have children in custody and that we have children offending in the community is undoubtedly a sad one, but it is the reality. Each of these children should represent an admission of failure, not as a government, not as a department but as a society more broadly. Something went wrong and it went wrong long before the child first came into contact with the police. It went wrong long before the child came to the attention of the department, families, friends, neighbours, schools or communities. Why did the child end up there? It is incumbent upon us to address youth justice and all the ugly issues that come along with it. It is not okay to wipe our hands and say what is done is done, walk away and throw away the key. We cannot give up. Unless we want adult prisons full of career criminals we must tackle this problem from every angle.

I commend the Youth Justice Strategy four pillar approach as reported by Mr Bob Atkinson. It does tackle youth justice issues from four approaches: intervene early, keep children out of court, keep children out of custody and reduce reoffending. This report was released in December 2018. It was only yesterday in this House that I mentioned Project Booyah and the work that the program does in identifying young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system, intervening and giving them the skills and confidence to take a different path.

I understand those who are desirous of linking this bill to issues of youths in police watch houses, and the opposition members of the committee were at pains to identify this bill as a kneejerk reaction to current media reporting, but as was evidenced during the committee process these issues were

identified and were already being examined. The Youth Justice Strategy committed to reviewing the Youth Justice Act and this bill is a result of that review. Work commenced on the review at the end of last year and consultation occurred earlier this year. Further, the amendments in this bill are not restricted to watch house or custody matters but consider a broad range of youth justice issues.

The bill has three broad objectives: to reduce the period in which proceedings in youth justice systems are finalised; to remove barriers to enable young people to be granted bail; and to ensure appropriate bail conditions are imposed. Each of these objectives are addressed by a number of legislative as well as corresponding policy changes within the relevant departments and I will outline just some of them.

The first amendment I would like to highlight is contained in clause 20. Currently a court is required to obtain a pre-sentence report before it may make an intensive supervision or detention order against a child. This pre-sentence report currently must be provided within 15 business days—that is, up to three weeks. What tends to happen is that reports are provided often to the upper limit of that time frame. This amendment requires a court to determine whether a pre-sentence report may even be required in the current circumstance and, when it is, to require the report to be provided as soon as practicable. This will mean that there need not be a delay in proceedings waiting for a pre-sentence report that does not provide any further guidance for a decision and that time spent in custody will be reduced.

The second amendment I would like to highlight is the changes to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act in clause 42 requiring police who have arrested or served a notice to appear on a child to notify the parent of the child and record all attempts to do so. It was highlighted in the submission made by Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd that these requirements are already contained within QPS operational procedures manuals and this clause merely strengthens the requirement of police officers by making it a legislative requirement.

I point out that the tenet of removing barriers to young people being granted bail is not a free-for-all and does not represent or pre-empt havoc on the streets with gangs of young offenders roaming the streets. That is the type of fear campaign that those opposite relish, yet it is strangely at odds with the crocodile tears they shed over young people in police watch houses at the moment. I saw that firsthand some 18 months ago in my electorate.

My electorate is home to a supervised bail accommodation house. It is one of the key facilities that houses young people who are waiting for the finalisation of their matters, but who do not have a support network or a home that they can live in whilst waiting for proceedings to be finalised. Prior to the facility opening, the LNP letterboxed my electorate with a fear campaign telling residents that young offenders would be roaming the streets. The facts are that only six young people can be housed at once, that it is not within walking distance of residential areas, that occupants are secured at night and are under 24\7 supervision and that they do not have a history of violence or represent a danger to the community. However, those opposite are not in the habit of letting the facts get in the way of a good scare campaign.

These amendments are not a free-for-all in which watch houses will become revolving doors for juvenile offenders. Clause 10 provides guidance for those who are required to make the decision of whether or not to release a young person on bail. I reassure those opposite and Queenslanders that where there is an unacceptable risk to either the young person or to the community more broadly the young person will not be bailed.


The final component of the bill deals with ensuring that bail conditions are appropriate. During hearings it was detailed that it is not uncommon for there to be 30 to 32 bail conditions imposed on a young person. Further, many bail conditions continue to be enlarged even when the relevant risk no longer exists. The new amendments will require that those who impose bail conditions ensure that the conditions are sustainable, appropriate to the risk and targeted to the young person's requirements.

Young people, particularly those who are marginalised and vulnerable and who make up a large portion of young people in the youth justice system, often have very little control over some of the major factors in their lives, such as where they live, and their ability to travel and make and attend appointments. The committee heard stories such as where bail was granted and the young person was residing with friends or associates but, due to conflict, had to leave or was kicked out. They lacked the ability to apply to court to have their bail conditions modified. Upon their next encounter with police they were found to be in breach of their bail as they were not residing at a specific place in compliance with their bail. Such a breach of bail would find them back in the system, facing further charges. It becomes a never-ending cycle.

Further, the amendments require a person imposing bail conditions to give and record reasons as to how and why each bail condition is imposed on the child and whether it is intended to mitigate a particular risk for that child. Imposing bail conditions should not be a tick-and-flick process. Depriving a person of their liberty, regardless of their age or the charges they face, should not be a fait accompli. It is a position of great responsibility.

I spent some of my uniform time in the Queensland Police Service as a watch-house keeper, the charge sergeant, at Inala. I understand that those on the front line are under pressure when making decisions that greatly impact young lives. I also know that arbitrary conditions without proper justification often have wideranging implications that may not be considered at the time that they are being imposed. I raised these issues during the public briefing and they were acknowledged by Assistant Commissioner Codd, who also identified the need for alternative arrangements to be made when it is undesirable for a young person to remain in a watch house. The department acknowledged that and identified the range of particularly after-hours functions that will be needed to support the decision-makers.

This amendment bill is not a silver bullet. The stroke of a pen will not solve the vexing issue of youth crime. It will require a community effort, with department staff working with affected people, supported and enabled by elected officials here in this House who give legislative guidance where required. It will take all of us attacking this issue from all angles, which is what this bill seeks to do. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.43 pm): One of the cornerstones of responsible government is legislating to protect the most vulnerable. From former prime minister Robert Menzies' forgotten people to the stolen generation, for years in Australia legislators across all levels of government have strived to ensure that no-one is left behind. Few could argue that children are not amongst the most at-risk groups in our society. Even those children who may be seen as misfits or delinquents because they are mixed up in Queensland's youth justice system deserve appropriate safeguards and protections. That is one of the reasons why I stand today to offer my contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

The bill seeks to add safeguards and make general improvements to our state's youth justice system in order to protect not only the children within the system but also all others who come into contact with it. The bill intends to achieve this goal through amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992, among others, to reduce the period in which proceedings in the system are finalised, removing legislative barriers to the granting of bail for youth and other changes to improve the ability of government and non-government organisations to appropriately manage young people in the youth justice system. That is not before time, as it months since the LNP raised the issue of children as young as 10 being held for long periods in police watch houses. Who could forget the *Four Corners* episode of 13 May, titled 'Inside the Watch House', which outlined many of the LNP's warnings? The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner put it well when he said, 'This is a failure on the part of the government to meet the most basic protections of young people.'

The bill has been generally given approval by stakeholders, including the Queensland Ombudsman and Queensland Advocacy Centre. The LNP will not be opposing the bill. It is on the right track, but still it is in dire need of improvement. That is why the LNP will move amendments that will ensure that this bill is as strong as possible. If it is a job worth doing, it is a job worth doing right, which is why I would encourage the government to get behind the LNP's amendments.

Before I delve deeper into a discussion of the bill's ins and outs, I take a moment to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the secretariat, stakeholders and submitters for their time in considering this bill. I acknowledge my colleague the member for Southern Downs for his assistance with the statement of reservations.

The government's record on youth crime and detention is far from ideal. Under the weak Palaszczuk Labor government, in Queensland youth crime has gone through the roof. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 49 per cent, incidents of serious assault by youth have jumped 31 per cent, armed robbery is up 88 per cent and robberies by youth have more than doubled by a shocking 128 per cent. In communities such as Townsville, police and community members are at breaking point. Stuck between a rock and a hard place, they are attempting to overcome the wave of youth crime sweeping the city whilst also ensuring that those who commit the crimes receive proper treatment. It is a testament to the wonderful character of police and those working with youth in regional areas that they are keeping the fight up with the limited resources that they have to ensure fair treatment by the justice system. As we have heard from answers to questions asked during estimates, because the police budget has not

kept up with population growth, police numbers are down from 245 police per 100,000 people in 2015-16 to 233 police per 100,000 people. That is unacceptable. I know that that reduction has magnified the youth crime problem.

A careful balance must be struck between protecting communities from youth crime and ensuring that those who commit those crimes are held in appropriate facilities and provided with proper education and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, as it stands, this Labor government is far from meeting that balance. Youth are being held in ill-equipped facilities under horrific conditions and reoffending is rife due to limited disincentives. Something must be done. That something is the LNP's amendments to this bill. They are the only way to properly strike the balance that Queenslanders and youth offenders need.

Under this government children as young as 10 have been held in watch houses designed to hold some of our state's most hardened and brutal criminals. On 10 May this year there were more than 80 children being held in watch houses across the state, many for weeks on end, with one child reportedly being held for 45 days. These children, and the 20-odd who still remain in Queensland watch houses at the present time, faced horrific conditions—locked in cells for days on end, receiving no access to educational services and reporting to community visitors that on occasion they had found faecal matter in water bubblers located directly above their toilets. It is even claimed that at one stage a young girl was placed in a cell with two alleged paedophiles. Faced with conditions like this, it is no surprise that suicide attempts are rife amongst young people held in watch houses.


Both Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission have raised serious concerns over this blatant disregard for children's human rights. Holding children in such appalling conditions is cruel and inhumane. That is why the LNP is moving an amendment to restrict the amount of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours. This amendment is supported by both the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Guardian. They view this time limit as being the maximum number of consecutive hours a child may spend in a watch house without the authority of a court.

Whilst it is important that youth offenders are removed from the streets and faced with the consequences of their crimes, holding them to ransom in adult watch houses is not the answer. Only by supporting the LNP's amendment can this balance be achieved. Many will respond to this assertion by questioning how we propose to stop these released youth from reoffending. It is clear that this bill makes no effort to curb reoffending, so surely releasing more youth offenders early is only going to worsen the problem. The LNP has the answer to this as well. As my colleagues have already expressed, we will move an amendment to the bill to restore breach of bail as an offence.

This bill's feeble attempts to weaken Queensland's bail laws are clearly just an attempt by the Labor government to try to remove some of the pressure they have placed on themselves through their botched transition of 17-year-olds to youth detention. With the presumption of bail in their favour, as this bill in its unamended form would ensure, youth offenders will simply be released back on the streets with no consequences for their actions and primed to reoffend and place the safety of the community at risk once again. Whilst it is important that children are not held in inappropriate conditions, releasing them with no consequences is not the answer.

The safety of the community must be held above the comfort of the offender. That is why this government must support the LNP's amendments. Restoring breach of bail as an offence restricts the ability of youths to reoffend and serves as a disincentive for further offences. Faced with the prospect of a quick return to the watch house or an extended stay in a youth detention centre, youth offenders may think twice about how lucky they are to be free. Currently, youth offenders think the system is a joke.

Ultimately, striking a balance between ensuring the safety of the community and the fair treatment of offenders is a difficult task. Whilst the bill makes a gallant attempt at achieving this goal, it is the same glaring holes that require patching. I and my colleagues offer our support to this bill because Queenslanders deserve better. Now the ball is in the government's court. Join us and support our amendments or face the consequence of another Labor bill that just does not quite cut it. With this bill in its unamended form, youth crime will not improve.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.53 pm): I stand before the House today to make my contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This is a really complex issue. I discuss the contents of this bill with full respect to all of those young people, those children, whom I have had contact with over many years. I speak about the bill with full respect of not what they have done but of their context, of their personal stories and of the environment in which they have been brought up and in which they have had no say.

Initially, this bill was authored in response to the Queensland government's 2018 Youth Justice Strategy, not the *Four Corners* program as has been alleged. Among other things, the bill aims to reduce the reoffending rates of young offenders as well as provide a more supportive legal structure for our young people. This government takes the issue of youth justice extremely seriously, which is evident in its historic investment of \$550 million in the youth justice system since the transition of 17-year-olds out of the adult system. This significant investment is aimed at reducing reoffending as well as creating a better support system for our children. The youth justice bill will reform several pieces of legislation. However, I will make comment specifically on the amendments to the Youth Justice Act and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

Firstly, the bill will ensure a more supportive environment within the youth justice system by reducing the period in which proceedings are finalised. Importantly, this amendment does not remove judicial or police discretion but intends to strike a balance between community safety and ensuring the appropriate release of a child from custody.

The bill amends the Youth Justice Act by strengthening principle 7 to expressly state that proceedings started against a child for an offence should be finalised as soon as practical. This amendment replaces the former principle 7, which only states that the proceeding should be conducted in a timely manner, which thereby places no urgency on the matter to be resolved. It is critical to ensure efficient court proceedings within our youth justice system as many young people may remain awaiting trial or sentencing for an extended period.

As a former principal I know firsthand the impacts upon children when being held in custody for long periods of time—the impact on their education and the impact on their personal mental health. The psychological impacts of being incarcerated at such a young age for an extended period of time is often irreversible and can also foster a lack of trust among our young people in the Queensland youth justice system.

For some children, intensive and onerous bail conditions are likely to be counterproductive and increase the likelihood of a young person breaching their bail conditions and being remanded in detention for the breach. All too often I have seen young people who have committed a crime and then breached their bail conditions end up in far worse trouble than they had originally been in. I am proud to say that this amendment serves to reduce the impact on our children and create a more supportive environment for them, as well as lower reoffending rates within our youth.

Secondly, the bill will support a decrease in reoffending rates of our youth by introducing a new requirement for police to legally notify or notify a legal aid organisation as soon as reasonably practical. This reform amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and creates a more effective system in reducing a child's time in custody. This amendment has been included due to delays in legal advice and representation contributing to delays in an application for bail being made for a child.

Police can only, and should only, question a child as long as they have a support person present. This has always been the case. As stated previously, a longer time in custody has been linked to higher reoffending rates among young people. By creating a higher sense of urgency to ensure legal representation for our young people, this amendment will drastically cut down the time young people spend in custody. As a result, this reform will reduce the number of times our youth will commit offences.


I congratulate the government for creating the 2018 Youth Justice Strategy and committing to the strategy's key objectives by invoking the implementation of this bill. These key objectives being reducing the reoffending rates of young offenders as well as providing a more supportive legal structure for our young people.

I commend the minister and the work of her department. I know how important these reforms are. They are critical in ensuring a positive behavioural change for our children.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.

MOTION

Mine Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. directs the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 25 November 2019 on the effectiveness of the mine safety regime in Queensland.

2. In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider:
- (a) resourcing and operations of the mine safety inspectorate, including the inspectors in regional Queensland;
 - (b) review the legislative framework to ensure it is the most effective in the world to protect mine workers;
 - (c) why the Palaszczuk government dissolved a Mining Safety Advisory Committee and the impact this has had on Queensland mine safety;
 - (d) the circumstances that have led to six fatalities in Queensland mines and quarries in the last 12 months; and
 - (e) the stories of regional Queenslanders employed in the coalmining industry and their views about the health and safety systems in Queensland.

The natural resources industry is nothing without the people who make up that industry, and this state would be so much worse off without that industry. One in every eight jobs in this state is reliant on the resources sector and, without the resources workers, Queensland does not work. Whether individual members in this place support the resources industry or not, every square metre of this state depends on it. Regardless of where members stand on resources, each and every one of us in this place must stand up for these people.

Six deaths in 12 months in Queensland's mines and quarries is simply not good enough. Not since 1997 has Queensland seen the scale of mining related deaths in this state, and it cannot be allowed to continue. Rightly, Queenslanders want answers. They want answers as to why last year there were 500 fewer mine safety inspections completed than there were four years ago. They want to know whether the department has adequate resources or have they been cut due to cost cutting. They deserve to know how many mine safety inspector roles remain unfilled and why these positions have been allowed to sit vacant while our miners are dying. They deserve to know why gender requirements prevented the advisory committee on mining safety from meeting and they deserve to know why the state's chief inspector recently resigned.

Queenslanders want answers to these questions and more because clearly all is not well with Queensland's mine safety regulator. This is not about blame; it is about getting our mine safety policies right so that lives are protected. The LNP firmly believes that everyone who goes to work deserves the right to be able to come home to their families. That is why as a community we deserve answers to what is happening in our mines and what has gone wrong to cause these incidents.

To set the path for preventing deaths in the resources sector, the only real option is the establishment of a full parliamentary select committee into mine safety. The inquiry needs to be public and it needs to be transparent. We need to hear from industry, from miners and from their communities in regional Queensland. Miners at the coalface and from the quarries deserve to be heard and we simply must listen. We must, all of us, embrace a process that will get to the bottom of this crisis without fear or favour—a process that is the first step in restoring confidence to our miners and their communities.

Only a bipartisan inquiry with the powers of this parliament will provide the answers that we need. For the minister responsible for this industry to stand here and oppose this motion is nothing short of a disgrace. For the minister to stand in this House and put politics ahead of the safety of miners signals a dark day for workers in the resources sector, a dark day for the communities that they are a part of and a dark day for Queensland.


It is not like we are asking for anything revolutionary. The 2017 bipartisan parliamentary report *Black lung white lies* is a perfect example of members of this House putting politics aside and getting the answers that Queenslanders deserve. Closed shop reviews have no guarantee of delivering the change needed to address this issue. When questions are being asked of the department itself, we must ensure that answers are delivered.

The fact that Queenslanders want answers on mine and quarry safety is reason enough to establish this inquiry. For those members who forget that they are here to represent Queenslanders, let me give you six other reasons: David Routledge, Bradley Hardwick, Jack Gerdes, Connor-Shaye Milne, Adam Malone and Allan 'Big Al' Houston. They are not just names; they are real people with lives and families. They are members of communities throughout this state. They are the victims in Queensland's resources industry in the past 12 months. Rural and regional mining communities deserve better, and mine safety is too important to get wrong. When this motion is voted on, the record will show who in this place values the lives of Queenslanders and who values political point scoring.

The LNP is standing shoulder to shoulder with our miners on this important issue because we know that they deserve the truth and they deserve answers. We also know that they must do whatever is needed to give answers to the families of those six victims and we must take action to ensure that

their loss is not in vain. I implore all members of this House to ask themselves one simple question before they vote on this motion: are the lives of the men and women who work in Queensland's resources sector worth protecting? If you answer yes, you must support this motion.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that comments will come through the chair. You will not address members of the chamber as 'you'.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.04 pm): The loss of one life in the workplace is one too many. To lose six mining and quarry workers in the last 12 months is unconscionable and inconsolable for the families involved. Families expect that when their loved ones leave for work they will return home safely. I have made it absolutely clear that this situation is unacceptable and requires strong and immediate action from government, industry and workers' representatives. The key word here is 'immediate'.

The unions see this proposed inquiry as unnecessary. Employers see this proposed inquiry as unnecessary. What we all want, and what this government is providing, is immediate action—action right now. Every action the opposition has detailed for the proposed inquiry is already underway. For how many months does the opposition want us to lay down our tools and do nothing while we wait for this inquiry? How many workers will it take before the political mantle of the LNP is raised and we can get on with the job? I say drop the politics, the insincerity, the opportunism and let us get on with the job of protecting our mineworkers.

We are taking action protecting workers and working alongside workers' representatives. My office has spoken to representatives from the CFMMEU and AWU today, and they do not support this proposed inquiry. They support our government and our tripartite response. We need action and we need action right now.

The ongoing statewide safety reset is a crucial first step in refocusing attention on what should be everyone's No. 1 priority—the safety and wellbeing of our employees. Over the past five weeks more than 23,000 workers and union and management representatives have taken part in 550 safety resets at 162 mines and quarries across this state.

I have been to a reset at a coalmine and a quarry. It has been a powerful experience for me to see firsthand workers, unions and management come together—come together—to reflect on the tragedy of six lives lost. Feedback to me on site from peak bodies, workers' representatives and individual companies and through confidential surveys is that the safety reset is placing safety front of mind in everything we do.


Two independent reviews are now underway into mining and quarrying safety—two reviews are now underway. The first looks at how industry can improve and how the Mines Inspectorate can be more effective. The second focuses on the state's mining health and safety legislation. These reports are due for completion before the end of the year, and we will act as we are doing right now.

These findings will add to the Palaszczuk government's comprehensive suite of ongoing and completed mining health and safety reforms. This government has allocated additional funding for more inspectors in this year's budget. Three new mines inspectors will be appointed, as well as an additional chief inspector.

We have committed to work together on reforms to strengthen the safety culture in the resources sector. This includes sanctions for reckless behaviour and legislative reforms such as the government's proposal to actively consider the offence of industrial manslaughter which exists in other industry sectors.

I would like to acknowledge the joint effort by the mining and quarrying industry's peak bodies, the unions and the individual companies in activating this reset and moving ahead with the task that needs to be done. We are working together to make active change for Queensland's workers. Now is not the time for talk; now is the time for action.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again offer my deepest sympathy to the families, friends and colleagues of the workers who have been taken so tragically. It lies with all of us—government, industry and unions—to make safety our No. 1 priority. A parliamentary inquiry would divert tripartite attention, commitment, time and resources from progressing immediate and important initiatives to improve mine workers' safety. This government refuses to sit on its hands and wait for those opposite to play politics before we act. The safety of mineworkers is always the government's primary consideration and it should not be politicised. The government has acted for workers and their families, while all the LNP has to offer is another inquiry. Now is the time for action!

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to support the private member's motion put forward by my colleague the member for Burdekin, Dale Last, that directs the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to inquire into the effectiveness of the mine safety regime in Queensland.

There have been six workplace fatalities in the mining industry in the last 12 months. This is six too many and it is absolutely unacceptable. There is something wrong with the way the workplace safety systems are operating, and that must be plainly obvious. That is why we must have this inquiry. The coal industry alone accounts for approximately \$5 billion worth of resource revenue to the Queensland economy. There are some 50,000 people who gain employment in this industry. Royalties from the resource sector are what pays the bills in Queensland. The biggest coalmining town in Queensland is Brisbane, and it would suffer an economic catastrophe without it. This is why it is imperative that our mining people arrive home from work safely every day.


There are serious questions that need to be answered. Why did the Palaszczuk government dissolve the mining safety advisory committee due to their policy about gender representation, and what impact has that had on mine safety? There are many women employed in the industry from operators to mining executives. This does not cease operating because of a lack of gender representation, so why dissolve an important safety group for this reason?

I note that the honourable member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard, has recently travelled to London to discuss the gender representation issue. I wonder whether mine safety and dissolving mine safety committees was talked about. I suspect the member spent more time shopping at Harrods than she did arguing for effective mine safety. Anyway, the papers have awarded her the gold medal for junket trips for her efforts. This is further evidence of the Palaszczuk government's incompetence and lack of understanding of a very important issue.

Very recently a young man tragically lost his life at the Baralaba coalmine. He was operating a large mining excavator and became entangled in the retractable ladder which gives access to the operator's platform. I have spent countless thousands of hours operating earthmoving machinery in my lifetime. I have been an earthmoving contractor in the resources industry, and at one time I had all of the necessary black coal tickets to operate machines such as the one involved in this tragic accident. I wonder about this and I ask myself how this possibly could have happened. I have spoken in private and at great length to another operator who drives this machine. Whilst he was not there at the time, he has in detail explained the circumstances in advance and the reasons why this accident happened.

The first question that comes to mind when you have this knowledge is why would an operator have access to the mechanism that operates the retractable ladder whilst still climbing or descending the ladder? It seems to me that, from what I have been told, this anomaly could have easily been identified and fixed. The mechanism that operates the ladder could be relocated somewhere else on the machine so it would be impossible to activate it whilst still on the ladder.

This particular incident is an absolutely avoidable tragedy and highlights why we need effective, practical and bulletproof safety procedures to protect our mining community while they are at work. I agree with the minister, Dr Anthony Lynham: no politics. This is why I respectfully ask that he and his colleagues in the Labor Party support this motion and have this inquiry. We are dealing with people's lives here. The mining industry and its working people deserve our support to make sure they are safe at work.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.14 pm): The Palaszczuk government takes mine workers' safety extremely seriously. Families have a right to expect that their loved ones will return home from work, but what we do not need is another inquiry into something that we are already working towards. We do not need to waste more time sending members of parliament out to regional communities which already know how we can achieve improvements to safety in the mining sector.

My electorate of Keppel is closely linked to the mining community. One of my oldest friends is a miner, and she tells me that the No. 1 thing she worries about at work is safety. In my capacity as an environmental planning consultant I have worked on mine sites, and I have seen firsthand just how dangerous those workplaces are. The opposition is calling on our government to listen to the stories of regional coal workers, but it is the LNP that is not listening to what coal workers are saying about this very issue.

Unlike those on the other side, I represent these workers on a daily basis and I fight for their industry and their safety. There are over 3,855 full-time-equivalent positions filled by Keppel constituents in the mining sector, and the sector contributes \$647 million in gross regional product to the Keppel economy every year.


The recent tragic incidents in mines and quarries in Queensland have been deeply disturbing. I want to offer my sincere condolences to the friends and families of those men who have been taken far too early. It is every mining family's worst nightmare when their loved one does not come home from work. These deaths and injuries should not be happening. Over the past two decades 47 Queenslanders have died in the mining and quarrying industry, and that is plainly unacceptable.

As Minister Lynham stated, Queensland mines and quarries are undergoing a statewide safety reset with a targeted completion date by the end of August. This is a tripartite initiative between our government, industry and unions. This reset has been designed to facilitate discussions between management, operational staff and relevant union representatives on risks and safe practice. Employers and employees alike are reflecting on why they are undergoing a safety reset, discussing site-specific safety history and safety culture, and hearing from senior executives, union site representatives and the inspectorate.

At these resets miners have shared their stories with their colleagues, their employers, their unions and government, allowing for reflection and, more importantly, for commitments to be made to ensure that safety is foremost in all operations. These resets have been tailored to the individual sites and their various rosters and operational requirements and are designed to cover all workers. As of last week, more than 23,300 workers have participated in 549 safety reset sessions across 162 mines and quarries. The ongoing statewide safety reset is a crucial first step in refocusing attention on what should be everyone's No. 1 priority. It is everyone's right to return home after work. It is on all of us—government, industry and unions—to make safety our No. 1 priority and ensure that Queenslanders come home safely to their loved ones.

I am advised that in the wake of these recent fatalities the opposition shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, chose to not even attend the mining industry safety forum on 10 July. He was invited. The insincerity in his actions is palatable and the political opportunism is clear to all. It is the same political opportunism that has ruled out industrial manslaughter even prior to their call for an inquiry. He has already decided what the result will be. The politics are rampant. Never call an inquiry until you know what the answer is, and here is the member for Burdekin following the bible of political opportunism. This is nothing but pure and petty politics. We are working with unions and industry to bring our workers home safely. Our goal is to bring workers home safely, not to spend more time and taxpayers' money sending politicians who really have no idea about the industry out into the sector.

The miners, the industry, the workers and the unions have been telling us exactly what they need. We are working with them. I give credit to the minister for the consultative way in which he has brought all of these sectors and stakeholders together to find a way forward. The workers and their families and the mining communities in Queensland deserve action and they deserve the action that this government is already delivering. We do not need another inquiry.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to support the member for Burdekin's motion. We all agree in this House that one death is one too many, but to have four in the last six months means immediate action needs to be taken. Every miner needs to arrive home safely. They work hard. They play a critical role in building our Queensland economy. The industry is the backbone of our economy, along with agriculture. Queensland miners and their communities deserve answers as to what has been happening in our mines and what has gone wrong to cause these accidents.

The LNP shares the considerable concerns of many Queenslanders about mine safety, and that is why it fully supports the establishment of a parliamentary select committee into the effectiveness of the Queensland government's mine safety regime. The seat I represent has significantly invested in our resources industry. While I do come from agriculture, I have grown up around the mining industry. I have many friends who rely on the industry as a job or who have businesses associated with mining in the Bowen Basin. I can tell you now that there is nothing more chilling when you hear on the radio that there has been an accident at a mine site because people feel that they may know that person. They think, 'Who is it?' Those communities out there are very close.

This is not a blame game. This is about getting our mine safety policies right so lives are saved. The minister said this morning, and I agree with him—

Every time I am at Brisbane Airport, I see mine workers in high-vis heading home, and that is the most important point—that they are heading home to their partners, their children, their parents and their friends, because the most important thing to come off site is a worker.


I absolutely agree with the minister, and that is why we need to make sure we do everything we possibly can to find out why this is happening. That is why we need a parliamentary select committee into the effectiveness of the Queensland government's mine safety regime. The inquiry needs to be

public and we need to hear from every stakeholder, particularly industry, miners themselves and of course their communities in regional Queensland. We need to hear from people who live in Blackwater, Tieri, Capella, Clermont and Emerald. Those towns need to be involved in this solution. This will allow anybody involved in the industry—especially those in regional areas who are at the coalface of the industry—to participate, to give evidence and to help us find solutions to make sure we have the safest mining industry in the world. All the Labor Party has done is announce two closed shop reviews which will report by the end of the year and be tabled in parliament. We need to have a public inquiry so everybody can be involved.

What has been disappointing is reports of budget cuts to mine safety and the fact that the important mine safety advisory committees were dissolved by the Labor government due to not meeting gender representation quotas. Seriously? The mine safety advisory committees have not met because of a gender balance issue. That was the hold-up. That is what has held them up. You have got to be kidding. This is a multimillion dollar industry employing 50,000 workers, and gender balance has stalled the important safety committee from meeting.

We need a full bipartisan parliamentary inquiry into mine safety and we need it now. The reduction in investigations proves that we need an open and independent inquiry into mine safety because Labor has clearly dropped the ball. This is an industry that contributes billions of dollars to the Queensland government's coffers. If these reductions are due to cost cutting, we need to get to the bottom of it and do the right thing by the hardworking men and women in our resources industries. Serious questions also need to be asked as to why so many mine safety roles have remained vacant under the Labor government. The state's chief inspector recently resigned, showing that it is clear all is not well in Queensland's mine safety regulator.

Mine safety is far too important to get wrong, and something is clearly going wrong in Queensland. Rural and regional mining communities deserve better. We need to find out what is going on. This industry is far too important to let this go. We are not stopping the minister doing what he is doing now. He can continue to do what he is doing now, but he can also hold a parliamentary inquiry which will allow mineworkers—the people at the coalface—to have their say. They can come up with some evidence and even help us with some solutions, because there is nothing better than actually getting it from the people who work in the industry and who do not have the exposure of coming down to Brisbane or being in a closed shop review. This needs to be a public review so we can see those submissions. That is why we need a parliamentary inquiry to get to the bottom of it. It was the same with the black lung issue. We need to make sure mine safety becomes our priority and we get it right once and for all.}

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.24 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. We must do everything we can to put an end to the heartbreak that has struck families, friends and colleagues in the mining and quarrying industries. Six deaths in the mining and quarrying industries in the last 12 months in Queensland is an appalling loss of life.

The opposition is here today calling for an inquiry to review mine safety and health legislation, but as we have heard there are two independent reviews already underway and they are due to report to the government by the end of the year. There are two independent reviews, and this is what they will do. They will identify key changes needed to improve health and safety in the state's mines and quarries.

In the first review, the Palaszczuk government has commissioned forensic structural engineer Dr Sean Brady to examine all fatal incidents in Queensland's mines and quarries since 2000. This review will investigate the reasons mine and quarry workers have died over the past 20 years. It is taking the long view over what has happened. It will look at the historic risks and trends and the emerging issues. This review will investigate how companies and industry as a whole can improve from these incidents and it will identify a compliance focus for the Mines Inspectorate.

Secondly and separately, the University of Queensland is conducting a second review commissioned by the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. In this review, the university is reviewing the state's mining health and safety legislation to ensure it is relevant to current and emerging mine practice and technology. They will consult with industry, unions, mines inspectors and legal experts during the review. We need experts doing these reviews and not politicians, which is the ultimate closed shop review.

There are also two other developments that make this review proposed by the member for Burdekin superfluous. Firstly, the Palaszczuk government has been actively working with these stakeholders to consider bringing the offence of industrial manslaughter to our mining safety legislation.

In light of this development, the LNP need to consider whether they would support this and whether they would back this. Industrial manslaughter is already in our safety laws for other industries through workplace health and safety legislation.

The two tripartite mining advisory committees are presently developing advice for Minister Lynham on industrial manslaughter's application in the mining and quarrying industries. This is what real action looks like. This is moving beyond what we could achieve through an extended parliamentary inquiry. It is working with industry to solve the problem. It is action.

Secondly, the Palaszczuk government is currently consulting with stakeholders on a draft bill to establish the resources safety and health regulator as an independent statutory body separate to the facilitation arm of government. It would include an independent commissioner for resources safety and health to provide strategic advice to the minister, to engage with industry to promote safety and health, and to monitor, review and report on the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland. This bill would utilise the independent office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor to ensure independence and efficiency in the prosecution of serious offences under the resources safety and health legislation.


Once again, the question in light of these two extra developments is this: what are the LNP going to do? Are they going to support any future proposed changes to industrial manslaughter laws to extend it to mining and quarrying?

Ms Grace: Don't hold your breath.

Mr WHITING: Well, let us see where they go with that according to what they have done in the past on that. Are they going to support a resources safety bill? The onus should be on the LNP and what they would do in accordance with these two reviews that are coming up and these two other developments which I know are actions designed to help prevent the scourge of workplace health and safety deaths.

Those opposite say they want action now. If that is so, they should tell us if they support those actions. What about the safety resets? They are hugely important. We want to hear how important those opposite feel they are. They are absolutely crucial. I want to hear that they want immediate action on making workplaces safer for our miners. Let's see whether they want to delay action being taken with this parliamentary review or they want to get on and do the work.

(Time expired)

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.29 pm): I rise to support the private member's motion introduced into this House by the shadow minister for natural resources, the member for Burdekin, Dale Last. This motion directs the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to inquire into and report on the effectiveness of the mine safety regime in Queensland. It is of great importance that the committee conducts this inquiry to ensure the openness and transparency of the information gathered.

The LNP have called for a bipartisan parliamentary inquiry with regional hearings to allow this issue to be discussed in the local communities it directly affects. On the other hand, the Labor government has announced two internal, closed shop reviews and reports into mine safety. These reviews are to be conducted behind closed doors without the valuable information from those working at the coalface of the industry. An inquiry conducted by the committee would allow submissions from the general public, mining industry representatives, interest groups, miners and, importantly, families who have been affected by the recent deaths and injuries of mineworkers.

It is a sad fact that there have been six deaths in Queensland mines and quarries in the last 12 months. That is six families who have lost a loved one whilst in the workplace, surely an environment from which one would ordinarily expect a person to return after their shift had ended. One would think safety would be paramount in an industry with numerous hazards associated with it. One would think that checking on that safety would be second to none to ensure the workers in this environment are always protected. Unfortunately, that is not the case. There were 500 fewer mine safety inspections completed in 2018-19 than in 2015-16. This statistic did not appear to have affected the advisory committee on mining safety, which did not meet for several months last year because the board did not have the correct gender requirements.


The Labor government is continuing to follow their anti-resources, anti-regions and anti-jobs agenda by not allowing a public inquiry. We need to hear from all stakeholders, especially miners, industry members and local communities. It is about time this government provided them with some answers. What is happening in our mines and what has been the cause of so many fatalities in the past 12 months?

The mining industry contributes billions of dollars to the Queensland economy which ultimately ends up in the state's coffers. The resource sector is worth \$62.9 billion to the state economy and directly employs over 54,000 people. The resources industry is doing their fair share of the heavy lifting for the Premier and the Minister for Natural Resources. This makes a drastic reduction in the number of mining safety inspections even more difficult to fathom.

Supposedly the Labor Party's core principle is to support workers' rights. This is a massive fail by this government; they cannot ensure protection of workers at their place of work. Mine safety is too important to get wrong. People's lives are at risk. Rural and regional communities deserve much better from this government. The LNP is committed to holding the government to account when it comes to our miners' health and wellbeing.

The member for Keppel made a comment about supporting miners in her electorate. I would inform the member for Keppel that I have a mine in the electorate of Condamine. That mine is New Hope's Acland mine. At the moment these people are more worried about job security. That mine has a long and proud safety record. The management of New Hope's Acland mine are in the difficult position of having to terminate over 150 employees in the very near future. The minister talked about getting this report and acting swiftly. The workers at Acland have been waiting for this minister to act for five years. That does not fill us with confidence that the government will act swiftly.

The minister also made a comment about the committee. I and the other non-government members of the committee—the member for Bundaberg and the member for Burdekin—are ready to start tomorrow. If the minister wants to start this inquiry, we are ready to go; we are ready to start. I implore him to display some openness and transparency around this inquiry.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.34 pm): My community, like other communities that support the mining industry, are in shock and are grieving the loss of family members, workmates, friends and neighbours—those who were taken before their time in workplace mining tragedies. I pass on my condolences to all of those who have lost loved ones.

The safety reset and surveys have given voice to workers in our communities—more than 23,000 of them. They are speaking and we are listening. The opposition have chosen to spread misinformation regarding the tripartite committees who advise Minister Lynham. I would like to start to bring some facts to this debate.

The Coalmining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the mineral mines and quarries counterpart, the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, are built around the government, industry and workers' representatives working together. These boards were not dissolved. They continue to provide advice. Their primary function is to provide tripartite, technical advice to Minister Lynham about safety and health matters. They served and they continue to provide this function.

The tripartite nature of the advisory committees ensures that the views of all stakeholders are represented to provide advice that is in the best interests of mineworkers and the industry as a whole. The mine safety and health regulatory framework in Queensland is based on tripartite cooperation between industry, unions and government. This model was enshrined in parliament when it enacted the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act in 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act in 1999, 20 years ago.


The advisory committees have driven many important reforms over the last several years including new competencies for persons with safety and health obligations in the mining industry and, of course, support for the sector's response to mine dust and lung disease. The Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee has met eight times in the last financial year, including on 18 September 2018 and 5 June 2019—both held in Townsville—and was followed by an onsite visit to South32's Cannington Mine on 6 June 2019, providing an opportunity to talk to mineworkers and management about health and safety issues.

Both advisory committees attended the mining industry safety forum on 10 July in the wake of the recent fatalities. Much like these committees, the mining industry safety forum was attended by government, industry and workers' representatives. Representatives from groups such as the Australian Workers' Union, the CFMMEU, Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia and the Queensland Resources Council all attended. I am advised that the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, chose not to attend. I am also advised that the Queensland Resources Council are very much against the LNP's proposed talkfest, preferring to work with our government to ensure the safety of Queensland workers.

Last weekend Minister Lynham, the member for Rockhampton and I attended the annual Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference on the Gold Coast. I did not see any of the opposition present. I saw government, industry and unions again coming together to work together on

this issue. While I was there I met with workers from Mackay and I listened to their stories and their experiences with safety in the industry. There was nobody from the other side there to listen to these stories.

We on this side of the House do not require an inquiry to talk to workers. We listen to workers as part of who we are—unlike the member for Burdekin, who in the media is worried only about executives. I say to the member for Burdekin that when everybody does their job workforces are kept safe. Indeed, I am listening to those in my community and our government is listening to Queenslanders in the industry, unions and workplaces.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.39 pm): First and foremost, I express my deepest sympathies to the families who have lost loved ones on mine sites and quarries in Queensland. What we have seen over the last 12 months with these six deaths cannot be taken lightly in this place. Can any of us imagine what would happen if our families faced the tragic news that we died in an accident while here? Can members imagine what sort of inquiry would ensue?

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. If members are having conversations, please take them outside. There is too much general noise in the chamber.


Mr WATTS: What would the Clerk do if someone here were tragically killed when they came to work? Would a quiet little inquiry be held behind closed doors or would it be a very public, open and transparent inquiry looking into the circumstances and processes that led to the tragic circumstances?

First and foremost, let us look at what the industry contributes. The industry contributes \$62.9 billion to the Queensland economy and 54,000 direct jobs. Every single person in those direct jobs deserves to get home to their family. We should do everything we can to ensure that happens. For some reason the minister thinks that if we have this inquiry then other things being done cannot be done. We support the other things being done Minister. We support everything that is being done to protect the lives of people who work in mine sites and quarries. That is not a reason for not having an open, public, transparent inquiry.

I do not understand why the Labor government is afraid of an open and transparent inquiry. If there is nothing to hide, there is nothing to hide. If there are systemic failures in the system, they should be highlighted. As we saw in the black lung inquiry conducted by this parliament, there was a systemic failure. I refer to the fact that there were 10 fewer inspections a week than occurred a number of years ago. We should ask why they are happening less often. I do not know why they are happening less often. The minister may well know the answer, but an inquiry would make it clear so that everybody in Queensland knows the reason why. They then would understand if it is due to a budget cut or some other reason. If there is a good, valid reason, why hide it in a report that nobody can see? Why not have an open, public, transparent inquiry so that people from towns all around Queensland can speak to their elected representatives? That is the point of this place and why parliament has the powers to conduct these kinds of inquiries.

It is a great opportunity for us to ensure that Queensland leads the world in mine and quarry safety. We should be the world leaders. We are a great economy. We depend on this kind of industry and we should have the best safety practices, processes and procedures in the world. What we should not do is if we cannot find the right people to sit on a board—that is not a reason for the board to not meet. We heard earlier that they met in September and then some six months later. In that six months, tragedies that should not have occurred did occur. We should ensure that our processes are world leading—that we are the best in the world when it comes to safety in this area. The best way to do that is with an open and transparent inquiry to look at the systems and any systemic failures that may have led to these tragic circumstances.

If there were an open, public inquiry, we all could see if we are world leading in safety. If we are not world leading in safety, we will have a good idea how to clear it up. I do not understand why the Labor government is afraid of an inquiry that will lead to better practices and to us being a world-leading nation in terms of safety in mines. I do not understand why open and transparent government is something that those on the other side fear. This is an opportunity for us to take our place as the safest place in the world to mine. We should grasp it with both hands.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.45 pm): The Palaszczuk government is investing in safety for Queensland's mine and quarry workers. The opposition's claim of budget cuts is just blatant fearmongering. Let me be clear: there were no budget cuts to mining safety and health under this government. In fact, the government committed to three new inspector positions and an additional chief inspector.

Our government has taken action for workers and their families. We are investing more in resourcing for our Mines Inspectorate. Some \$1.68 million has been set aside in the budget for more mine inspectors. Our government will appoint three new mine inspectors as well as two additional chief inspectors—one for coal and one for mineral mines and quarries. This will take the Mines Inspectorate numbers in total to 48—the highest number in a decade. I am advised that presently the recruitment process is underway for a mineral mines and quarry inspector to further service the local industry in Townsville.


It cannot be argued that the Mines Inspectorate does not do critical work. In 2018-19, in response to concerns over methane gas management in underground coalmines, the Mines Inspectorate undertook an extensive audit of gas management and released its report to industry. I know that the Queensland mining industry need not be reminded of human tragedy that can occur if gas mining is ineffective. On 16 July, it was the 33rd anniversary of the Moura No. 4 disaster, which took the lives of 12 coalminers. There is a critical need for focus on gas management. Otherwise the outcome could be catastrophic. This year we also saw an underground mine fire at North Goonyella to which the Mines Inspectorate has dedicated significant focus and manpower—first towards overcoming and then assessing re-entry into the mine.

Those opposite referred to the decreased number of inspectors. I refer to the independent Commissioner for Mine Health and Safety, who noted in her 2017-18 report that inspectors now place more emphasis on mine audits. Mine audits are a more in-depth analysis of a mine operation's safety and health system and provide more valuable feedback to mine operators regarding improvements. An inspection may take two or three days. An audit is a more in-depth analysis and takes a team of inspectors a week.

We heard the passionate speech from the member for Burdekin. He said that he is standing shoulder to shoulder with the miners. The member for Burdekin did not turn up to the safety forum, so he certainly was not standing shoulder to shoulder with those miners, nor standing shoulder to shoulder this week with those at the Mine Health and Safety Conference. There is no sincerity from the shadow minister for mines and natural resources in talking about standing shoulder to shoulder with miners when he disappears.

Clearly, the former LNP member for Whitsunday led the charge with opposition rhetoric regarding the hardworking Mines Inspectorate. They have joined in when asking to relocate the inspectors to a single location. This displays a fundamental misunderstanding on the opposition's behalf. Inspectors are located close to the sites they regulate in order to effectively and efficiently conduct announced and unannounced inspections, audits, investigations and education workshops and forums. This means that currently 18 of the 22 coalmining inspectors are located in Central Queensland offices, in Mackay and Rockhampton, providing close access to the Bowen Basin, which is rich with coal. Similarly, more than half of the mineral mines and quarries inspectors are located in Mount Isa or in my community of Townsville, in which are located many mineral mines and quarries.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit Phosphate Hill Mine, Cannington mine, Ernest Henry mine and Dugald River mine. I saw firsthand that safety was priority Nos 1, 2 and 3. I also heard of an unwavering commitment to the safety reset. Members of my community fly in and fly out to each of these mines. The people I represent who work in these mines and quarries deserve to come home safe. The Palaszczuk government is investing in resourcing our Mines Inspectorate to ensure they do exactly that.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister for mines. I join with everyone in this chamber—from both sides—in expressing my deepest sympathies to the six grieving families who have lost loved ones due to mine safety issues in the past 12 months. I stand in this chamber today to support this motion for a full, frank and open parliamentary inquiry on behalf of those six grieving families. One of those families is very closely connected to my local area. It is on behalf of the Routledge family that I do this.

Everyone in this chamber should support this motion for a full, open inquiry into mine safety. I take offence at the Minister for Mines standing in this chamber and saying that this motion should stop everything in relation to mine safety in this state. I say to the Minister for Mines: do the job you are paid to do. You are the mines minister. No-one on this side of the House is asking the minister to stop what he is meant to do in relation to mine safety today or tomorrow. We are asking for a parliamentary inquiry into what has gone wrong in mines in Queensland in the past 12 months, to hear from the miners at the coalface—the people who go to work each and every day. I say to the member for Keppel that those

people cannot go into the closed shop inquiry that the Minister for Mines talked about. Those people, whether they live in Blackbutt, the Burdekin electorate, Far North Queensland or Yeppoon, cannot go into the closed shop inquiry that this mines minister has proposed to the parliament.

I find it incredible that the member for Keppel would stand in this chamber and say words to the effect that—I will confirm this in *Hansard*—you do not do an inquiry until you know the outcome. What does that mean? We now know why the Labor Party do not want a full, frank and open parliamentary inquiry. They are worried about what the answer is. That stinks of a cover-up to me. What did they know and when did they know it?

Mr Mander: No integrity.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: another integrity crisis. One thing that came to light as a result of these tragic, horrible deaths that is simply unacceptable to the people of Queensland, particularly those in the resources industry, is that the mining health and safety advisory board did not meet because it did not meet gender requirements. What a kick in the guts for every miner, every family and every person associated with the resources industry. Find someone. Put them on. I know that the Queensland resources industry wrote to the minister and suggested people for that advisory board. I do not care whether the people on the advisory board are male or female. I want them on the board.

Mr Mander: The best ones.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We want the best people on the board. For the government to say that a board should not meet because it does not meet gender requirements is a slap in the face to the hardworking men and women who go out into the resources industry—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will cease his interjections.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: To know that the Palaszczuk Labor government refuses to represent them because they did not have the right gender—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will cease his interjections. Minister, you have already spoken in this debate.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The lack of care and compassion from the mines minister is the reason the LNP is moving this motion for an open, transparent and public parliamentary inquiry—so we can get to the bottom of issues on behalf of those families.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. This is a very serious issue. The motion moved by the opposition is based upon fundamentally wrong assumptions about what has happened. I have sat beside the minister and listened to those opposite speak. This inquiry is being called for by those opposite based on fundamental flaws in their understanding of what is happening in this industry. I have been involved in health and safety as Minister for Industrial Relations and as a proud leader of the union movement in this state for more years than those opposite put together.

I would like to see them being just as passionate when it comes to health and safety in all industries, not just the mining industry. Everything that the Labor Party has done to improve health and safety for all workers in this state has been opposed by those opposite. Everything we have brought into this House has been opposed by those opposite. Opposition members get up in this place under tragic circumstances—I give my condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives, not just in the mines but in all industries in this state. Everybody whose family has lost a loved one has my condolences and my sympathies. It does not just happen in mining. We all know that.

Every time we have come into this House to improve occupational health and safety, to stop their soft inspectorates going out there, namby-pamby, enabling employers—we ignore the fact that employers have the primary responsibility to provide a healthy and safe workplace. Under legislation it is employers who have the primary responsibility for health and safety. We on this side of the House know that no one element can do this alone. We have to work in a tripartite, cooperative relationship—with unions and workers, with government and with employers. They are the three groups that deliver occupational health and safety. Those opposite would not have a clue.

The shadow minister who moved this motion was quoted in a recent newspaper article about industrial manslaughter. In October 2017 when we introduced industrial manslaughter laws, what did those opposite do? They voted against them. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: actions speak louder than words. When the shadow minister was asked about industrial manslaughter he said that it sounds okay in theory but that it could deter people from applying for top jobs because of the consequences should an accident occur. We have had industrial manslaughter provisions in this state since 2017. Where is the evidence that one executive has not taken a job because of industrial manslaughter? I ask those opposite to give me just one example of where an executive has not taken a job because of industrial manslaughter provisions.

The truth is that those opposite are weak on health and safety. They are weak when it comes to workers compensation. They cannot get up in this House and shed crocodile tears for the mining industry and ignore all other industries in this state. Those opposite have never supported health and safety or WorkCover in this state.

When the member for Kawana was the minister, against the recommendations of his own select committee he weakened the WorkCover laws in this state. If we had not removed the threshold, 35 per cent to 40 per cent of miners suffering from coal workers' pneumoconiosis in this state would have been denied common law claims. I think there was one opposition member on that committee. It was stacked with LNP members. That committee still brought in the threshold.

The members opposite should not come into this House crying crocodile tears about how tough they are on health and safety, because they are weak. They have always been weak. The whole time their actions speak louder than words. The minister is at pains to say that that advisory committee met every single time. The members opposite want an inquiry based on a fallacy. The minister has said that audits have increased in health and safety, yet the members opposite still want an inquiry. They are weak, they know it and we are voting against this motion.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 41:

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.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Costigan.

NOES, 51:

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.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.


Resolved in the negative.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2423, on motion of Ms Farmer—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do so because there are good elements of this bill and it would be wrong of the LNP not to support those good elements. I will start by listing a couple of those elements that I think are a step in the right direction. The sharing of information between government bodies is a tick. Body worn cameras is a good, open, transparent step forward, as is bringing children before court in a more timely fashion. These are elements of the bill that are worth supporting. I will not support a return to the weak-on-crime approach that we have seen, which will again make it easier for young

people to be granted bail. Those opposite can dress up that approach any way they like. It is an admission that they have lost the battle in watch houses and they have lost the will to do the right thing by communities.

In a fortnight we will be going back to Townsville and parliament will sit in that great city in the north and there will be people who will, rightly, hold this government to account for the changes it is putting forward. This government is waving the white flag and saying, 'It's all too difficult.' How can government members look somebody in the eye and tell them that their rights are not as important as the right of that criminal who has reoffended? I know that, because my house was broken into by somebody who was out on bail. It is not a good feeling.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Those opposite can laugh and they can dress up the approach as being kind. They can make flippant comments about me, but it is not a good feeling and it is a feeling that many of my friends have experienced. When I see changes to the bail laws—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take that interjection from the least popular member of all, the member for Thuringowa.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Mr Pegg: He managed to be re-elected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Elected with less than one-third of the vote.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I have called order and I have stood in my place and people have continued to ignore me. Member for Capalaba, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Elected with less than one-third of the primary vote.

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr HARPER: Relevance. What has my election result got to do with the debate?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I shall take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I will continue to warn members and I will ask members to leave the chamber. Silence while I am taking advice. Member for Broadwater, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I remember when changes were made to the Youth Justice Act to make it stronger. When I hear those opposite criticising the former attorney-general, I ask them to reflect on a couple of those changes that were made.

Mr Harper: Helicopter rides from Brisbane.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Again, that very popular member for Thuringowa is interjecting. When the former attorney-general put forward those changes to the Youth Justice Act, they worked and they were well regarded.


I recall when the government reversed those changes. I want to talk about two in particular: the removal of breach of bail as an offence and detention as a last resort. I remember having a conversation with the then editor of the *Townsville Bulletin* in which I said, 'This will be a lightning rod for this community when they see what happens—the return of youth crime.' And so it was.

What should be happening in this place is twofold: firstly, those opposite should accept what the Leader of the Opposition has put forward—that is, a solution about the detention of children. No-one wants to see them caged like animals. No-one wants to see them in watch houses. No-one wants to see them suffer the things that our shadow Attorney-General spoke about in his opening remarks. No-one wants that. It is not good for kids. It is not good for the future of our system. It does not do

anyone any justice. To suggest that the only solution is to not incarcerate people who are doing the wrong thing is an absolute cop-out. Those opposite cannot come into this place and say that the answer to youth crime is to make it easier for somebody to skip out on bail. That is an out-and-out cop-out.

We will not be supporting clause 10 of this bill. We will be moving amendments and those opposite should take heed because if those amendments are not agreed to there will be an uproar in the community because they see this for what it is. This is using a very tragic situation, which is the fate of children in watch houses—which contrary to what we have heard is still happening—as a way of making things easier for young criminals. If members think that these criminals do not know how to get around the law, they are kidding themselves. They know the law. If they know that being out and breaching their bail conditions sees them get a little pat on the head and an apple pie they will continue to do it. You have to be firm. That does not give you the right to lock them up like caged animals, but it does give you the right to use detention where it is necessary, where it is an opportunity to instil some discipline and where it keeps the community safe.

I will finish my contribution by saying there are some excellent steps forward in this bill and that is why we will be supporting it, but the amendments that will be moved by the shadow Attorney-General will make or break the success of this. To set a ceiling of 72 hours will ensure that the objectives that those opposite are nobly trying to achieve can be achieved. It sets a definitive time line that is strong and that should be followed. Above all, the restoration of breach of bail as an offence must occur. If it does not occur it will undermine everything that our hardworking police and those people working in the youth justice space are trying to do. We must have punishment as well as rehabilitation. Without those two elements what those opposite are trying to achieve will count for nothing and this piece of legislation will go down as another turning point in not achieving what we need to—that is, making these regional communities safer places for families.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.16 pm): I am happy to rise in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. In doing so I place on record my thanks and admiration for the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Di Farmer. As I was writing my speech I was reflecting on the work that she has put into this portfolio. No-one can deny that youth justice is a challenging portfolio. It rarely has good news stories. Every time I have attended an event with Minister Farmer I have been struck by her positive outlook. I think it is exactly what we need in this portfolio; we owe it to our young people who come into contact with the youth justice system and to our community as a whole.

This legislation is about our government's commitment in the *Working together changing the story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* to commence the review of the Youth Justice Act. The Mount Ommaney electorate is a stone's throw from a number of corrective services facilities, including the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre in Wacol. Many of my constituents work in the corrective services sector. Indeed, many of them are parents at my children's school so I know that this bill is important to my community for a number of reasons.

This bill supports the Palaszczuk government's commitment to keep our young people out of watch houses on remand, other than for normal arrest and processing. I am sure that each and every one of us in this House agrees with that principle. The bill contains priority legislative amendments that complement the significant government investment in initiatives to reduce the pressures within the youth justice system. Crucially, the bill makes amendments in relation to three areas. Firstly, it reduces the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised; it also looks to ensure age-appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail for our young people; and, finally, it is removing legislative barriers to enable more young people to be appropriately granted bail.


To encourage more young people to be appropriately granted bail, the bill clarifies that certain provisions of the Bail Act do not apply to children. It clarifies that the principle of detention as a last resort applies to bail decision-making. It also clarifies the bail decision-making framework in the act and incorporates an explicit presumption in favour of release that can only be rebutted where there is an unacceptable risk if the young person is released. It outlines the matters to be considered by a police officer or court when deciding if an unacceptable risk exists and whether to release a young person with or without bail. It provides that even when a risk is identified the child may be released if it is not inconsistent with ensuring community safety and it is otherwise appropriate having regard to any additional considerations. These amendments have been designed to achieve good outcomes by maintaining the discretion of the courts and the police in a more contemporary framework.

I want to finish by sharing something that I heard the Premier say when we were attending her former primary school, Jamboree Heights State School, a few months ago to launch the Premier's Reading Challenge. This is very relevant because the Premier's Reading Challenge gives every child

the opportunity to set themselves up and view themselves positively as a learner and a reader. It gives every kid the opportunity to see themselves in a really positive light, and we know just how important that is for all young people.

At the media conference that day, the Premier was asked directly about young people in detention and her response has stayed with me. She said that, in addition to the reforms that we are making today through this legislation to address the issue, we need to make sure that young people have access to the best possible start in life and then they can get a job. We have to change the ending. It was clear to me then, as it is today, that we have a premier and a minister in Di Farmer who are absolutely committed to delivering real reform to break the cycle. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next member, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the former member for Mansfield.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.21 pm): Today I rise to support most of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Like many, I felt sick watching the 13 May *Four Corners* report 'Inside the Watch House'. The cases discussed in the story, plus other reports that followed, are distressing. I found it hard to believe that they were talking about something that is going on in Queensland. There were stories of kids having their fingertips cut off in cell doors; multiple suicide attempts; a 12-year-old girl mistakenly put in a pod with two alleged sex offenders; other children in cells adjacent to paedophiles; a 16-year-old who found out she was pregnant but who was moved only a week later; and a 12-year-old girl who had been in the watch house for over a week and just wanted some shampoo to wash her hair. Queensland's Public Guardian, Natalie Siegel-Brown, summed it up when she said—

The important thing to note is that the vast majority of them have never actually been convicted. They are victims of serious child abuse and neglect, physical neglect, emotional neglect. They've never felt safe in the environment they've grown up in. They've never felt loved.

We should be tough on crime and I wish those kids had never reached the point of being taken in, even if only for minor crimes. We need better preventive measures. Despite that fact, once a child enters our justice system we have an obligation to respect their rights and treat them as children—indeed, as people.

Kids are being kept alone in concrete pens. When someone from the Office of the Public Guardian visits them, they are spoken to through the small slot that is used to pass them their food. They are given no real exercise other than 15 minutes in a slightly larger pen. The lights are on all the time. There is absolutely no stimulus for them. How do we ever expect kids to recover from such experiences? We are traumatising kids who, for the most part, have already been traumatised. It is completely dehumanising.

For nearly three years Amnesty International have been investigating children in watch houses. They have analysed around 200 case notes that came from the Brisbane watch house over a 12-month period. They found over 2,600 individual violations of human rights laws, domestic laws and domestic procedures. That was within just 12 months and it was cases from only the Brisbane watch house. I found the minister's response frustrating to say the least. She acknowledged that certainly this is not an environment that is good for young people. When asked about human rights breaches and state law breaches, her response was, 'Well, we haven't introduced a human rights bill in Queensland yet.' To say there is no alternative is a cop-out. When the transition of 17-year-olds to youth detention happened, surely the government saw this coming? If they did not, that would be a massive oversight in itself.

In addition to these new laws, the government needs to find or build temporary accommodation to get those kids out of the watch houses. Accommodation is a huge issue. I have no faith in the government to provide any in the short term, because I have seen them completely fail in providing long-term accommodation for young people going through a tough time. On my part of the Gold Coast we have a big issue with youth homelessness. Over a year ago the government announced a youth foyer for Southport. The project includes 40 units for at-risk 16- to 25-year-olds. It was meant to be up and running by December this year. Unfortunately, the block of land it is meant to be going on is still an empty patch of grass. The closest it has come to having accommodation on it was the mattress that someone illegal dumped there. The last update from the minister is that consultation will start soon. That is not good enough. The Southport youth foyer is taking far too long to be built and vulnerable young people on the Gold Coast are suffering because of it.

Whilst the number of children in watch houses has gone down substantially since the airing of the report, it has risen again since the numbers provided during the estimates hearing last month. I am aware that the bill before us today is aimed at reducing the pressure on the system and ensuring that


young people are processed as quickly as possible. I support the changes to streamline youth justice proceedings, the new information sharing system to help government and non-government organisations to assess and respond to the needs of young people in the youth justice system, and allowing body worn cameras to be used. Making sure that offenders are brought to the Childrens Court in a timely manner, which in most cases will be 24 hours, is a welcome amendment. The presumption in favour of release is also a good addition. Eighty per cent of children in detention are on remand, yet only 16 per cent of young people on remand go on to receive a custodial sentence.

However, the legislation goes too far in some aspects. When bail is granted the offenders must feel the weight of their release. We do not want kids continuing to reoffend because they do not take the justice system seriously as they do not think their bail conditions mean anything. We need a measured approach that balances the needs and backgrounds of the children with a tough stance on crime and a demonstration that crime will not be tolerated in our society.

I find it most remarkable that, given all of this background, the government has not included in the bill a limit on the time youth spend in watch houses. I stand with my colleagues in strong support of the amendment to restrict the length of time children can be held to 72 hours. We do not hold adults in watch houses for more than 48 hours. Why wouldn't we put a time limit on our kids being in there? Establishing a time limit is supported by the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner, the Office of the Public Guardian and Sisters Inside. Sisters Inside do not support the bill in its entirety. Their representative said—

We acknowledge the intention of the Bill is to clarify the decision-making processes and considerations for children arrested and charged with criminal offences. However, in our view, the Bill does not outline a clear legislative framework that is likely to reduce the extremely high numbers of children remanded in watch houses and youth prisons.

It is a sad state of affairs when our young people and kids are treated with less care and support than adults in our justice system. They are our most vulnerable and they deserve better. We need urgent and appropriate approaches to youth justice to ensure that we give the best prospects possible to the next generation of Queenslanders. They need a more hopeful outlook in life and it is up to us to deliver it.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (6.27 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I commend the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women for the work that she and her department are undertaking in these important reforms to the youth justice system. I strongly support our government's commitment to keeping our communities safe and also to changing the lives of young people in our justice system. We can only do that by breaking the cycle of offending and reoffending. That is an easy statement to make, but it is a very complex issue to resolve.

The bill before us ensures important legislative amendments are made with a key focus on how we alleviate demand pressure on the youth justice system. That includes changes to reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised, removing legislative barriers to enable children to be appropriately granted bail and ensuring reasonable conditions are attached to grants of bail. It includes amendments to the Youth Justice Act and to a range of other acts of parliament, including the Bail Act 1980, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Public Guardian Act 2014.


The bill forms part of our government's broader strategy to address youth justice issues and is backed in with record funding of \$550 million. That includes more than \$320 million to expand, build and staff new youth detention centres, ensuring that we have better and safer conditions for young people in detention and for our YDC staff.

Importantly, we are ensuring that our focus remains on reducing offending rates and preventing young people ever needing to be placed in detention. I am particularly pleased to see that we are providing \$28.7 million over the next four years to expand our Transition 2 Success program, which helps young people into the workforce or back to school, and a further \$27 million to expand restorative justice programs. We know these programs are working to prevent reoffending with data showing that almost six out of 10 young people who go through these programs do not go on to reoffend. These programs are not just cutting rates of reoffending, they are changing the story for these young people.

For my region in greater Ipswich, I am particularly pleased to see a newly funded community youth response initiative being undertaken by the amazing Ipswich Community Youth Service. Working alongside and in partnership with key Queensland government departments as well as important

community and cultural organisations, the Ipswich community youth response will deliver after-hours diversion, intensive care management support and cultural mentoring to prevent at-risk young people from offending and reoffending. I have seen firsthand the amazing work that ICYS undertakes in the greater Ipswich region and I am so pleased to see them leading this community youth response.

We know that addressing issues within our youth justice system will not be a quick fix. We also know that we cannot continue to do the same thing in youth justice—locking young people up and throwing away the key—and expecting the results to be any different. We expect children and young people to be law abiding and respectful. If not, we expect them to be held accountable. Importantly, we also want children and young people to be brought up in safe homes so they can realise their potential and be valuable and respectful contributors to our community. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.31 pm): According to statistics, most young people caught up in the youth justice system do not reoffend. The core issue is a small group of repeat offenders who are responsible for multiple crimes, and dealing with the root causes of their recidivism requires complex strategies. Issues addressed in this bill include the length of time children are held in watch houses.

This bill amends the Youth Justice Act to make clear in the charter of youth justice principles that proceedings started against a child for an offence should be finalised as soon as practicable—something we would all agree with. The bill requires a child who is arrested for an offence or for a breach of a bail condition and is in custody to be brought before the Childrens Court as soon as practicable and within 24 hours after arrest. If it is not practicable for the court to be constituted within 24 hours of the arrest then the child must be brought before the court as soon as practicable on the next day the court can practicably be constituted.

There is plenty of evidence and research that there are disproportionate numbers of young people in detention with developmental disorders, such as learning disabilities, communication disorders, foetal alcohol syndrome and so on. We also know that around 70 per cent of young people in the youth justice system were known to the child protection system.

Young Indigenous Queenslanders are most at risk of entering the system. It is very concerning that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders accounted for 66 per cent of young people in detention in Queensland, while making up only about six per cent of all young people aged 10 to 17 years. Also, the majority of young people in detention are on remand and 70 per cent are Indigenous children who are locked up simply because they do not have a suitable place to stay.

We know the scenario for young people is particularly bleak in small towns and remote parts of the state lacking infrastructure and resources. We have seen children in watch houses because we have allowed an all-too-common scenario of a magistrate sitting in the Childrens Court with a tearaway kid who is, say, aged 14 years before them. If the kid lives in a chaotic family environment and there is no responsible adult who can supervise the kid until the court can deal with the matter, then the kid has to be remanded in custody. If they live in Central Queensland, my part of the world, Cairns, Townsville or the north-west they will be brought under escort to Brisbane.

It was interesting on my last trip to Cairns to see a number of police officers with a number of detained young Indigenous boys being taken through the domestic terminal to get on the same Qantas flight I was coming back to Brisbane on. These kids were quite scared and distressed. I think everyone in that airport was somewhat confused why children would be paraded through a domestic airport.

We know children need to be detained in appropriate facilities such as youth detention centres. Under Labor, children as young as 10 have been held in watch houses for weeks on end while they wait for overcrowded detention centres to have space available. As at 10 May 2019, 89 children were held in watch houses across the state. Since the revelations about children being held in watch houses, there has been a significant concern around the length of time children are held in watch houses. We heard of a child being detained for 45 days.

Unfortunately, for our community's safety we see those opposite worrying more about political theatre rather than asking hard questions about what actually will reduce recidivism and most effectively promote the rehabilitation of young offenders. Some will claim that punishment and deterrents may in fact be counterproductive to the basic goal of dealing with offenders. We cannot allow this government to continue to go soft on crime. Youth crime in Queensland has skyrocketed. The statistics as of this morning were: robbery up 128 per cent; armed robbery up 88 per cent; unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 49 per cent; assault up 33 per cent; serious assault up 31 per cent; and unlawful entry up 34 per cent.


It is important that a balance is struck between holding offenders in appropriate facilities and keeping repeat offenders off Queensland streets. The safety of the community is paramount and community safety should always be favoured over offenders. It is of real concern when it is obvious that Labor is weakening the bail laws in an attempt to reduce the number of children entering overcrowded youth detention centres. Labor has made these amendments to help take the pressure off Labor's youth detention centre crisis which was sparked because of Labor's failed transition of 17-year-olds from adult prisons to the youth detention system in 2016.

Under Labor's bill there will be more youths who commit serious offences putting the community at risk. The goal with juvenile offenders should be to move them through a pathway toward full engagement and return them to normal society. People are much more useful as citizens and taxpayers, fathers and mothers and all the rest of it than languishing in jail or in a detention centre or watch house and remaining on the margins of society.

It is important to discuss the length of time children are held in watch houses. Labor should be ashamed of the conditions children were held in, including claims of a young girl who was placed in a cell next door to two alleged paedophiles and numerous suicide attempts. We have heard many other horrendous examples in the debate tonight.

By keeping children in watch houses, Labor has shown a blatant disregard for children's human rights, something which Amnesty International and the newly established Human Rights Commission has protested. We also share concerns about the time children may be held in watch houses. That is why the shadow minister's amendments to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours should be supported.

In conclusion, I support the shadow minister's proposed amendments. I ask all members to consider strengthening this bill to make sure we are doing the very best for our most vulnerable and that is the youth in our community.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.37 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill before the House reflects the government's commitment to delivery effective youth justice reforms and break the cycle of reoffending. We all have a role to play in that very worthy goal. We know that by working together closely we are best placed to achieve real and tangible outcomes.

Police play an important role in the community when it comes to young offenders. They are the first responders when a young person commits an offence and must maintain a level of awareness and responsiveness to those affected by youth offending. Further, police play a key role in maintaining community safety and ensuring a young person is held accountable for their behaviour.

Fortunately, the majority of young people who come to police attention through offending or antisocial behaviour are diverted away from court and the criminal justice system through a range of options and do not reoffend. Some of the children coming to police attention have complex needs. It is important to remember that some of these young people have been arrested on very serious charges. Those who face serious charges need to be kept off the streets for their own safety and the safety of the community. These children require support to address the underlying factors in their lives which contribute to their offending behaviour.

We need to have a balanced youth justice system that addresses the causes of offending and draws on the positive benefits of early intervention and rehabilitation to build stronger and safer communities. We are investing in these strategies because, quite frankly, they work and they ensure that young people have the opportunity to turn their lives around.

Currently the Queensland Police Service administers a number of strategies to support and protect young offenders in Queensland. This bill is about building on those levels of support. It will strengthen the current requirement for police to notify a young person's parent or guardian by expanding the definition of a parent. We are also strengthening support by ensuring the provision of early legal advice to young offenders coming to the attention of police. This change will support faster processing and resolution for the young person. Prompt legal advice will also inform police in making appropriate decisions when it comes to diversion, charges and detention in police custody.

To support a child's attendance at court and overcome transport challenges where a court is located far from the child's home, a notice to appear for a child will now require the child to appear at the court that the police officer is satisfied is most convenient for the child to access. Further, the bill will remove legislative barriers enabling more young people to be appropriately granted bail and ensure

the appropriate conditions are attached to the grants of bail. This includes the implementation of the intensive community supervision program. We have backed this plan with a significant investment—\$9.4 million this financial year.

In addition to ongoing multiagency case management, young people on bail will be supported by dedicated teams of police officers and police liaison officers to ensure they abide by their bail conditions. These teams will be established in six locations across the state and operate in a hub style model. They will work with the young person, their family and support network and, through support services, encourage and help the young person meet their bail obligations.

The use of police liaison officers provides additional support and encouragement to help the young person comply with their bail conditions. The introduction of these laws, coupled with the government's significant investment in youth justice initiatives, will reduce the demand pressure within the youth justice system and support the efforts of Queensland's hardworking police.

On that point, we have heard a number of contributions from those opposite about the role of police in caring for young people in police custody, particularly in watch houses. I am disappointed that those opposite, yet again, have not shown the utmost respect and support for our police officers. When you are elected to this House you have a certain responsibility to be careful about the contributions you make in this House. Recklessness when it comes to contributions in this House is not only disorderly but offensive to those people who are the subject of those contributions.

To come into this House and restate allegations made about police as if they are fact—as if they are fact—without checking those allegations first is outrageous and an insult to our police.

Ms Farmer: And knowing they are not true.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the Minister for Child Safety. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition has at least on two occasions—

Ms Farmer: Yes.

Mr RYAN:—been written to about those allegations which were formally and fully investigated and discounted. They exonerated the police. For members opposite to come in and insult the professionalism of our police, to disrespect our police and to restate those allegations which the Leader of the Opposition has been told are unsubstantiated—are not grounded in fact—is an insult to this House. They know the facts, so for them to come in knowing the facts and to state something opposite disrespects this House and is a matter that is generally for the consideration of the Ethics Committee.

I think the more heinous approach that those opposite have taken is not only to disrespect this House but also to disrespect our police—to call into question the professionalism of our police, the compassion of our police and the general work that our police do not only to care for people in their custody but to promote community safety. Shame on every member on that side who has come in here and restated allegations as if they are fact when they are on notice. The Leader of the Opposition has been written to on at least two occasions, I am informed, saying that those allegations are false. They have been investigated and the police have been exonerated in respect of those matters.

I expect those members who have already stated those allegations as if they are fact to stand up and apologise to the House but, more importantly, to stand up and apologise to our police. I also expect any further member of the opposition, when they are making their contribution to check with the Leader of the Opposition because they are on notice. The elements of misleading the House are not only that you make a misleading statement but that you know it is misleading yet you still make that contribution anyway. All of them who have done that are on notice. They know of this. If they get up and restate those allegations as if they are fact, they are misleading this House.

As I said, the more heinous approach that they have taken is to disrespect our police. It is an outrageous approach to try to score a couple of political points and use our police as a political football. I expect all of those members opposite to apologise. The Leader of the Opposition has insulted our police before. She is on the record. Our police are very upset with her. This is just another tick in the column for her upsetting our police. She does not stand by them. She does not support them. She can then also get up and apologise on behalf of all of her team. For that matter, she might need to apologise to her entire backbench and to the shadow Attorney-General for not telling them, if they have not been told, about the correspondence that has been received by her about those allegations.

This government takes youth justice very seriously. We support our police. We know our police have a very important and challenging role when it comes to dealing with young offenders in our community. Our police are professional in their dealings. Our police are compassionate in their dealings.

Our police want nothing more than to be part of the solution in helping a young person live a positive life. They do not want young people reoffending. They do not want young people being caught up in the criminal justice system. They care about those young people. They want those young people to be positive contributors to our community. Yet again, we see those opposite disrespect our police, not support our police and restate matters in this House, which draws into question their own integrity on these issues.

Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.47 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I need to address some of the things that the minister just said about respecting police. I want to assure the thin blue line that I absolutely respect them. It is a shame that their numbers have not been held at the proportion that they should have been held at. It is a shame that their budget has not been—

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has been speaking for 25 seconds and cannot even keep on the topic. He is into budget matters.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): What is your point of order?

Mr RYAN: Relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat. I will take some advice. I call the member for Toowoomba North and ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr WATTS: I certainly am talking about the long title of the bill, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am also talking about the minister's contribution. If the minister's contribution was not relevant then I would not comment on it, but I feel that it was relevant. It was relevant that our police should be supported.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, we are not here to have a debate. I have asked you to come back to the long title of the bill. Please come back to the long title of the bill. If you dissent from my ruling, there is a mechanism for you to do that.

Mr WATTS: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I will. What I think I need to do here is talk about a government that has good intentions. We all know that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Good intentions need to be followed by good actions, good planning and good preparation so that those intentions can live and breathe and become a reality. I would like to quote Ian Leavers, who is the elected member representing the police force here in Queensland. This is in relation to juveniles in watch houses. He said—

We needed proper planning and modelling before we transferred an entire cohort of offenders into the juvenile system.

The Youth Justice Minister Di Farmer has clearly done nothing. No planning. No modelling. Nothing.

First and foremost, the reason the Police Service have found their watch houses full and the reason the Police Service has found so many juvenile offenders in their care is because, in the opinion of Ian Leavers, who I happen to agree with, the Youth Justice Minister Di Farmer clearly did nothing. 'No planning. No modelling. Nothing.' We can tell that because we are here today talking about a bill that should have been passed before the 17-year-olds were taken out so that pressure was not put on the same system. The things in this bill that might help reduce the number of people who are in the system would have maybe been useful before you overburdened the system and had to lean on the Police Service to deal with. Those officers have come under stress from looking after juvenile offenders in the watch house. They do not have the appropriate training to provide the education, fitness, health, food, nutrition and guidance that those young offenders need when they are in the watch house. Imagine how stressful that has been for them. The minister comes in here and says that we are the ones stretching the thin blue line, but the thin blue line has been overburdened by managing youth justice issues in the watch house.

If the government were serious about dealing with youth justice issues it would have made a machinery-of-government change before it did this rather than turning our watch houses into detention centres for youth. I do not know about these rumours, but I heard that the intention was that the Brisbane watch house was going to become a youth detention centre. After a while there was a bit of back-peddaling on that. It is very interesting to me that the minister would come in here and suggest that we do not support our Police Service. We support our Police Service 100 per cent. They have been overburdened by this government trying to manage youth justice issues when it is not their domain. It is not their domain to manage youth justice issues. The government should have had a machinery-of-government change to make sure it had the facilities, services, personnel and legislation to ensure that youth justice could be managed. They failed miserably, they were negligent in doing this, and the evidence is before us.

This bill is here being debated today when it should have been debated before they took the 17-year-olds out of the adult system. Let us have a look at what people have had to say about 17-year-olds in the criminal justice system. This has been going on for a long time. We know that back in 2007 the Hon. Warren Pitt said—

For every argument in favour of the move, there is an argument that can be put forward to support the status quo.

For example, it is the case that 17-year-olds would not necessarily be always better off if they were transferred to the juvenile justice system.

That is because the facilities that 17-year-olds were being held in had training, workshops and education. Watch houses do not have workshops for them to go to during the day. Watch houses do not have opportunities for them to do a certificate in something while they are incarcerated. I can only agree with what Mr Pitt had to say. Mr Pitt further said—

Seventeen-year-olds in adult prisons had access to specialist programs tailored to meet a range of needs.

We know from the evidence that the watch houses do not have those specialist programs. The police are not trained to deliver them. They do not have the facilities, the legislative framework or the equipment, and nothing was done to plan it. First and foremost, the failure of this government has been in the planning process, and now we are trying to play catch-up. These young people have been held in our watch houses as an alternate to youth detention.

If we go back to 25 March 1999, the Hon. Anna Bligh spoke about children in watch houses. Ultimately, what she was trying to say in her press release is that watch houses are not the right place for juveniles to be held. She said—

A range of practical proposals will be put to Government to help minimise the detention of young people in Queensland watchhouses.

That is what Anna Bligh said more than 20 years ago. The Labor government has been in government for all but 34 months of that time. Some of these children were not born. This is 10 years before they were born. We have seen a systemic failure in the system.

The bill has some meritorious points. I think we all want to reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised. That is a worthy objective. We do not want to see children being held in the system forever trying to get their matters dealt with. We all know that these are complex situations. We know that there are terribly traumatic situations that children have had to grow up in, which is part of the cause of their offending.

The introduction of a new information sharing regime to assist government and non-government organisations to assess and respond to the needs of young people in the youth justice system is a good idea. The question is: what didn't we start in 1999 when Anna Bligh was already telling us that this was a problem? Why has it taken so long for the Labor government, which has been in government for this whole period, to come up with a solution for this problem? This is an intergenerational problem that has been caused by their own incapacity. I am not denying there are good intentions: I am denying an ability to solve the problem. They have shown no ability to solve the problem thus far. After 20 years of systemic failure from the Labor government, this bill is a very small step in moving forward to a solution.

There are elements in the bill that we can support, but I want to talk about breach of bail. I need to go back to Ian Leavers here, because one of the things he said is—

These juveniles belong behind bars to keep the community safe. They are on remand for offences such as rape and violent assaults. All of these offenders have appeared before magistrates and as we know, magistrates will often let almost anyone out on bail. So if even the magistrates think these offenders should be behind bars, then that's where they should be.

Ian Leavers is suggesting that some of these juveniles should be behind bars. What we do know is that they need early intervention and a whole-of-government solution. After 20 years of inaction this bill stumbles forward to some kind of machinery-of-government change.


The other issue that needs to be looked at is 72 hours in a watch house. I absolutely accept that that is going to be very difficult to achieve for the Police Service. What needs to happen is a complete and utter machinery-of-government change. Child safety and juvenile justice should be empowered, should have legislation and should be appropriately financed and supported to ensure that these children are not in there for 72 hours. It is not the responsibility of the police to look after them. They should be looked after by the appropriate organisation, the appropriate part of government, and that is why there needs to be a machinery-of-government change. Seventy-two hours in watch houses is possible if the government acts and changes the way it deals with these offenders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before we move on, I would like to acknowledge the former member for Caboolture, Bill Feldman, in the gallery.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Newton, Mrs J, OAM

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.58 pm): Last year our community lost a tireless advocate and fierce political warrior and I lost a dear friend: Joyce Newton OAM. Earlier this year in her memory we launched the Joyce Newton Memorial Bursary, an essay competition for year 12 students from Glass House that focuses on civics—the study of the rights and duties of citizenship. Tonight in the gallery I am joined by Joyce's daughter, Jennifer Tunley, her friend, Jen Cronin, and the first ever recipient of the Joyce Newton Memorial Bursary, Jessica Perro from Glasshouse Christian College. She is joined by her mum and dad, Lisa and Darren, and her twin sister, Nikita. Good luck telling which one is which!

The topic of this year's essay was selected by the Newton family and it was: what is the value of the many small businesses and farmers in the seat of Glass House and what is their importance to the state of Queensland? Jessica nailed the answer. I quote—

Since the settlement of the state of Queensland, agriculture has been a way of life and a vital part of the economy ... However, within the agricultural sector, there has been a significant shift in the composition of output ... These trends underline the flexibility and awareness of market in Queensland's agriculture and food sector.

These new trends have been well adapted by the Glasshouse region with several small businesses pairing with farmers to produce new products and niche markets. Hum Honey and Green Valley Agriculture are a primary example ... Hum Honey's Cold Fusion Australian Finger lime honey combines the pure raw honey ... and the Fingerlime Pearls

This is done to great success. Jessica continued—

... at Fine Food Melbourne, Hum Honey received the award for "Best New Product for the Australian Made Category, 2018". Following this Hum Honey was named 'Regional Food Champion Other Product Category' at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show.

...

Green Valley's finger limes will be showcased in the current season of MasterChef as well as being exported as a fresh fruit product across the world, including Italy, Singapore and Spain; creating a prestigious reputation for small businesses and farms of Glasshouse region amongst the state, country and world.


Maleny Black Angus Beef is another farm which has adapted to the change in the agricultural market ... it is ... producing beef that is grass fed and antibiotic and growth hormone free. This innovation has not only followed market trends ... but has also followed social trends ...

Time does not permit me to read the entire essay so I table a copy.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary Essay: Jessica Perro—Glasshouse Christian College' [\[1315\]](#).

Jessica has already received her \$1,000 gift voucher at Concept IT Maleny and we are now off to dinner in the Strangers' Dining Room. Today would have been the 47th wedding anniversary of Joyce and her husband, Greg. I know she would have been tickled pink to be sharing it with Jessica, the first recipient of her memorial bursary.

Friis, Mr DG

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.01 pm): I join the member for Glass House in acknowledging Joyce Newton. She might have been on the opposite side of politics to me, but Joyce and Greg are good people and I want to particularly acknowledge the wonderful way the member for Glass House is continuing to acknowledge Joyce's contribution to the community. I also acknowledge in the gallery Bill Feldman, the former member for Caboolture. He is a strong member of the Queensland Police Union and a former police officer. I hope he is enjoying his retirement—

Mr Powell: And a member of the Glass House electorate now.


Mr RYAN: He is, yes. He is keeping the member for Glass House on his toes.

On a more sombre note, I want to pay tribute to the life of David George Friis. David Friis was the principal of Tullawong State High School and he died very unexpectedly last month. He was an exceptional man and a great educator but, most importantly, he was a great believer in the power of education and the effect that education can have on a person's life and how it is a game changer for many people who come from a disadvantaged background.

David was always very welcoming to me when I attended Tullawong State High School. You could feel the passion that David had for his students and for opportunity and the power of education. I always used to smile when I went to Tullawong State High School. David lived near the Caboolture golf course, and when you live next to a golf course you generally collect a golf buggy along the way. David used to have the golf buggy at the school. Rather than walking around the school, you would race around in the golf buggy. I think David contributed to the extra grey hair and wrinkles that I have because he certainly took no prisoners when he was racing around the high school in his golf buggy.

David's funeral was held at Tullawong State School and it is probably the biggest funeral I have ever seen. The school hall was packed, and I think there were probably a couple of thousand people there, which is a sign of not only David's impact on the community but also the respect that his community had for him. I want to refer to some of the things the celebrant said during David's funeral service, and I think this is relevant to all of those people who have an impact on our lives. The celebrant asked at the beginning, 'Do you know where you were or how you felt or what you thought when you learnt that David Friis, the Big Man, Friisy, or Sir had died?' I do, and I think that is a sign of not only the contribution that David made but also the impact he had on my life. David, you will be missed, mate. Thank you for your contribution to the people of Caboolture. I know a lot of kids will miss you.

Prickly Acacia


 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.04 pm): The LNP is demanding that the Labor agriculture minister, Mark Furner, stump up and stop squirming and pay the \$5 million he promised to fight the spread of prickly acacia in flood affected North-West Queensland and Central Queensland. Mr Furner publicly promised the cash in a media statement he jointly issued with the then federal Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud. Canberra's money is still on the table, despite the Queensland Labor government refusing to fund its agreed share. The minister made the promise to help farmers fight this damaging weed and he has blatantly broken his word. Rural Queenslanders cannot trust the word of the minister. This is another Labor kick for farmers who are really struggling.

The clock is ticking for the Labor Party to act before this weed spreads out of control into the prestigious Channel Country and Lake Eyre. Western Queensland is facing yet another environmental catastrophe unless action is taken now. The agriculture minister said there was 'some confusion' when he was quizzed about his commitment by our shadow minister for agriculture, the member for Gympie, during the agricultural estimates hearing, but he refused to say if the \$5 million would be paid. The only person who is confused about this is the Labor agriculture minister. His attempt to dispute his own words was confusing and pathetic.

I promise graziers that I will keep fighting, along with the member for Gympie and also the member for Condamine, who tabled documents in this parliament recently about the prickly acacia spreading between Winton and Julia Creek. I can assure them that I will fight to make sure we get this money on the table. This is the worst kind of political treachery. To promise something to those who need it and then weasel your way out of it is an absolute disgrace. The minister should know, being the agriculture minister, that when you make an agreement and say you are going to do something in Western Queensland or regional Queensland, they expect you to do it. They do not expect you to weasel your way out of it. They find you out. As Graham Richardson most famously said, 'The mob always works you out eventually,' and they are working out this minister very much in Western Queensland.

This is just another example of the Labor government failing to give Western Queensland its fair share. The Channel Country is one of the most prestigious and most iconic pieces of country in Queensland. It is sacred to us. It is sacred to every Queenslanders. Yes, we talk about the Great Barrier Reef, and it is sacred, but so is the Channel Country. If that prickly acacia spreads into the Channel Country it is going to be there forever, and it is going to rip apart a lot of ecologically and environmentally sensitive country that we need to keep. I call on the minister to pay the money. Do not squib us and make sure that \$5 million is on the table.

Jordan Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.07 pm): Late last year I met a local mum and her beautiful baby daughter living in Flagstone. Whilst chatting, she mentioned to me that she and her husband only have one vehicle which he takes every day to travel to his job. She told me that, as a result, she was really struggling—stuck at home with her baby with no transportation, unable to even go to the local shops. This year, I spoke with an older couple who have lived in Greenbank for many years. They drive everywhere, but as they get older they prefer not to drive long distances anymore but they need to


access medical services and driving is their only option. Only recently, I spoke with a local dad, also from Greenbank. He told me his son had completed school but was struggling to get work as he did not have his driver's licence yet and he relied on his parents to help him get to job interviews.

These are three stories that are reflective of a number I have heard as I speak with locals in the area of Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone. Whether you are a young school leaver who is looking for work, an elderly member of our community wishing to access health or government services or a stay-at-home parent with no vehicle to get around, lack of public transport makes life just that little bit harder.

Since I became the member for Jordan in late 2017, addressing this issue has been a priority for me and I have worked closely with relevant government departments and the member for Logan on how we can progress public transport to this area. Whilst the rural and residential nature of these communities makes it slightly more difficult, it should never be impossible. That is why I am thrilled that as a result of our strong representations, from November this year residents in the area known as Greater Flagstone will have access to new TransLink operated bus services. This has been made possible due to a \$19.6 million funding agreement over the next 10 years to deliver these services and the strong support of ministers Dick and Bailey. As demand increases, further services will be added to provide greater opportunities for jobs, community and social services. The first services will connect residents with the key local transport and commercial hub at Grand Plaza in Browns Plains and then onto express services to Brisbane.

I look forward to sharing more details with the local community, including the final route, bus stop locations and timetables as we prepare for the inaugural journey of the very first TransLink service later this year. We know that ultimately public transport for this region will be provided via a new rail line from Beaudesert to Salisbury, and planning work for this has already commenced. However, we also know that we cannot add new rail lines or extend rail lines in South-East Queensland without fixing the critical blockage within the city centre. That is why we need Cross River Rail to be delivered and why this project is a priority, not as some inner-city project but for the outer metropolitan areas that will benefit most from opening up the rail network in South-East Queensland. It is also why it continues to be a great disappointment that the federal government continues to ignore Cross River Rail and as a result is cheating our outer metro areas from having access to rail services earlier.


Condamine Electorate, Police Resources

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.10 pm): In recent months a number of family run businesses in the Condamine electorate have been left to pick up the pieces after criminals have run rampant through their establishments. The Biddeston Country Store was targeted by thieves twice in a month, leaving its owner to count his losses. Zimms Corner, a service station on the Warrego Highway at Kingsthorpe, was also raided by thieves before the demountable building from which they were operating their service station was deliberately set alight. The Gowrie One Stop Convenience Centre was forced to completely replace their shopfront after the store was rammed by a vehicle and their ATM ripped out through the front door. The Farmers Arms Tavern, which has stood as a cornerstone of history since 1863 at Cabarlah was the target of another senseless crime. The family run pub was broken into and, again, the ATM had a rope tied around it; it was connected to the tow ball of a ute, ripped from its fixings and dragged through the front doors, tearing a hole in the front of the building.

Crime is on the rise across the state and it does not help that our police stations are stressed to the limit with some understaffed and others ridiculously underresourced. The Oakey Police Station has seven police officers assigned to it. These officers are forced to operate with just one vehicle. This places a massive strain on the surrounding stations to come to their aid when multiple call-outs occur in and around the area. The Pittsworth Police Station has had just one permanent officer since 7 January, waiting for the position of officer in charge to be filled. The Cambooya Police Station has only one permanent officer. The community and I have been petitioning this government for a second permanent officer to be stationed there. This, again, creates a problem when that single officer is called out to an accident or an incident and there is a subsequent call for assistance. This void must then be filled by an officer from a surrounding station.

According to statistics from the myPolice website, in 2016 between January and May across the Darling Downs 612 unlawful entry crimes were recorded along with 143 unlawful use of motor vehicle crimes. Fast forward to 2019 and over the same number of months we see there were 863 unlawful entry crimes recorded and 292 unlawful use of motor vehicle crimes recorded. Residents should not feel unsafe in their own homes or worry about their vehicles being stolen. Small business in Condamine and the rest of Queensland should feel safe in their homes and businesses. We need our police stations and our officers to be properly resourced and staffed.

Townsville Electorate, Regional Parliament

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.13 pm): There are only 13 more sleeps until parliament sits in Townsville. I would like to thank in advance all the members, the parliamentary staff and the visitors coming to Townsville next sitting. Last time it happened it was in 2002 and the students I took along to that first sitting are now 37 years old. Gee, I feel old. This is really important to us. As members know, we were hit pretty hard by some monsoon events and massive flooding. Every time members grab a cup of coffee, grab a meal or have a drink, they will actually be supporting my community. I really appreciate everything they are going to do in 13 sleeps time.

There are still many families and many people who are not back in their homes. At this stage most of the neighbours in my street are hoping to get in by Christmas Day. That is really important for them. It is also an opportunity for my schools to come and see parliament in their neck of the woods. I am always seeing kids from other members' neighbourhoods come here, but now it will be my turn. I am really looking forward to that. It is also an opportunity for a lot of the members to meet with community groups.

I encourage members to bring a partner, stay a little bit longer, get across to beautiful Magnetic Island where they can go topless—car rental touring. I will repeat that: they can go topless—car rental touring. They can do The Forts walk. They can go and see beautiful Horseshoe Bay or they can go and see the three best bays on the island: Arthur, Florence and Radical Bay. However, there is a bit of a problem getting down there. The road has been damaged by the monsoon event. I have here 2,132 signatories to a petition asking if there is any way we can help support them rebuild that road. I would like to table that petition if I may.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition relating to the state of roads on Magnetic Island [\[1316\]](#).

The other thing members will see when they come to my great city is my stadium—sorry, Premier, North Queensland Stadium. They will see it under construction. At this stage it will be about 75 per cent complete. It is going to be the home of the Cowboys. I also encourage each and every member to come back next year on 29 February, that special day, because they will see Elton John perform in our brand-new stadium.


An honourable member: Your stadium?

Mr STEWART: The Premier will not let me say that. We are the home of major events in North Queensland. We had the V8s earlier this year, and what a fantastic event that was. We had the very first North Australian Festival of Arts, which was absolutely brilliant, and the timing for that was six months after the floods.

Ms Enoch: Supported by the Queensland government.

Mr STEWART: Yes, it was supported by the Queensland government. We also had the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, also supported by the state government. We also had the tri festival, the Townsville Running Festival, and there is so much more to see.

Water Storage

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.16 pm): For generations we were a country of nation builders. Sadly, for the last three decades we have built nothing of any significance. It has been 30 years since the last major water infrastructure project was built, which was the Burdekin Dam. Since then consecutive governments have talked about building something, envisaged that they will build something but have done nothing. I table an article from the *Australian* newspaper titled 'Water, it's our dam shame', which states—

When *The Australian* put the question, not one of those governments could identify a single project it was prepared to fund or had a timetable to build—not even a pipe and a pump to a little "turkey nest" waterhole on a farm.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 19 August 2019, titled 'Water is our dam shame' [\[1317\]](#).


Another example is the Nullinga Dam, identified back in the 1950s and then later promised by the former premier Rob Borbidge. Campbell Newman also committed to a study which was followed by another feasibility study ordered by the federal government. Then we had a business case study put by the present state government, and now the Queensland state opposition is proposing another study. However, no holes have been dug, no concrete has been poured and there is no extra water. I will continue to push for the Nullinga Dam, but I do not have faith in the major parties building any major water infrastructure project.

However, there is hope. The construction of the Tinaroo Dam was completed in 1958 and included as part of the planning was the North Johnstone transfer project. At that time engineers acknowledged that the Tinaroo Dam catchment would not be enough to sustain the increase in farming activities. As a result, engineers included in their design the North Johnstone transfer scheme. I table the front elevation of the project planned by engineer Charlie Paolucci.

Tabled paper: Plan, undated, regarding Tinaroo Dam [1318].

The project is simple and is designed to transfer water via a pipeline from the Upper North Johnstone River into the Barron and then into the well-used Tinaroo Dam. This would be harvested during flooding; gates would automatically be triggered to close when the water levels in the North Johnstone reach natural environmental flows. This is a win-win as it would help alleviate the lack of water for irrigators during dry spells plus it would provide recreational users with access to Tinaroo all year around. The project will also help minimise flooding to homes in East Innisfail. A meeting was held in 1993 where the state department advised of a need for further water supply within 10 years. The cost of the North Johnstone project was estimated at \$10 million 26 years ago. I have faith in this project. It has a low cost and has minimal impact on the environment, so it should not scare the major parties into finally building something.


Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.19 pm): If you had asked me if I would ever play Rugby League, I would probably have said you were a bit crazy, but I did promise the member for Macalister that I would have a crack at this year's Country-City game. I am looking forward to that. I thought I had better get my skills up. I contacted my local club and was told, 'Come on down and have a training session with the ladies team; they are about to head into the finals series.' I went down there and thought I would just be doing the training part. In the end, I played my very first game. I made it through to the end and I am proud to say that my team, the Parrots—#tweettweet—played in a grand final. It was against the Inala Panthers and they gave them a thrashing, a 16-0 touch-up. Hilarious! In our training game though I played on the right wing, apparently, in the No. 5 position in the green and red colours, something I never thought I would be caught dead in. Anyway, it was a great game. A huge shout-out to the ladies of the Parrots team, a real inspiration. They nicknamed me 'Aunty'. That is what I took away as I was quite a lot older than most of them. I made it to the end with no blood and no bandages wrapped around my head like the member for Macalister.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is another great initiative in my region. I talk about it a lot as I think it really delivers for our community. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the graduation event for the Bay Island Community Centre on Macleay Island. Graduates attending Skilling Queenslanders for Work were awesome in giving back to our community a new, decked out op-shop that looks fantastic. Dave Liniger from the department said that he could not believe the quality of workmanship of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work third-year apprenticeship trainees. That was really fantastic. A huge shout-out to Ash, Josh, Vanessa, Adam, Andrew, Anthony, Helen, Jake, Hudson, Stephen, Lorinda, Shaun and William. They really did a fantastic job. Not only does it leave a legacy for that community in terms of their work but it inspires confidence in young people. It is an incredible program on so many levels. Thank you to the supervisors, Doug, Kevin and Angela. Their work in shaping that program has been a fantastic win for our community.

I also had the opportunity of Minister Grace visiting my area—another fantastic visit to Russell Island to look at the completed \$1.2 million refurbishment. We concluded the day with a catch-up with all the principals from right across the Redlands at the Redlands Research Centre, talking about the opportunities to bring together academia, skills and secondary education to ensure we position for jobs into the future. On that note, I also had the opportunity to attend our Australian Industry Trade College to talk about our free apprenticeship training package. I cannot tell members how excited they were. I spoke to one of the second-year local plumbers for whom it was an awesome opportunity for his company in the Redlands.

Jenkins, Mr N; Buswell, Mr N

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.22 pm): 'The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires.' Those are the words of William Arthur Ward. I rise tonight to speak about two of our best teachers, who inspire the next generation every day. Teaching should be a profession to which our best and brightest are attracted. It is a difficult

and at times thankless job, but it is one of the most important jobs. Two exceptional local teachers, in Mountain Creek State High School STEM teacher Chris Buswell and Buderim Mountain State School principal Neil Jenkins, were recently recognised for their exceptional performance.


Mr Jenkins was recently awarded the Griffith University Jack Pizzey Award for the Best Regional Principal of the Year. It is an award I was pleased to support and is a recognition of the standing in which Neil is held by students, parents, teachers and the broader Buderim community. Teachers from Buderim Mountain State School regularly tell me that under Neil's leadership the school has a collaborative, caring and high-achieving culture. Neil goes above and beyond. Most afternoons, Neil can be found assisting children to safely navigate school pick-up along with other teachers from the school.

Neil is very committed and passionate about ensuring that the school inspires all students to work to the best of their ability and to be good citizens by displaying respect for others. It is through the efforts of Neil, along with the teaching and support staff, that Buderim Mountain State School maintains an exceptional reputation and is the drawcard for many who choose to move to the Buderim community.

Like Neil, Mr Chris Buswell shines as an example of what our students should aspire to be. Chris was recently awarded the Regional Showcase Teacher of the Year Award. Along with year 11 and 12 students from Mountain Creek State High School, I was lucky enough to sit in on an exceptional organic chemistry lesson organised by Chris. Working in concert with the University of the Sunshine Coast, Chris has developed a 3D and virtual reality experience that brings chemistry concepts to life. Chris explained to me that, through virtual reality animation, students are able to create lasting memories of the way complex molecules interact, which translates into improved learning outcomes. I will admit that I was a bit overwhelmed as I realised how much I had forgotten about organic chemistry, but the feedback from the students was universally positive. The event was all part of a 'keeping it local' program developed by Mr Buswell to highlight the study and research opportunities that are open to students on the Sunshine Coast at their local university.

Teachers like Neil Jenkins and Chris Buswell inspire the next generation each and every day. I look forward to attending the state Showcase Awards Gala Dinner in October where both Neil and Chris are contenders for statewide awards and where we will celebrate their achievements.

Homelessness

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (7.25 pm): I rise this evening to talk about an important issue around homelessness. After the recent federal election, the local federal member for Petrie, Luke Howarth, was afforded the privilege of being Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services for which I congratulate him. However, very shortly upon taking up that important position, Mr Howarth spoke about homelessness saying—

We have 99½ percent of our Australians homed and living in safe places. There's half a percent of the population that isn't. We want to make sure that that half a per cent are in homes as quickly as possible and we're doing what we can to get out there and talk to people in the sector and find out how we do it. You know, I want to put a positive spin on it as well as not just say that, you know, Australia's in a housing crisis when it affects a very, very small percentage of the population.

On ABC Radio National Mr Howarth acknowledged that the population from the last census over the previous one increased by almost 20 per cent and that now there are about 116,000 homeless people in Australia. I do not know how we put a positive spin on that. To say that 99.5 per cent of us are not homeless and that we should celebrate that ignores the 116,000 people, including in my local area and in Luke Howarth's area, living rough and homeless. Also, this idea of just quickly getting them into homes ignores the fact that there are underlying factors—mental health, addiction, domestic and family violence, poverty—and there is no acknowledgement of these issues that need to be dealt with when talking about homelessness.

In fact, on *Sky News* Mr Howarth suggested that community housing and homelessness were separate issues despite his title being Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services. I beg the member for Petrie to talk to our local providers, who I know reach out to him. He should listen to what they are saying. He should listen to what we as a community are saying. It is not just about putting a roof over your head. We have to look at the underlying factors about why people become homeless. There is never anything positive about someone sleeping rough or being homeless. We need to do everything to support them. The Commonwealth needs to fund housing properly and deal with homelessness in this state.

The House adjourned at 7.28 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