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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 22 August 2019

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THURSDAY, 22 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.

REPORT


Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 32nd report on the Register of Members' Interests.


Tabled paper: Thirty-Second Report on the Register of Members' Interests [[1319](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Matters of Privilege


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 20 August 2019 I made a statement regarding nine rulings on matters of privilege that I tabled on 13 August 2019. In that statement I omitted to include in relation to matter 3 that on 20 June 2019 the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango deliberately misled the House during a statement made on 13 June 2019. I ruled that this matter also did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and that I would not be referring the matter.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that today we will be visited in the gallery by students and teachers from OneSchool Global in the electorate of Nicklin and Copmanhurst Public School from New South Wales.

APPOINTMENT

Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.32 am): I advise the House that I have appointed the member for Surfers Paradise as the shadow minister for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Candidature in addition to his other shadow minister roles. I table my letter to you, Mr Speaker, confirming this appointment.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 August 2019, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding portfolio responsibilities for Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP [[1325](#)].

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath)—

[1320](#) Coroners Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2017-18

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): When the current parliament opened I committed that we would be taking parliament to regional Queensland, so next month we will sit at the Townsville Entertainment & Convention Centre. I invite North Queensland residents to the public gallery for the sitting on 3, 4 and 5 September. Mr Speaker, as you know, parliament is also a very popular experience for school groups and I encourage primary and secondary students within the region to get involved. A junior Indigenous Youth Parliament is also being held in Townsville on Friday, 30 August, and a regional Youth Parliament is being held in Townsville on Monday, 2 September. Townsville is a city and a region of tremendous progress and opportunity and is represented in this House by three very good local members.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are a few others! From the TAFE upgrade to the port expansion and the North Queensland Stadium project, my government is backing Townsville jobs and industry. In this year's budget we are investing more than \$930 million in Townsville infrastructure and capital works, we are spending \$225 million to address the city's long-term water security needs and we have committed \$1 billion to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service to better support the region's health and wellbeing of families into the future. I table for the information of the House the instruments approved by the Governor in Council formally changing the place for the next sitting week and also extending the parliamentary precinct to include the Townsville venue and an extract from the *Government Gazette* covering the publication of these instruments.


Tabled paper: Constitutional Instrument, dated 15 August 2019, signed by His Excellency the Governor setting the time and place for the Townsville regional sitting [[1326](#)].

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Precinct Notice 2019 defining the precinct for the Townsville regional sitting [[1327](#)].

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 94, dated 16 August 2019, regarding the Constitutional Instrument signed by the Governor on 15 August 2019 in relation to the Townsville regional sitting [[1328](#)].


Mr Speaker, I thank you and the officers of the Parliamentary Service for the assistance in making arrangements for the regional sitting. I know it is not an easy task and I know it is one that everybody in the Parliamentary Service has worked on together very cooperatively. Mr Speaker, I look forward to seeing you and everyone in this House in Townsville for our historic sitting.

Century Mine, Royalties

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): A royalties agreement to restart the \$150 million Century zinc mine north-west of Mount Isa will be a win-win for taxpayers, workers and the mining industry. This project will support 500 jobs, 260 during construction and another 240 once operating. It is the first royalty deferral and repayment agreement to be negotiated under our resources regional development framework, and I thank the Treasurer for her work. Significantly, it is a precedent for similar arrangements in the future, whether in the North West Minerals Province, the Galilee Basin or the Surat Basin. The agreement required three things—job creation, common user infrastructure and a positive impact on the state's finances. The common user infrastructure here is the port of Karumba. Dredging stopped in 2016 and will now continue to the benefit of all industries and businesses hoping to use the port and the deferred royalties will be paid in full with interest.

In this case, it is also a major step in our commitment to open up the North West Minerals Province. The region is rich in copper, cobalt, zinc and gold as well as potential deposits of rare earth and minerals. Those minerals will play an increasingly important role in renewable electricity generation and battery technology. We want to see new job-creating projects in the North West Minerals Province but also new technologies that can extract more value from rehabilitation projects like the Century Mine. This first historic royalty deferral agreement is a new policy approach to achieving that important economic goal, but it is also backing our resources industry and backing regional jobs.

Child Protection

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): No crime is more sickening than those committed against children. The community says so and we say so. It is why we expanded the definition of 'murder' to include those whose violence or neglect kills a child. Because


of our laws, those people are jailed for life. Because of our laws, the worst child sex offenders are monitored for life. We backed the laws with \$27 million so police could increase their surveillance, including the use of GPS trackers, and we back our police's Task Force Argos that has since February 2017 rescued 444 children and arrested 132 offenders.

Under our laws, online predators who try to hide their crimes behind passwords and the dark web face five years jail. Since 2017, 482 charges have been laid under these laws, but I believe that we need to do more. Child abusers should have no place to hide. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was one of the most horrific as well as extensive inquiries this nation has seen, with many victims telling heartbreaking stories and many others no longer alive to have that opportunity. My government takes the recommendations from the royal commission seriously. We owe it to those victims and we owe it to our communities.

Today, I announce that we will introduce laws compelling priests of all religions to report the confessions of child abusers as other professionals are required to do in this state. Teachers, doctors, nurses, child-care workers and school principals have no choice but to report to authorities crimes against children. The same should apply to religious organisations. I know that there are strongly and sincerely held views that some things are sacred. I absolutely respect that people have the right to their religion, but not at the risk of child safety. It will be an offence to not report or not protect the victim of a child abuser, religious confession or not.


In a moment the Attorney-General will outline further measures aimed at stamping out this most repulsive of crimes. We continue to support Task Force Argos and the inspirational work of police hunting child abusers and their vile atrocities, especially online, because we must never ever give up this fight.

Century Mine, Royalties

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): I join the Premier in congratulating New Century Resources on concluding the first royalty deferral and repayment agreement under the Palaszczuk government's resources regional development framework. This royalty deal is good for the Queensland economy, it is good for North Queensland jobs, it is good for New Century and, importantly, it is good for the Waanyi people, the traditional owners of the country around Lawn Hill where the Century Mine operates.

Last year, New Century signed a cultural heritage management plan with the Waanyi prescribed body corporate, which the chair of the PBC, Alec Doomadgee, described as the first agreement to 'genuinely recognise' the value and significance of the Waanyi people's cultural heritage and birthright. The Waanyi also signed a mining services agreement with New Century, which will ensure that the mine is a source of not just employment, but training and ongoing income for the traditional owners. New Century advises that it is investing \$1.8 million in supporting community identified needs in Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Normanton. This first project to secure a royalty deferral and repayment agreement sets a strong precedent for any who follow.

Tracks to Treaty

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): On 10 July 2019, the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to the position of Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, put out a call to the states and territories to take the lead on long overdue discussions about treaty. On 14 July, I was delighted to be joined by fellow ministers and Queensland First Nations peoples—and I want to particularly note the First Nations representatives from this chamber present, Quandamooka woman and member for Algeester, Leeanne Enoch, and Lamalaig woman from the Kulkalgal nation of the Torres Strait, Cynthia Lui—to launch the Palaszczuk government's Tracks to Treaty reform agenda.


Tracks to Treaty is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. It promotes and supports self-determination, truth telling, local decision-making and better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. This monumental reform journey is broad by necessity because we need to change and improve our foundational relationship to create the significant change necessary to close the gap. Tinkering with service delivery alone will not get this important job done.

Part of this change is the Path to Treaty initiative—the start of a conversation to develop a process for statewide agreement making with First Nations Queenslanders. The Path to Treaty process will be guided by an eminent persons panel. The panel, co-chaired by Dr Jackie Huggins AO and

Emeritus Professor Michael Lavarch AO, will partner with the government to bring all Queenslanders along the important path towards this important and necessary reform. Other prominent voices who have agreed to join the panel include Dame Quentin Bryce, Mick Gooda, Josephine Bourne and Kerry O'Brien.

As Minister Wyatt has committed to work with all sides of politics to progress the change that is needed, in the true spirit of nonpartisanship, today I similarly commit to doing all I can to make the Path to Treaty process in Queensland non-party political for the sake of an enduring legacy that we can all take pride in, that we can all take ownership in. What we know beyond doubt is that it is time to start this conversation, that Queenslanders are ready for this conversation and that it is long overdue.

Resource Recovery Industry Development Program

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government's \$100 million plan to turn Queensland's trash into job-creating treasure is attracting overwhelming interest from industry. I am pleased to announce that applications for a second round of \$15 million in funding under the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program opens today. This funding program is a Queensland first, supporting projects and businesses that divert waste from landfill, reduce stockpiling and create jobs. More than 120 expressions of interest were received from right across the state for the first round of stream 1 of RRIDP funding.

Research tells us that for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, more than nine jobs can be supported, tripling the number of jobs supported by dumping waste into landfill. Under the RRIDP, dollar-for-dollar capital grants of between \$50,000 and \$5 million are propelling development of this growing high-value industry, creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

We are accelerating resource recovery in Queensland and we have been very pleased with the response to round 1, which demonstrates the interest and capacity for the development of this industry. Nine contracts have now been finalised, with a total of \$6.66 million invested in resource recovery projects. Through these nine projects alone, we will see almost 290,000 tonnes of waste per annum diverted from landfill and more than 50 new jobs created.


Today, I can advise the House the most recent funding recipients under the first round. Impact Washing is receiving \$253,000 to boost the volume of high-density polyethylene plastics it reprocesses into clean flake product for commercial and industrial use. This funding will contribute to Impact Washing's \$1 million expansion, which will divert an additional 3,732 tonnes of waste each year from landfill and create around seven new jobs at their Stapylton plant. Stanley Asphalt, whose head office is in Brendale, will receive \$2 million towards an almost \$19 million project, establishing Queensland's first-ever asphalt recycling facility at Tivoli, creating 16 jobs along the way. Cleanaway at Hervey Bay is receiving \$155,000 towards a \$334,000 upgrade of the company's materials recovery facility, boosting the recovery of recyclables from kerbside collections, diverting 1,274 tonnes per annum and delivering more jobs.

The RRIDP is a key action of the *Queensland resource recovery industries: 10-year roadmap and action plan*. Today, I am pleased to release the final plan, a copy of which I table for the benefit of honourable members, following a comprehensive consultation process with industry and the community.

Tabled paper: Queensland Resource Recovery Industries report, dated August 2019, titled '10-year Roadmap and Action Plan' [\[1329\]](#).

While we have already been getting on with the job of supporting and accelerating this industry through the development program, the finalisation of the road map and action plan sets out our 10-year strategy to divert more waste away from landfill, create new jobs in resource recovery and build a stronger and more sustainable economy. This is just the start of Queensland's journey towards a zero-waste future and creating hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders along the way.

Child Protection, Law Reform

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.47 am): Today, I am proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will be releasing a draft bill that seeks to implement some of the key recommendations of the royal commission's *Criminal justice* report on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As outlined by the Premier, we


will create a new failure to report offence that will help ensure that children no longer need to suffer in silence and instances of child sexual abuse are no longer able to go unreported to police, including where perpetrators or victims disclose the abuse during religious confession.

A new failure to protect offence will create a new culture of accountability. The absence of this offence allowed perpetrators to be moved between schools or sites operated by an institution, despite the institutional knowledge that the perpetrator posed a substantial risk to vulnerable young children.

By implementing these royal commission recommendations, it is my hope that we end that practice once and for all. Our reforms will make substantive changes to the Evidence Act to allow more juries to hear evidence of the previous crimes of accused criminals. Our reforms will ensure that child sex offenders cannot use their community standing to lessen their sentence, when it was that community standing that facilitated their offending in the first place. Predators will now face criminal punishment not just for grooming their child victims but also grooming the families of their would-be victims.

We are also taking steps to crack down on a disgusting practice. Between July 2013 and June 2018, the Department of Home Affairs reported that 133 child sex dolls were imported into Australia. A number of the dolls have been seized in Queensland. These dolls are designed to look like pubescent or prepubescent children. They are manufactured overseas and imported into our state for predators. The Palaszczuk government wants to stamp out this practice. Individuals who are found in possession of these vile objects will face up to 14 years in jail. Members of the community involved in the commercial production or supply of these objects will face up to 20 years in jail. This bill will keep our community safer and see offenders punished for their crimes. I encourage all Queenslanders to make their voices heard on this important bill by visiting www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au. It is in the best interests of all of our children and it is what we need to do for all Queenslanders.

Non-Government Organisations, Jobs

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.50 am): From remote Indigenous communities at the top of Queensland to the many suburbs of the Gold Coast and stretching out to the rural areas of far Western Queensland, across both the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the newly created Department of Youth Justice, we are funding more than 5,500 frontline jobs in the non-government organisation services sector.


Earlier this month I was at the opening of Laurel Place's new women's health and wellbeing service based out of Noosa, which we supported with an investment of \$2.4 million. I am pleased to advise the House that 10 women's health and wellbeing services are supporting women affected by domestic and family violence across Queensland—from Mount Isa to Townsville and to the Gold Coast. Our investment in these services not only secures jobs in the NGO sector, these services help women who have been affected by domestic violence to heal, to re-establish themselves and, importantly, to re-enter the workforce.

Our historic youth justice investment is also supporting jobs in the NGO sector. Our recently announced investment in services to prevent offending and reoffending will lead to the creation of another 60 full-time-equivalent positions in the non-government organisation sector. Already, new Indigenous youth and family workers have been employed and have started providing intensive support to young people in contact with the youth justice system in Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba, with recruitment underway in more locations. These case workers provide culturally appropriate support to families who are struggling with their child's behaviour and connecting them with appropriate services to address risk factors to prevent offending and reoffending.

As the Premier always says, the best way to steer a young person out of the youth justice system is to give them a job. That is why our new programs, such as Transition 2 Success, which are geared totally towards getting our young people into work and different life choices, are so important. With 60 per cent of the young people undertaking this program not reoffending and with our high success rate of those same young people either returning to school, undertaking further training or gaining employment, we know we are making a long-term difference in their lives. Our child safety and youth justice reforms and our ongoing commitment to addressing domestic and family violence and sexual violence are helping give children a great start, keeping the community safe and creating thousands of jobs.


Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, can I ask that you please return to your seat. Members are reminded that they are not to loiter in corridors and hallways and access points. If you wish to have a conversation, take it outside.

Sport Technology, Jobs

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.53 am): There are very few things Queenslanders like more than getting one up on New South Wales—but beating Poms is one of them. As all Aussies know, today is day 1 of the third Ashes test. Getting an advantage over your sporting rival is a multibillion dollar global business. Worldwide we are seeing a significant investment in new technology designed to give athletes better quality data to improve performance. That is why the Palaszczuk government partnered with SportCor, a Gold Coast software company, that is capitalising on this growing industry. They have developed a device that fits into a cricket ball and can measure statistics on speed, bounce and spin, feeding that information back to experts in real time to improve player performance.

This Gold Coast business has secured a deal with Kookaburra to produce the SmartBall. Today I am proud to confirm that they are planning to grow their workforce on the Gold Coast by more than 50 per cent over the next 12 months. Our government is investing in new technology and emerging industries to create jobs in Queensland, not see them go overseas. We will continue to invest in Queensland businesses and help them to scale up and bring more jobs here to our state. This really is a hat-trick for Queensland: new technology, more jobs, better cricketers. Howzat!

Silicosis


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government's No. 1 priority is jobs. Not only do we want Queenslanders to have fair and rewarding jobs, we want them to have safe jobs. When the government received advice on the concerning spike in the cases of silicosis in the engineered stone benchtop industry we acted immediately. In September 2018 we issued a total ban on dry cutting and issued a public alert about the risks to workers working with engineered stone. Queensland has led the nation in responding to the threat of silicosis. Audits have now been conducted on all known engineered stone benchtop fabricators in Queensland, with around 600 statutory notices issued and 16 infringement notices with fines totalling over \$54,000.

Health screening has been arranged for over 1,000 workers. Forums for workers, employers and the medical community have occurred and counselling has been arranged for workers and their families. An expert medical working group to develop clinical guidance has been established. Ongoing investigations are occurring in relation to a number of workplaces which may lead to prosecution. A dust lung disease register has been established in Queensland—an Australian first—and a new code of practice is close to finalisation.

I am pleased to announce today the next phase of our response to this insidious disease. I can advise that WorkCover Queensland has provided an \$80,000 research grant and engaged Monash University and the University of Illinois to undertake important research on how we can best support workers who have been diagnosed with silicosis to safely return to work. Professor Malcolm Sim from Monash University and Professor Bob Cohen from the University of Illinois will lead expert teams to address important issues, including the treatment, rehabilitation and retraining options that are available to improve workers' capacity to work, the mental health impact and issues preventing return to work and ensuring the return to work environment is safe to protect workers' long-term health.

Both teams bring extensive experience in the management of dust lung diseases and best practice return-to-work and rehabilitation services. They are involved in research and other initiatives in schemes across Australia and internationally. Their research will ensure that WorkCover Queensland is providing the best support for Queensland workers. This research will also be available publicly to ensure that all schemes are able to benefit from greater knowledge about best practice strategies when dealing with silicosis and other dust lung diseases. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to protecting workers from the scourge of silicosis and dust lung diseases to ensure that WorkCover provides the best rehabilitation support to injured workers and their families across all industries and across all of Queensland.

Small Business, Support

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.57 am): Since the budget was handed down I have been travelling across Queensland talking to small business owners about what the budget means for their business and how we can support them to grow and create even more jobs for Queenslanders.


This year's budget delivered big for Queensland's 438,000 small businesses. The Treasurer delivered the biggest change to payroll tax in over a decade, with an \$885 million payroll tax relief package. Under this package, the Palaszczuk government is delivering lower taxes for an estimated 13,000 businesses, making it easier for them to employ more Queenslanders.

I have heard from over 600 businesses from up in Cairns, out to Emerald and down to the Redlands as part of our small business roadshow and the response has been overwhelming. On the Sunshine Coast, Roz White, owner of White's Grocers, said they are about to create over 100 new jobs and the payroll tax package would reduce their tax bill, making it easier to employ more people. In the Whitsundays, QIT Plus CEO Chris Madsen said that, as a regional employer, payroll tax was a burden on his company and he was so pleased to see the threshold was being raised to support more Queensland businesses.

This government is backing small business and jobs. In Cairns I met Rachel from FNQ Food Incubator, who was also excited about our Artisan Producers Grant. She was thrilled to see the government supporting artisan producers and investing in the growth of the sector. In Stafford I met Pauline who recently received one of our small business grants and, as a result, is seeing her business thrive.

We have also received some invaluable feedback from small businesses on how we can improve the support that we give them. Businesses told me that they want more notice of our small business grants so that they can better plan for and prepare their applications. As a result, I am pleased to say that we have now published our schedule of grants for the next financial year so that businesses can better plan ahead and prepare their applications. On top of that, we are investing a further \$14 million for Back to Work, \$4 million to continue our successful small business grants and our new \$32 million free apprenticeships initiative will back businesses by covering the training costs when they take on an apprentice or trainee. This is all part of the Palaszczuk government's plan to support our small businesses to grow and employ more Queenslanders.

Foulds, Mrs J; Flu Season


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): I know that every member of this House will have been saddened to hear the story of Jacinta Foulds. She was a young fit and healthy Queensland mum who was taken from her family by the flu two weeks ago. Our hearts go out to her husband, Dan, and to her children, Lily, who is 11, Cory, who is 10, and Indy, who is seven. Yesterday the grief-stricken family dragged themselves to the doctor for a flu shot. If Dan can go and get his kids vaccinated, every single one of us can.

Sadly, Jacinta is just one of 95 Queenslanders taken by the flu this year. Health experts believe that Queensland's shocking flu season has not even hit its peak and will probably get worse. More people could get sick, more could end up in intensive care and more could die. Flu does not discriminate. It can and does affect fit and healthy Queenslanders every year. So far this year we have been notified of 46,011 laboratory confirmed flu cases across the state, including 2,185 admissions to public hospitals, with 212 people requiring admission to an intensive care unit. The proportion of people with influenza being admitted to Queensland Health hospitals is highest in children under one year of age and in adults over 60 years of age.

No parent wants to see their baby in a hospital bed. That is why the Palaszczuk government funds free flu vaccines for children aged six months to less than five years. The vaccine is safe and is one of the best ways to protect children from flu. Other ways we can stop the spread of the flu are by washing our hands regularly, covering our mouths and noses when we sneeze or cough and staying home from school, work or child care if we are sick. The Palaszczuk government has committed a record \$20 million to support hospital and health services this winter season, including the implementation of the Winter Beds Strategy. That is double the usual investment. However, we need everyone's help to stop the spread of the flu.

While I am on my feet, I remind members that tomorrow is Daffodil Day. I urge everyone to buy a daffodil and raise lifesaving funds for world-class cancer research.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.02 am): Queensland is the renewable energy powerhouse of this nation. We have more than 2,900 megawatts of renewable energy operational right now. We have another seven large-scale


renewable energy projects, totalling over 360 megawatts, either currently financially committed or under construction and we have the next clean, green export industry, hydrogen, beckoning around the corner.

I am pleased to advise the House that Central Queensland could be home to Australia's largest hydrogen project, with a \$5 million study underway into a hydrogen plant at Stanwell Power Station. The 12-month study will assess the technical, commercial and strategic feasibility of a large hydrogen electrolysis plant near Stanwell Power Station. Pending the results of that study, this can be another industry that will create jobs and attract investment to Central Queensland.

Government owned generator Stanwell Corporation is looking at a 10 megawatt or larger demonstration plant, which will be the largest plant of its type in the nation. The study started in July and is looking at the development of an electrolysis plant. Demineralised water is already produced at Stanwell and could be treated at the plant to produce hydrogen. The hydrogen produced could then be used in three ways: to produce liquid ammonia for fertilisers and as an industrial chemical; compressed and sold as a gas for various uses, including for manufacturers; and compressed and used to generate electricity in a gas turbine or a fuel cell. Stanwell has had discussions with potential local and international commercial partners and customers. By deploying hydrogen electrolysis on a large scale, the demonstration plant could help drive down production costs and support the development of new domestic and export markets for hydrogen. The proposed site is well located near local ports for access to export markets.

It is clear that the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy, led by the Minister for State Development, is working—as is, I might add, our gas policy. According to today's *Australian Financial Review* we have the single most productive response by a government, federal or state, to the eastern gas dilemma. This is just another piece in our suite of sensible and effective energy policies. Our renewable energy boom is creating jobs for regional Queensland, helping to put downward pressure on electricity prices for all Queenslanders and helping to reduce emissions and tackle climate change, and nowhere do I see the figure of 43 per cent associated with any of our policies.

Aquaculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.05 am): When I was appointed the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I had a vision to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Really!

Mr FURNER: I love hearing the adulations from those opposite, who are unlike members on this side of the House as we support the development of agriculture, fisheries and everything that goes along with that. In 2016-17, in Queensland aquaculture was a \$120 million industry supporting more than 530 full-time jobs. This week's announcement by the Premier that Tassal has bought a 7,000-hectare property near Mackay to develop a major aquaculture project shows that the government's commitment is on track. With 1,000 construction and operational jobs to be established, that is a great result for Mackay and the Whitsunday region. It is a great result for the local economy and for Queensland. I look forward to tomorrow and travelling to Proserpine with the member for Mackay to see firsthand Tassal's vision for its future and that of the area. This government is all about jobs, which is why we do the hard yards with companies such as Tassal to make such investments possible and to get on the front foot to facilitate strong and sustainable industries that mean jobs for Queenslanders.

However, that is not all. In November last year it was wonderful to attend the opening of the Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture precinct in Mossman with the member for Cook. It is one of the biggest black tiger prawn farming companies in Australia. I note that the Tassal development is one of the six aquaculture development areas that the Palaszczuk Labor government created at the start of the year to grow aquaculture. We want to attract investors to develop and build aquaculture projects across Queensland, because we want to give communities more employment opportunities and growth in their economies. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food industry globally, so it is important that, as a government, we do everything we can to tap into that potential.

A booming aquaculture sector has the added benefit of taking the pressure of our wild-caught fisheries. Wild-caught product cannot keep up with growing global demand for seafood protein, which is why aquaculture is the fastest growing food industry globally. This government's support for the sector means more jobs for regional communities, a stronger Queensland economy and the chance to make this state the aquaculture capital of the world.

Activate! Queensland


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government has announced Activate! Queensland. It is Queensland's \$1.3 billion sports and active recreation strategy. It is a comprehensive 10-year plan that focuses on participation, collaboration and the activation of success. It is the first of its type in Queensland because it sets clear goals: 150 community infrastructure projects over the first three years; the percentage of sufficiently active kids increasing from 41 per cent to 60 per cent and adults to 75 per cent; and 100 per cent of funded organisations achieving gender equity, equal pay and prize money for professional athletes.

It is no wonder the world's best want to compete at the highest levels in Queensland. Truly, no government in Queensland's history has had such a strong commitment to sport and active recreation. It is a commitment shared amongst government members—whether it is the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development bringing magnificent spectacles and new technology to Queensland or the Premier who just yesterday made history by announcing that, for the first time, Queensland Academy of Sport Athlete Bonus Grants will be offered to the elite athletes of Queensland's INAS games team. Just as this Premier was the first in Australia to deliver this support to the Invictus Games athletes, this is the first time these critical grants have been made available for the inspiring INAS athletes—Queenslanders who will not allow disability to hinder participation or their success. Under Activate! Queensland we have upgraded the FairPlay voucher system to more activities, including cadets and community run gyms, and to more families. In another first, we are delivering more for Outback Queensland by opening up a trial to dance schools in Outback Queensland.

Activate! Queensland will continue the Premier's Female Facilities Program with 27 facilities to be delivered this year and dozens more to come. Over three years, 150 infrastructure projects will create 518 jobs. Thanks to the Minister for Education, the Community Use of School Facilities program pilot has already kicked off. We have partnered with four state schools across Queensland—from Balmoral State High School, just 20 minutes down the road from here, to Atherton State High School, 20 hours drive from here. We have partnered with schools and local clubs to become community sporting hubs. Browns Plains and Shailer Park state high schools will also be showcased, with coordinators engaged to bring together sport and education. Clubs will be able to utilise school ovals and facilities. Everyone will benefit from shared infrastructure built by the Palaszczuk government. Together, we are breaking down barriers to participation and building a pathway to gold for Queensland's aspiring athletes.

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

Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the date for the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to report to the Legislative Assembly on the inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying be extended from 30 November 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitor to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that the former member for Ferny Grove, Mr Dale Shuttleworth, is in the gallery today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Keppel

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.12 am): I rise to make a personal explanation. I refer to an article appearing in today's *Courier-Mail* referring to a trip I undertook in my capacity as the Assistant Minister for Education. I need to make a personal explanation because the article does not set out the complete and accurate circumstances of my trip to China and it is important that I correct certain matters.

As part of an international education delegation, together with the mayor and deputy mayor of Livingstone Shire Council and the principals of St Ursula's College Yeppoon and St Brendan's College Yeppoon, I attended China in my role as the Assistant Minister for Education in March of this year to, amongst other things, sign a sister agreement on behalf of Yeppoon State High School and Jiangsu Province Yangzhong Xinba Middle School. I table a copy of that agreement.


Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'Memorandum of Understanding between Yeppoon State High School and Jiangsu Province Yangzhong Xinba Middle School for a Sister-school Agreement' [1330].

I paid for my own airmiles—a matter the article neglects to mention. There was a process agreed upon where the Livingstone Shire Council would invoice me for accommodation costs. Upon receiving an invoice from the council, I paid this invoice. Upon completing an audit of my finances for last financial year, I became aware that the invoice received from Livingstone Shire Council was missing reference to one night's accommodation. It was at this point that I immediately remedied the register.

What the article also fails to mention is that the ECQ website and relevant fact sheet states that members of parliament are not considered to receive a political donation in circumstances where members receive modest hospitality, perishable food or tickets to sporting or cultural events—under \$200 as a guide—of which have enduring value and are received during the course of official duty. On this basis, I maintain that I have not breached the property developer laws.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument


 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the Fire and Emergency Services (Levy Groups) Amendment Regulation 2019, subordinate legislation No. 130 of 2019, tabled in the House on 20 August 2019, be disallowed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Member for Keppel

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question is to the Premier. Has the Premier asked the Electoral Commissioner to investigate whether the gift of accommodation from a Chinese billionaire property developer to Assistant Minister Lauga was a breach of Labor's own electoral integrity laws?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As members have heard, the member for Keppel has made a detailed explanation in this House. She has complied with the requirements. She rectified the register as soon as she found out that there was this anomaly. She has made a fulsome explanation to this House.

I would ask the Leader of the Opposition whether she has done the same. I have not heard a personal explanation from the member for Southport—14 trips to China. I have not heard a personal explanation about that at all.

Mr Mander: Old news.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Old news. That is why I heard the member for Everton and the member for Southport were in detailed heated conversation about that issue. That is what was reported to me.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We still have not heard an explanation from the Leader of the Opposition about the diamond club when it comes to property developers. Is this a way for property developers to infiltrate the LNP? The \$990 secret donations, who are they from? Who are the people who have taken out diamond club membership?

We know what happens when it comes to political donations. We know what happened with former assistant minister Chris Davis. He resigned because he did not believe that under the LNP political donations should be \$12½ thousand.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You do not like hearing his name in this House.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say his name again—Chris Davis. He was an assistant minister in this House who resigned.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I have only just warned you during this answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The first piece of legislation we introduced into this House was to make sure political donations were brought down from \$12,800 to \$1,000. What they have done now is set up a diamond club membership at \$950—

Ms Trad: 990.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not 950, I correct the record, but 990—just under the cap. Who are the property developers donating to the LNP who get a say in preselections? What do they get for their donations? What do they get in the LNP? That is what the people of Queensland want to know.

Mr SPEAKER: Members' correct titles will be used in this House, Minister.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Assistant Minister Lauga failed to declare a gift of accommodation from a Chinese billionaire property developer, Minister Fentiman failed to properly declare luxury accommodation and the Deputy Premier failed to declare an investment property—all in breach of the ministerial handbook and without any sanction or punishment for those breaches. Can the Premier tell the House, under the Premier's new integrity standards, what consequences are there for ministers and assistant ministers who break those ministerial rules?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the Leader of the Opposition has been asleep this week because we said very clearly in relation to these issues—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have been asleep. The member for Keppel made very clear that she corrected the record. She corrected the Register of Members' Interests—

Ms Grace: They're infallible over there. They never make a mistake.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right. I am happy in this House to talk about integrity. They want to talk about integrity. I am happy to give a history lesson of integrity. Let us go through it.

Mr Hunt: You're in no position to speak of integrity.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, let us hear from the new members because they perhaps were not here for the Campbell Newman days. The member for Chatsworth—

Ms Jones: He's gone.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, he is gone, but he also asked a very interesting question yesterday which allowed me to do a bit of research overnight.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Theodore, member for Southern Downs and member for Nicklin, you are all warned under the standing orders. I could not hear the Premier's response. The level of interjection is too high, members. Am I clear about that?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us go through a bit of a history lesson. What did they do? They trashed Fitzgerald.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They trashed Fitzgerald.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Premier. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just brought the House to order. I have called the House to order and you have immediately interjected. I remind all members about standing order 251. If you do not know it, look it up. There is no course in the standing orders to allow for any interjections of any type.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They trashed Tony Fitzgerald. They ran and controlled the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. You only have to go back through transcripts to know the full history of that—when the state's attorney-general at the time, the member for Kawana, spoke to Lee Anderson, the head of Campbell Newman's media office. Do you remember that, member for Kawana? You were the attorney-general back then. Do you remember that?

Then they spoke to the head of the CCC at the time to write an article backing the government's policy. That was the record of integrity under the LNP. I have written a two-page answer to the member for Chatsworth's question yesterday reminding everybody in this House of those facts that the member for Chatsworth obviously had forgotten as well.

Not only that, when the LNP were in office they interfered in the judiciary. I am not going to speak any more about that, but everyone knows what I am talking about there with the appointment process. Then they came in here in the middle of the night and they sacked the PCCC. They sacked the PCCC in the dark of the night. That is what they did. Then they trashed estimates in this House. They trashed the estimates process. They refused to have them running on separate days. We brought that back. They refused to declare their political donations. That is the history under the LNP.

(Time expired)

Energy Security

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on actions that the Queensland government is undertaking to improve energy security in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maryborough very much for that question. I know how much he cares about making sure that there is investment in Maryborough. There is currently a 35-megawatt Maryborough solar farm due for commercial operation in March next year. That will be great news for the people of Maryborough. We are clearly seeing a huge investment in renewables in this state, but we are the energy powerhouse of the nation. I note Minister Lynham's ministerial statement today talking about that pipeline of investment.

There is a whole range of things coming online which deliver our additional energy security in Queensland. These include the 133-megawatt Houghton Solar Farm and the 100-megawatt Lilyvale Solar Farm due for commercial operation next month; the 103-megawatt Yarranlea Solar Farm due for commercial operation in November; the 453-megawatt Coopers Gap Wind Farm due for commercial operation in April next year; and the 64-megawatt Warwick Solar Farm due for commercial operation in June next year. All of this is happening under this term of government. It is a huge investment—\$5 billion under construction and \$20 billion in the pipeline.

We also have energy security in this state because we own our energy assets, unlike those opposite who wanted to sell them off. The people of Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Come on!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I take a dim view of my rulings in this House being ignored essentially. I have warned members about the level of interjection. I appreciate there may be some robustness in terms of the response to the question asked, but members will cease the interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is good to see that they are awake. We own our energy assets in Queensland, unlike those opposite who wanted to sell them off. Remember Peter Costello? I forgot about him. You got him in to do the work to try to sell our assets off.

We are delivering security and affordability because we have a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Today the federal government's Australian Energy Market Operator released their 2019 *Electricity statement of opportunities*. The report found that, when it comes to power generation

capacity, Queensland 'has a surplus of capacity and a relatively large pipeline of committed and proposed renewable generation development'. It also mentioned that we are well ahead because there are issues currently in New South Wales and Victoria for not having that security.

In Queensland we have that security. We are making sure that we are putting pressure on to drive down electricity prices for families right across this state; we are encouraging investment because of our policy settings; and we will keep our energy assets in public hands, not like those opposite who wanted to sell them off. You cannot trust them not to do it again at the next election.

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

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. In the last month it has been revealed that the Deputy Premier bought a house via her family trust, putting her in a conflict of interest with her ministerial responsibilities. The Deputy Premier did not properly disclose the interest, refuses to release her Integrity Commissioner advice and called the CCC chair when under assessment. Does the Premier retain confidence in the Deputy Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is yes. As I said very clearly, these matters are under assessment. We know those opposite do not like it when processes are followed. The Queen of Hearts over there—'Off with their heads.' There is a process underway and people respect the process. I respect the authorities. Those opposite do not respect the authorities.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the Premier's response. Equally, the response if it is combative will bring some interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will let the CCC do their job. When the LNP were in office, they hand-picked the—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have made your point.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—the chair of the CCC. Those opposite hand-picked the chair—no bipartisan support. They trashed integrity in this state. They shredded integrity in this state. Having lived through it all, Queenslanders do not want to see the LNP return to do those things again. They absolutely do not want to see it. The Leader of the Opposition was Campbell Newman's assistant minister. Hold your head up high, Leader of the Opposition: you were Campbell Newman's assistant minister!

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that comments will come through the chair.

Year of Indigenous Languages, Grants Program

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. 2019 is the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of the Indigenous Languages Grants Program?

Ms TRAD: The member for Capalaba has a significant Indigenous population within his region, and I am very pleased to report—

Dr Robinson: It's called Stradbroke Island. It's Oodgeroo.

Ms TRAD: The member for Oodgeroo is making statements and interjecting. I would like to ignore his interjections, because he ignores the First Nation people in his community when he comes into this House, so I think that his comments should be ignored on the same level.

2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and it is very important that we recognise this as a government and do what we can to preserve and promote the remaining Indigenous languages in our state. Here in Queensland out of more than 100 Indigenous languages only approximately—

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: Out of approximately 100 Indigenous languages in our state only about 20 remain. It is critically important that we do what we can, particularly in the International Year of Indigenous Languages, to preserve these.

I am very happy to report to the House that we are ready to distribute language grants under this program to ensure communities have the capability to preserve and promote their language and to ensure that kids in their communities have an opportunity to learn their traditional language. I am very pleased to report to the House—and particularly the member for Capalaba and the member for Redlands—that some of the communities that have been awarded grants for Indigenous languages include the islands Minjerriba and Moorgumpin. These are for interactive language dictionaries including voice, images and learning activities. In some communities it is about having a curriculum program in schools as well. I am very excited about this program because we know that language matters.

Dr Robinson: Do they have a job on Straddie? They'd like a job.

Ms TRAD: That is why I am also very concerned about the language of the hard right coming from those opposite.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under the standing orders. I will not tolerate quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms TRAD: Language matters, and it is very deeply concerning to hear the hard right language coming from the LNP. We know that the member for Oodgeroo is leading the charge. We know that the member for Oodgeroo has taken on as staff Lyle Shelton, a person who has likened abortion to Nazi Germany. This is a bloke who should be in Gilead and not in the service of any political party in Queensland.

We know that Queenslanders want us focused on them, jobs and the economy, not progressing an agenda of the hard right that excludes so many Queenslanders—

(Time expired)

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

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier has confirmed that if the CCC decides to investigate her she will stand down, saying 'I will do the right thing by the government, I will do the right thing by the Premier and I will do the right thing by the Labor Party.' Why won't the Deputy Premier do the right thing by Queenslanders and resign?

Ms TRAD: In response to that question I have made my position abundantly clear. I will refer those members opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! As I hear it, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I expect you would like to hear the answer.

Ms TRAD: I have always endeavoured to do the right thing. I have made public statements in relation to this matter. I have referred myself to the CCC. I will ensure that I abide by the rules. If there is an investigation that follows the assessment of the CCC I will do what is right. I said that in the House yesterday. I refer those opposite to the long list of issues that the Premier put on the table in relation to the track record of those opposite when in government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you asked the question. I hope you want to hear the answer.

Ms TRAD: I will quote from a letter that the former member for Stafford, Chris Davis, wrote to people at the time of the 2015 state election asking people to toss out the party he stood for in 2012. He said—

I took an oath to serve the people of Queensland, and I could not in good conscience stay part of a government that was happy to trade away public trust in its own self-interest. Trust is the cornerstone of good governance—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is quoting. At the moment they are not even her own words. I take a dim view of interjections during that time. Deputy Premier, I ask that you come back to the core of the question asked and do not stray further from relevance.

Ms TRAD: This goes to the issue of what is right. Chris Davis, who was formerly associated with those opposite, said that—

Mr Powell interjected.

CHAIR: Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD:—‘You cannot trust those over there to do what is right.’ Chris Davis ends his letter by saying—

My experience is that you cannot trust this government, and it has never been more important to restore the balance to the parliament. That is why on this occasion you need to vote No. 1 Kate Jones.

This is from a man—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Scenic Rim, you are warned under the standing orders. I can do this all day, members. I have been very clear about interjections of any kind not being allowed under the standing orders. I do not want to be the first Speaker to enforce the standing orders to their letter, but I would like to hear the response to the question that has been asked.

Ms TRAD: Those opposite want to talk about doing what is right. Lifting the threshold on the disclosure of donor donations to \$13,000 was not right. Sacking the PCCC in the middle of the night was not right. Changing laws to protect political donors in the middle of the night was not right.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier, do you have anything to add that is directly relevant to the question asked?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Deputy Premier, do you have anything further to add that is directly relevant to the question asked? Otherwise, I will ask you to resume your seat.

Ms TRAD: In relation to doing what is right, the diamond club membership to circumvent developer donations was not right.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Surfers Paradise, what is your point of order?

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect, under standing order 118 I ask you to rule that answers to questions must be relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: That is what I have been doing, member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Was that the member for Stretton? You are warned under the standing orders. I have asked the Deputy Premier to return to the core of the question and be relevant. I have heard her response since that time, but I do not believe it is relevant. Deputy Premier, I will ask you to resume your seat.

Electoral Donations

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the minister update the House on the government’s important reforms in real-time disclosure for political donations and the ban on developer donations?

Mrs D’ATH: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. As I said yesterday, we are very proud on this side of the House of the changes we brought in to reduce the threshold for disclosure so that everyone in Queensland knows of all donations that are made of \$1,000 or more. That is not like the Commonwealth and not like what the LNP want, of \$14,000 currently. It is \$1,000 or more. It is not CPI indexed. It is always \$1,000 and it has been since we came into government in 2015. Why is that important? Because we have also brought in real-time disclosure and property development bans. The CCC specifically said in recommending having this property developer ban brought in that we should also create an offence of—

Mr Stevens: Councils.

Mrs D'ATH:—circumventing or attempting to circumvent that ban. I take the interjection about councils, but the High Court backed in the Palaszczuk government in applying that at a state level as fair and reasonable.

I have very grave concerns because not only do I believe the diamond membership, the brown paper bag membership, is trying to circumvent those laws, but I now have information on the real-time disclosure. Remember that we set it up so that when a donor puts it in it sits as unreconciled until the party or the member or candidate then confirms they have received that money and it is legitimate, and then it becomes reconciled. The register shows a \$10,000 donation from what appears to be a property developer who used to go by the property development's name in the register for previous donations to the LNP back in 2016 but now goes by just an ACN number. When you search that ACN number, you find that the donation is directly from that property developer with all of those properties. In fact, the property developer describes themselves as the not-so-ordinary construction company. It was \$10,000. I table that.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from McNab website, titled 'The not-so-ordinary construction company' [1331].

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 21 August 2019, from the Electoral Commission of Queensland website, report showing donations to Liberal National Party of Queensland [1332].

It is a \$10,000 donation as reconciled on the ECQ website to the member for Toowoomba North. It is \$10,000 from a property developer that has been reconciled and confirmed by either the LNP or the member directly as receiving this money back on 6 June 2019. That was when the gift was made. I ask what the LNP are going to do about this. I can say what I am doing about it. I have written to the ECQ saying that I do believe this is potentially a prohibited donation. Worse still, it may have been a deliberate attempt to circumvent the—

(Time expired)

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

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. On her appointment as Treasurer, did the Treasurer seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner about how to handle the conflict of interest that arises as a result of simultaneously being a shareholding minister in CS Energy Ltd whilst also having an interest in DWF Australia, a firm on retainer to CS Energy's panel of lawyers?

Ms TRAD: I am one day looking forward to a question from the opposition about the economy and something that is relevant to people's lives, but I know that will not happen this week. My pecuniary interests register is up to date. I refer those members opposite to the responses given by the registrar of interest at the estimates committee hearing only last month, where he said he could not hazard a guess at how many members in this chamber are late in terms of their declarations. I am paraphrasing here. Let me make it clear that my pecuniary interests register is up to date. Since 2012—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach.

Ms TRAD: Those opposite have sought—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Was that the member for Coomera?

Mr Crandon: Yes, it was.

Mr SPEAKER: You will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A. There will be no interjections from members who are under warnings.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 10.44 am.

Ms TRAD: As I said, my pecuniary interests register is up to date. I have had a number of conversations with the Integrity Commissioner. Those suggestions, those allegations, that those members are putting forward are merely mudslinging, quite frankly. As I said, all of these issues are before the CCC. They are conducting their assessment.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: I am going to get out of their way and let them conduct their assessment.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am listening very carefully to the answer to the question that was asked by the member for Burleigh, and the Deputy Premier is being relevant and responsive. I ask that you cease your interjections.

Ms TRAD: Once the CCC make a—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: Once they finalise their assessment, I have made it clear to the House what I will do.

Waste Management, Jobs

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. I refer to the minister's announcement earlier today regarding resource recovery. How is the government's approach to managing waste delivering more jobs for Queensland? Is the minister aware of any other approaches to the management of hazardous waste?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question and for his support for the growing waste processing industry in our state. As I announced today, we are focusing on developing jobs in the waste industry, like our government's investment of \$1 million to upgrade the Cherbourg recycling facility in the electorate of Nanango. This is an Australian first for an Indigenous community that will lift annual production capacity from approximately 3,500 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: I look forward to the Leader of the Opposition going to Cherbourg, looking at that facility and thanking the Palaszczuk Labor government for investing \$1 million in her electorate.

While we are focusing on the responsible management of waste, there are others in Queensland who are looking to create a waste problem of a different kind, and that is nuclear waste. That is what the Leader of the Opposition and the Queensland LNP want to dump on Queensland. The member for Burnett confirmed state LNP support for nuclear reactors when he told ABC Wide Bay last month that indeed the door was open to nuclear power and nuclear waste.

Can I just say the presence of nuclear waste and nuclear reactors in Queensland would be a hammer blow for tourism, for agriculture and of course for the viability of regional communities. Now we hear that the federal minister, Angus Taylor, and the federal LNP member for Flynn, Ken O'Dowd, are in Gladstone today talking about nuclear energy. I say to Angus Taylor, Ken O'Dowd, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Burnett, the member for Bundaberg and all the members of the LNP that we will fight every step of the way to stop the establishment of a nuclear power industry in Queensland. This used to be the obsession of right wing cranks—like, say, Lyle Shelton. What did he say in January this year? In January 2019, Lyle Shelton was calling on the ban for nuclear power to be lifted and for Queensland to be disconnected from the national electricity grid. I table a media release.

Tabled paper: Article from Mr Lyle Shelton, dated 30 January 2019, titled 'Media release: Unplug NSW and Vic until they get real about reliable power' [\[1333\]](#).

The LNP have announced both of those things. That is because the Leader of the Opposition has put Lyle Shelton on the pay list. She has put him on the payroll working for the member for Oodgeroo. The member for Oodgeroo might laugh, but Queenslanders will not laugh when she puts a nuclear power plant in his electorate. If he thinks nuclear power is so good, along with the member for Burnett—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr DICK: If the members for Oodgeroo, Burnett and Bundaberg think nuclear power is so good, why do they not stand up in the community and welcome a nuclear power plant, because we will not.

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

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. Has the Premier sought advice to confirm the Deputy Premier's compliance with section 71 of the Parliament of Queensland Act?

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

Mr SPEAKER: That will be under standing order 113?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Great Barrier Reef Islands, Tourism Infrastructure

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plans to grow the tourism industry in regional Queensland by delivering new tourism infrastructure on our Great Barrier Reef islands?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. The honourable member knows, as I do, that when tourism is booming right across our state that means jobs not only in our regions but also in Brisbane. I was very pleased to join with the Premier in the reopening of Hayman Island, the absolute jewel in the tourism crown for the Great Barrier Reef. It was so exciting for us to not only meet the amazing staff there but also learn that the whole resort will employ around 330 full-time workers on that island moving forward. We spoke to the manager who said that they have very strong bookings going forward. It is very exciting to see this is already happening. This comes off the back of the reopening of Daydream Island—

Ms Palaszczuk: After the cyclone.

Ms JONES:—after the cyclone. We went to the last election as the only side of politics with a very clear plan to rejuvenate our Great Barrier Reef islands—\$25 million which has now been partnered across 10 different islands across the Great Barrier Reef. This is why we are seeing record growth in tourism. We know that we must roll out the welcome mat to tourists. We have to make sure that we are sending the right message to people that they are welcome here, that in Queensland we accept everyone no matter who they are, their values, their religion, who they are married to or which country they come from. We say in Queensland: you are welcome. However, that is not the view of the latest employer employed by the LNP in this parliament—

An opposition member: Employee.

Ms JONES:—employee. He is an employee. They are not denying it; they are welcoming him. They may have to put Mr Lyle Shelton on the payroll, but by his own admission overnight he is still weighing up whether or not he is going to join the LNP. Yesterday he said—

I've been blessed with some consultancy work—

Dr Miles: He is saving up for the diamond class.

Ms JONES: Maybe he does not have the \$990. He said—

I've been blessed with some consultancy work and in addition am doing two days a week for a good friend, Mark Robinson ... I am seeking to re-join the LNP as I think sitting on the sidelines of partisan politics is no longer a responsible option ...

I call on the Leader of the Opposition to take the responsible option. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to refuse Mr Shelton's membership into the Labor—into the LNP. I will say that again.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms JONES: I got distracted by the opposition whip walking in front of the camera whenever I am talking.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: You might want to laugh about it—

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister. Minister, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms JONES: Same old bullying tactics! I call on the Leader of the Opposition to refuse Mr Shelton's membership application to join the LNP. Show some leadership, show some backbone and do your job.

(Time expired)

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

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier sought advice in relation to her compliance with section 71 of the Parliament of Queensland Act given her interest in a law firm and the firm's retainer contract with Queensland Health, WorkCover and CS Energy Ltd?

Ms TRAD: For the benefit of the House, section 71 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 talks to restrictions on members transacting business directly with an entity of government. It says—

A member must not transact business, directly or indirectly, with an entity of the State.

For the benefit of the House I say that I do not transact business with the state at any level.

In response to the member for Burleigh's question to me, let me make clear to the House that all decisions around engaging legal contractors are made at an operational level and are not subject to any ministerial involvement. Let's be abundantly clear: the member for Kawana interfered in procurement processes, but this government does not. I have been consistently clear—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, Deputy Premier. What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take personal offence. I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member for Kawana has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms TRAD: I withdraw. I have consistently declared my interest in my husband's business since being elected in 2012. His team works directly with organisations that I have declared consistently on my pecuniary interest register. However, this has not stopped the LNP repeatedly making baseless smears. This has been an ongoing campaign since 2012.

I want to refer to Ethics Committee report No. 147, which was tabled, regarding an allegation that I failed to declare an interest to the House when voting on a workers compensation bill in 2014. Those opposite made a merry campaign out of that. The Ethics Committee, a bipartisan committee of this parliament, found that I did not have a pecuniary interest under standing order 260 in the workers compensation bill before the House. My husband has been practising law in this area. He has been a specialist since before I even met him. He is a professional and I am enormously proud of the work that he does. The smear campaign from those opposite will go in the same direction as their last one, and that is nowhere.

Health Infrastructure, Jobs

Mr HARPER: My question is for the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's delivery of construction jobs in the health portfolio?

Dr MILES: I would like to thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. I know that he knows that when we build new healthcare facilities, whether they are new or refurbished hospitals, health clinics, multipurpose health centres or even ambulance stations, we do not just create jobs for doctors, nurses, ambos and all of the other health staff but we also create construction jobs right across this state. That includes the ambulance station at Kirwan that we will redevelop, allowing us to employ more paramedics at the station that the member for Thuringowa once worked at, as well as construction jobs during the development. In fact, across the 58 projects that are currently under construction across Queensland we are creating 770 full-time-equivalent jobs.

New health infrastructure allows us to deliver better services in more places to attract the best staff and to keep them there, like in Julia Creek, where just last week we opened the new \$8.4 million primary care hospital and aged-care facility. During its construction we created 25 local jobs. The Palaszczuk government understands that in small regional towns like Julia Creek these kinds of projects are incredibly important not just because they are hubs for the community but also because they are large construction jobs in the context of those towns. It was great to have the member for Traeger there for that ribbon cutting.

Similarly, there is the Kingaroy Hospital, where we launched construction recently. It was a shame the member for Nanango could not be bothered to show up there. We are creating 73 construction jobs in her local community over the next three years and it is scheduled to be completed in 2021. In fact, across the 56 projects we have in the planning stage we will create a further 865 full-time-equivalent construction jobs.

It is no surprise that the Leader of the Opposition could not be bothered to show up to the Kingaroy Hospital sod turn, because she is ashamed of her record. Those opposite have never planned a single significant health infrastructure project.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin you are already on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour. I cannot be any clearer that if you are under a warning under the standing orders you will cease all interjections.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nicklin withdrew from the chamber at 10.59 am.

Dr MILES: They just do not understand how important it is to build the hospitals we need for the future, to redevelop our hospitals and to create those jobs right across the state—not just in health care but also in construction.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. The education minister told estimates that CBRC gave final approval to the Inner City South State Secondary College in April this year, one month after the Treasurer's family trust bought a property in the school's catchment area. Did the Deputy Premier declare the purchase and exempt herself from decisions about the Inner City South State Secondary College at the CBRC meeting?

Ms TRAD: Once again, we have an example where the opposition is cherrypicking from comments and statements made by people at estimates.

Mr Batt: Like you did when you bought your house at Woolloongabba.

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

Ms TRAD: The member for Bundaberg interjects, and when he talks I am reminded of that John Kennedy quote that often we are afforded the luxury of opinion without the pain of deep thought. Let me make clear in relation to the statements given by my colleague the member for McConnel and education minister. The minister went through in great detail the timeline around all of the decisions regarding the Inner City South State Secondary College.

For all those interested in social media, I also put on my social media all of the key announcements that we made in 2017 when we decided to fund the school and in 2018 when we decided the catchment in relation to the school. Whilst speaking about the catchment—so people are really clear—if this property were not in the catchment of the new school it would have been in the catchment of Brisbane State High School, which is also very sought after. I will refer members to the entire transcript of that estimates committee hearing. If people are deeply interested in this and not just lazy and have an opinion without the pain of deep thought—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118—relevance. I am deeply interested but I actually asked about whether the Deputy Premier exempted herself from a particular CBRC meeting—not the timeline—where this was discussed.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I take the point of order and ask you to answer the question as asked.

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Kawana for reminding me that, in terms of the deliberations and what happens at Cabinet Budget Review Committee meetings and cabinet meetings, they are confidential. The member for Nanango—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will not remind members again that, when a minister is being directly relevant and is being responsive to the questions asked, there will be no interjections. Those members who were interjecting will be warned under the standing orders. Deputy Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms TRAD: What happens at CBRC and cabinet are for CBRC and cabinet to decide to divulge. Unlike the member for Nanango, who came into this parliament in 2012 and talked about how proud she was of the first budget that would be delivered—she sat around the CBRC table and helped make the decision to sack 14,000 Queenslanders—I will not come into this place and disclose the deliberations of cabinet or CBRC.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister update the House on the Queensland government's support for quality regulation of the early childhood sector and of any developments at the national level that put this quality regulation at risk?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. The member comes from that sector and knows how important it is to invest in high-quality early education and care. Obviously when little Evie is attending she will get the best quality of care here in Queensland, and the member knows exactly what

that means. Of course we want to give every child a great start, but a quality early childhood sector does not happen by accident. It requires investment in a robust regulatory framework that sets and enforces quality standards. This is critical for confidence in the sector. That is why this budget and this Treasurer included an additional \$26.5 million for regulation of quality safety standards for more than 3,000 early childhood services in Queensland.

Queensland always had a strong focus on its regulatory responsibility and it has borne the fruit of quality childcare services. Around 94 per cent of Queensland services are regulated under the National Quality Framework. We are rated at 85 per cent of services meeting or exceeding the national quality standards, compared to 79 per cent nationally. That is up 65 per cent from 2012-13. Some 15 per cent of services are rated 'working towards' and we have the best or the lowest percentage of any jurisdiction in Australia. To put to rest some of the misleading claims recently made in the media, a 'working towards' rating is not a fail and does not indicate any risk to health, safety or wellbeing of children.

All services are visited by my department and monitored at least once a year. I am very proud to say that last year my department conducted more than 5,900 monitoring visits, an average of two visits per service. That beats anywhere else in Australia. In Queensland we will never walk away from our responsibility—unlike the federal government, which walked away from its responsibility. Without any consultation, without any discussion, without any state or territory and with no warning, in the last federal budget it walked away from a national agreement to fund regulatory provisions in early childhood regulation. This was a deplorable act. I have written not once, not twice, but three times to ministers Birmingham and Tehan but our requests have fallen on deaf ears. Every state and territory and the industry are appalled by it walking away from its regulatory responsibility. If anyone has to hang their head, instead of worrying about section 71 of the parliamentary act, why not pick up the phone and ring—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will direct her comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: Instead of worrying about section 71 of the parliamentary act, those opposite should pick up the phone and ring their counterparts.

(Time expired)

Powerlink

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House whether the candidate short list to fill the now vacant Powerlink chief executive role features any former members of parliament?

Dr LYNHAM: I am unaware of the short list for Powerlink candidates.

Indigenous Communities, Renewable Energy

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on progress to implement the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to replace diesel with renewable energy solutions in isolated Indigenous communities?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Cook for the question. As I have said many times in this House, Queensland is Australia's renewable energy powerhouse. It is important that we share these benefits with all Queenslanders. As the member for Cook is well aware, our remote Indigenous communities rely heavily on expensive diesel generators—places where they have an average of eight hours of sunshine per day.

That is why I am pleased to advise the House that we are delivering on our election commitment to continue to roll out renewable energy to Bamaga, Mapoon, Pormpuraaw and Doomadgee. This is great news for the electorate of Cook. Work is underway extending the existing solar farm at Doomadgee. Mapoon is next cab off the rank and my department officials have started talks with Pormpuraaw Aboriginal shire and the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council.

For these communities, switching to renewables creates jobs, saves power and reduces emissions. Also at the Doomadgee shire extension the council has won the tender for civil works, and that means 15 local construction jobs over the next two months. Installation starts next month on more rooftop solar on council buildings and this will save council an estimated \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year.

That is money that will now stay in the community and will be spent in the community. Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council is also installing rooftop solar this year and midyear, as part of our election commitment, Mapoon will get more rooftop solar and battery storage. This is another arm of Labor's renewable energy revolution.

The Palaszczuk government initiated the multibillion dollar renewable energy investment boom with our consistent positive policies and our 50 per cent renewable energy target—as I said before, 2,900 megawatts of renewable generation capacity representing \$5.3 billion of private investment and more than 4,500 jobs right across this state. We are making sure that all Queenslanders can come with us on the renewable revolution and we are achieving this while maintaining reliable supply, a fact acknowledged yet again today by the independent Australian Energy Market Operator. The annual 10-year forecast reached today says that once again the electricity supply under this Labor government will remain amongst the most reliable in the national electricity market. As I said before, nowhere do I see the figure of 43 per cent against any of our policies.

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

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Deputy Premier. I table the Deputy Premier's tweet of 19 July in which she states that she will sell her family trust secret investment property for the same price it was purchased for.

Tabled paper: Tweet by @jackietrad, dated 19 July 2019, regarding advice from the Integrity Commissioner relating to property sale [1334].

Can the Deputy Premier explain why the 48 Abingdon Street property does not appear to have been listed for sale?

Ms TRAD: I made public the fact that I would do that after the CCC finalised whatever it was doing. It is in the public domain.

Seniors, Cost of Living

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is helping Queensland seniors with cost-of-living pressures?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question and I know how passionate she is about our seniors, particularly this week being Seniors Week. I want to acknowledge all of our Queensland seniors and the theme this year is Celebrating a Queensland for All Ages. There are more than 890 events across the state and I have had the opportunity to attend a number of those and I really encourage everyone in the House to get along to as many as they can. It is an absolute priority for the Palaszczuk government to ease the cost of living for Queensland seniors and put money back into their pockets wherever we can. There is a large range of concessions to eligible seniors through our Seniors Card and concession schemes, helping seniors save money on everything from council rates to water bills, electricity, gas, car registration and medical aids.

We know that the Seniors Card and concessions scheme is very popular amongst our seniors who use them, but there are many seniors out there who may not be getting the best out of their cards or may not be aware of the concessions that they are eligible for. That is why I was proud to announce last week that the Queensland government is hitting the road to bring information about our cards and concessions direct to seniors in their local communities.


Starting at the Ekka last week, our seniors concessions roadshow will be travelling around our great state visiting 22 locations from Cairns to the Gold Coast over the next few months. The roadshow will provide seniors with the opportunity to interact face to face to understand the savings they can make on their bills. Seniors will be able to go to their local shopping centres and sign up for a Seniors Card or concessions which they could be eligible for.

In the coming weeks the roadshow will visit Garden City, Chermside, Forest Lake Shopping Centre and Riverlink Shopping Centre in Ipswich. In October it will visit Ipswich, Townsville, Capalaba and the Gold Coast. The roadshow will then move on to North Lakes, Morayfield and the Sunshine Coast in November and the hyperdome in Mount Ommaney in December. Seniors in Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Cairns and Mount Isa will also be able to visit the roadshow when it stops at their local shopping centres. I encourage all Queensland seniors to

visit the booths in their local shopping centres to find out more about the concessions that they are eligible for, because we know that every dollar saved by Queensland seniors through our Seniors Card and concession scheme is money back in their pockets.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has just expired.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.15 am): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek leave to move a motion without notice of no confidence in the Deputy Premier.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. What a joke!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I would have hoped that you would know the standing orders well enough to know that you can seek leave to move a motion without notice without discussing what the content of that motion would be, and that is the convention in this place.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 43:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, 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.


NOES, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correction to Answer to Question, Electoral Donations

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.21 am): I rise to make a ministerial statement and to correct the record in relation to an answer that I gave to a question from the member for Macalister in which I stated that a political donation was received by the member for Toowoomba North. I apologise to the member for Toowoomba North, as he was not the direct recipient of that \$10,000 donation.

I can confirm for the House that the donor is ACN 102840906 Pty Ltd. The recipient of the donation is the Liberal National Party of Queensland. The date the gift was made is 6 June 2019. The donor electorate is Toowoomba North, with the donor address 12 Neil Street Toowoomba, and with a gift value of \$10,000. The same address and donation from 12 Neil Street Toowoomba is also listed back in 2016 to the Liberal National Party of Queensland under different donor names of McNab Laurel Street Trust, McNab NQ Pty Ltd and McNab.


I just wanted to clarify the record that the donation went to the Liberal National Party of Queensland. The Liberal National Party of Queensland has reconciled that donation, as in confirming its receipt for what appears to be a very large property developer in Queensland.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the member for Everton, who is interjecting, that members who are under warnings will not be able to interject. The members for Everton, Theodore, Southern Downs, Nicklin, Kawana, Oodgeroo, McConnel, Mudgeeraba, Scenic Rim, Buderim, Stretton, Burleigh and Bundaberg are all under warnings and those warnings will continue until the lunch adjournment. I expect silence from those members.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.24 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Further Education and Training Act 2014, the TAFE Queensland Act 2013, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [[1321](#)].

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [[1322](#)].

Today I am pleased to introduce the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into the House. Queensland can rightly claim to have the best workers compensation scheme in the country. The scheme has delivered the lowest average premium rate of any state or territory for six years in a row now—at \$1.20 per \$100 of wages paid. Over the past two years, employers have enjoyed premium savings of over \$75 million, thanks to measures the Palaszczuk government has introduced such as the early payment discount—up from three per cent to five per cent—and the premium discount for employers who take on apprentices, meaning no premiums are paid. We have achieved all this while also delivering other significant beneficial reforms, such as the National Injury Insurance Scheme, which provides no-fault lifetime care and support for workers who suffer a catastrophic injury at work, and restoring the rights of all injured workers to access common law damages that were curtailed by the LNP when it was in government by introducing a five per cent threshold to common law rights.

With this bill before the House today, we are making the best workers compensation scheme in the country even better, with a package of sensible and practical improvements that give effect to the recommendations from the most recent five-yearly independent review into the Queensland workers compensation scheme by Professor David Peetz from Griffith University. In March 2018, I commissioned Professor Peetz to conduct the second legislated five-year review of Queensland's workers compensation scheme. The terms of reference for the review included reporting on the performance of the scheme in meeting the objectives under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, reporting on emerging issues facing the scheme, and reporting on the effectiveness of current rehabilitation and return to work programs and policy settings, including ways to improve Queensland's return to work rates. The review included targeted consultation and written submissions from key stakeholders, including unions, employer and legal representatives, medical and allied health associations, and insurers.

Professor Peetz finalised his review on 27 May 2018, making 57 recommendations in total, of which 15 would require legislative amendment if adopted. The review found Queensland's workers compensation scheme is performing well, is financially sound, involves low costs for employers and provides fair treatment for both employers and injured workers whilst providing unlimited common law rights for all injured workers and their families. While the review found no case for changing the core architecture of the current scheme, opportunities for improvement were identified in areas such as rehabilitation and return to work outcomes and the workers compensation process and experience for injured workers, especially those with psychiatric and psychological injuries.

On 29 June 2018 I tabled a copy of the report in parliament and since then the government has been working closely with a stakeholder reference group comprising employer representatives, unions, insurers, medical and allied health associations and the legal community to ensure each of the 15 recommendations were thoroughly considered. The stakeholder reference group has met six times since September 2018 and I thank the members of that group for their invaluable contributions.

Following this extensive consultation process, the bill before the House today will address 12 of the 15 legislative recommendations made by the review. The remaining three legislative recommendations from the review relate to the potential extension of workers compensation coverage to workers in the gig economy. Following consultation with the stakeholder reference group, it was decided that these three recommendations should be considered separately, along with a further issue raised by stakeholders concerning workers compensation coverage for bailee taxi and limousine

drivers. A consultation regulatory impact statement was released in June 2019 seeking public feedback on these matters. Submissions and feedback from this consultation process are currently being considered.

I turn now to key provisions in the bill. The bill will deliver a number of important changes to the workers compensation scheme that assist injured workers with their rehabilitation and return to work. At present, injured workers are entitled to rehabilitation and return-to-work support from the insurer and employer while they are receiving compensation under the scheme. However, the review identified that once an injured worker's entitlement to compensation ceases, for example because they receive their notice of assessment and they accept a lump sum payment, their access to rehabilitation and return-to-work support comes to an end, even though the worker may still not be able to work because of their injury. This limits the achievement of durable and meaningful return-to-work outcomes.

To address this identified gap in workers' entitlements to rehabilitation and return-to-work support, the bill amends the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act to introduce a mandatory requirement for insurers to provide ongoing rehabilitation and return-to-work services in cases where the injured worker has not yet been able to return to work because of their injury after their statutory entitlement has ceased.

This amendment will ensure that the rehabilitation progress of many workers is not interrupted or stopped when they may benefit from return-to-work programs during or at the end of their statutory claim and give those workers every reasonable opportunity to achieve a durable return to work. In addition, injured workers will have the right to request referral to an accredited rehabilitation and return-to-work program at any stage during their statutory claim and insurers will have the ability to refer a worker to an accredited program at any earlier stage in the claim process. Together, these changes seek to achieve better outcomes for workers' overall health and recovery and will help to improve Queensland's return-to-work rate.

The bill will also improve the capability of employers to help rehabilitate injured workers. Employers who are required to appoint a rehabilitation and return-to-work coordinator will, under this bill, also now be required to submit to their insurer details demonstrating how their coordinator is appropriately qualified to undertake their role. This could include showing evidence that the coordinator has completed a training course or qualification approved by the Workers' Compensation Regulator. This new requirement addresses a concern from stakeholders that the skill level of rehabilitation and return-to-work coordinators has reduced since the requirement for accreditation was removed in 2013 by the Campbell Newman government. The amendments are intended to increase the skill level of rehabilitation and return-to-work coordinators and will enable the regulator to undertake targeted compliance and education activities with coordinators, ensuring that resources are focused on the greatest areas of need.

The bill also delivers on the review's recommendations to better support vulnerable workers who have been diagnosed with a psychological or psychiatric injury. Early intervention for these types of injuries assists to minimise the impact and duration of an injury, resulting in reduced claims costs and improved return to work. However, if there is a delay in this support being provided because the claim is still being determined, and the inherent nature of these claims means they often take longer to decide than injuries of a physical nature, then this can often make things worse for the affected worker.

To address this, the bill amends the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act to require that insurers must take all reasonable steps to provide reasonable support services to workers with a psychological injury prior to the determination of their claim. This will ensure workers receive timely support and necessary treatment when it is needed—improving return-to-work outcomes with lower long-term medical and rehabilitation costs. It will also provide incentives for claims to be decided in reasonable timeframes.

The bill also implements the review's recommendation to restore the previous definition of 'psychological injury' so that the worker's employment has to be a significant contributing factor to the injury, rather than the Campbell Newman government's amendment that it be the major significant factor. This amendment will ensure consistency in the way that physical and psychological injuries are treated within the workers compensation scheme and brings Queensland into line with the approach taken by all other jurisdictions.

Other key amendments in the bill to implement the Peetz review recommendations include clarifying that WorkCover Queensland can fund and provide programs and incentives encouraging employers to improve health and safety performance after consulting with the relevant health and safety

regulators; exempting expressions of regret and apologies provided by employers following a workplace injury from being considered in any assessment of damages under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act. This aligns with the approach taken in the Civil Liability Act 2003. Some workers often only want an apology from their employer for what has occurred to them and their family.

Further recommendations include extending workers' compensation coverage to unpaid interns; requiring self-insured employers to report payments and any injuries to their insurer to align with the current requirements imposed on all other employers; and clarifying that insurers have a discretion to accept claims more than six months after the injury is diagnosed if the injured worker has lodged a claim within 20 days of developing an incapacity for work from their injury. This amendment addresses an important point made by the review that workers with chronic, insidious or psychiatric injuries, for example, may at first attempt to manage their injury at work and it is not until sometime later as their injury deteriorates that they become incapacitated for work and think about lodging a claim. It fixes that gap.

The bill also makes some further amendments for regulatory simplification and clarification. I make particular note of the amendment to extend access to the latent onset terminal payment entitlements under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act. The act currently provides that a worker who has a terminal condition as a result of their employment, for example dust lung diseases such as asbestosis, silicosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or a work related cancer such as a specified cancer sustained by a firefighter, has an entitlement to a statutory payment of up to \$743,041. The payment of this lump sum allows the worker to be provided with palliative care and support and ensures that the worker can plan and attend to the financial needs of their family and dependents. The worker retains their rights to seek common law damages for negligence contributing to the worker's terminal condition, however, for some workers the prompt assessment and payment of this statutory entitlement may alleviate the need of the worker to seek common law damages and allow the worker to spend more time with their family.

Under the act currently, a terminal condition is defined as a condition certified by a doctor as being a condition that is expected to end the worker's life within two years after the terminal nature of the condition is diagnosed. However, some workers are diagnosed with a terminal work related condition with a life expectancy greater than two years which means they have been excluded from accessing this payment. The amendment addresses this by removing the reference to the time period restriction of two years. This is an important amendment for those who need it most and a great step forward in that area.

In addition to amendments to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act, the bill also repeals the Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011 following the successful delivery of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and the dissolution of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation; amends the Further Education and Training Act 2014 to enable the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to assist stakeholders in achieving more equitable outcomes in contested cancellations, temporary suspensions or inadequate training; and amends the TAFE Queensland Act 2013 to establish a more representative TAFE Queensland Board to support quality training outcomes for all Queensland stakeholders.

The changes I have outlined under this bill will continue to ensure that Queensland's workers compensation scheme is the nation's leading scheme by further improving injury management, rehabilitation and return-to-work outcomes for injured workers, while maintaining the lowest average premium rate of any state or territory workers compensation scheme. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queensland workers and their families and employers in all industries.

First Reading

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.40 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 Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (11.40 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Biosecurity Regulation 2016, the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, the Forestry Act 1959, the Forestry Regulation 2015, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Racing Act 2002, the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 [[1323](#)].

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes [[1324](#)].

Today I have pleasure in introducing the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The bill is an omnibus bill that amends 17 acts and four regulations. Most of the amendments are directed at more effective protection for and regulation of agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fisheries. In particular, this bill is a significant further step in addressing unacceptable behaviour that is affecting our agricultural and related industries, such as we have seen with recent animal activist protests in south-eastern Queensland.

Over the past 12 months some protests by animal activists have involved people invading farms and businesses, putting unfair pressure on law-abiding farm owners, managers and staff. In my travels around Queensland, I have witnessed the fear and anger that the actions of those protesters have created among those who live and work on the land in relatively isolated rural and regional communities. They worry about being far from help if they are faced with a large group of protesters. Quite often those protests have posed unnecessary welfare risks to animals. The protesters have also been putting human safety, biosecurity and food safety at risk and are affecting people's livelihoods by disrupting production.

The Palaszczuk government supports the rights of individuals to protest lawfully in Queensland. However, the distress caused to law-abiding primary producers by some types of protest actions and the risks to food safety, biosecurity and animal welfare are completely unacceptable. It is the community's expectation that protesters who use tactics such as unlawfully entering farming land with such disregard for the consequences will be met with a strong government response.

In April this year, a joint government and industry group, the Animal Industry Security Taskforce, was formed to focus on issues associated with the preservation of safety and public order, the avoidance of disruption to farm enterprises and the minimisation of biosecurity and food safety risks. I thank the task force for their ongoing work. Also in April this year, amendments were made to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 to more directly address the biosecurity risks associated with unauthorised entry into places where animals are kept and to provide for swift enforcement action in response to those risks. At that time the government signalled that it was considering further amendments, including act amendments, to address biosecurity risks.

The bill includes a package of amendments to the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Exhibited Animals Act 2015 that will address unacceptable behaviour that poses risks to agricultural and related industries. The amendments in the bill carefully balance the rights of those who wish to protest lawfully and the rights of those involved in relevant industries.

I point out to honourable members that only unacceptable behaviours that put our agricultural and related industries at risk will be affected by the amendments in this bill. The amendments do not target particular groups or particular views. They certainly do not prevent peaceful protests in appropriate places by animal activists or any other groups. They will apply to all Queenslanders, including non-protesters, whose behaviour puts agricultural and related industries at risk. Our farmers have a right to feel safe and protected from the risks posed to themselves, their properties and their livelihoods. Our community needs to be confident that human safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety are not being compromised. This government is determined to protect our farmers, protect Queensland's biosecurity and protect our clean, green credentials with our global trading partners.

Under section 13 of the Summary Offences Act, it is an offence to unlawfully enter farmland. The bill will increase the maximum penalty for the offence from 10 penalty units or six months imprisonment to 20 penalty units or one year imprisonment. The bill also broadens the range of land uses covered by the offence to include more purposes related to agriculture, agricultural food production and animal keeping. For example, it will now include unlawfully entering a food production facility, a feedlot and a live export facility, as well as a showground for animals and a sporting ground used for animals. The bill also amends section 10A of the Summary Offences Act to make a gathering of three or more persons unlawful if the gathering is on land used for those purposes and the gathering poses a risk to the safety of any person or food, or a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity for the business carried out on the land.

In addition, the bill makes amendments to the Biosecurity Act to clarify that a person entering land has an obligation to minimise biosecurity risks. If they enter a place where production animals are kept and that is covered by a biosecurity management plan, an amendment to the Biosecurity Regulation will require them to meet their obligation to minimise risks by complying with the requirements in the plan. These amendments have the effect of increasing the maximum penalty for noncompliance with a biosecurity management plan from 20 penalty units to 500 penalty units or more. Currently, 500 penalty units equates to about \$66,500.

The bill also introduces a new offence into the Exhibited Animals Act for causing or increasing an animal welfare, biosecurity or public safety risk associated with an exhibited animal. If someone is interfering with the risk management of the person responsible for the exhibited animal, it will also be an offence if they do not comply with the responsible person's reasonable instructions to stop the interference. An inspector will be able to issue a direction to move from the place someone who is not complying.

Together, the amendments to the Summary Offences Act, the Biosecurity Act and the Exhibited Animals Act will help protect our farmers and other animal industries from unacceptable behaviour. The bill shows how seriously the Palaszczuk government takes any action that may pose risks to human safety, animal welfare, food safety and biosecurity for those businesses.

The bill includes many other measures to better protect our primary industries and promote animal welfare and biosecurity. For example, the bill enables the more responsive management of biosecurity risks, such as fire ants, by amending the Biosecurity Act to enable the chief executive to amend a biosecurity zone map. Biosecurity zones are established to manage, reduce or eradicate biosecurity matters such as pests or diseases that pose risks to agriculture, human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment.

Up until now, when the distribution of pests or diseases has changed, the boundaries of biosecurity zones, as reflected on maps published on my department's website, have had to be changed by an amendment regulation made by the Governor in Council. However, even a short delay in making appropriate changes could significantly exacerbate the serious risks posed by these pests and diseases.

The bill will enable the chief executive to make changes to the area of a biosecurity zone by publishing a new map, but only if there is new information or the chief executive is otherwise satisfied there has been a change in the distribution of the pest or disease. This will assist, for example, to ensure that the \$411 million eradication program to tackle fire ants is highly agile in response to changes in their distribution.

The bill promotes animal welfare by clarifying the existing offences which apply to dogs left in cars. Animals can quickly begin to suffer due to heat when confined without shade, air movement and access to cool drinking water, such as in a vehicle. Dogs can die in a hot car within minutes because they cool themselves by panting, which is ineffective if the air becomes hot. It takes only minutes for a car to become hot, even if the window is down. It is completely unacceptable that, despite significant publicity to raise awareness, a very significant proportion of animal welfare complaints are still about dogs left in hot cars. Last year the RSPCA reported it rescued 829 animals from vehicles.

At the 2017 state election the Palaszczuk government committed to the Animal Welfare Advisory Board considering further actions required to ensure the welfare of companion animals. In April 2019, the board recommended that a separate offence was not necessary to deal with people leaving dogs in cars. Consistent with this expert advice, the government will ignore the LNP opposition's proposals to establish a separate offence. Instead, after further consultation with the RSPCA, the bill clarifies that a person's duty of care to an animal includes confining or transporting it appropriately. The bill also

clarifies that confining an animal in or on a vehicle in a way that causes the animal heat stress or pain is an animal cruelty offence. These amendments will further assist the RSPCA to raise awareness, and I have committed to providing them with additional assistance in their campaign.

The amendment to section 17 in the bill makes it clear that a person in charge of an animal may be guilty of breaching his or her duty of care to the animal, if he or she inappropriately confines or transports it. A person who confines or transports an animal in a vehicle in which it was unlikely to be able to regulate its body temperature, may be breaching his or her duty of care to the animal even if, for example, the animal was rescued before the animal actually suffered heat stress or other pain.

The bill will also make it easier to provide appropriate care for the welfare of abandoned animals by expanding inspectors' powers of entry to allow them to enter a property without a warrant if they reasonably suspect an animal is abandoned and have made appropriate attempts to find its owner. There are large numbers of abandoned animals reported to the RSPCA each year. This amendment will enable them to be seized and taken into care before they are at imminent risk of death or injury.

The bill provides for a trial of the use of body worn cameras by inspectors exercising functions under a range of acts in my portfolio. It is hoped they may reduce obstruction of officers' activities, assist them to gather evidence of offences, provide a record of verbal orders and directions and assist in investigating complaints. The bill ensures that information gathered, including by body worn cameras, will be appropriately handled by prohibiting the inappropriate use or disclosure of confidential information.

The bill includes a large number of other miscellaneous amendments to legislation in my portfolio. For example, it omits a problematic exemption to movement reporting for some goats, enhances feral pig control, clarifies arrangements for statutory bodies, committees and positions and extends access to farm debt mediation. For convenience, the bill also includes amendments to legislation outside my portfolio, including to the Racing Act 2002 to provide legal certainty about the responsibilities of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to address a recommendation made by the Queensland Audit Office about making decisions on the conservation status of a species within a specified period of time. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (11.54 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. the House notes that the Legislative Assembly will sit in Townsville at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre from 3 to 5 September 2019; and
2. the days, hours of sitting and order of business for the sitting week of 3 to 5 September 2019 contained in the Temporary Sessional Orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

Sessional Orders for the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre, Townsville from 3 to 5 September 2019

Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

Unless otherwise ordered and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing and Sessional Orders, from 3 to 5 September 2019, the hours of sitting and Order of Business for each days sitting at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre, Townsville shall be as follows—

Tuesday 3 September 2019

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 2B)

11.35am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—3.30pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.30pm—7.00pm—

Government Business

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Wednesday 4 September 2019

*10.30am—10.45am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.45am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—5.30pm—

Government Business

5.30pm—6.00pm—

Ministerial Statements

6.00pm—7.00pm—

Question Time

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment to commence after Question Time ends

* (If completed before 10.45am, Government Business will commence earlier.)

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Thursday 5 September 2019

9.30am—10.15am—*Preliminary Business* *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (Thursday 3.30pm—4.30pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—3.30pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.30pm—4.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

4.30pm—5.00pm—

Adjournment

* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

Questions on Notice

Standing Order 114(2) is suspended for Wednesday 4 September 2019 and every question on notice must be lodged with the Clerk by 1.00pm.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 3 September 2019 at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre, Townsville.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 21 August (see p. 2444), on motion of Ms Farmer—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (11.56 am): My community tells me that kids need to be held accountable for their actions, and I agree with them. When we discuss and debate youth justice, community safety and community confidence are paramount in those decision-making processes. My

community wants us to address this issue and we are committed to doing just that. When I talk with people in my community they recognise the best way to address youth crime issues is where it starts—back at the family level.

When retired general Stuart Smith was doing his community consultation in Townsville regarding youth crime the overwhelming response from my community was that they wanted to help solve this problem. They want to be the village that raises a child—every child. Most of us know that raising kids is one of the most difficult things we can do, but through careful guidance, nurturing and discipline we take our kids through that difficult time of the teenage years. If members have not got to that point yet just wait.

In my former role it was no different. Guidance, nurturing and discipline was a good start in building those crucial relationships with students as they moved from fresh-faced year 8 students to young adults in year 12 who would drive to school. In my experience, kids have changed over the last 30 years. How kids are raised has changed as well. What we did 30 years ago does not work in today's society.

About 12 to 14 years ago when I was principal of Townsville State High School I ran a boxing program for 15 students who were constantly truant and on those rare occasions when they attended were always in the office for their behaviour. The boxing program involved students going to a PCYC with me every Wednesday afternoon and learning how to box right beside me. At the end of the eight-week program they got into the ring and went a few rounds with me, their principal. They were the luckiest kids in school, ever.

Conditional for them learning to box was that they had to attend school every day, and we set targets for reducing their behavioural issues in class each week. We saw dramatic improvements in their attendance and behaviour. We fed them breakfast every morning. They made their own sandwiches for lunch. They met with the guidance officer who gave them strategies for working with their teachers in their classes. I met with them every second day to check on their progress and gave them feedback. We worked with parents on making sure that they were ready for school and could get to school and, if not, we would pick them up from their home or aunty's place.

This program got national media coverage because of the work we did in engaging kids in learning. More importantly, we worked with their families to engage in school. This was thinking out of the box back then. This was building relationships with kids who had large instability, even trauma, in their lives. This was about addressing behavioural issues immediately and supporting students to improve their behaviour. It was about breaking the cycle of bad behaviour and disengaged learning.


My community tells me, and Major General Stuart Smith and Bob Atkinson, that kids need to be held accountable for their actions, and I agree with that. My community also recognises that we need to break the cycle of crime back at the family level because if we do not this problem is only going to get bigger and bigger. Building more youth detention centres is not the answer, and that is what my community tells me.

Like the boxing program, kids need feedback on what they have done wrong. They need support to make the changes to their behaviour. Just telling them what they have done wrong alone will not change this behaviour, and this bill addresses that. When we look at our children no two are the same. Therefore, a cookie cutter approach to solving youth crime is not the solution. There needs to be a raft of different solutions that break the cycle of crime. My community are seeing change, but there is way more to do—working with children, families, schools, the justice system, police, health services, housing and the wider community, the village, who want to see youth crime reduced. The member for Burnett said in his speech in this debate yesterday—

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.

I could not have said it better. Let us start to address the causes of crime before they end up as juvenile offenders in the first place. Like the boxing program example I used, we will continue to research and develop different strategies to get the results my community wants us to achieve, not use the same old methods and expecting different results. We want kids to be held accountable for their actions, and the community has told us that the best way to do this is through early intervention at a family level. Stop it before it starts. Do not wait for it to happen and then act.

This bill is but one piece of a much larger puzzle. We have our blueprint which Major General Stuart Smith and Bob Atkinson developed by listening to what our community wanted. We are now implementing that blueprint. That is what we are doing, and this bill is an example of some of the future work that we will need to do as well.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I say at the outset that I wholeheartedly support the sensible amendments to be moved by the member for Toowoomba South. Youth justice is out of control in this state and you only have to go to Townsville to see firsthand the impact that these out-of-control youth offenders are having on that community. Residents in Townsville have had an absolute gutful of young offenders tearing the heart out of their community with relative impunity, and they want something done.

Under this Labor government, robbery in Queensland has more than doubled. Assault and unlawful entry are both up by approximately one-third, unlawful use of a motor vehicle has increased by almost 50 per cent and armed robbery is up a staggering 88 per cent. Many residents in areas of my electorate such as Ayr and Home Hill would tell you that they no longer feel safe in their homes. Just up the road in Townsville we are seeing a never-ending crime spree that has spiralled out of control, with daily reports of break and enters, vehicle theft and robbery. To date, the only response they have received is to hold on and wait, even though government MPs in Townsville have asked when the promised extra police will be delivered. Even they were met with silence.

North Queenslanders are sick of the reviews, the inquiries, the reports. They are jaded. They are tired of the rhetoric and they simply want action. Youth justice is an important part of the fight for law and order in Queensland, and that is an important fight to win. Those of us on this side of the House proudly put the safety of the community first when it comes to crime and to justice, but we also recognise that our justice system must be fair. Queenslanders want offenders held to account, but Queenslanders also recognise that watch houses are not appropriate places to hold young offenders for one minute longer than absolutely necessary.

We need to face the facts. Young offenders need to be detained in appropriate facilities, not sharing watch house cells with alleged paedophiles. We all know that the current government has lost control of youth crime, but to be in a situation where children as young as 10 are held in adult watch houses for up to 45 days is beyond belief. If a young person is in custody, the state has a responsibility to do everything possible to rehabilitate these offenders and to ensure the safety of the community. We also have a responsibility to ensure that these young people are kept safe, provided the opportunity to engage in education and provided with the opportunity to change their ways. These responsibilities cannot be met in a watch house. It is for those reasons that the LNP want a restriction on the time that these children can be held in those facilities. I fully support the member for Toowoomba South's amendment to restrict the length of time that children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a former police officer, I can assure you that the last thing police want to do is keep young offenders in watch houses. That is why the shadow Attorney-General will move amendments to restrict that time to 72 hours. There is a very good reason for that. If you are stationed in remote areas such as the Gulf or Cape York Peninsula, it will take you that long to transport. The logistics of bringing young offenders out of some of those localities is not that simple. The practicalities of getting a child before a magistrate from a remote area is no easy task, and there are substantial logistics and resources involved in that process.

I also put on record my support of the member for Toowoomba South's amendment to restore breach of bail as an offence. No-one can deny that Queensland's youth detention centres are overcrowded and, despite repeated attempts from those of us on this side of the House, this government will not increase the capacity of those centres. Let me be clear: the current overcrowding of these centres is the sole responsibility of this Labor government. The bungled transition of 17-year-olds to youth detention centres was the start of a downward spiral. This government's decision to weaken bail laws must be seen for what it is.

The current government, rather than increase capacity at the current centres or, heaven forbid, build a new one, would rather see youths who commit serious offences roaming our streets. Being released on bail should remain a privilege, not a right. Those offenders who commit further offences whilst on bail should be held to account and they should be returned to detention whilst they await their court hearing.

I know for a fact that our hardworking police officers are at their wits end rounding up these kids who rampage through communities like Townsville, constantly placing them before a court only to see them released straight back on to the street to continue on their merry way. I am going to stand up for the victims in Townsville because they have had enough. They have had enough of these kids getting constantly released. The police are rounding up these kids. They are putting them before the courts and then they are straight back out on our street continuing on their merry way.

The community is fed up. They are fed up with their homes being broken into. They are fed up with their cars being stolen and burnt. I had a lady ring me the other day—a single mother with three kids. Her car was stolen and burnt and trashed. She had no insurance, so she is now walking. That was committed by one of these kids who have absolute contempt for the laws of this state. They need to be held to account. We are talking about hundreds of convictions in some cases for some of these kids. Yes, they do know right from wrong.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order, those on my right!

Mr LAST: For those opposite to come in here and espouse a policy of custody as a last resort, I say this: come to Townsville—and you will in two weeks time—and tell the residents what you are doing to address this crime issue in that community.

Government members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, those on my right! The member will speak through the chair.

Mr LAST: I speak from experience when I say that many of these young offenders are hardened criminals. Let's not beat around the bush here. It might be hard for those on that side of the House to accept it, but the fact remains that many of these juvenile offenders are in detention because they have committed horrendous crimes. They have committed rape, grievous bodily harm, armed robbery and murder, and they are in detention centres like the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. Their contempt of the law is frightening. Annual statistics for 2017-18 show that 76 per cent of young people facing court have two or more proven offences and half of them have committed four offences or more. Even more alarmingly, more than half of the young people admitted to detention have been there before, and half of the youths admitted to detention have been there more than once that year.

I support the provision of body worn cameras and the capturing of audio. As we have seen in Townsville and other areas, youth detention centres can be dangerous places and any action to increase the safety of both offenders and staff can only be a positive step. I also believe that a responsibly run information-sharing service is a positive. We need to be very clear that detention centres are designed to protect the community and rehabilitate these offenders. If sharing information with the proper controls will assist in rehabilitating offenders and therefore make our communities safer, that is worth supporting.

What I cannot support are the amendments to the bail decision-making framework. Instead of prescribing in favour of bail, we should support the staff who deal with these young people: the hardworking police officers. I want to put on the record my support and respect for the job that all police officers in Queensland do. I can tell you that police officers in Townsville and North Queensland in particular are at their wits' end dealing with the youth crime epidemic that has been going up there for three or four years.

There is no question that juvenile justice is a complex issue, but we have come to a point in time in this state where bold and innovative decisions need to be made in this space. Tinkering around the edges has failed miserably, and there is an urgent need to take decisive action to address the underlying issues around juveniles who commit crime. There certainly needs to be a lot more work done to get these kids to school because, in my experience, kids who attend school are not out there breaking into houses and stealing cars. There also need to be a lot more work done with juvenile offenders when they leave detention facilities. Simply letting these young offenders out of detention centres and sending them straight back into the home environment with no supervision or control is a recipe for disaster. If this government was fair dinkum about addressing this issue they would put more resources into that area. I conclude by encouraging all members to give proper consideration to the important and sensible amendments moved by my colleague, the member for Toowoomba South.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.12 pm): The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is an important piece of legislation which complements our significant investment in initiatives that are designed to reduce demand pressures within the Youth Justice system. I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to ending unnecessary detention for children and young people and to tackle the issue of juvenile crime.

This legislation continues the work of delivering on the Youth Justice Strategy Action Plan 2019-20 titled *Working Together Changing the Story*. I do want to commend Minister Di Farmer on the Youth Justice Strategy. Since it was launched in December 2018, this government has provided further

reforms, including: an investment of \$332.5 million to tackle youth crime; a new Department of Youth Justice, formed in May 2019; new programs implemented to reduce the high number of children remanded in custody; and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children currently held in police watch houses. This amendment bill is the next step in implementing these reforms. Once passed, this bill will remove legislative barriers to children being granted bail.

There are no easy solutions to tackling youth justice issues. When the LNP was last in government they decided it was best to just lock up all young offenders. We have just heard the contribution from the member for Burdekin, which reinforces that. It may have been led by Campbell Newman, but the member for Kawana was the one who signed the legislative changes. In fact, he was determined to make life as difficult for young people as possible. He said—

... we had a clear strategy. The first phase was to make the fun stop in detention centres by getting rid of the bucking bulls, the jumping castles and the Xboxes, which we did.

Talk about trivialising a serious social issue for political gain! But there was more. The member for Kawana opened Childrens Court hearings to the public and permitted the names of these children to be made public. He removed the sentencing principle of detention and imprisonment as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act 1992 and common law. He mandated that 17-year-old offenders with six or more months remaining on their sentence be transferred to adult correctional facilities. The changes implemented under the previous LNP government contravened the human rights of these young people.

They tried to create a police state under the guise of a so-called youth crime wave because they claimed that children were getting away with crime too lightly. They pandered to the biases—and they still do—of their electorates and made politically expedient decisions that did nothing to address the issues, so you can imagine my shock when I saw the Leader of the Opposition declare on Twitter recently that the Premier needs to remove children from adult detention immediately. That is what we get from the LNP: convenient virtue signalling that belies their history and true intentions in this space.

The Palaszczuk government is not soft on crime. Through this action plan the Department of Youth Justice and its partner agencies will hold children and young people accountable for their criminal behaviour. These agencies will also address the causes of crime and engage with families and communities to develop positive, sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions. A key focus of their work will be to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the youth justice system. This action plan includes a range of actions that will improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. In this nation young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 54 per cent of all those in detention, yet they account for three per cent of the population. Clearly we have a problem.


As a sidenote, I want to applaud the Attorney-General, who overturned another LNP travesty by recently reinstating the Murri Court in Ipswich. I also want to acknowledge the incredible work of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders in my community, who mentor and support those who come into contact with the justice system. Their aim is to stop recidivism. We want to reduce the use of police watch houses to accommodate children on remand. If children do need to be detained, we have a duty to do everything possible to keep them safe and address their needs. In order to maintain public expectations of community safety it is necessary to build contemporary, secure accommodation that is safe and appropriate for serious or repeat offenders.

This action plan recognises that the government alone cannot change the story for young people. It requires a fundamental shift in the way that government, non-government, community organisations and businesses work together to support families, deter young people from committing crime and help them change their own story. It is about restorative justice where we bring together health, education, parents and the community to support children who have complex needs. As the Premier has said, I think that the best thing we can do for our young people is to give them help and purpose. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is extremely successful. In my electorate alone youth unemployment has dropped seven per cent since we re-introduced the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. This is an example of what good policy can do to turn stories around for young people.

I also want to mention Project Booyah. It is an extremely successful program. It is dramatically reducing recidivism. I love working with our local team and hearing their stories and results. They are supporting young vulnerable people. We have the Ipswich Community Young Service and we have regular interagency meetings with the youth workers in our community. They are working every single day to improve the lives of young people in our community. This is an example of how the community can work together to change outcomes for young people.

This bill ensures that conditions imposed as part of bail are better tailored to the circumstances of the individual child. The aim is to reduce the risk of a child breaching bail conditions and being remanded in custody. In addition, there are other amendments that this bill handles, such as: establishing contemporary information-sharing frameworks; clarifying that electronic monitoring devices cannot be used on children; and ensuring that youth detention staff use body worn cameras. This is really important. It gives more protection and provides better safety for young people in detention.

This bill is an important step in continuing the work this government has done so far to reform Queensland's youth justice system, and I am very proud to commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I do so as the comrades from the CFMMEU and ETU protest outside in judgement of this government. This bill is the Palaszczuk Labor government's response to their own kneejerk, ill-conceived decisions which have resulted in a youth crime crisis across the state. The blame for the youth crime crisis falls squarely at the feet of the Palaszczuk Labor government. As Ian Leavers, the president of the Queensland Police Union, recently wrote—

As a result of the Youth Justice Minister's inability to do her job, we now have more juveniles than adults in the Brisbane watch house.

We have heard members of the government come in here and try to suggest that this is a problem of the LNP's making, which frankly is nothing short of laughable. Labor have been in government for 25 of the last 30 years. Past premiers Bligh and Beattie identified this issue two decades ago. This is a problem of the Labor Party's making and it is time that they take responsibility for fixing it.

Clearly, the issue of youth justice is a complex one and differing views exist as to the appropriate responses to address community concerns. No-one wants to see children detained in adult watch houses for extended periods of time. However, the response to this problem should not be a weakening of bail provisions for young offenders. Any response needs to be viewed through the lens of ensuring community safety first and foremost while ensuring that young offenders are appropriately detained when necessary.

As I said, let us be clear. The genesis of this problem lies in Labor's rushed decision to remove 17-year-olds from adult detention centres. Rather than plan appropriately, this government chose to react to adverse media and make decisions on the fly without consideration of the consequences. Unfortunately, the consequences of Labor's rushed decision have been children as young as 10 being held in watch houses for weeks on end and 10-year-old children waiting for overcrowded youth detention centres to have space available. We have heard evidence of a child housed in an adult watch house for 45 days and of terrible situations, including claims of a young girl being placed in the same cell as two alleged paedophiles, along with numerous suicide attempts. That is why the LNP is moving amendments—

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to caution any members about making misleading statements in parliament. I believe the member may have been in the House yesterday when the—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): That is not a point of order.

Ms FARMER: It is about misleading statements. I ask you to caution the member—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is an opinion. I would encourage the minister to not raise frivolous points of order but actually consider the standing orders.

Mr MICKELBERG: That is why the LNP is moving amendments to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours. Labor like to talk a big game about rights, but actions speak louder than words. Keeping children in adult watch houses shows a blatant disregard for children's rights. Labor have known about this problem for years but have chosen to ignore it. It is only when their self-interest is endangered by media reporting that we see this bill rushed into parliament.

Community safety should come first. Communities across Queensland are sick and tired of the same youth offenders holding them to ransom. The issues in places like Townsville and Cairns are well known but this is an issue in all communities. In my own community, locals tell me they are sick and tired of youth offenders disregarding the expectations and laws that the rest of us adhere to. They are sick and tired of assaults on public transport and in parks. They are sick and tired of their cars being stolen and vandalised. And they are sick and tired of their homes being burgled.

My local police tell me they are sick and tired of futile late-night visits to frantic families who are unable to control their teenage children. They are sick and tired of arresting the same youth offenders time and time again. And they are sick and tired of youth offenders breaching their bail conditions without consequence.

The views of my community and of my local police are supported by the statistics, which show a clear increase in offending. Between 2017 and 2018 we saw a 13.7 per cent increase in offending in places like Buderim and Mountain Creek and a 17.9 per cent increase in offending in Sippy Downs. Perhaps what is most concerning is that Sippy Downs is facing a more than 57 per cent increase in offending in the first six months of this calendar year.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: In Sippy Downs we have seen a 56 per cent increase in unlawful entry between 2017 and 2018. We know that many of these offences are the result of the same individuals who offend time and time again. In fact, 10 per cent of youth offenders are responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences. In many cases, police know who the perpetrators are, they have arrested them in the past, and more often than not they are released back out on bail. That is why it is so concerning to see Labor weakening bail laws. Labor's solution to this problem will result in more youth offenders back on the street, putting the community at risk. Those who do the wrong thing should face the consequences of their actions.

Mr Harper interjected.


Mr MICKELBERG: Regardless of age, bail should be a privilege, not a right. If an individual who is already out on bail cannot adhere to their bail conditions, they should no longer be afforded that privilege. The LNP's proposal to restore the offence of breach of bail will address this issue and is reflective of community expectation.

There are, however, some aspects of this bill which make sense. The LNP supports the provisions to improve information sharing across government departments and the authorisation for the use of body worn cameras by officers. What is missing though is a whole-of-government solution that goes to the core of addressing this issue. Across Queensland, school principals, the police and child safety are picking up the pieces, trying to make the best out of a failing system. We need to move away from the current silo departmental approach to a system where the root cause of these problems is addressed and where community safety is protected at all times.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Thuringowa will cease interjecting. You have constantly been interjecting and I will soon have to start warning.

Mr MICKELBERG: There have been countless reviews into the issue of youth justice, including the recent review completed by Bob Atkinson. Time and again, the government choose to cherry-pick the recommendations of such reviews. Why, for example, have the government disregarded Bob Atkinson's recommendation for youth offenders to wear tracking devices when out on bail? A balance needs to be struck between holding offenders in appropriate facilities and keeping repeat offenders off the streets. Our communities deserve to be safe. The notion that the government would weaken provisions to detain serious youth offenders just to resolve a problem of their own making is not in line with community expectations. I call on the Labor government to develop a solution that addresses the root cause of Queensland's youth crime epidemic and to support the LNP's amendments restoring breach of bail as an offence and restricting the length of time children can be held in a watch house to 72 hours.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.26 pm): I support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I would like to start by thanking all of the submitters, and I would particularly like to thank the minister for her good work in relation to this. I have had many informed and thorough conversations around youth justice with the minister, which is something we have not heard much of in this debate over the last couple of days. That last speech demonstrates a fundamental lack of reading of the report into youth justice that was put together by the excellent Bob Atkinson. It was an excellent report.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr KELLY: Exactly. Let us face it, they are just reading the same speech over and over and over again. Bob Atkinson drew on years of passionate commitment to community safety. He has a deep understanding of how important it is to work hard with young people who may have strayed from the

best path. He outlined those four pillars—to intervene early, to keep children out of court, to keep children out of custody and to reduce reoffending. This bill focuses very squarely on keeping children out of custody. The bill starts with a focus on the timely finalisation of proceedings for youth justice. There is a particular priority given to finalising proceedings for young people who are on remand. The bill also removes legislative barriers that will enable more children to be granted bail.

I am confused by some of the arguments being proffered by the honourable members opposite. On the one hand, they are saying we should not be giving kids bail and then on the other hand they are saying they want fewer kids in custody. That to me is a fundamental problem with the arguments that they are putting forward.

Focusing on finalising proceedings and improving access to bail, which is what has been put forward by the minister in this bill, when combined with changes aimed at streamlining the process of presentence reports and police being in contact with parents or carers or lawyers, will ensure that there is actually less demand for youth detention centres and places in youth detention centres.


I am also really pleased to see information sharing between various agencies is covered by this bill. It is such a crucial part of supporting young people in the youth justice system. As someone who has laboured along in a large, bureaucratic care orientated organisation, I know that in the past we have not always done the best job of communicating between government and non-government agencies or even private sector agencies. In the past that was significantly due to the lack of technological capacity to do this. However, now that we have the technological capacity and understanding of why it is important, it is imperative that we get the legal framework to support that. This bill certainly does that.

I would also like to say that I support the provisions of the bill that deal with body worn cameras in youth detention. They are particularly welcomed. Without going to any particulars or details, during my time on the PCCC I saw the positive impact that body worn cameras had on police conduct. Many officers whom I have spoken to over the years reported an initial set of concerns when they were first asked to wear body worn cameras. However, once they became familiar with the equipment and the processes supporting those pieces of equipment, they started to view the body worn cameras as a useful tool that provides a great level of protection for the officers. I believe that will occur in this case as well. We will have good protection for the young people who are, sadly, in custody but also good protection for those people who have to provide care.

I turn briefly to the statement of reservation, if I can call it that. I note the premise put forward around the setting of a 72-hour limit. Section 56 of the current Youth Justice Act already requires that a child in custody is delivered to the custody of the chief executive of the youth justice department as soon as practicable. One of the dangers of going down the path of setting a 72-hour limit is that this will become the new default setting of the time that young people are held in custody. I think it is important that we limit the time that children are in custody to as short as practicable, and that is already in place. We know that, sadly, there are many times when we must make that difficult decision to detain young people. I would hate to be the person who has to make that decision. I am sure it is not made lightly or easily. Of course, our government is committed to custody being used as a very last resort. I am really pleased that while this bill is taking good action on keeping young people out of jail, the smart approach is to intervene early and stop young people offending in the first place. I am pleased there is action in relation to that as well.

We just heard a great contribution from the member for Townsville outlining a program that he put in place. Those are the sorts of programs that can make a real difference. As the chair of the board of SPELD, an organisation that supports young people experiencing learning differences, I have seen this firsthand. I am pleased that we have had support from the government to teach youth at risk how to read when they have learning differences. We know that amongst the adult prison population functional literacy rates are staggeringly high. Quite frankly, if people cannot read, they cannot participate in society in a fulsome way. If we really want to empower people, we have to do things like that.

I think this bill strikes the right balance that we are looking for. I commend the minister for her good work and her department for their good work. I commend the committee. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the bill before the House. Of course, we on this side of the chamber understand that the youth of this nation are indeed the future of this nation. We also understand that the bulk of Australia's youth

abide by the law and only wish to live in a society that offers them the opportunity to achieve their best. As such, though we debate today the issues in relation to youth justice, we should also acknowledge the overwhelming majority of our youth who do the right thing and get on with their lives. However, as in all societies, there is a cohort who believe the rules that govern us and protect us do not apply to them and act purely out of self-interest with no regard for the rights of others or the property of others.

The bill before the House comes as we see youth crime spinning out of control in this state, as evidenced by the latest Childrens Court annual report, which showed that in 2017-18 10 per cent of juveniles were responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences. The bill introduces a number of amendments to reduce the period in which proceedings are finalised and also allows more young people to be granted bail. It is the second point, the bail question, that I want to address in my speech today.


The government faced a crisis of overcrowding in youth detention, which has led to the response of making it easier to get bail as a youth offender. There is, however, nothing to say that this is going to have any impact on the level of youth crime being committed in Queensland. There is no understanding by this government that many of these youth offenders see the youth justice system as a joke and appearances in court as a badge of honour. There have been many, many cases reported of young people walking out of the Childrens Court actually laughing that they got bail and how many offences they had been charged with.

Bail is given on condition that the alleged offender does not face further charges. It is not given so that those conditions can be breached again and again. Thus the removal, in the words of the Greens, of 'barriers to enable more young people to be granted bail' must be balanced with harsher penalties if a person reoffends. If the balance is not struck, it sends the wrong message, thus the amendment proposed by the shadow Attorney-General is required to reinforce the privileged nature of bail. This will be achieved by the shadow inserting a new offence of finding of guilt while on bail. This applies when, firstly, a child is granted bail; and, secondly, a finding of guilt is later made against a child for a subsequent offence while on bail for the original offence. In those circumstances the court must immediately call on the child to prove why they should not be convicted of the offence of finding of guilt while on bail.

There is a reversal of onus of proof in the amendment, yet the intent of the amendment is to reinforce the critical nature of bail and to ensure there are guaranteed consequences if bail is breached. In the circumstances where a person abuses the privilege of bail and is found guilty of a further offence, it is in the public interest that there should be a call made on the offender to show why they should not be convicted of a new offence. The amendment strikes the right balance between a court's power to grant bail and its obligation to protect the public. The obligation that falls on this parliament and, indeed, all parliaments is to ensure courts have the tools to provide for that balance not just in relation to resources but also in relation to legislation so that their obligation to protect the public is enshrined in the best method we can put before them.

I believe also sincerely that the causes of youth justice issues are found in many areas—housing, education, alcohol, drug abuse, domestic violence—and that also needs to be tackled at the parental level. I also make the point that parents, as we all are in this chamber, have obligations ourselves in relation to our children. Though we can as a state take on the obligations of parents, we do so at our peril. In all cases, parents themselves have a strong obligation to ensure they instil in their children respect for themselves, respect for our society and respect for right and wrong.

In relation to the amendment concerning bail, I fully support the move by the shadow Attorney-General as it does return the balance. Providing bail is granted, it is given on the clear understanding that if bail is breached—and then under the terms proposed by the amendment—an offence is committed and they are found guilty of that offence, they will be punished accordingly. I support the shadow Attorney-General's amendment.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.39 pm): I want a great life for our children and young people. I want them brought up safe and well so that they can realise their abilities and aspirations and fulfil their dreams so that they, too, can contribute and become strong community members. In response to the member for Caloundra's comments with regard to children being responsible and parents taking action, sadly not all children come from great backgrounds. All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. We do expect our children and young people to be law abiding and respectful. If they are not, we expect them to be accountable and to put things right.

Most children and young people do not commit crimes and most who do will grow out of it. However, sadly, some children and young people may suffer from mental illness or substance abuse, some become chronic or serious offenders, and some, as I said earlier, come from really tough backgrounds. Some do not graduate from school and, too often, some will transition into prison.


I believe that all Queenslanders are in this together and that it is time to change the story for our communities, children and young people who need a hand. That means working differently to do more of the things that address youth crime and keep our communities safe. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queensland's young people and our *Working together changing the story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* to commence a review into the Youth Justice Act 1992.

This bill will make priority legislative amendments to the Youth Justice Act, the Bail Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Public Guardian Act 2014 that complement our initiatives to alleviate demand pressures on the youth justice system. The bill also will make other amendments to improve the operation of the youth justice system and improve outcomes for young people. These amendments will focus on three areas: reducing 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. These support our government's commitment that children and young people will not be detained on remand in Queensland Police Service watch houses other than for normal arrests and processing.

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system was taken into consideration during the development of the bill. The bill includes a number of reforms that will help ensure these issues are taken into consideration. As such, the bill will enable a police officer or court to release an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child if it is not inconsistent with community safety, taking into consideration the desirability of maintaining the child's connection with community, family and kin. The bill also retains the requirement of the Youth Justice Act 1992 for a submission made by a community justice group in the children's community to be taken into consideration when deciding whether to remand a child in detention.

Children and young people who offend need to be accountable but, more importantly, they also need to be guided to change their behaviours and attitudes. Many children and young people are successfully diverted from the criminal justice system, but sometimes it just does not work. It is time to change the story. We need to reduce youth offending, reoffending and remand levels and to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the system.

We need to work on the causes and the consequences of youth crime. We need to work together with children and young people. We need to work with families and communities, engaging them as part of the solution, and we need to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to prevent and deal with crime in their communities. We need to help design effective community-led initiatives to address youth justice issues. We need to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of justice and other responses. We need to work together as Queenslanders. It is time to change the story for our young people.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.44 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Youth justice is a complex issue, and understanding the root cause of why individuals reoffend can be difficult to surmise and treat. It should be noted that only a small percentage of young people caught in the youth justice system reoffend. There has been much research and study into developmental disorders of people in detention. Many of these disorders stem from the environment to which these individuals were subjected in the early development of their lives and in childhood.

It is no surprise that 70 per cent of young people known to the youth justice system are also known to child protection. It should also be noted that not all of these individuals have typical disorders in learning and communication. Therefore, it is important to look beyond philosophy to see what worked in the past and what previous methods failed to achieve suitable outcomes.

Whilst most perpetrators are victims of the negative environment in which they developed, it is the innocent individuals going about their daily lives who end up becoming the next victim. No matter where we live, youth crime is skyrocketing—robberies up 128 per cent, armed robberies up 88 per cent, assaults up 33 per cent, serious assaults up 31 per cent, unlawful use of motor vehicles up 49 per cent and unlawful entry up 34 per cent. Unfortunately, the Gold Coast is not immune. A *Gold Coast Bulletin* article dated 21 August 2019 is titled 'Car thefts on Gold Coast double in five years thanks to youth offenders and opportunistic thieves'. Another article is titled 'Teen pulled off roof, three more in custody

after police track stolen car through Southport'. Another article is titled 'Frustrations grow for police as juvenile offenders get "slap on the wrist" at Southport Children's Court'. These articles go on and on. Therefore, failing to address the situation will only see this malicious cycle continue and place others in harm's way.


The objectives of the bill are: to reduce the period in which proceedings in a youth justice system are finalised; to remove the legislative barriers to enable more young people to be granted bail; and to ensure appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail. Other amendments introduce a new information-sharing regime to assist government and non-government organisations to assess and respond to the needs of the young people in the youth justice system, authorise the use of body worn cameras and capture audio recordings through closed circuit television. This is something with which I wholeheartedly agree and with which many police officers in my region and carers in facilities agree.

I have concerns about the bail provisions. Bail is a privilege that society grants an individual as a sign of goodwill. It is not and should never be an expectation. Breaching what society grants us as a sign of good intention should never be tolerated; therefore, I wholeheartedly support the amendment of the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South.

We all agree that long stays in watch houses, especially for children, even down to the age of 10, are certainly not appropriate. On 10 May this year 89 children were held in overcrowded watch houses. There was even a report that a child was held for 45 days in one of these facilities. There are some in our society who claim that we must refrain from punishment and other deterrents as they are counterproductive, yet this philosophy itself could be counterproductive. The fear of punishment and the hope of reward in the form of meaningful inclusion in society must go together as one. On their own they are meaningless.

Going forward, we must ensure that those who are caring for these individuals are obtaining the necessary support and qualifications yet have practical skills in dealing with situations when they arise. Placing high-needs youth in environments with carers who lack the necessary skills is a recipe for disaster and only further drains resources from our already stretched police and justice systems.

In conclusion, will this bill impact our current societal problem of youth crime without a systemic and cultural change to how the department manages the needs of these young people? Without proper amendments, unfortunately I fear it will not.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.50 pm): We cannot be so naive as to think that letting criminals out onto the street without appropriate penalties will solve the significant issue of youth crime. This government has made a complete mess of the youth detention system. It took 17-year-olds out of adult detention and put them into youth detention. That was great in theory, except that the government did not plan or prepare. That created a situation with overcrowding and young people being kept in watch houses for days and weeks on end.

In respect of what the government is proposing, I am gravely concerned that, with a weak approach to those who are committing serious crimes, we will see young criminals back out on the street, laughing at the law and causing great distress to victims. In my community and communities throughout Queensland, the stealing of cars in particular has created absolute devastation. When a family finds that their car has been stolen and in some cases damaged or torched, not only is their only means of transport destroyed but also there is a negative impact on them being able to hold jobs, get kids to school and so on. Simply, the balance and the sense are not evident from the way the government has put this bill together.

I do believe in early intervention with young people. I do believe in keeping them, wherever possible, engaged in our schooling system. That is why I have been critical of this state government dropping the ball in terms of some of the youth pathways programs. There has been a lack of consistency in funding for those that have been trying to provide an equivalent to a flexi school, to provide additional support for children to stay in school. Those programs have fallen apart on the Sunshine Coast. That is a real shame, because we want to see kids engaged and kept in school. This highlights the hypocrisy. We see legislation and hear speeches from government members, but some of the existing programs on the Sunshine Coast that were desperate for funding have failed to get consistency of funding.

The majority of kids are good kids. Those who can be diverted from activities that may lead to crime need support. There is a hardened core who are already well and truly on the pathway of crime. While intervention strategies are still needed for those people, they will be harder to apply because they have already been schooled in the ways of crime. They must feel the force of the law appropriately for the crimes they commit in order to keep the community safe.

Some of the greatest victims of crime are in fact other young people. Unfortunately, we have seen this around the bus station at Maroochydore. It is also happening in other communities. Parents have told me that they do not want to let their young people go on buses on the Sunshine Coast because of the lack of security. There are young people and sometimes not-so-young people putting safety at risk. Some of the most vulnerable to not feeling safe are other young people. I believe that one reason there has been a fall in the number of people wanting to take public transport on the Sunshine Coast is the lack of security.

I support the amendments proposed by my colleague the shadow minister that would make clear the length of time a child can be held in a watch house. We do not want to see young people kept in watch houses, because they are not set up to look after children. They are not set up to ensure children can continue schooling while being detained. They are inappropriate places for children to be kept. The amendment proposed by my colleague is appropriate.

We also believe that there has to be a consequence for a breach of bail. I continue to hear about this issue from distressed members of my community on the Sunshine Coast who have been deeply impacted by crime. They see people being let out into the community on bail and reoffending. What the Labor government has put before the House is just asking for that cycle of damage to continue in a way that the rights of victims are ignored. I support my colleague's proposal to restore breach of bail as an offence. That is basic. That is what the community expects. I believe that is what victims of crime would expect.

I am sure that those who have been on the pathway of crime understand that just being let out the door without consequences shows that the system is weak and people are more likely to reoffend. There has to be a real deterrent and consequence for the crimes that are committed.

I call on the government to get serious about funding consistency and transparency of youth intervention programs to keep young people in schools. I call on the government to explain why it has been so difficult to get consistency of funding for these organisations on the Sunshine Coast and elsewhere. I have heard announcements in other parts of the state, but there has not been an integrated system of true support to keep young people engaged in school. There have been announcements about other communities but nothing in some significant crime hotspots. We hear policies and see press releases but there is no program whereby outcomes are mapped and delivered consistently throughout the state. All of this state matters.

This Premier said that she was going to be a Premier for all of Queensland. Quite frankly, I think there are some huge black holes in this state that she has forgotten. She waltzes in every now and then and issues a press release, but there is a hole in services. When it comes to access to early intervention and support that will work, those on the ground who are doing the hard yards of trying to provide help—many volunteers—are not getting consistent and appropriate funding support. I ask the government: where is the money for the intervention programs on the Sunshine Coast? Why have those programs that have been operating not had consistency of funding? Why have they had to come cap in hand to ask for support?


All young people matter, no matter where they live. They should not pay the price for the government choosing to look in some corners and not others and then forgetting the victims. We want to see young people reach their true potential in life. Schools that do not currently have a bucket of funding to apply to some of these issues should have access to dedicated intervention programs that are available in all areas of the state. I will stick up for the schools on the Sunshine Coast. I stand by them in their call to see that appropriate funding is not a plaything of the government. There should be appropriate support to keep young people who are at risk engaged in education. It should not be ad hoc and moved from pillar to post so that people cannot find out where it will apply.

Debate, on motion of Ms Simpson, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Broe, Mr B

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.00 pm): I rise to inform the House that Queensland's independent Coordinator-General, Mr Barry Broe, will be stepping down from his role this week. The Coordinator-General is one of the most senior officials in the Queensland Public Service with a wide

range of powers to independently assess and balance the pressures of economic growth, environmental sustainability and the social impacts of development. Mr Broe has been in this role for seven years, with his current term of appointment due to expire in November of this year. Last week Mr Broe informed me that he would not be seeking reappointment and that he has decided to step down from his role this week. Members of the House who know or who have worked with Mr Broe would not be surprised that he is always keen to get ahead of schedule.

I want to acknowledge Mr Broe's focus on efficiency and delivery of major projects. I know he is particularly proud that he and his team in the Office of the Coordinator-General, who I also acknowledge this afternoon, made 918 statutory decisions during Mr Broe's time as Coordinator-General. During that time, the Coordinator-General approved 33 major projects representing a capital investment of more than \$90 billion with the potential to create more than 90,000 Queensland jobs. This includes major projects across resources, tourism, renewable energy, transport and agriculture. Of particular note is his work in assisting our government to create the unique Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 which is designed to ensure that communities near large resource projects benefit from the construction and operation of those projects. Its implementation so far is benefiting 269 regional communities across Queensland.

I also want to place on record my thanks to Mr Broe for his many years of service, most recently in my portfolio. We will now proceed to commence a recruitment process to appoint a new Coordinator-General. In the interim, the director-general of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning will act in the role of Coordinator-General.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Aged-Care Facilities




Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.02 pm): Labor's integrity crisis, which started five weeks ago today, has shown that the Palaszczuk Labor government is morally bankrupt. Governments are supposed to work for the people, not their own vested self-interests, and the people of Queensland are seeing Labor's true colours. We have seen integrity scandals involving the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Training and Skills Development and now the member for Keppel, and the complete lack of leadership in response has all the hallmarks of the weakest Premier in Queensland history.

According to a recent newspaper poll of almost 12,000 people, 94 per cent of respondents want the Deputy Premier to stand aside. This is a Premier who is a puppet of the unions and controlled by the factions. This is a Premier who has no real power and influence over a government she is supposed to lead. Let us not forget the previous transgressions of Minister Bailey with the mangocube saga, labelled very foolish by the CCC, Minister Miles and the dodgy poll used to justify the renaming of the Lady Cilento children's hospital and Minister de Brenni and the claims of former media adviser Neil Doorley that while in Mr de Brenni's office from October 2018 Mr Doorley alleged he witnessed several instances of junior staff being humiliated and reduced to tears.

It should all make a very interesting Labor conference this weekend. The Left faction is flexing its muscle and showing why the Deputy Premier remains in her position while the contenders are sharpening their knives ready to pounce. We have the member for Woodridge, who lost his seat and then cut and run to safer ground in order to avoid another embarrassing local rebellion. We have the member for Cooper, who will take any other position other than the one she is currently occupying. Even a tilt at City Hall may be on the cards. Then of course there are the laughable efforts from the member for Murrumba, the embattled health minister, who cut and run from Mount Coot-tha miles away to Murrumba in order to save his political bacon and climb the ministerial pecking order. Whilst most Queenslanders would have their fingers crossed that the member for Murrumba is dumped from the health portfolio, with health bungle after bungle for the last 18 months, the only place the member for Murrumba should be going is straight to the backbench.

Speaking of health bungles, Labor's aged-care cover-up is another tragic case of Labor's health minister putting politics ahead of patient care. A media RTI revealed 16 serious complaints in the last year, with allegations of sexual assault and excessive force at 16 state-run aged-care homes, but the minister is refusing to reveal where these complaints have been made. I wrote to the health committee over two weeks ago asking that this issue be included in its aged-care inquiry and I have yet to receive a response. No-one disputes that what happened at Earle Haven was a complete and utter tragedy that should never, ever happen again, but any inquiry into aged care must include state-run facilities, otherwise it is just another Labor cover-up.

Aspley Electorate; Fischer, Mr T

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.05 pm): On a positive note, plenty has been happening in the Aspley electorate for this year's Seniors Week. Over 9,000 seniors are based in my electorate and there are a total of nine aged-care facilities which they call home. As I noted last year, I continue to be impressed by the efforts of the hardworking staff to not only look after the residents on a day-to-day basis but also take the initiative to organise activities that foster community spirit, particularly in Seniors Week. Many seniors in my area are enjoying a good innings and getting the most out of their lives. For example, seven of the residents at Compton Gardens were telling me last week that they just got back from a cruise to the Whitsundays.


Last week I attended morning teas at Compton Gardens, Aveo Bridgeman Downs and St Vincent's Carseldine to celebrate Seniors Week and hear from residents. I know many MPs in this place take the time to visit their local aged-care facilities throughout the year and hear directly from people who cannot visit an electorate office or mobile office. In the discussions I had residents aired to me their questions regarding many state government policies and projects on the go at the moment and I was delighted to be able to have a chat to them about a range of issues—and, yes, I am taller than most of their grandsons, as I heard a few times on my visits last week. I do genuinely appreciate the conversations I have with many of our seniors in the area on a regular basis and some of their great advice and stories they give me.

There are so many great groups in our area that have secured funding recently through Palaszczuk government programs and initiatives. For example, the Everton Districts Cricket Club received \$15,000 to upgrade its ovals. There is a bit of a theme in terms of recent funding, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, so see if you can pick up on it as I go. The Geebung State School P&C was able to secure over \$32,000 for an upgraded tuckshop and to purchase equipment. Aspley Devils has received over \$6,500 to upgrade its canteen.

In May I was delighted to open Craigslea State High School's new canteen, which was jointly funded by the P&C raising its own money as well as an amount of over \$150,000 from the state government. In terms of the new Zillmere sports centre, the redevelopment includes five basketball courts, a canteen, car parking and amenities that will cater for people with disability. The facility will also cater for other sports as well. We are looking at future options for a canteen to go into the brand-new Carseldine sports fields which are currently under construction. I am very pleased that it is looking like 2019 is the year of the canteen upgrade in the Aspley electorate. Early next year you will not be able to travel more than five kilometres in any direction without running into a brand-new canteen funded by the Palaszczuk government. I look forward to eating not only many healthy options in the local area but also some tasty ones as well.

While I am on my feet I want to very quickly pass on my condolences to Tim Fischer's family and friends on his passing earlier today. I met him a few times in my background in the rail industry and he was always a very pleasant gentleman who always had time. He was always banging on about standard gauge rail to anyone who would listen.

Participatory Budgeting

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.08 pm): The utilisation of participatory budgeting, PB, is on the rise here and internationally, whether in response to discontent on the decisions governments make regarding rate or taxpayer funds, concerns surrounding transparency and the 'whys', or efforts to increase community engagement. Whilst PB is a process in which constituents directly decide how to spend part of the local or state budget, there are multiple formats it can take. Increased and efficient community consultation can deliver excellent outcomes, including where funds are spent. However, as has been seen through various trials, including community juries, there can be challenges. These processes are only truly participatory if they include under-represented groups and effectively identify and manage resource allocation and implementation.


Good decisions can be made only through a realistic lens with relevant, unbiased information provided. This includes an agreed methodology for prioritisation as well as how funding would be allocated to each electorate and, most importantly, clarity to our communities that increased funding in one sector without taking from another, or reductions, requires further income. As we all know, increasing rates and taxes is not a favoured avenue.

There are benefits from PB as well as concerns, including possibly creating further divisions in our communities, which we do not wish to see. However, PB may give an opportunity to increase our residents' knowledge about their communities as well as a greater understanding of needs versus wants—similar to when we do our own household budgets.

The decisions regarding where costs can be cut or incomes sourced can assist in developing solutions that are currently eluding us, such as affordable housing, or issues that emanate from our sometimes unrealistic or unsustainable expectations. Just imagine what could be saved if we all took greater responsibility and accountability for our mental and physical health, how we communicate and interact in public spaces, what we waste, and what we take.

Our poor behaviours are costly, requiring much needed funds. It would be invaluable to see how our communities would tackle their domestic violence, recidivism, addictions and road statistics as just some examples. In an increasingly 'me now' era, there could be some relevant and positive benefits in allowing our communities to prioritise where funds are spent through engendering empathy and tolerance for others as well as their opposing viewpoints. Instead of creating divisions it may bring unity back into communities and promote the collaboration, discussion and diverse perceptions sought. This is very much a conversation that needs to be had. I trust that this government will consider PB as a means of greater engagement within and across Queensland communities as well as creating less anger and angst from constituents and between governments and MPs at budget and estimates times.

Children's Sport

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.11 pm): It is winter sport season which, in my house, means soccer season. Last Saturday morning my little fellow, Heath, went off to play for his under-7s team, the Oxley Devils. It is his first season and, let us just say, he is still finding his sea legs. I am embarrassed to say that I have been known to get so carried away with cheering for my son that, after 10 minutes into his first game, I was sent to the sin-bin by my son for being too excited watching the game. He lost that game and a few others to the mighty Richlands Lions, but that is not point. The point of playing is teamwork, mateship and a love of fitness—and it is catching on right across the Mount Ommaney electorate.

After the game, we headed off to the Oxley bakery and I saw dozens of sweaty little soccer stars from the Centenary Stormers as well as from his Oxley United team. Later that afternoon I travelled to the brilliant Curragundi Street festival, which was organised by Lisa B and her team, where I saw some tired but triumphant Jindalee Jags and some superstar St Cats as well as the Little As and Stormers players. This year, St Cats had an absolutely bumper sign-on season down at the Middle Park shops.


I think it is really important to note that clubs like the Jags, the Centenary Little As and the Centenary Netball Club would grind to a screeching halt without the hard work of club board members and volunteers such as Bill Gaydon, Paula Callahan from the St Cats soccer club and Kay from Little As. The referees and coaches give their time, their patience and their skills to our kids and parents and communities owe them a debt of gratitude.

I also want to mention that a few weeks ago my son's team had the silent Saturday where we were not allowed to cheer. It is rather like this chamber right now. It is quite beautiful. The kids commented that they loved the fact that the parents were not there egging them on. I have resolved to try to be quieter on the sidelines from now on.

In just a few weeks we will have trophy season underway. I will be there this Sunday to congratulate the West Brisbane Falcons, our very own basketball club, which fields more than 50 teams. I know that I am not the only member in this House with awesome local clubs in their electorate like the Western Bulldogs baseball club, which has just received funding for new batting cages in time for the summer season.

I say to the mums and dads of the Mount Ommaney electorate that, if their kids are not signed up to a local team yet, the Minister for Sports has just released another round of FairPlay vouchers. If parents need some financial assistance in order to get their kids in the game, they can head over to my Facebook page to have a look. As a proud soccer mum, it is great to see so many kids getting in the game.

Spiteri, Mr G; QFES

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.14 pm): During the devastating bushfires that tore through Deepwater and Baffle Creek in my electorate in November last year, I watched the strength and spirit of my local community as neighbours were supported and cared for and volunteers fought alongside QFES to save lives and property. One of those generous people, George Spiteri, was contracted by

QFES to use his bulldozer to clear firebreaks to support those who were fighting an unpredictable and very hot wildfire. Without hesitation, George took his own equipment into the fire zone trusting that, if anything went wrong, QFES had his back.

Sadly for George, the sudden firestorm engulfed his bulldozer and he was lucky to escape with his life. As a result, George lost machinery worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and all of his contracts for work this year have been left wanting. He was left without any financial support. George also lost his home, much of his farm equipment and years of stored prized honey.

George assumed that QFES would cover his losses with an insurance policy. That would seem to be a reasonable expectation. When George was asked to help the firefighters, he did not think twice and was out in the field as fast as he could. I am sad to report that, for George, that is not the case. It is now nine months since George Spiteri put in his claim for the replacement of his bulldozer and compensation for the loss of income as a result.

There has been nine months of disappointment and frustration as QFES haggles backwards and forwards with a man who, as a sole trader, is dependent on a quick assessment and compensation to see him back on his feet and back to work. There has been nine months of phone calls, assessor visits, more phone calls and still George is waiting for his payment. George's bulldozer was worth \$250,000. Since the fire George has lost tens of thousands of dollars in lost business opportunities and still QFES muddles around.

What does that do to a local community's willingness to help during the next fire? Will other machinery operators, who are watching George Spiteri's experience with QFES, take their dozers and tractors into the next fire zone with the risk of being put through the same experience with QFES? I think not. We need our local volunteers and businesses to respond quickly to an emergency, and they do. We need to assure our local volunteers that they will have some support in a wildfire. For the sake and good name of our terrific Fire and Emergency Services, we need George Spiteri's problem fixed. It has blown out of all proportion. It needs to be fixed and it needs to be fixed fast.

I also want to highlight the terrific team at the Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade. This brigade has a large and dedicated membership and it provided exemplary service during the fires in 2018 and since. Unfortunately, this brigade has been subjected to many stressful allegations and investigations. After nine months, the members of this brigade are frustrated and angry with the lack information from QFES. The volunteer members deserve to be able to elect their representatives. The longer QFES management continues to interfere with this brigade's business and disempower its members, this brigade's future is in question. Captain Creek deserves better.

That is just an example where I have tried many times to deal with QFES to resolve lingering issues in my electorate after the wildfires—and no-one admits that they were 'somewhat unique'. There are processes in place to look after volunteers in my community. I am asking for some intervention to make sure that my community gets what it expects and deserves.

Cancer Council Queensland, Daffodil Day



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.17 pm): I had the pleasure of meeting with James and Montana from the Rockhampton branch of Cancer Council Queensland—CCQ—along with Chris from the Cairns branch. We took a tour of the Rockhampton facilities and I had the opportunity to discuss CCQ's services at a local and state level. Did members know that, each year, CCQ's accommodation lodges offer a potential 100,000 bed nights statewide and charge only the equivalent of the patient travel scheme allowance? This great organisation offers a wide range of cancer support services to assist patients and their families. In 2018, CCQ provided thousands of people in Central Queensland with support.


I also met with Merle and Shirley, who between them have volunteered for more than 60 years. They are truly wonderful and hardworking volunteers and I know that they are so much appreciated by the team at CCQ and the Central Queensland community as a whole.

Montana provided me with this key message for Daffodil Day. The Daffodil Day Appeal is raising funds for CCQ's vital cancer research throughout the month of August. That appeal culminates in Daffodil Day, which is tomorrow. The daffodil is the international symbol of hope for everyone affected by cancer. By getting involved in the Daffodil Day Appeal people can give others more than hope. Every person who donates, volunteers or buys daffodils this August will be helping to fund vital cancer research. Research is fundamental in unlocking the answers for a cancer-free future. Thanks to this investment in research, amazing advancements have been made in cancer prevention, screening and treatment, helping to increase survival rates from 49 per cent in the eighties to 69 per cent today.

The CCQ region of Central Queensland covers about a third of Queensland and there are approximately 1,300 new cancer cases each year. Research is vital in saving lives and finding less harsh cancer treatments. Money raised this Daffodil Day Appeal will help fund some of the brightest researchers in the country to discover the next cancer breakthroughs.

This week is Queensland Seniors Week and this year's theme is 'celebrating a Queensland for all ages'. I would like to acknowledge and thank seniors in my electorate and across Queensland for their achievements and contributions.

Forestry Industry

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.20 pm): South-East Queensland's \$300 million hardwood timber industry workers converged on Maryborough on Sunday to express frustration with Labor's inaction in supporting the industry. Hundreds of forestry industry workers and supporters are frustrated with Minister Furner's willingness to put the future of the industry at stake. I was there, so was the member for Maryborough, who says he is listening. He is either doing nothing about his own government's inaction or, worse still, he has no impact. It appears that the Premier and Minister Furner are not listening to him. It is just not good enough.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are not in your correct seat so you are now warned under the standing orders.


Mr PERRETT: There is widespread frustration that there will not be enough hardwood timber to supply and meet the demand of local sawmills. By 2024 Labor's Beattie-era state forest lockouts will come into effect. It will create a shortage of hardwood supply at local mills. The timber industry is calling on the government to extend for a minimum of 10 years the current state owned supply arrangements to allow a transition to greater use of sustainably managed private forest. It is entirely reasonable that the state supply and guarantee investment confidence for mills, the associated supply chain and the jobs in the sector.

Queensland's existing hardwood plantations are supposed to supplement the removal of state forest harvesting. They are simply incapable of supplying the demand for their renewable and sustainable product. Denying the forestry industry access to suitable hardwood is devastating. It is clear the industry and the nearly 2,000 jobs it supports across 40 sawmills are on the line. We also have Minister Lynham's new regulatory vegetation management codes which are on their way. They are another attack on the industry. We need to save these jobs. The timber industry employs 803 people in the Gympie region and 732 jobs on the Fraser Coast. These are real jobs that have a big impact on electorates like mine and Maryborough. It is time the weak Premier showed leadership and guaranteed the future of these vital industries and the jobs of its workers.

On the weekend we learnt that 21,000 hectares of the Imbil State Forest has been earmarked by the Labor government to be locked up. Minister Enoch says nothing. This new proposal will have a major impact on the industry as well as employers like Laminex, an innovative and progressive company which was lauded in April and financially assisted by the Minister for State Development to save local jobs. Now it is being undermined by the government's extreme agenda to close forestry and lock up state forest. Minister Enoch needs to reject this outright.

Minister Furner needs to stand up to the radical greens in the Labor Party and stop this happening. It is time ministers Furner and Lynham ditched the green agenda and delivered the timber and forestry industry the certainty it needs to employ and continue operating. It is time the Premier acted.

Housing Construction Jobs Program

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.23 pm): This month we have observed Homelessness Week. During that week I took the time to inspect two new department of housing building sites in Cairns and saw firsthand our Housing Construction Jobs Program in action. The Palaszczuk Labor government is backing its commitment to reduce homelessness with an investment of more than \$54 million in Cairns alone to build new homes for people in need. The Housing Construction Jobs Program will deliver 137 new homes, creating approximately 31 construction jobs each year in Cairns until 2022.

Since 2017 contracts have been awarded to commence 97 new homes and we now have tasked Bryant Building Contractors to deliver another 56 in the Cairns region. Importantly, these projects create jobs in our local construction industry. In Westcourt, 14 new one-bedroom homes are expected to be


completed by June 2020 supporting 120 construction jobs at a cost of \$4.68 million. The new housing projects will be place based to deliver the type of property that will best help manage housing demand in priority regions.

For most locations, growing demand is for smaller, more accessible properties, usually one- or two-bedroom apartments. Regardless of the style of development, new homes will be located in areas of economic and community growth close to critical infrastructure, transport, employment and education opportunities. Construction will start at a new Cairns city site in October to deliver 42 one-bedroom homes. These homes will provide enhanced accessibility for residents, with level thresholds, wider hallways and extra clearance spaces making them particularly suitable for people who mobilise in wheelchairs.

Importantly, project bank accounts will be used on these projects to ensure subcontractors are paid in full on time for the work they do. The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$13.7 million to fund 20 specialist homelessness services in the Cairns region. These services will provide tailored support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to help build their capacity and to connect them to the relevant community support networks. They include mobile outreach services, food trucks, community kitchen upgrades, drop-in centres and backpacks containing essential supplies.

Following the introduction of the Queensland Housing Strategy in June 2017 the Palaszczuk government's efforts to provide safe, secure and sustainable homes through building more social housing have supported more than 1,544 industry jobs for Queenslanders and generated a broader economic impact, supporting more than 7,500 contract and trade opportunities.

Water Supply

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.26 pm): We heard yesterday that 14 communities in Queensland are at risk of joining Stanthorpe, a community that faces the curbing in of drinking water by Christmas if there is no rain. Those communities that face the greatest risk include four in the Toowoomba Regional Council, two in the Southern Downs Regional Council, three in the Goondiwindi Regional Council and five in the Isaac Regional Council area.


Last year in the parliament I sounded a clear warning that local governments were facing serious consequences with their domestic water supplies. The spring rain predictions back then were not good and, sadly, the outlook has not improved for many into the foreseeable future. It is not just the drought that has contributed to the shortage of domestic water supplies. The actions of previous Labor governments, removing a billion dollars from the grants and subsidy programs, including SCAP, for the Queensland councils, have also contributed to this dire situation.

In Queensland we have the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. However, councils have been constrained by the oversubscription to the Water and Sewerage Program. Under this Labor government, from 2017 to 2019 the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program was heavily oversubscribed, with 286 applications for projects from 74 councils and, sadly, 60 per cent of these applications were unsuccessful. For the 2019 to 2021 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program undertaken in 2019, not surprisingly the program was again heavily oversubscribed with 167 applications for projects from 69 councils. Again many of the councils were disappointed, with only half of these applications being successful.

Local governments use this program to assist with upgrades to water supply, providing back-up bores or new headworks, providing secondary reservoirs or increasing dam storage capacity for the domestic water supply of their towns and communities. With years of drought conditions, combined with funding reductions by previous Labor governments and much of the water and sewerage infrastructure across Queensland reaching an age where it needs significant repair or refurbishment, no wonder we are seeing domestic water shortages in many communities across Queensland. Without decisive action the steep and unavoidable decline in water and wastewater standards will continue. The LGAQ warn that regional communities are facing a looming water infrastructure challenge, both in terms of supply and treatment.

All Queenslanders deserve access to clean, secure and affordable water and wastewater services. It is clear that far more needs to be done to assist local government to secure these essential services for their communities, but it is also clear that the Palaszczuk Labor government budget has not addressed the looming infrastructure challenge, nor has it addressed the looming water shortage challenge. As such, without action in relation to this matter, the Palaszczuk Labor government is destined to go down in history as the government that killed communities by thirst.

Macalister Electorate, Schools

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.29 pm): Our state schools are great schools and in my electorate of Macalister we have some of the best. I say that not because I am biased—although I am—but because some of my state schools have been judged by others more learned in the field than I to be the best. It is not lost on me that the motto of Beenleigh State School is 'Nothing but the best'. Beenleigh State School was selected to be a finalist in the National Education Awards for school of the year. It was one of the final five state schools to be in the running for school of the year, nationally. That is an amazing achievement for a great little school of some 470 students. The Beenleigh area can be complex, but the school is dealing with those challenges head-on and is still delivering results for its students.


The National Education Awards were held last Friday night. The team from Beenleigh State School attended with great hopes. Unfortunately, on the night they did not come away as winner of school of the year. That accolade went to a New South Wales state school. However, that takes nothing away from the achievements of Beenleigh State School. I have spoken to Principal Adam Knights and he is quietly confident that next year's cohort of students will deliver even better results. I wish them luck for next year.

In the Beenleigh area another two state schools are putting their best foot forward. Beenleigh Special School has been nominated as a state finalist in the Education Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. Beenleigh Special School has been nominated as a finalist in the category of early and primary years for its program titled 'I've got more to say'. In the past five years, Beenleigh Special School's numbers have doubled. To be able to cope with that growth and still deliver an award-winning program is a testimonial to the dedication of Principal Nicole Finch and all her staff. I ask the House to note that this is the first time that a special school has been nominated as a state finalist, not in the inclusive education category but in the general early and primary years category. I am sure members will be agree that that is an amazing achievement.

However, those are not the only schools in my electorate. I have more. Beenleigh State High School is one of my great state schools. I have spoken regularly about the school in this House. Beenleigh State High School is nominated as a state finalist for excellence in parent and community engagement for hosting Beenleigh's favourite annual event, Paddock to Plate. Paddock to Plate showcases the school's agricultural program, including the beef and poultry programs, as well as its fruit and vegetable crops. Chef Matt Golinski mentors the catering and hospitality students who compile and deliver a three-course meal that is to die for. The event is so well supported by the local community that it sells out months in advance.

The Paddock to Plate initiative springboards into the school's exchange to China. Selected students travel to China to spend their school holidays doing an internship at a Marco Polo hotel. Beenleigh State High School is providing amazing opportunities for pathways for its students. I commend Principal Matt O'Hanlon and his trade training team for ensuring that they have great career pathways. I wish all of our schools the best in the upcoming awards.

Old Burleigh Town, Bus Service

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.32 pm): In my electorate off Bermuda Street there is a very popular area called Old Burleigh Town. Oyster Creek Drive is the road into that area. About 800 to 900 people live in the area, but they have no bus service. For the past four or five years I have been fighting to get a bus service for the residents. I have constantly talked to TMR and to TransLink. Recently, local resident Lynne Parfitt put together a petition. Lynne walked through the whole area and knocked on every door. She managed to garner over 1,068 signatures. Obviously, she collected some signatures from outside the area as well.

The people in that area do not have a bus service. A lot of them are elderly and a lot of them require medical attention. Schoolchildren live there. There are people who need to link up with the train system at Varsity Lakes, which is four or five kilometres away. A bus service that links them to the rest of the TransLink system is vital.

We presented the petition and thought that the minister would come back to us and say, 'We'll have a look at that.' Instead, the minister said that Surfside Buslines need roads that are seven metres wide and that there was not seven metres between the kerbs on Oyster Creek Drive. I went out there with a tape measure. I table a picture of me measuring the road, which is over eight metres wide and in some places is 10 metres wide.

Tabled paper. Photograph depicting the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, measuring a road [\[1335\]](#).

Every day Koala Koaches drives a very similar sized bus into the area to pick up schoolchildren. There is absolutely no excuse why those people should not have a bus service. The minister is insistent that instead they use a taxi service, they make some other arrangements or they walk five kilometres to the nearest bus centre. That is not good enough. I table the responses from the minister.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 June 2019, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, responding to petitions 3135-19 and 3088-19 relating to a bus service for Old Burleigh Town, Burleigh Heads [1338].

I table a letter to Lyn Perez, who also lives in the area and also wrote to the minister about the issue.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 August 2019, from Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Ms Tam van Alphen, to Ms Lyn Maykin-Perez regarding a bus service for Old Burleigh Town, Burleigh Heads [1336].

The minister reiterated that they will not even consider a bus service. I table a letter in response to a petition that the Speaker of the House presented two days before.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 June 2019, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, responding to petition 3129-19 relating to a request to extend the bus services to Progress Road, White Rock [1337].

In that response, the minister said that in the future they would certainly look at a bus service for the people of the Speaker's electorate. I have seen the Facebook posts of numerous members from the other side of the House saying that they have had new bus services allocated in their areas. I ask the minister: why do the people in my electorate not deserve to have a bus service like everybody else in the state?

Ipswich CBD, Post Office



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.35 pm): Ipswich built its first post office in 1862, which was about the same time that the Queensland borders were finalised. In 1901 a new Ipswich Post Office was built with a tall clock tower next to the iconic old Town Hall. It became the ticking heart of Ipswich. In 1985 it survived a massive inferno that consumed a CBD block across the road, not to mention numerous floods. In many ways, the Ipswich Post Office with its iconic clock tower is a symbol of the resilience that defines the city.

Therefore, can members imagine the outcry when late last month Australia Post announced that it was closing the CBD post office? Never has there been a worse time for Australia Post to abandon the heart of Ipswich. Australia Post declared that declining patronage forced its hand. That is what happens when you put profits ahead of people; when essential government services become corporatised or, worse, outsourced or even sold off.


I wrote to Australia Post's CEO and Managing Director, Christine Holgate, to outline how premature the decision was. The Ipswich CBD is on the cusp of major change with the Nicholas Street Mall undergoing massive redevelopment. That change is essential following years of mismanagement and neglect by the former Ipswich City Council. The Ipswich CBD risked becoming a ghost town as businesses closed, but not all of them. Some made a deliberate decision to dig deep and remain operating, demonstrating not only determination but also a significant commitment to and belief in the city.

I am talking about family businesses such as Bob Slater's Terry White Chemmart. Bob has been a fixture in the mall for about 40 years. When the demolition of the old Ipswich City Square buildings took place, Bob and his son, Todd, opened up further down the mall, closer to Brisbane Street. They declared their loyalty to the CBD and said that their decision was not just a business investment but also a desire to be a part of the future of the Ipswich CBD. New businesses have moved into the CBD, including Banshees Bar and Artspace, which is opposite the old post office site. Last year, in the middle of the mall's demolition, Ken Weaver and Nina Florence established the business and are determined to remain part of the future of the city's heart. They are local people making big investments and showing leadership and courage in the face of adversity.

I reminded Australia Post that they were not the only business in the CBD doing it tough. To be honest, they are partly to blame. Once upon a time, the post office was located right under the clock tower, with its doors opening onto Brisbane Street. Following the sale of the building and some extensions, the post office moved inside the new development and off the main street. The front part of the building, which was the traditional location of the post office, remains vacant.

I am optimistic that economic conditions in the Ipswich CBD will improve once the mall's redevelopment is completed. I can confirm that the redevelopment of the CBD precinct is making considerable progress under the Ipswich City Council's interim administrator. Once the works are completed, economic conditions will recover, people will come back and new businesses will flourish.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.38 pm): What have we seen in Queensland over the past few weeks? We have seen a Labor government that is in absolute crisis and that is failing on matters of integrity and accountability, and a Deputy Premier whose public standing is in absolute tatters. For evidence of that we need only look to today's union protests outside Parliament House and listen to the protesters who were saying that this Labor government is no friend of the worker and were calling for the Deputy Premier to resign.

The scandal surrounding the Deputy Premier's purchase of a house near the Cross River Rail project shows no sign of ending at all. There are just so many serious questions that still need to be answered, with seemingly the house not initially declared on the parliamentary register of interests and we still need to find out whether it was declared before key decisions were taken in relevant meetings about station locations or school approvals. Hopefully we will hear more about that today or in the next few days.


There is also the matter of the phone call to the head of the CCC which could be seen as an attempt to interfere in due process. Despite explanations to the House in relation to that, there are many people in my local electorate who are asking those serious questions as to whether that was an attempt to interfere with due process.

Then we have also had the Premier's chief of staff receive a \$267,000 grant to a private company, Fortress Capstone, via the Queensland Business Development Fund, with the CCC stating that elements of this, if proven, could amount to official corruption. Although ongoing processes and investigations are occurring, these are serious matters here in Queensland. We have also seen belatedly declared luxury accommodation in Canada by the Minister for Employment and Small Business and today another integrity scandal with an assistant minister potentially in breach of electoral laws and the ministerial code of conduct given that the accommodation provided may have breached Labor's own development donation ban laws.

These are serious matters in relation to accountability and integrity here in Queensland, and this is before we talk about mismanagement. Look at Labor's latest budget. What an absolute shambles and an absolute debacle. Here in Queensland debt is going to reach \$90 billion in the next four years. We have higher taxes, with \$3.5 billion of higher taxes, fees and charges added over the last two state budgets. We also have fewer jobs here in Queensland. Seasonally adjusted unemployment is at 6.4 per cent, with 173,000 Queenslanders on the unemployment queue and nothing in relation to infrastructure, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Recently there was an article in our local bulletin by the president of the Kenmore-Bellbowrie ALP branch, Michael Springer. People absolutely laugh to think that he and others in his branch could think that anything substantial has been delivered for Queensland, let alone for the western suburbs of Brisbane. This Labor government is failing. We cannot trust Labor. We cannot afford Labor.

Mount Gravatt Central Precinct

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.41 pm): I am proud to have led the establishment of the Mount Gravatt Central main street committee. Members of this committee include Michael Sunderland from Karalis Real Estate; David Roberts, a local landscape architect—one of my past Cavendish Road students' parents; Mark Williams from Mark Williams Architects; Taaj Kumar; Nick Comino; and many others. This group is specifically focused on advocating for the upgrade and beautification of Mount Gravatt Central—a Brisbane City Council responsibility.

We have reviewed and assessed the Mount Gravatt Central precinct in its context within the broader Mount Gravatt community and have determined areas for improvement to create demand and increase patronage, supporting existing businesses and landlords, and the provision of appropriate services for the surrounding community. Proximity to public transport, thanks to our Labor government, is excellent.

We have a documented vision to generate a strong local economy to support our community. For many years now the Mount Gravatt Central precinct, like our local roads and footpaths—and I table an article from the *Courier-Mail* dated 6 February 2019 where Mount Gravatt East was the top listed suburb of footpaths needing repair in Brisbane—has been ignored by our local councillor, the deputy mayor, with access to parking poor, pavements broken and in disrepair, signage limited, vandalism not removed, plants on the footpaths not cared for, lighting poor, and buildings in disrepair and tired looking.


Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 6 February 2019, titled 'Brisbane's worst footpaths revealed' [[1339](#)].

As a consequence, there are many empty shops and office spaces, and my local business community is hurting. This group of business owners and property owners have had enough and have developed an architecturally designed master plan for an outdoor precinct which incorporates the immediate laneways of Mount Gravatt Central—a precinct which will draw on our cultural identity and historical landmarks such as the old tram terminus which closed in 1954.

Unlike the LNP Brisbane City Council, the committee has a vision for our community which will bring significant economic benefits to our local business owners. Our vision is to create an attractive, vibrant shopping strip; strengthen and reinforce the 'sense of place'; boost the number of eateries offering alfresco dining; encourage existing businesses to stay open longer, increasing jobs; promoting the area as a local destination; encourage community events, especially at night, with buskers and other entertainment to draw more locals and tourists to the strip to spend more time and money locally; improve stormwater infrastructure; update tired streetscape furniture; themed lighting applied creatively to enhance ambience; and free wi-fi.

I urge the local councillor, the deputy mayor, to refocus her energies on our immediate community; to engage our local community in discussions; to hear their disappointment; to renovate, revitalise and modernise this precinct to create an area that fosters pride and community confidence.

Coomera Connector

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.44 pm): Yesterday in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and again today we see the topic of the IRTC, as it was once called—now the Coomera Connector, which is not a popular name, but the second M1 is very popular. Everybody is talking about the second M1. The LNP, if we win government in October 2020, will build it.

The transport and main roads minister came on to my Facebook page yesterday trying to defend his incompetence. In his usual style he selectively used so-called 'proof' to try to push the blame on to the Liberal National Party. Let us look at what happened in chronological order.

Leading up to the 2012 election, the IRTC corridor was never gazetted by Labor. For all the years it had been drawn on a map it had never been gazetted by Labor. This came to our attention when we were in government when we were reviewing the Gold Coast City draft plan. The bottom line is—and this is what the departmental officers told me—that it cannot be referred to as a state controlled corridor because it is not. It has not been gazetted.

The then minister chose to say, 'Let's fix this. Let's make it right. It has never been right. Let's make it right now.' This minister says that we stopped it. No, Minister. We did not stop it. We started the process. We started the gazettal process of the second M1. It was never in place before we came into power. Under Labor it was going nowhere. We saw to it that the gazettal process was started. Here is the proof from the people on the ground. Paul Noonan, the regional director of the south coast region, stated—

In April 2014, the Honourable Jeff Seeney MP, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning advised council that the IRTC cannot be referenced in council's Draft 2015 Gold Coast City Plan until it is gazetted future state controlled road.

It cannot be done, Minister.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Your mob did not do it; we were doing it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, direct your comments through the chair, not directly at the minister.

Mr CRANDON: I was taking an interjection but I take your—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, the chair's decision is not up for debate. I have given you a direction. If you are not prepared to take that, resume your seat and we will move on.

Mr CRANDON: I was in the process of saying that I take your advice, Mr Deputy Speaker. He went on to say—

- The IRTC has not been cancelled


...

- It is expected this jointly funded modelling will be completed within the next couple of months

He went on to say that TMR had finalised all of that and that after the study was done it would be gazetted. That was in 2015. It should have been gazetted in 2015. This minister took until 2019 to finally do the job. They are stuck in the slow lane.

(Time expired)

Thuringowa Electorate, Riverway Drive

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.47 pm): It has been a little while since we have been able to get up in this House and talk about good things happening in our electorates. I will get to Riverway Drive very shortly. I was on the radio this morning with well-known Pricey on Triple M talking about the good things we are doing whilst in government, as opposed to the member for Broadwater, who had an unusual outburst yesterday saying that I was the least popular member. I do not know where that came from.

I was having my regular chat with Pricey this morning. I was wishing my daughter a happy birthday today. She is 12. She said to me a couple of years ago in 2015, 'Dad, can you ask the Premier to bring parliament to Townsville?' Guess what? I said to Pricey, 'We've delivered.' Parliament is coming to Townsville, and I will have every one of you on a coach going up and down Riverway Drive seeing what real infrastructure and the good delivery of infrastructure does for our city.

A couple of months ago the Premier was up in Townsville for the official cutting of the ribbon on Riverway Drive. There were community members there; people are very excited. I have a problem that is too good—


Honourable members interjected.

Mr HARPER: I do. It is a good problem to have. I have three developers who want to invest new infrastructure in shopping centres on Riverway Drive. Guess what? We turned the sod on Riverway Plaza. Geon is running the project, a new \$36 million shopping development. I have to say that Riverway Drive has become a catalyst for investment, because 200 to 300 local workers through Phoenix Constructions—you know the company—have been appointed to build that and we have others waiting in the wings. I think this is a good show of investment—'Build it and they will come.' Along Riverway Drive we have a new police facility opening very shortly.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HARPER: Yes. We have a new rural fire station, the Round Mountain Rural Fire Brigade. I think that is great. If you drive along Riverway Drive right now you will see Works for Queensland projects happening. They are building new boardwalks and pathways. This is about increasing civic pride, but I love the fact that we have local businesses coming along to invest in our own backyard that will deliver millions of dollars worth of investment and create jobs in Thuringowa. I cannot wait to see you all up in Townsville. You can all go and have a good look at the new stadium as well.

ICT Projects

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.51 pm): I want to bring to the attention of the House some missing millions and an IT project that has been bungled by this state Labor government. The training management system comes under the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, but during estimates they refused to answer questions in relation to how much this project cost. We have heard that \$50 million could have been lost but nobody really knows—it could be \$100 million—because, contrary to the recommendation of the Auditor-General, there was simply no information available last year with respect to how the dashboard for ICT projects is handled.

There is no accounting as to what happened to the at least \$50 million that has been spent on this ICT project, which has been described as critical. It is simply not good enough for secrets such as these to be pushed under the carpet. The government says it is commercial-in-confidence but this is absolutely unacceptable, particularly when these dollars need to be spent on the training and skills to get people back into work or their first job. We need to ensure that people have access to world-class training systems in Queensland, but instead we have a government with yet another failed ICT project that would not be held accountable at estimates.


I want to also draw the attention of the House to the fact that this is the latest in a long list of ICT blowouts: Queensland Health, \$291.5 million; Department of Housing and Public Works, \$67.5 million; Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, \$34 million; Transport and Main Roads, \$33.4 million; and the Department of Education—prior to this one—\$12.3 million. I table articles referring to how the Queensland government scrapped the training management system.

Tabled paper: Documents, dated 10 July 2018 and 24 July 2018, relating to IT projects [\[1340\]](#).

That came out in the last financial year, but not because the government put it out. There is still no information on how much. This is completely unacceptable!

We believe that at least \$50 million has been flushed down the drain with no accountability from this government. Their dashboard ICT is a joke because they do not report what they do not want the public to know about. That money should be going into skills and training rather than being wasted by this inept government. This weak Premier and her government takes taxpayers' money and flushes it down the drain. I support the LNP's proposal to bring in strict monitoring and accountability around ICT projects to get back on track, stop the waste and put in frontline services so that Queensland can truly be the leading state again.

Port of Mackay


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.54 pm): The port of Mackay is Queensland's fourth largest multicommodity port. It is a leading service centre for the Bowen and Galilee basins and the Mackay, Whitsunday and Central Highlands regions of Queensland. Its position within the region makes it an ideal transport supply chain for the mining industry, agriculture and METs sector at Paget. The port boasts more than three million tonnes of throughput. The port is diverse and developing each year in its capabilities with varying cargo and the quantum of its throughput.

Major imports and exports through the port include fuel, raw and refined sugar, grain, magnetite, fertiliser, scrap metal, ethanol, tallow and break bulk cargo. In recent years \$22.13 million in upgrades have increased the capacity for different types of trade, including the rebuilding of fenders on wharves 4 and 5 for roll-on roll-off trade and a federally accredited NSS quarantine wash-down facility to provide shippers with the capability to cleanse imported cargo and meet biosecurity requirements in a controlled environment. Improvements to roadways into the port and the installation of improved lighting have also added to the upgrades.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the development of the port. The recently completed \$28 million rebuild of the Vines Creek bridge has opened up access to the port for higher mass levels of freight. We are also committed to the joint state and federally funded Mackay Ring Road stages 1 and 2 and the Walkerston bypass. This will also improve port access. As a result of these upgrades the largest cargo ship in the world, *Hoegh Trapper*, now regularly docks in Mackay. This ship has 14 levels, an area of 100 football fields and can carry up to 8,500 cars.

In other good news, the community of Mackay will celebrate 80 years of the operation of our port at the Mackay harbour. Our first port was opened at the Pioneer River in 1863 when Mackay was just one year old. Our first harbourmaster was Captain John T Baker. Our new port at the harbour was declared open on 26 August 1939 by William Forgan Smith, the then member for Mackay. He was also the premier of Queensland. Mackay just keeps growing and growing.

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*, Apology; Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.57 pm): Before I get to my friends in the CFMMEU who were protesting out front today, can I correct the *Record of Proceedings*. On page 2405 of *Hansard* during the committee debate yesterday I said—

I did not mention the age or gender of anyone involved.

...

No, I did not.

I want to correct the record. I have checked *Hansard* of estimates. That is not correct. I would point out that in the estimates transcript the honourable Minister for Education in fact gave an indication of age and gender of both individuals in that particular case, so I would raise that. I wanted to apologise to the House and correct the record.

For weeks the LNP has been calling out the Deputy Premier and the integrity crisis surrounding the Palaszczuk Labor government. Three separate polls of Queenslanders have all said that the Deputy Premier should be sacked for her conduct. Today the CFMMEU have raged at these gates, calling on the Deputy Premier to fall on her sword for the good of the workers of Queensland. The CFMMEU says that the Deputy Premier, who lives in an inner-city mansion with millions of dollars worth of investment

properties held in family trusts, is no friend of the worker and completely out of touch. You know it is bad when even your union overlords say that you are out of touch. Today the CFMMEU issued a press release—and I will table it in a minute—which says—

Deputy Premier Jackie Trad needs to resign, and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority be scrapped, if the government wants to salvage the fiasco that Brisbane's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail risks becoming. If the Palaszczuk government has any regard for the interests of Queensland—

workers—

and still aspires to retain government at the next election—Ms Trad must resign as Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

That was from the construction union that fund the Labor government. Their own union are calling out the Deputy Premier. In this press release, they also say—

Right now we have more energy and political capital being spent on Jackie Trad's \$700,000 investment property than we do on the largest infrastructure project in Queensland.

So says Michael Ravbar, the CFMMEU president. Let us not forget that, when the government recently appointed the Queensland industrial relations commissioners, Michael Ravbar also put out a press release which was detailed in the *Australian* under the heading 'Michael Ravbar blasts Queensland Labor for giving plum IR positions to senior union figures'. He said—

For the first time in years, the QIRC will have scant representation from blue-collar and trade workers in Queensland—exactly the sort of workers Ms Palaszczuk and her Ministers love to pose with in high-vis and a hard hat at every available photo opportunity.

The CFMMEU is calling for the Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, to be sacked. The government should listen. Earlier today we tried to seek leave so I could move a motion of no confidence in the Treasurer. One would think they would stand up and defend the Deputy Premier. They could not. They did not even want the debate. Not one minister could utter the words, 'We support the Deputy Premier.' What a shambles.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 22 August 2019, from the CFMEU titled 'Trad must go to prevent Cross River Rail debacle' [1341].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 5 July 2019, titled 'Michael Ravbar blasts Qld Labor for giving plum IR positions to senior union figures' [1342].

State Schools, Infrastructure



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (3.00 pm): It is remarkable that we have such a great advocate for the CFMMEU here—

Ms Richards: Their newest member.

Mr POWER: That is exactly right. The member for Kawana is their newest member. What I saw out there was that there were a reasonable number of burly guys in fluoro, but if you look very carefully—and I think the TV cameras will show this—you will see a particular smaller guy in fluoro who was yelling out, 'Hey, hey, ho, ho, Jackie Trad has got to go.' That is what he was yelling out. What helped to identify him was that not only was he wearing a beautiful fluoro jacket but he also had an accompanying fluoro pocket square. We know exactly who was out there leading the chants. It is really important that we have it on the record that a particular member of the opposition has said clearly that if the CFMMEU calls upon him to resign then he will resign instantly. It is on the record because he is their chief advocate in this place.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: More importantly, let me talk about the real matter before the House. It was a great day for Logan when the three greatest champions of education in this House came out to Logan to champion—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, I am having difficulties hearing the member for Logan.

Mr POWER: They love that little fluoro pocket square.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock.

Mr POWER: The three greatest champions of education in Queensland—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, put the brakes on.

Mr POWER: Sorry.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I just brought the House to order and you immediately interjected. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr POWER: The three greatest champions of education in Queensland—the member for Waterford, the education minister and the Premier—came out to Logan to see Marsden State High School where we were talking about our new policy of getting free apprenticeships. They saw the fantastic students at Marsden high school working in the trades training centre. We also went to the Yarrabilba secondary college, which is the new school that is being built there.

I also want to talk about the other things the Palaszczuk government has invested in through those great champions of education—the Logan village school has new classrooms; there are special education classrooms at Flagstone state college; the new Yarrabilba primary school is filling up very quickly; and of course there is the Park Ridge State School STEM block. That is over 30 new classrooms. I have said before that we know Logan is growing and we know new families are moving there. Over 30 new classrooms plus the teachers and the equipment have been moved into the state electorate of Logan. We need to compare that. When the opposition was in government, Logan was growing just as quickly, but how many classrooms were delivered? Are there any bids from the opposition? The answer, unfortunately, was that there were zero new classrooms developed in the growing area of Logan.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr POWER: I notice the member who has just been warned is calling out. The Leader of the Opposition was sitting on the CBRC when they failed to deliver for Logan. I know if they were ever elected again they would fail to deliver for Logan once again.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (3.03 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 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.

NOES, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.10 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee report No. 23 titled *Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry* tabled on 24 May 2019.

I am pleased today to be able to speak briefly on the Transport and Public Works Committee's inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry. This topic generated a lot of interest from stakeholders, and we held public hearings throughout Queensland. The House will no doubt hear disappointment from some committee members that we could not travel to Weipa and Thursday Island to talk to stakeholders due to committee budget restraints. However, we were able to speak to those

stakeholders in Cairns and we visited the Queensland government owned amazing Smartship simulator to see what the ports we could not visit were like. I do think we managed to get a fair idea of the issues the industry faces despite those constraints.

The committee made a number of recommendations and I will speak briefly to those. Firstly, we proposed that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads encourage industry to use Australian seafarers where at all possible and to investigate methods to provide incentives. That tied into the second one which recommended that, in order to protect against expected skills shortages, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, together with federal and interstate jurisdictions, investigate methods of expanding the maritime industry to provide training opportunities. Due to the changes to cabotage in federal legislation, lower paid foreign workers have been able to be employed in our domestic shipping transport industry. We heard heartbreaking evidence from submitters of some of the shocking conditions these seafarers work and live in while at sea. I would like to put on the record my thanks for organisations like Mission to Seafarers, which certainly have their work cut out for them.

We heard from Rio Tinto, which have over a dozen ships transporting ore from Weipa to Gladstone, that they staff only four ships with Australian workers. That is despite evidence we heard that they promised far more. That being said, at least they have some; others do not even bother and have none. The analogy was used several times that we would never allow foreign companies to staff domestic flights and fly domestic routes, but on the ocean it is okay. The fact is that without having local seafarers trained in our local shipping routes we would find it hard to recruit our future Maritime Safety Queensland, port, pilot and tug operators. The fact that our local resource and other industries are not working harder to train workers to help keep our shipping industry sustainable is outrageous. The committee's fourth recommendation addressed this, suggesting the Minister for Transport and Main Roads investigate the conditions attached to government subsidies and concessions with a view to increasing the employment of Queensland based workers.

The third recommendation we made suggested the Department of Transport and Main Roads work with port authorities to reduce potential barriers to allow for expanded intrastate shipping trade. We heard in a few circumstances the interface between ground transport and the shipping industry can be a bottleneck that can be overcome to help our industry become more viable. We heard again and again that RORO—roll-on roll-off—shipping helps make the industry more agile.


The fifth recommendation we made works to address the equity issues identified with regard to the communities situated in Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands. These communities struggle as they rely exclusively on shipping for even their basic needs. We identified that increased competition would not only help them with their cost of living, but it would expand their options for making their future more sustainable. The sixth recommendation we made asked the minister to report to the parliament during this term on the progress made on recommendations in this report.

The blue highway, as it is known, is not susceptible to the major weather events that our state's other transport sectors face year after year. Apart from some silting at ports, shipping could help our transport needs during these events. We heard that, as opposed to trucking for major equipment haulage up and down the east coast and even over to the west, shipping is more environmentally friendly and efficient if the bottlenecks are taken out and if the will is there. As our highways become more congested, the shipping of large loads over road transport would certainly help with less wear on our roads and it would help them flow more smoothly.

I would like to thank all those who took time to submit—councils, industry, the mighty Maritime Union of Australia and the International Transport Workers' Federation. As always, I say thanks to our committee members for the largely bipartisan way we did this and also the hardworking secretariat staff for—dare I say it—steering the ship through this inquiry.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KING: I am here all week! This industry has copped a kicking over the years and has great value to our nation. As an island nation, we should be doing all we can to help make it grow. Our committee was unanimous in its support for it.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.15 pm): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution to the report on the committee's inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry. It is fair to say that the port network in Queensland is quite distinct from many other regions in that along the 1,800 kilometres of coastline between Brisbane and Cairns there is a port every few hundred kilometres or thereabouts. Something also very special to Queensland is the magnificent Great Barrier Reef

stretching along the coast. That is certainly a major consideration for the operation of 15 trading seaports. These include major trading ports like Brisbane, Gladstone, Abbot Point, Townsville and Ports North as well as smaller ports up and down the coastline.

There is also an historical nature to the ports in that traditionally they have been geared around the export of Queensland's agricultural and bulk commodities rather than interstate or intrastate trade. This feature is reflected in the current state of our local shipping industry, and it poses plenty of food for thought about what needs to be done to lift the performance in this area.


The terms of reference for the inquiry were sufficiently broad to allow a detailed examination of the factors involved in a sustainable intrastate shipping industry in the great state of Queensland. It is noted that in 2017-18 our ports had a throughput of 354 million tonnes, which was a 5.2 per cent increase over the previous year. Of this figure, Queensland's international trade by ship was 303 million tonnes. This figure is particularly relevant in that it reinforces the role of our major ports in international trade. In this regard it will come as no surprise that the export of coal was a stand-out in terms of tonnes exported. The much smaller tonnage representing the balance of the total was more associated with intrastate and interstate shipping, which has not received the same amount of attention.

In terms of intrastate and interstate freight, stronger competition between service providers across transport modes would lead to the development of a multimodal freight system and a more efficient freight network overall. This could only be a positive development for consumers as the cost of freight is baked into everyday goods. The good news is that, unlike the Bruce Highway and related roads that require constant upgrades and maintenance, the blue highway, as the previous member outlined, already exists and is an under-utilised and a valuable asset to the people of Queensland. In terms of intrastate and indeed interstate coastal shipping, if we are able to shift freight from road to sea not only will it reduce freight costs; it would also lead to a reduction in the number of road accidents, stronger economic growth and more local employment opportunities. However, these and other benefits can only be fully realised if the full potential of coastal shipping is explored through a fundamental rethink of the role an environmentally sustainable alternative to road and rail can play in the overall freight system.

It is clear that, while a significant opportunity exists for the intrastate shipping industry in Queensland, there is a range of barriers which needs to be overcome to reinvigorate coastal shipping and place it on a more sustainable footing, for example, costs—crew, fuel, port costs, government charges, asset costs—maintaining the logistics supply chain, ensuring access to and from ports from land and sea, suitability of infrastructure and government regulation. There is a need for the government to continue to work with the stakeholders to identify measures designed to further support the development of coastal shipping services in Queensland, for example, collaboration with the private sector to develop common user infrastructure at regional ports.

The committee's recommendation goes some way to addressing the current obstacles preventing the intrastate shipping industry from expanding; however, it is clear that much more work is required. Queensland needs an efficient, effective and sustainable interstate shipping industry, and being internationally competitive is fundamental to achieving this objective. Any advocacy by the trade union movement for the introduction of additional protection measures has the potential to impede productivity and should therefore be avoided.

Importantly, we encourage the Labor government to look to best practice in coastal shipping and not impose unnecessary industrial relations measures such as heavy-handed, union inspired restrictions that would add further cost but bring very little or, indeed, no benefit. Of course, we always want to see a strong emphasis placed around safety. We would certainly encourage companies using our ports and benefiting from the facilities to continue the support of training for our local seafarers.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.20 pm): I thank the Transport and Public Works Committee for its report on the inquiry into Queensland's intrastate shipping industry. I am particularly glad that its members travelled to Gladstone, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns to hear from regional communities. The Palaszczuk government recognises that a sustainable shipping industry is critical for our economic growth, particularly in regional Queensland. The committee's report should be mandatory reading for policymakers who have responsibility for the development of Australia's shipping industry.

There are opportunities for the Queensland government to create an environment for reform, but it must be acknowledged that the federal government has primary responsibility to influence change in this area. I will be writing to the Deputy Prime Minister and looking for opportunities for the federal and state governments to work together to improve Australia's shipping industry. However, any

improvements in the intrastate shipping industry will depend on port infrastructure and accessibility to port services. Queenslanders continue to own our publicly owned ports and port infrastructure thanks to the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015.

Mr Powell: You sold off the port of Brisbane.

Mr BAILEY: That was a very important time in Queensland's economic culture. The end of Strong Choices meant that publicly owned ports stayed in public hands. In terms of the sell-off attempt by the LNP and the \$100 million spent on Strong Choices, they failed. Despite having the largest majority in Australian political history, after fewer than three years they were out—absolutely hopeless.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Miller, just stop for a moment. We will have a bit of quiet. I ask the member for Miller to come back to the subject of the report.

Mr BAILEY: I was just responding to those who objected to keeping our assets in public hands which they in the LNP still do. To reiterate, we put an end to the LNP's plan to sell off ports—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: They are still interjecting by way of objection to keeping our assets in public hands. It is extraordinary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left, the member for Miller has the call. I ask the member for Miller to speak to the report. Do not make your remarks inflammatory, please.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly. I keep getting sort of Dixier interjections here. Our ports support jobs in regional Queensland and the economic development and supply chains across our state. For example, in Central Queensland 740 people are employed in the ports operated by the Gladstone Port Corporation which will see over 127 million tonnes of throughput this year. North Queensland Bulk Ports handles 11 per cent of Australia's trade by tonnage and 53 per cent of Queensland's trade by tonnage. Some 30 mines export from the NQBP ports, connecting seven mining towns in Queensland with the world and supporting thousands of regional Queensland jobs. Apart from more than 120 direct NQBP employees, the NQBP ports are a place of work for more than 1,000 Queenslanders and support a further 28,000 direct trade jobs involved in mining, farming and the transport trade.

Our ports play a critical role in supporting a sustainable shipping industry in Queensland, and only Labor will keep our vital ports in public hands and support growth in our shipping industry. I now table a copy of the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, May 2019—Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry, government response [[1343](#)].


In relation to recommendation 1, I have requested my department to assess areas where it may be able to influence the increased use of Australian seafarers.

Mr King: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I take that interjection from the member for Kurwongbah. Recommendation 2 recommends that to protect against skill shortages state and federal jurisdictions provide more maritime training opportunities. I am pleased that my department recently provided support to the broader development of skills in the sector and will continue to evaluate more courses at the state's Smartship simulator. The committee's view was that my department could facilitate greater coordination between ports. I agree with that. In terms of recommendation 3, I have asked my department to convene a working group with appropriate agencies to see what could be achieved.

I support recommendation 4 and will ask my department to work with other agencies to investigate the matter further. In response to recommendation 5, I will ask my department to establish a working group of relevant departments to examine the issues and, where possible, develop viable options to address inequities faced by remote communities in Queensland. I support recommendation 6 and will report back to parliament during this term.

I once again thank the committee for its work and all those who made submissions. I particularly thank the chair, the member for Kurwongbah, who chairs it so well. I also acknowledge Bob Carnegie and the Maritime Union of Australia, who continue to argue forcefully for the employment of more Queenslanders in the intrastate shipping industry. I hope that by working with other jurisdictions and industry participants and by implementing the recommendation we will see improvements in Queensland's intrastate shipping.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.25 pm): I too rise to address the committee report titled *Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry*. I do so for a number of reasons. First, like the member for Kurwongbah and others, I am a little bit dismayed at the decline in our

intrastate shipping. When we think that just outside this chamber is the model of the *Lucinda* we realise that in a bygone era shipping was the only way many in this chamber could have got to or from their electorates or service parts of the Queensland population. We have seen it progressively eroded with the introduction of rail, road and air services, which now largely lead our freight transport means across this state. We are missing an incredible opportunity through our intrastate shipping.

I echo the benefits listed by my colleague the member for Chatsworth in terms of how the opportunities really are sitting there—opportunities that shipping can provide that road, rail and air freight simply cannot. I do welcome this, but I also welcome it for a couple of other reasons. Within the portfolio of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning sit a couple of strategies that over the years have enjoyed bipartisan support, including the superyacht strategy and growing the defence industry. I point out that, whilst we in this state recently had some success around Land defence contracts, we have gone begging in terms of some of the maritime contracts. Recently, I was at the launch of the world's largest ship hoist at BSE Maritime in Cairns, a private investment that is ready to take up the opportunities that renewed interest in intrastate shipping, superyachts and other defence maintenance contracts could potentially provide.

As others have said, the Queensland maritime industry is large and diverse—so much so that even in the electorate of Glass House are individuals who work in the industry. I acknowledge one good friend, Peter Nicholson from Wamuran, who works for AkzoNoble. AkzoNoble provide marine paints to a range of service providers the length and breadth of Queensland. Indeed, in his sales position Peter is often on the road. Peter has a lot to say on the report and has provided some comments on the recommendations. Like us all, he also acknowledged a responsibility of the Commonwealth government. Quite literally, this afternoon he is meeting with Terry Young, his new LNP member for Longman, to discuss the opportunities that the Commonwealth may have around the Coastal Trading Act.

As Peter identified, there are already a number of training providers in the state. There are new vessel manufacturers—companies such as Aus Ships and Aluminium Marine—and marine engineering consultants that specialise in high-speed aluminium vessels. As I mentioned, there are maintenance facilities along the Queensland seaboard that really would benefit from a reinvigorated intrastate shipping industry.

In terms of the recommendations, in recommendation 1 the committee recommends the Minister for Transport and Main Roads encourage industry to use Australian seafarers where at all possible and investment methods to provide incentives. Peter believes this is a bit of a no-brainer. It is the implementation that is the hard part and, again, why this afternoon he is meeting with my federal colleague Terry Young to talk about the Commonwealth's responsibility in terms of that Coastal Trading Act. Recommendation 2 states—

The committee recommends that, in order to protect against expected skills shortages, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads together, with federal and interstate jurisdictions, investigate methods of expanding the maritime industry to provide training opportunities.

Peter has rightly pointed out that there are countless numbers of private businesses already in existence in Queensland and other states that provide training to help people into the industry. It is not a case of reinventing the wheel; it is a case of working alongside those existing providers and perhaps stimulating their opportunities in attracting new entrants to the maritime industry. Recommendation 3 states—

The committee recommends the Department of Transport and Main Roads works with port authorities to reduce potential barriers to allow for an expanded intrastate shipping trade.


Peter says—

A good recommendation, as the barriers will vary widely for varying types of cargo. Many barriers like the efficiencies of the modern road freight system are significant, but the opportunities with heavy equipment, bulk resources and remote locations should be continually assessed.

I want to finish by touching on the recommendation around Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait Islands. Peter says—

Some of these smaller ports have vessel size restrictions, or the port may have berthing and unloading facility shortfalls.

He likens it to trying to park a B-double out the back of IGA Maleny. It is fit for size and fit for purpose. We need to look at ways we can expand on that, grow the industry and see freight opportunities around this state take off by taking on intrastate shipping.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.30 pm): I am pleased to speak to the report titled *Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry*. I thank the committee members on the inquiry and on the trip, the secretariat and the witnesses we spoke to in Brisbane and on our trip.

As the committee chair mentioned, it would have been good to get to a few more ports but it was great to get to Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone. To oversimplify greatly what we saw at each of those ports, it really did crystallise that each of the major ports in Queensland serves a different function. We saw plenty of general freight, tourism and sugar facilities in Cairns. We saw a very strong minerals focus in Townsville. In Mackay it was great to see some of the roll-on roll-off developments they are working on, in particular to do with mining machinery, and a bit of containerised freight. At Gladstone port coal was king, riding the massive global demand for metallurgical coal and gas on Curtis Island. This is a great industry established by Labor in Queensland. The Liberals in New South Wales could not do it, but we could do it here. It was great to see Gladstone really pumping.

In the time available to me I will address a few recommendations in this very meaty report. Recommendation 1 was that the minister encourage industry to use Australian seafarers where at all possible and investigate methods to provide incentives. We examined this issue a lot. I questioned Mr Peter Toohey from the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers on international comparisons. It was interesting to hear him say—

The Americans crew their ships with American citizens. Their ships are constructed in America, registered there and maintained there. We closed our last large commercial dockyard, which was Cairncross at Colmslie here in Brisbane, about four years ago. All ships now over about 3,000 tonnes have to go to Singapore so that they can be taken out of the water for servicing. The Americans do that all in-house because they legislated it.

The USA can hardly be called a bastion of protectionism and regulation, yet it has made a conscious decision at the national level to have a shipping industry and a maintenance industry and to keep both of them, yet at the national level here we are happy to be a taker on the international race to the bottom on shipping at a time of increasingly overlapping political and economic priorities in the Asia-Pacific region. We do not have enough fuel reserves in Australia and we do not have the ships to get it here in any case.


On the point of the workforce, we talked about the outsourcing of working conditions. It is bad enough that ships that come here from overseas do not have Australian crews and Australian flags—you can understand how that happens in an international trade environment—but it is hard to tolerate on one level when ships going from one part of Australia to another part of Australia are flagged and crewed by overseas crews. It is hard to justify at a regulatory level. Operators can really only be expected to act in accordance with the law and the rules, but I think as a country we really need to look at ships going from one part of Australia to another part of Australia. It seems logical that they should be crewed by Australians. Recommendation 3 states—

The committee recommends the Department of Transport and Main Roads works with port authorities to reduce potential barriers to allow for an expanded intrastate shipping trade.

It was great to hear the minister say that there will be a working group on that. One of the interesting witnesses was Captain John Bell, who outlined an example in Western Australia where trade was set up. There were port facilities for bulk and containerised freight and they created some trade routes from scratch. It was good to hear that if work is put into it you can in some cases have viable trade routes where previously there were none. Recommendation 4 states—

The committee recommends the Minister for Transport and Main Roads investigates the conditions attached to government subsidies and concessions with a view to increasing Queensland employment.

Recommendation 5 relates to trade to the Torres Strait Islands. I point out that the federal government subsidises, to the tune of \$150 million a year, the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme. That means that Tasmanians get their goods at the price they would pay if Bass Strait did not separate them from mainland Australia. It is difficult to see why the Torres Strait Islands do not get anything commensurate with that from the federal government in terms of subsidised freight to make sure their goods and services are getting there. I think that is something the federal government needs to look at. Overall, this was a great inquiry. I look forward to seeing the response and the outcomes from the inquiry rolled out.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.35 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Transport and Public Works Committee's report No. 23, *Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry*, tabled on 24 May 2019. The report is extensive and in-depth. The committee made six

recommendations for the minister's attention. These recommendations are wide ranging and quite broad and leave considerable room for the minister and the Labor government to bow to union requests for greater restrictions on international workers and foreign flagged ships operating in Queensland waters.


Queensland needs an effective and sustainable intrastate shipping industry that is competitive. In particular, this has possible ramifications on Rio Tinto and its bauxite operations at Weipa in North Queensland and how the bauxite ore is shipped to the alumina smelter at Gladstone. Any significant changes to these operations may affect employment opportunities at these facilities. In that regard, I think we need to be cautious.

The coastal shipping industry is critical to regional economic development, particularly in North Queensland—places like Weipa and Thursday Island. The introduction of any additional protection measures has the potential to impede productivity. This should once again be noted.

The committee travelled extensively up and down the Queensland coast, visiting the ports of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone, where we heard many submissions from stakeholders. I am at a loss to understand why the committee's travel arrangements did not include places like Weipa and Thursday Island due to budget constraints. Shipping to these isolated places is most important, and I feel that it would have been most beneficial for the committee to see shipping operations in these places; however, that was not to be.

I acknowledge my fellow committee members and thank them for their input. I also thank Deb Jeffrey and her staff on the committee secretariat. I thank them for preparing the committee report and for their help and guidance.

Yesterday afternoon I made reference to a CPA sanctioned trip to London taken by the honourable member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard. I apologise to the honourable member for any offence taken.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.38 pm): I was happy to take part in the committee's tour. It was very enlightening as I do not have a lot of experience in this area, although the port of Karumba exists in my electorate and I have reasonable knowledge of how that operates and the constraints on industry and how it could be done better. It was a real eye-opener, in particular at Mackay in terms of the introduction and development of RORO, roll-on roll-off. I think there are wonderful opportunities here.

It was also very enlightening to learn about the deregulated labour market and the fluidity of labour in international shipping and how that is impacting on our Australian seafarers in that the quality and conditions on those ships have obviously been compromised through that dynamic. The contribution by Paddy Crumlin in Cairns was excellent in that it was well balanced and enlightened the committee on the issues that need to be addressed, so it is very important that we have that recommendation in the report to protect that part of the industry to ensure there is quality of skills retained in this country for us to partake in such an important part of our transport network.


The other contribution I found most important was by Dr Stuart Ballantyne. He talked a lot about the motorways of the sea and how under-utilised this is as a mode of transport, and I must make reference to a policy of the current government of no more port facilities like those mini ports that have export material. This does not make sense in that you can build small-scale marinas up in the cape now, but even if the draft or the capacity of that boat does not need anything bigger than a marina once you start exporting material it will not be allowed. That is a policy of the government—and I believe that nothing yet has been legislated—but that is something that the House needs to be aware of because that will be a constraint. That will be no more constraining than in places like the gulf and cape where there are amazing opportunities, but there are a lot of stranded resources or stranded assets that would not otherwise be there if you could get them out via the sea.

There are some wonderful innovations in that Sea Transport and Dr Stuart Ballantyne are leaders in the field who can do these things very discreetly with very limited impact on the environment. They have offshore warehousing—transshipping is the common word for it—where it can be done very discreetly with little impact on the environment. There is huge opportunity in that. The government needs to be a bit more enlightened on that and open minded about how it treats that because it will be a constraint going forward. That was touched on in the submission made by Sea Transport. I would ask that that is something that is considered by the government in the future because it is very important.

I turn now to RORO—that is, roll-on roll-off. They are developing that at Mackay and there are wonderful opportunities there in terms of reducing costs and taking vehicles off the road while at the same time dealing with a lot of the congestion on our state roads. As was put in the submission from

Sea Transport, we need joint state management including investment in RORO terminal infrastructure and approvals funding to move forward in that space. If there is that concentration on the motorways of the sea agenda, that represents amazing efficiencies that could be achieved from the state in intrastate shipping. That way we can achieve both agendas of still encouraging industry while maintaining those workers' standards and demanding that the standards be maintained and using Australian seafarers in the industry.

This was a very enlightening inquiry. This is an area where we can do a hell of a lot better. I would respectfully ask that the government reconsider that policy as it pertains to the gulf and cape because, as it says in the report, there is great opportunity for that to play a bigger part in stimulating industry. That can be done with some wonderful resources in the gulf and cape that would help many communities up there that are struggling.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report. Due to budgetary limitations, committee members' travel arrangements to Far North locations such as Weipa and Thursday Island were unfortunately curtailed. However, it was great to see the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, the Torres Shire Council and the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance come to Cairns to give evidence. It was a bit of a disappointment that we did not get up to the Torres Strait. Given the evidence they gave that day, it would have been great to look at those facilities.

They complained that there was not enough diesel fuel to keep their generators going and sometimes they miss out for different reasons. It would have been great to be able to give those people the opportunity to show the committee around those facilities and show us what they have up there. They have to unload it there and then they load it back on to barges to take it over to different islands. Any government organisation such as this committee should be able to go into those remote areas. They are just as important as anywhere else, and I was pretty disappointed that we did not get there.

The committee ended up making 13 recommendations. It was great to go through those four ports and see the infrastructure they have, especially roll-on roll-off. A ship was in and they showed us how the door comes down, the ship comes alongside and the door comes down sideways for the roll-on roll-off. Containers have changed shipping a lot because most of the goods that go in and out of the country are in containers. We really need to get up to speed with roll-on roll-off ships because they are the future in that they drop the door down and heavy machinery, especially for the mining industry, can be rolled straight off.

The witnesses recommended that the road networks going into these ports are just as important as the ports themselves. Heavy trucks cannot keep driving through the main areas of towns, but the government has to ensure that we protect the rail network and the road networks going into these ports in terms of stopping development along those roads. When there are three semis behind one truck they have to unload somewhere sometimes to be able to unload the containers at the ports. The road networks and the train networks going into these ports have to be protected just as much as anything else to make our ports viable at the end of the day, and that is a very important part of it. It is like building an airport when everybody wants to live around it but then they complain about the noise.

One of the best things we did was the Smartship simulators in Brisbane. It was amazing. They can switch on any port and you can drive the ship in.

Mr Harper: Did you have a go at it where you have to drive it in?

Mr SORENSEN: No, I did not have a drive. One of my colleagues did have a drive and I think they wrecked the Cairns port a bit.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, he crashed it. That simulator is a great facility in that it teaches people how to manoeuvre a ship. We did not get to go through the Brisbane port—that was a bit of a disappointment—because it is privately owned and was sold off by—

Mr Krause: Who sold that?


Mr SORENSEN: Who sold it? The minister was having a go at us before, but who sold the Brisbane port? I know that he was not here at the time, but it was Labor that had to sell it because it had to raise some money. It lost the AAA credit rating and so it had to sell it.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.49 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 40 titled *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman* tabled on 4 July 2019.


I rise to speak to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's oversight report on the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The committee is required to monitor and review the Ombudsman's performance of his statutory functions and examine each annual report of the Ombudsman's office. The committee must also report to the House about any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the office that the committee considers desirable. The report provides information regarding the Ombudsman's performance of his functions and the committee's examination of the Ombudsman's office annual report 2017-18.

In conducting its oversight the committee held a public meeting with the Ombudsman, Mr Phil Clarke, and his officers on 25 February 2019. At that meeting the committee took advice from Mr Clarke about matters such as how many investigations apply to local government matters, how the Ombudsman manages complaints, the volume of public interest disclosures and the work undertaken by the office with corrective services institutions. The transcript is available on the committee's web page.

The key performance indicators are highlighted in the report, but I think it is important that I refer to them. The actual average time to complete assessments was reported as four days, which exceeded the target time of 10 days. The proportion of complaints reviewed where the original decision was upheld was 91 per cent against a target of 80 per cent. The percentage of investigations resulting in public agency rectification actions was 20 per cent against a target of 10 per cent. The proportion of recommendations or agreed action accepted by agencies was 100 per cent against a target of 90 per cent. The proportion of training participants who reported that training would assist the decision-making was 98 per cent against a target of 80 per cent. The growth in subscriptions to Ombudsman publications was 13 per cent against a target of five per cent.

The annual report noted little change in the number of persons contacting the office. In 2017-18 there were 10,990 people compared with 10,954 people in 2016-17. Of the 10,990 contacts received in 2017-18, 7,197 were complaints, which is an increase of four per cent on the 6,923 complaints received in the previous year and 2,823 were matters outside jurisdiction, which is a 17 per cent decrease on the previous year, which was a seven per cent decline on the 2015-16 year. Eight hundred and forty-three were general inquiries, 103 were requests for a review of an Ombudsman decision and 24 were PIDs.

The decrease in outside jurisdiction matters reflects the office's continued focus on implementing efficiencies to deal with OOJ matters while still providing people with the necessary advice and practical assistance to navigate the complaint landscape and find the appropriate avenue for resolution of their matter. The annual report points to two key initiatives, being the recorded message telephone service and the office's refreshed website, which have assisted the office to deal with OOJ matters. The annual report notes that 29,303 people accessed the office's OOJ web pages. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Mr Clarke and his staff for assisting the committee with its oversight. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman* report. I think the previous speaker, the member for Toohey, was negligent in a number of ways in terms of not really getting to the nub of what is in this report. This kind of report can often go unremarked and can often be forgotten.

I want to point out the seriousness of the content of this report. I am not sure this House really needs to hear how many people checked the Queensland Ombudsman website in the last 12 months. I think what is far more important for this House, which the member for Toohey has not gone anywhere near, is the number of people who are complaining, the number of public interest disclosures that are being made and the increases in various areas of serious complaints. I want to take the House to some of those complaints that are outlined in this report, which would possibly otherwise go unremarked and not commented on.

I turn firstly to the overall number of complaints. In the last 12 months there was a four per cent increase in the total number of complaints received about state agencies. That is up to 4,844 complaints. That relates to statutory authorities. State government departments also saw a two per cent increase in the number of complaints. The significant shift in the number of complaints to departments related to child and family services. Would members believe that there was a 24 per cent growth in complaints received by the Queensland Ombudsman about child and family services? That is something to remark on.

Over the past 12 months there have been significant complaints about the Public Trustee. What was the complaint increase for the Public Trustee? We saw a 14 per cent increase in the number of complaints received about statutory authorities and, of those complaints, the Public Trustee comprised 21 per cent. In fact, across the 12-month period there was a 17 per cent increase in complaints about the Public Trustee.

As we have seen in recent media reports, the Public Trustee is a growing concern for the people of Queensland. We have the biggest transfer of intergenerational wealth coming down the path for Queensland to address. We need a Public Trustee that is highly functioning and one that people can trust. Instead, we have seen the Public Trustee CEO suspended and senior staff walking out inexplicably. We have seen a significant growth in the number of complaints. I have written to the Queensland Ombudsman asking that he consider undertaking a report on the systemic challenges that are now being seen throughout the operation of the Public Trustee.

We are not looking at just one range of concerns; we are looking at overcharging on estates, claims of maladministration, claims of people, frankly—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection—ripping money off people who should not be losing money. These are serious concerns. On the back of this report that saw a 17 per cent increase in complaints over the past 12 months, I look forward to the Queensland Ombudsman investigating this further at his earliest convenience.

I want to draw attention to public interest disclosures. The Queensland Ombudsman is the oversight agency for the Public Interest Disclosure Act. During the year, a total of 802 public interest disclosures were made and 73 per cent of that related to corrupt conduct.

Ms Bates: Should we be surprised under a Labor government?

Mr JANETZKI: Given the leadership from the top we should not be surprised. It is vitally important that all public administration is addressed with the highest level of integrity. The allegations that we have heard at the highest levels of government in this state, that kind of leadership—


Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the very foolish member for Miller. It is important to note that a majority of these public interest disclosures were reported by state government departments. In the 12-month period, public interest disclosures by an employee of one public sector entity against another increased from 21 to 68. The fish rots from the head and Labor governments need to do more about it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports; Townsville Regional Sitting of Parliament

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.59 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136(3) that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill by 8 October 2019; the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 8 October 2019; and the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 8 October 2019.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report No. 21 of 2018-19, titled *Delivering forensic services*, be referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the Auditor-General's report No. 1 of 2019-20, titled *Investing in vocational education and training*, be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.


In addition, the committee resolved to suspend the requirement to circulate 100 copies of bills and explanatory notes immediately after introduction of bills during the Townsville regional sitting of parliament.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2492, on motion of Ms Farmer—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, workplaces and communities. We expect children and young people to be law-abiding and respectful. If they are not, we expect them to be accountable and put things right. I also want the best for our state's children, as many members on this side of the House have said over the course of this debate. I want children to live safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely focused on keeping communities safe, reducing offending and reoffending while holding young offenders to account. We want to change that story for our communities and our children and young people and that means working differently to do more of the things that address youth crime and keep our communities safe.

This bill, which is part of the implementation of the Queensland Youth Justice Strategy, makes a number of priority amendments to remove legislative barriers that may contribute to children being refused bail, breaching bail conditions or remaining in detention on remand for an extended period. Importantly, the bill does not remove discretion and aims to strike a balance between maintaining community safety and enabling the appropriate release of a child from custody.

At my recent annual youth summit that I held at the PCYC in Rockhampton with over 70 students from high schools around the Keppel region, the students told me that they too are concerned about the behaviour of some young people. They said that they think bad behaviour by young people is linked to boredom and a lack of respect being taught at home. The students were also conscious that only a small group of young people seemed to be giving other young people a bad name—and it is only a small group. Between 2017 and 2018 only one per cent of the 490,111 children and young people aged 10 to 17 in Queensland had a proven offence. By and large, young people in Queensland are law-abiding citizens and great contributors to our economy and our community. There are so many young people I can think of in the Keppel region who are amazing contributors, doing fantastic work in their school, in their education, in sport, in their workplaces and in training, and I love celebrating their achievements. Unfortunately, there is a small group of young people who do the wrong thing.


Most children and young people do not commit crime and most who do grow out of it. I have met a number of young people who were on the wrong side of the law and they have seen the error of their ways. They have had the issues that led to them being offenders rectified. They have housing, they are back at school, in a job or in training and they have turned their lives around. It is those people whom I enjoy meeting because they are real-life, living examples of people who have turned their lives around after being on the wrong side of the law as young people.

It is true that many young offenders have been exposed to more trauma, violence and drugs than most adults. I have had the benefit of talking to children involved in Project Booyah and Transition 2 Success. Some of the things they have been through from such an early age terrifies me. They have experienced and witnessed things in their life that no adult would have normally experienced. It is well established that children and young people who have experienced trauma and mistreatment, particularly in cases of severe neglect or abuse, may experience developmental issues and reduced resilience, along with immaturity and impulsivity. These factors are directly linked to the increased risk of offending and reoffending. We know that prevention programs, such as those that improve parenting, strengthen community, support families at risk, address mental illness, disability and substance abuse and respond to childhood delay and education problems are not only effective but also extremely cost effective. Prevention generates long-term savings to taxpayers by reducing pressure on detention centres, police and justice systems.

I support the bill introducing an information-sharing framework to assist government and non-government organisations assess and respond to the needs of young people in the youth justice system. It is currently difficult for organisations to share information between them and to appropriately assess and respond to the needs of juvenile offenders. We know that an holistic approach that considers all aspects of a juvenile offender's life is necessary.

Many juvenile offenders do not have their basic human needs met, such as a safe place to live and access to basic medical treatment. In fact, I have met some young people who do not even have a birth certificate, access to a Medicare card or have never seen a doctor in their life. They need caring parents or guardians. Some of them do not even have access to clean running water or food. This component of the bill precisely addresses the issue relating to information sharing between government and non-government agencies. This is fantastic because this will allow agencies to have a full and frank discussion about the needs of young people in the youth justice system. Housing can talk with police, Child Safety, Health and Education and the youth justice providers can now have a conversation around a table about a specific case as a result of these amendments.

This was raised at a community safety forum that I held recently at Yeppoon. Parents of juvenile offenders and some agencies expressed frustration with the sometimes disjointed management of cases between government and non-government agencies. I am pleased that this bill will put a new information sharing framework in place that will better streamline the support services for juvenile offenders and their families. This bill is an important step in continuing the significant progress that has already been made in reforming Queensland's youth justice system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.07 pm): We have a youth justice crisis in Queensland, a youth justice crisis caused by a generation of Labor failure. This crisis took a long, long time to develop and many Labor failures along the way: failures in child safety, particularly where vulnerable children are at high risk of entering the youth justice system, and failures in rehabilitation and consequences for offenders. Since Anastacia Palaszczuk became Premier youth crime in Queensland has skyrocketed. The figures have been presented by my colleagues. I note that 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.

I support the bulk of this legislation and I have concerns about other aspects. In speaking with police currently working in the child protection and investigation unit about the bill they expressed some concerns as well. One of the concerns was the likely impact of the amendments to section 421 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Existing section 421 provides that a police officer not question a child in relation to an alleged indictable offence unless the police officer has, if practicable, allowed the child to speak privately to a support person chosen by the child and the support person is present while the child is being questioned. The amendment to this section requires police to notify a legal aid organisation that the child is in custody as soon as reasonably practicable. The obligation on police to contact a legal aid organisation will not arise if the police officer is aware that the child has already spoken to a lawyer acting for the child or arranged for their lawyer to be present during questioning as a support person.


I note that the amendment does not prohibit police from questioning a child if a legal aid organisation has not been contacted, but recognises that to do so is best practice, having regard to the serious consequences, including significant sentences of detention, that can result from indictable offences and the particular vulnerabilities of children. The explanatory notes note that requiring a police officer to contact particular persons for a child as soon as practical aims to ensure arrangements can be put in place and that an application for bail is made for the child as soon as possible. That aims to reduce the amount of time a child may be detained awaiting legal representation and the making of a bail application.

However, one of the possible unintended consequences of this section, as noted by police, is that involving legal representatives as a requirement might have an effect on the discretion of the police to caution the child for the offence. Often legal advice is to not make admissions for an offence, but very often if the child does make admissions, shows remorse or has limited previous history an officer may decide that a caution is the most appropriate avenue. With legal advice given to the child not to make admissions and if the police have sufficient evidence already, this could remove their discretion to caution and may actually result in young people being put before the court instead, thereby going against one of the four pillars of keeping children out of court. It will be interesting to see how this change operates in practice and whether cautions become less of an option. I guess it will be up to how the legal representatives deal with the job of advising the young people.

In estimates hearings recently, senior police officer Assistant Commissioner Codd expressed concern around notification processes and changes in that regard, outlining possible operational difficulties for police. I can see some operational difficulties for police in this legislation and it will be interesting to see how it operates in practice. Many times we see this government failing miserably in planning for the effective management of the legislation they bring before the House, such as with hospital IT failures, the payroll debacle and now the horrible situation of children in watch houses. That is why it is important to legislate that that situation never occurs again and we will be moving amendments, as mooted, in that regard.

Softening bail laws, as this bill does, is not the answer to getting children out of watch houses. It will lead to more recidivist young offenders, who should otherwise be in custody, being free to roam and continue to commit crimes. To have no consequences for young people who breach their bail sends the wrong message and this weakness will result in increases in crime. Good intentions in legislation are not enough. Planning, testing, consulting, execution and delivery matter and this government continually gets that wrong. I only hope that those opposite listen to the assistant commissioner and ensure that police are prepared for these changes well in advance.

I am keeping an eye on the clock. The guillotine is approaching and I want to ensure that some of my colleagues have a say on this bill. We know that those opposite desperately do not want to talk about this in Townsville, the hub of the youth crisis, so the bill will be dealt with today. Youth justice reform is long overdue. Certainly it should have preceded the age change relating to 17-year-olds in adult prisons, but as usual Labor is chasing its tail, trying to catch up and solve all of the problems that it created in the first place.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Kids do not belong in watch houses and it is nice to at least hear ferocious agreement on that point in this place. I welcome that agreement and I also welcome this bill, which acknowledges that simple fact. However, I do not think it does enough to address the youth justice crisis in Queensland. In the first instance, and this almost seems too obvious, the bill does not actually set a limit on the time children can be remanded in watch houses. I support the recommendation of the Public Guardian that a limit be set at 72 consecutive hours without an order of the court and that the fundamental principle be that the period of remand be for as short a time as practicable.

A number of provisions in the bill are counterintuitive in that they could actually restrict young people's fundamental rights and liberties. It is concerning to see new laws being introduced in this state that steadily erode some of our justice system's basic principles, one of which is that children should not be treated in the same way as adults by the justice system. That seems to be repeatedly ignored by the government. We saw that in the recent passage of the links to terrorist activity bill, which, despite numerous warnings from experts and advocacy groups, was supported by everyone in this chamber bar me.

Similarly, this bill seeks to apply to children the recent amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act regarding mandatory sentencing provisions for the manslaughter of children under 12, including applying mandatory sentencing provisions to children under 12. The original amendments and expansion of the mandatory sentencing regime were problematic enough, but they were almost certainly not intended to apply to children as defendants. This could give rise to anomalous situations, such as applying the sentencing provisions to a 10-year-old convicted of the manslaughter of an 11-year-old, where the power dynamic of defencelessness and vulnerability may be completely reversed. As Sisters Inside noted in its submission, it is also particularly ironic to recognise the defencelessness and vulnerability of those under 12 while continuing to criminalise and imprison them.

In relation to the provisions to facilitate information sharing across government departments, there are real concerns about how this might impact children's rights over their confidential information. If it is decided by an advocate that it is in the child's best interests to release their information without consent, the reasons for the decision should be given to the child. The government should also pay careful attention to how we prevent this information sharing from actually increasing involvement with the justice system, for example, if a child's school decides to suspend or exclude them on the basis of a conviction or charge, given that we know that disengagement from education and training is a key risk factor for recidivism in young people.

Numerous community organisations have commented that, before rolling out body worn cameras and new provisions for the use of audio from CCTV in youth detention centres, the government must develop clear guidelines for the use and disposal of that footage and consider any unintended

consequences that may arise. The government needs to seriously consider how it will provide adequate resources and training to implement the changes proposed in the bill. For example, while I support the requirement for police to attempt to notify Legal Aid before beginning the questioning of a child, the government will need to allocate additional resources to legal aid organisations for that to actually work. I also support the point raised in a number of submissions that this requirement should apply not only to indictable offences but in all cases. Along with the provisions regarding police attempts to contact a parent or guardian, the police should be required to record their attempts to contact legal aid services before beginning questioning.

Furthermore, we want to get kids out of detention, but we also need to make sure that they have a safe home to go to. These reforms should be accompanied by appropriate housing for children who are homeless or without an able or willing guardian. We need accompanying additional investment in mental health, disability and other support services. We need proper investment in education, housing, health, employment and other support services. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties made the point very well in its submission. It said, 'Money should be diverted from building more detention centres, the High Schools of crime, to providing children on bail with suitable accommodation.' That is a principle that I fundamentally support, especially while there are about 12½ thousand children on the social housing waiting list in Queensland. The government continues to spend billions of dollars to build prisons while the proportion of social housing continues to decline.

We need to address the shocking overrepresentation of Indigenous kids in Queensland prisons. That should have been the key objective of these reforms. We need a moratorium on new youth prisons. As I have said so many times before—and I am sure I will say it here again until we get it done—we need to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Queensland to at least 14. It is incredible that, despite the overwhelming and repeated evidence from health experts, social workers, Indigenous leaders, legal experts and human rights organisations, the Queensland government will not raise the age.

In response to this bill, there were calls to raise the age from Sisters Inside, the Office of the Public Guardian, Anglicare, the Youth Affairs Network Queensland, the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, Queensland Advocacy Inc. and the list goes on. Every time I raise this, the response from government is the same. They say, 'We're waiting for a coordinated federal approach', despite the fact that this is clearly and squarely a state responsibility.


The omission of this essential reform from this bill is glaring and irresponsible. This reform has now been recommended by the Family and Child Commission, the Office of the Public Guardian and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, so why are we still waiting?

My eldest child, Noah, will turn 10 in only a couple of weeks.

Ms Jones: Happy birthday!

Mr BERKMAN: Happy birthday to him indeed. It makes me sick to think that under Queensland's current laws he could be charged with criminal offences, brought before a court, sentenced and locked up behind bars. It is disgraceful. We all agree—kids do not belong in cages. The reports that prompted these reforms were sickening and enraging. I welcome an urgent response to this crisis which is why, despite its shortcomings, I will be supporting this bill today, but I will also say that the need for a proper overhaul of our youth justice system cannot be ignored. I truly hope that this bill is just the start of a proper plan to keep young people, especially vulnerable, marginalised and Indigenous young people, out of cages and to bring them into safe, supported and meaningful community environments.

In the moments I have remaining I will quickly address the amendments proposed by the shadow Attorney-General. As I have said already, I would, in principle, support the imposition of a strict limit on the amount of time that kids could be kept in watch houses. As the Public Guardian suggested, a limit of 72 hours does not seem inappropriate, but this amendment is proposed alongside and linked to this proposed new breach of bail offence which I absolutely cannot support. It strikes me as not only a fairly fundamental misapprehension of what bail is supposed to do—it is a double penalisation for the same transgression of the kid involved—but it is also just another way to criminalise kids. On that basis I will not be supporting the amendments proposed by the shadow Attorney-General.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.21 pm): I rise today to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. When I first put my hand up to represent the people of Southport, one of my most important goals was to help make Australia the safest place to raise a child. This is a big part of why I am so passionate about this piece of legislation and my ongoing involvement with Bravehearts.

I would ask every member in this House to imagine their kids when they were young—or their niece or nephew or grandson or granddaughter. Now imagine them locked up with adults for days and weeks on end in an understaffed and overcrowded watch house. How does that make everyone feel? Mr Deputy Speaker, I will tell you how it makes me feel. It makes me feel sick. This is what has been happening in Queensland.

I am appalled to hear that children as young as 10 years of age were being held in Queensland watch houses and continue to be held in spite of concerns raised right here in this very chamber. To make a generalisation, these are not the lucky kids—the ones with loving families and friends at school and who are getting an education. These kids are the vulnerable ones—the disadvantaged ones, those without a stable home, those who most likely have slipped through the cracks in getting the support they need to prevent them from getting on the path that they are currently on. Who is looking out for these kids? We should be. Instead, these kids are being even further disadvantaged.

Examples of inhumane treatment such as a young girl being placed in a cell with two alleged paedophiles is quite simply not good enough. Labor should be ashamed of the conditions these children are being held in. I have been working with Bravehearts for more than a decade now and I have seen and heard some pretty horrific things. These experiences motivate me every single day to advocate for the protection of our kids wherever possible, and that is why I am standing in this House to speak in support of this legislation.


I think it is appalling that a child was allowed to stay in a watch house for 45 days, especially given the legislative obligations for adults to not remain in a watch house for more than 21 days. The Human Rights Commission is seeking a statutory prohibition on prolonged detention in watch houses which will ensure the average time for children to be detained in watch houses will not extend beyond 24 hours, with 72 hours as the outside limit. Frankly, even a single day is too long, let alone up to three. The Public Guardian has recommended inserting a provision to ensure that a child should not be held in a watch house for more than 72 consecutive hours without the authority of a court. I look forward to supporting the amendments of the shadow Attorney-General to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses.

The bill seeks to amend the Youth Justice Act to authorise the capture of audio recordings through CCTV technology in youth detention centres and the use by detention centre employees of body worn cameras to record images or sounds. I have spoken to local police and magistrates about the positive impact body worn cameras have made to domestic violence cases on the Gold Coast. I look forward to the increased protection of our children and the efficiency of the system to have body worn cameras in place for this purpose too. I believe it will provide greater protection and safety for kids, as well as increasing accountability for staff within detention centres.

Finally, I want to talk about another impact that Labor's watch house crisis is having on the community. I have had reports of constant understaffing at the Southport Police Station, which has one of the biggest catchments of the Gold Coast and, as a result of this watch house crisis, is struggling. Local police have been reallocated to watch house duties because of the overflowing watch house in Brisbane and the need to send Brisbane offenders to the Gold Coast. This has resulted in some regular staff from the Southport Police Station being allocated to assist with transport and the oversight of these prisoners to meet court appearance dates. Our already busy Southport Police Station is getting stretched thin.

Earlier this year *Gold Coast Bulletin* journalist Keith Woods talked about the victims of Gold Coast crime. He said that what victims experience is worse than adults being in a watch house. There is the 16-year-old boy who stopped sleeping, lost 15 kilos and became paranoid, angry, depressed and suicidal after having an ear sliced off with blunt scissors by a man he had just met. Then there is the story of Hylton Miller, who was in a coma for four months after being hit by a stray bullet while walking along the Surfers Paradise beachfront and later took his own life having never recovered from the impact of the incident. The shooter was never identified. There is the woman who was brutally raped and attacked in her own home by serious violent offender Bradley McLeod, later saying, 'There is always going to be a part of me that was lost that day and a part of me that will never recover from what happened.'

By not sorting out this watch house crisis, Labor are creating more victims. By not having as many police officers on the job of preventing crime at Southport and on the Gold Coast, they are allowing more crimes to be committed. We need this watch house crisis solved now. I am not just here to represent the people of Southport; I am also here to protect them. I sincerely hope that the minister has a change of heart and supports our proposed amendments for the betterment of Queensland kids and the improvement of the youth justice system in Queensland.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.27 pm): I too rise to address the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. With the integrity crisis that is all but dominating everything in Queensland parliament and certainly across the state at the moment, it is tragically too easy to forget the youth justice and crime crisis that has equally engulfed the state and, indeed, the Labor government. Sadly, it is a crisis of the government's own making.

For starters, on taking government in 2015, the Labor government scrapped the LNP's budgeted plans to build extra capacity within our existing correctional centres and to build new prisons. On top of that, it is now wasting \$110 million of taxpayers' dollars to cancel what is one of the safest privately operated prison contracts in the world and turn it into what will ultimately be a highly unionised public prison, again, with no additional cells. At the cost of \$110 million—no additional cells.

The Labor government then made the decision to move 17-year-olds from correctional centres to youth detention centres. Whether or not you support that, if you are going to make that decision clearly there has to be an implementation plan about how you accommodate 17-year-olds within existing detention centres while still allowing for growth in detention numbers through juvenile crime. As such, there is no capacity within the state's existing correctional centres, so kids as young as 10 years old are turning up in watch houses—sadly, some for as long as 45 days.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. There is far too much noise in the chamber. If you want to have a yarn, take it outside.


Mr POWELL: I repeat: as a result of these decisions there is simply no capacity in our correctional centres, so kids as young as 10 years old are ending up in our watch houses for prolonged periods—one child for as long as 45 days. There are claims that a young girl was forced to share a cell with two alleged paedophiles.

That is what has brought us to this point and the need for a legislative amendment, but what is the solution being proposed by the Labor government? In one instance, it is to relax the bail laws even further. That is not the answer for my communities in the electorate of Glass House; that is not the answer for the community of Townsville; and that is not the answer for other communities around Queensland. We are all equally dealing with a crime crisis in this state. Statistics indicate that crime is up: robbery, 128 per cent; armed robbery, 88 per cent; unlawful use of a motor vehicle, 49 per cent; assault, 33 per cent; serious assault, 31 per cent; and unlawful entry, 34 per cent. I have to admit that that is reflected locally within the electorate of Glass House.

For the first time in the 10 years that I have had the honour of representing that seat, crime is now the predominant issue across the electorate. It is why a community meeting was held at Glass House Mountains, led by scared residents who have had their second home invasion within the past five years, to try and encourage community interest in again establishing a Neighbourhood Watch presence in that area. It is why we are getting spates of crime in towns like Wamuran and Mooloolah Valley, which are at the end of police station catchments. Criminals know that police response time to get to areas like Mooloolah Valley, Beerburrum and Wamuran from stations at Caboolture, Woodford and Beerwah is at its longest at those locations. At the same time, our investment in police is declining. We have fewer police per capita. We do not have enough vehicles. Officers who are sent to task forces and who go off on leave are not being replaced.

With all of this crime occurring, I repeat that the solution is not therefore to let repeat offenders back onto the streets of Queensland and Glass House; it is about holding offenders in appropriate facilities. I admit there is a balance that needs to be met here, but it is about holding offenders in appropriate facilities. For adults that is prison or a watch house; for juveniles that is a detention centre, not a watch house. I support the two amendments foreshadowed by the shadow Attorney-General. The first is to restore breach of bail as an offence. We cannot have repeat offenders back on the streets of Glass House, but at the same time we cannot have children spending extended periods in watch houses. If the Labor government had committed to what the LNP government had done in our term of government—build additional capacity in prisons, correctional centres and detention centres around this state and not wasting taxpayers' dollars on publicly operating prisons—then we could have a solution that ensures that children do not need to spend time in watch houses. In the meantime, it is our responsibility to ensure that those kids are not in there for any longer than 72 hours maximum, and therefore I also support that amendment being moved by the shadow Attorney-General.

We have a youth justice crisis. We have a crime crisis in this state, and sadly this legislation demonstrates that the Labor government is simply not up to addressing these crises.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.34 pm): Imagine if you were stabbed in the chest while waiting for a train and there was no justification, no real provocation and no prior warning. It could happen to anyone. You would expect that the Queensland government, its departments and services, would help you. You would certainly think they would be more supportive of you than the criminal with the knife.

At 5 pm on 14 June last year after enjoying a day at the Sunshine Coast show, this is what happened to Tom—not his real name. As the offender ran off, to stop the blood squirting from his chest his friend placed a backpack on him and sat on it until an ambulance arrived. He was rushed to the Nambour Hospital, where his mum is a nurse, before being airlifted to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. He was clinically dead for 10 minutes. Doctors cut open his chest to reattach the severed artery. He spent a week in ICU. The offender was also 17. He is now classified as a juvenile and was subsequently dealt with under the Youth Justice Act. The offender was well known to police, having over 50 previous hits on his record.

It has been just over a year since Tom's life was destroyed. The physical injuries are healing, but psychologically he is broken. The offender was released on Monday after serving only 14 months in prison. The offender is now in government supplied accommodation and a youth worker is helping him find a job. Meanwhile, Tom is too scared to leave his home. He is too scared to catch public transport. He is too scared to be without his mum. His mum has reduced her hours at work to care for her son. They are trying to find another home away from the coast because they are too scared to stay. While the offender is being smothered with support, Tom and his mum are alone. Tragically, stories like this are not unique. They are happening far too often right across the state. Imagine if Tom were your son. Queenslanders have had enough.

In the time I have this afternoon I would like to highlight how this bill makes no attempt to combat the juvenile crime epidemic currently gripping our state. It does nothing to stop or prevent crime. It does nothing to repair our broken juvenile justice system. It does nothing but move kids from custody back out onto the street, essentially transferring the problem from youth justice to our already understaffed, under-resourced and underfunded police. I would also like to highlight an example in a specific section of this bill which will effectively cripple the way our local child protection detectives successfully divert kids away from the justice system.

The policy objectives of this bill as stated are to: reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised; remove legislative barriers to enable more young people to be granted bail; ensure appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail; and 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. As I said before, these objectives are all about keeping juvenile offenders out of custody and getting them back out onto the streets. It does not address the real issue of stopping young criminals from committing crime.

In his recent *Report on youth justice*, published in June last year, former police commissioner Bob Atkinson recommended that a four-pillar approach be adopted by government: early intervention; keep children out of court; keep children out of custody; and reduce reoffending. This bill only addresses pillars 2 and 3. The report goes on to highlight its two overarching guiding principles. These guiding principles are (1) that the safety and security of the community are paramount; and (2) that it must maintain public confidence. The report states—

Maintaining the public's confidence that they will be protected from crime, can live safely in their communities and that the Government will intervene to prevent reoffending is critical.

I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that Tom and his mum do not feel secure. They, like most of my constituents—and I dare say, most Queenslanders—have lost confidence in this government to keep them safe.

This bill is a kneejerk reaction to keep kids out of custody when we should be focusing on stopping kids from committing crime, not just focusing on releasing criminals back into the community. Making it harder for police to hold juvenile offenders in custody might ease the overcrowding issue in our watch houses and youth detention facilities but it will only make the juvenile crime problem worse.

The vast majority of young offenders are diverted away from the courts. Section 11 of the Youth Justice Act outlines a number of options police have available to them as an alternative to placing kids before court. Young kids who make a mistake, commit a crime, on their first offence are eligible for a caution administered by the police. Most of these kids never come to police attention again.


To be eligible for a caution, the child needs to admit their guilt and, in doing so, show remorse and an understanding that what he or she did was wrong. Police currently cannot question or caution a child without a parent or guardian or a support person of the child's choosing being present. This

system works well. There is no suggestion anywhere that this system is broken, yet clause 43 adds another layer to section 421 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act that now requires police to notify a lawyer.

I can tell the House that in my experience almost all lawyers default to telling any suspect not to answer any police questions and certainly not to make any admissions. On taking this advice, children are not eligible to be cautioned and police have no choice but to put the young first-time offender before the court. Obviously, all lawyers in here know that it is in the best interests of the lawyer for their client to go to court. A client who receives a snappy 20-minute caution at the police station is not going to help the lawyer make budget.

This amendment will surely benefit local criminal lawyers but will clog up the courts with young first-time offenders and seriously disrupt the current diversion system in the Youth Justice Act that is working well. I appreciate that the spirit of this amendment was to ensure that no child ever come before a court without receiving legal advice, which I fully support, but I can honestly tell the House that the unintended consequence of this amendment will see more good young kids before the court.

This government's record on youth crime and detention is appalling. Under the weak Palaszczuk Labor government, youth crime in Queensland has spiralled out of control: unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 49 per cent; incidents of serious assault by youths have jumped by 31 per cent; armed robbery is up 88 per cent; and robberies by youth have more than doubled—up a shocking 128 per cent. While it is important that children are not held in inappropriate conditions, releasing them with no consequence is not the answer. What is now abundantly clear is that only a Deb Frecklington led LNP government will provide safe and secure communities for all Queenslanders.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 that was introduced on 14 June and reported back to the parliament on 9 August—a couple of weeks ago. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to: reduce the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised; remove legislative barriers to encourage more grants of bail to young people appropriately; and ensure appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail. In her introductory speech, the minister was full of praise for increased funding, saying—

The Palaszczuk government has committed to an historic investment of \$550 million in the youth justice system since the transition of 17-year-olds from the adult system for a range of initiatives to reduce reoffending, better support our children and expand, build and staff youth detention centres.

Well, of course the government had to stump up more money as their decision in 2016 to transition 17-year-olds back into the youth justice system was going to cost plenty. Mind you, it is *Four Corners* that deserve the credit for this funding boost after their disturbing allegations earlier this year. Not only have the Palaszczuk government been tardy in building the appropriate detention facilities required, Labor have turned a blind eye to a growing crisis of where to place these juvenile offenders. This abject failure is to the detriment of these young offenders who are growing in numbers at an alarming rate. Youth crime in Queensland under this Premier's watch has exploded. The minister continued in her speech—

The bill supports the implementation of those initiatives and our commitment not to detain children in watch houses other than for normal processing and to reduce reoffending and maintain community safety.

However, it does not put a limit on the length of time that children can be detained. The LNP will be supporting the bill, but we believe it fails to address a key recommendation from the Human Rights Commissioner, Scott McDougall, which was supported by the Public Guardian and Sisters Inside. Mr McDougall is seeking a statutory prohibition on prolonged detention in watch houses, with a recommendation the average time for children to be detained in watch houses should not extend beyond 24 hours but considered 72 hours as the outside limit. The LNP agree and that is why the honourable member for Toowoomba South has indicated he will move an amendment. It is abhorrent to think these young offenders are being caged like this for such long periods of time.

This bill really should be called the Four Corners Bill because it was their reported allegations of horrific cases of children being held in watch houses for 33 days or more that caused this bill to be introduced in such a rush. Other honourable members have highlighted some of the shocking treatment exposed by the *Four Corners* episode.


I have to say that I listened in disbelief to the outburst from the Minister for Police, who virtually threatened opposition MPs who quoted allegations raised in the episode. How typical of this Labor minister to use the integrity of our dedicated police officers to take the heat out of this debate, which is a result of their failures to manage their own decisions and their failure to prevent overburdening of resources which clearly are not able to cope. Like my colleagues, I am insulted at Minister Ryan's

comments. I place on record my ongoing respect for our police officers, the dangers and difficulties they face, and the amazing job they do to keep us safe. I will always stand up for them and have spoken countless times in this place and applauded their dedication, courage and bravery.

Whilst this bill contains some really positive amendments—and many members on this side have acknowledged that—the lack of preventive measures is of great concern. By signing off on mega events in the wrong location that will require large numbers of police and security, the government are not only putting the general public at risk but are also putting at risk under-age youth who decide to attend or storm music festivals and watch for free outside the fences. We can expect more overflow of juveniles in some sort of detention after the Palaszczuk government and the Gold Coast council signed off on a music festival for 35,000 people each day on Coolangatta Beach on 30 November and 1 December. How will the police manage this situation where up to 10,000 young people are expected to converge and storm the event and watch from outside? What strategies are in place?

I agree with the honourable member for Townsville that each child is different and a cookie-cutter approach will not work, but all carrot and no stick will not fix this escalating epidemic of youth crime. A range of programs are required—and I heartily commend Project Booyah—but we need so many more initiatives. Supervision and school attendance are critical. I recall that a dedicated crackdown on truancy from high schools in my electorate a few years ago resulted in a decrease in shoplifting and vandalism. Crime on our buses has rocketed, with fare evasion becoming the norm especially on school runs. Allowing young people to break the law on what is considered a petty scale is sending a message that not paying is okay and it may well lead to other antisocial and illegal activities. They are destroying the morale of drivers and angering paying passengers.

I recognise that some youth come from really awful situations but just as many do not. On the Gold Coast, we are witnessing increasing numbers of unprovoked assaults, car thefts and robberies. Kids are hunting in packs, and they have made some residents' and other students' lives a living hell. I support the amendments to be moved by the honourable member for Toowoomba South and urge the Palaszczuk government to vote in favour of them. Labor have a youth crisis on their hands and will not admit it.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I note the LNP do not oppose the bill. Indeed, there are some very good aspects to the bill that will be beneficial going forward. It is a small part of what needs to be done in relation to youth justice. There is plenty to do though.

We will be opposing clause 10, which substantially amends the bail decision-making framework. We also intend to move amendments to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours and to restore breach of bail as an offence.

I turn now to look at some of the stakeholder views. I see there were 28 submissions in relation to the bill before the committee. Stakeholders were generally supportive of the bill, as we are, including the Queensland Ombudsman, yourtown and Queensland Advocacy Inc. However, key statutory bodies including the Queensland Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Guardian and advocacy group Sisters Inside are seeking strict legislative time limitations in which children can remain in watch houses. There is that tick yet again. The Human Rights Commission is seeking a statutory prohibition on prolonged detention in watch houses which will ensure the average time for children to be detained in watch houses will not extend beyond 24 hours, but considered 72 hours as an absolute outside limit. The Public Guardian has recommended inserting a provision to ensure that a child should not be held in a watch house for more than 72 hours without the authority of a court.

With respect to body worn cameras, most stakeholders who commented on the matter were supportive of the introduction of body worn cameras and the capture of audio recordings through CCTV technology. The Office of the Information Commissioner mentioned that the amendments pose a number of privacy risks and agreed with opposition members of the committee that it would interfere with children seeking medical or legal advice. The OIC also recommended the establishment of robust guidelines to mitigate risks and minimise the privacy invasive nature of these technologies in youth detention centres.

On that point, when we are talking about youth offenders—yes, they are offenders—more often than not we are talking about very disturbed young people. These young people have been through the mill from when they were gummies to anklebiters and right the way through their life. We have to recognise the psychological impact of that and the psychological place they are in at the time they commit the offences as well as the psychological impact these privacy issues can have on them.

As I said earlier, the LNP oppose clause 10, which substantially amends the bail decision-making framework. We will be moving those amendments that I mentioned earlier as well.


As far as the length of time children can be kept in custody is concerned, children need to be detained in an appropriate facility such as a youth detention centre. I have spoken to people from child services off the record who saw what happened in the youth detention centre space when the laws were changed to bring 17-year-olds back into the youth justice system. Where there were previously constant vacancies in capacity, all of that disappeared overnight and they found themselves forced to do what is now being done, and that is to use our watch houses to take these children on. In the watch house scenario the people managing those watch houses are not trained to look after youth in youth detention type facilities.

Under Labor, children as young as 10 have been held in watch houses for weeks on end while they wait for overcrowded detention centres, as I alluded to a moment ago. Since the revelation of children being held in watch houses, there has been significant concern around the length of time they are held there. The longest a child has stayed there has been 45 days. It is just unbelievable. Labor should be ashamed of the conditions in which children were held, including claims of a young girl who was placed in the same cell as two alleged paedophiles, issues with cell doors and numerous suicide attempts. It is just absolutely unbelievable that we would see that sort of thing. This is why the LNP will be moving those amendments to restrict the time that children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours.

I am going to wrap up now because we do have—

Mr Russo: Beauty!

Mr CRANDON: This is a pretty serious issue and I do not think it is appropriate for that sort of thing. Given that there are other speakers who want to make a contribution I am going to wrap up now. All members need to give serious consideration to supporting the amendments that the shadow Attorney-General seeks to move.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill has a number of policy objectives regarding the detention of young people within our justice system. It is always concerning to realise how many youth are becoming familiar with our justice system. The statistics are confronting. Too many times we hear about the crisis in our youth justice system. The crisis comes from the government's own hands; they have created it. This has been going on for a long time and the government has dithered because it is incapable of actually fixing things.

Since Anastacia Palaszczuk became Premier, youth crime in Queensland has skyrocketed. Robbery is up 128 per cent, armed robbery is up 88 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 49 per cent, assault is up 33 per cent, serious assault is up 31 per cent and unlawful entry is up 34 per cent. A brief time line shows that this government is clueless.

It was bad enough when the Minister for Police had to correct the parliamentary record when he confidently said that he thought that young offenders in watch houses were visited by a teacher and received education packs. It was bad enough when the Premier thought that a ticking off for youth crime offenders would solve the problem. We were told that the government had a pathetic goal of cutting youth offending by just five per cent by 2022. They are clueless on youth crime.

In May this year an ABC investigation exposed harrowing cases of children as young as 10 who were being held in maximum security watch houses designed for adults only. More than 500 files showed traumatic stories of children held for weeks on end. It exposed distressing incidents including cases of self-harm and of a young female placed in a pod with two alleged sex offenders. No wonder the police overtime budget tripled in the past year. This is a direct consequence of a weak government's failure to plan for enough youth detention beds while simultaneously adopting a policy to move 17-year-olds out of adult prisons.

The LNP understands what is going on. That is why we will move amendments to attempt to close the loophole in legislation. The LNP will move those amendments to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours, because 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 space available in overcrowded detention centres. The longest time a child has stayed in the watch house is 45 days.

As at 10 May 2019 there were 89 children held in watch houses across the state. Labor should be ashamed of the conditions children were held in. As I said earlier, the claim that a young girl was placed in the same cell as two alleged paedophiles is distressing. We also heard claims of fingers being cut off by cell doors and numerous suicide attempts. Two days after those revelations the Premier revealed that while 75 children were held in watch houses—

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on the member misleading the House by claiming as fact something which has been established as pure allegation and not fact.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Resume your seat, member. I will take some advice. Minister, that is not a point of order. If you believe the member is misleading the House there is a mechanism to deal with that, and it involves writing to the Speaker.

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will.


Mr PERRETT: By keeping children in watch houses, Labor has shown a blatant disregard for children's human rights, something which Amnesty International and even the newly established Human Rights Commission has protested. Stakeholders including the Public Guardian and Sisters Inside are also advocating for time limitations for which children may remain in watch houses. The Human Rights Commissioner has recommended that the average time for children to be detained in watch houses should not extend beyond 24 hours and considered 72 hours as the outside limit.

This is why the LNP is moving amendments to restrict the length of time that children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours. I urge all members to support this amendment. The Human Rights Commissioner said that the 72-hour limit certainly would protect children, as we sadly discovered this year, subjected to horrendous conditions, for weeks on end in some cases.

The LNP will move also to restore breach of bail as an offence. The LNP opposes clause 10, which substantially amends the bail decision-making framework. It is obvious that Labor is weakening the bail laws because it wants to reduce the number of children entering overcrowded youth detention centres. It is weakening laws to massage the statistics. Simply, Labor's amendments help take the pressure off its youth detention centre crisis, a crisis 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, more youths will commit serious offences, putting the community at risk. This is a serious concern when we consider that 10 per cent of juveniles were responsible for 40 per cent of all proven offences, as reported in the 2017-18 Childrens Court annual report. Townsville residents are at their wits' end. The last thing they want is more youth offenders out on bail going on more crime sprees. Under Labor, more repeat offenders will be let out on the streets only to reoffend. This is why the LNP is moving amendments to restore breach of bail as an offence.

Juveniles must be held accountable for their crimes but they belong in dedicated facilities instead of a police watch house. The government and the Premier were warned time and again that they risked a disaster by putting children in watch houses. The youth justice system is chaotic and in crisis. This crisis is a result of breathtaking incompetence. It is important that the balance is struck between holding offenders in appropriate facilities and keeping repeat offenders off Queensland's streets. The safety of the community is paramount, and community safety should always be favoured over offenders. I urge support of the LNP amendments.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. There is no doubt that the government wanted this bill debated this sitting week rather than in Townsville where the Labor government has a problem with crime, particularly youth crime. At the outset, we heard that the LNP will not oppose the bill. I do commend the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South, for his contribution to the debate and for the amendments he will move on behalf of the LNP opposition. The LNP will move amendments to restrict the length of time that children can be in watch houses to 72 hours and to restore breach of bail as an offence.

The issue that strikes me with this bill is the lack of practical planning on the government's part. The general president and CEO of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, really hit the nail on the head with an editorial in the *Queensland Police Union Journal*. 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, now we will have more juveniles than adults in the Brisbane watch house.

They were Ian Leavers's comments in his editorial article. It begs the question: if McDonald's can do its planning, why can the government not do it for the transition of those 17-year-olds into youth detention? It stands to reason that children need to be detained in appropriate facilities such as youth

detention facilities; however, under Labor it is alleged that children as young as 10 have been held in watch houses for weeks on end while they wait for available space in the overcrowded detention centres.

Since the revelations—and particularly the revelations on *Four Corners*—children have been held in watch houses. There is a significant concern around the length of time that these children were held. We understand that the longest time that it is alleged a child has stayed in the watch house is 45 days. Labor should be absolutely ashamed of the conditions in which children were kept. That should not happen in Queensland. That is the sort of thing that happens in Third World countries. It should not happen in Queensland. This is why the LNP is moving amendments to restrict the length of time that children are held in watch houses to 72 hours.


Children need to be held in appropriate detention centres where they can receive the support that they require. It is obvious that this Labor government is weakening the bail laws in this bill in an attempt to reduce the number of children entering those overcrowded youth detention centres. This Labor government has made these amendments to help take the pressure off Labor's youth detention centre crisis, sparked because of its failed transition of those 17-year-olds from adult prisons to the youth detention system in 2016.

Under Labor's bill, more youths who commit serious offences will put the community at risk. The frustration in the community is already out there in terms of youth crime. This is borne out in an email that my office received yesterday from Brad and Helen Hubbard. This is some of what the Hubbards had to say about youth crime—

I write to you as a concerned citizen of Chinchilla. A local minister and friend of mine called about how he had his house invaded and his car stolen a few weeks ago. Our town has a serious problem with some of its youth and they are laughing in the face of our police and getting away with it. In the period of more than a week when the police didn't attempt to recover the stolen car, the youth gang was driving it all over town, including driving one of the gang to a court appearance!

It does not stop there. Kaimkillenbun, a beautiful little town, was described in the local paper as a town held to ransom by rogue kid vandals. For the 100 citizens of Kaimkillenbun, their peaceful existence was interrupted by a group of young vandals aged seven to 16 years who were working hard to destroy the town piece by piece. It is of serious concern when we consider that 10 per cent of juveniles were responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences, as reported in the 2017-18 Childrens Court annual report. Residents of my electorate and other places in rural and regional Queensland—and I have no doubt Townsville as well—normally have peaceful communities, but they often find themselves at absolute wits' end with repeat youth offenders.

Under Labor, more repeat offenders will be let out on the streets into rural and regional communities and back to places like Townsville only to reoffend. That is one compelling reason the LNP is moving these amendments to restore breach of bail as an offence. This is a very important reform and I do urge the government to support the LNP amendments, because they will result in better outcomes from this bill.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.07 pm): There is a great importance in striking a balance between holding offenders in appropriate facilities and keeping repeat offenders off our streets. That is why I want to spend a few minutes to speak in support of the member for Toowoomba South, the shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice, and his common-sense approach to youth justice matters. My speech will be only a few minutes to ensure that there is enough time to debate these two amendments.

The LNP will move two amendments to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Our first amendment would restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours. The second would see breach of bail restored as an offence. Children need to be detained in suitable facilities such as youth detention centres, but under Labor that is just not happening. Under Labor, kids as young as 10 are being held in watch houses for weeks on end while they wait for space to become available in these overcrowded detention centres, and this is unacceptable. Since these revelations came to light, the people of Queensland showed an overwhelming sense of concern, and rightly so.


As at 10 May 2019, 89 children were held in watch houses across the state. As we heard in here today, the longest time spent in a watch house by a child is 45 days. That is 1½ months or 1,080 hours, not 72 hours as put forward by this side of the House. Labor should be incredibly ashamed of these time frames as well as the alleged conditions children have been held in, many of which have been spoken about and already brought to light during today's debate. What is Labor's answer? It is to spend \$24 million this financial year for 16—yes, just 16—additional beds. That is an average of \$1.5 million per bed.

I am not sure if the minister has done her maths, but, with up to 89 children being held in watch houses as of May, there will be a long wait for some of these children to get to a proper youth detention centre when they are at capacity already and only 16 new beds are coming online in the next 12 months.

Labor's blatant disregard for children's human rights is well and truly on display—something that Amnesty International and even the newly established Human Rights Commission have protested. That is why we are standing up and calling on those opposite to adopt our incredibly important amendment and restrict the length of time spent by children in watch houses to 72 hours.

It is no secret that Labor's idea to fix the youth detention crisis is to weaken the bail laws to reduce the number of children entering Queensland's overcrowded youth detention centres and take pressure off their detention centre crisis. Many Queenslanders are already at their wits' end with juvenile crime. That is why we are calling on those opposite to restore breach of bail as an offence. Without our amendments, there will be more youth who commit serious offences out on our streets. Without our amendments, more repeat offenders will be let out into the public to reoffend once more. Without our amendments, more youth offenders will be out on bail, with plenty of time on their hands for more crime sprees. By ignoring our amendments, Labor is putting our communities at risk. The safety of Queenslanders is paramount and should always be favoured over the alleged perpetrators of serious crimes.

The LNP is the only party that is tough on crime, and Queenslanders know that. That is why I support the sensible amendments proposed by the shadow Attorney-General. I urge all members of the House to do the same.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The LNP have stated that we will oppose clause 10, which substantially amends the bail decision-making framework. The LNP will also move amendments to restrict the length of time children can be held in watch houses to 72 hours and restore breach of bail as an offence.

As we know, there are several objectives of the bill: 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.

I believe that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to this matter, and we must start within our communities and at home. I myself am involved with the Oakey local level alliance. Local level alliances across Queensland are responsible for identifying the family support services that local communities need and how that need can be met—giving these young kids a network where they can reach out, with the main goal of helping kids before they possibly put not only their own lives at risk but also the lives of others. The alliances are a key element of Family and Child Connect services and are designed to ensure families are supported, with an integrated mix of services that respond to local needs and issues.


Members of the OLLA recently participated in Homeless for a Night, sleeping rough around Toowoomba, raising \$3,265 for Base Services. It is organisations like Base Services that give homeless youth a place to go, where they can possibly create a support group and they have the ability to turn their lives around.

Some 12 months ago the minister came out and visited with OLLA at the council chambers. OLLA is comprised of various members of the community, the schools, the principal of the high school—Danny Keenan, someone well known to you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly—the Police Service, Mercy services, child welfare and local government. They all come together and meet on a very regular basis. There is an old saying that it takes a community to raise a child. Oakey is really putting in that effort, going out to try to help themselves. I assist them as much as I can. I commend everyone who is involved in that process.

While early intervention is key, I also understand that sometimes it does not have the desired effect and children need to be detained, though we must ensure we are putting these youth offenders in appropriate facilities such as youth detention centres. It is more than concerning to hear that 10 per cent of juveniles were responsible for 44 per cent of all proven offences, as reported in the 2017-18 Childrens Court annual report, therefore making it all the more important that a balance is struck

between holding offenders in appropriate facilities and keeping repeat offenders off Queensland streets. This also means we must delve more deeply into bail arrangements, ensuring that suitable accommodation is found—where these offenders are surrounded by positive role models, where they have the opportunity to engage in positive activities and to help turn their lives in the right direction.

Recently across the Darling Downs and in the Condamine electorate, youth offending has been on the rise—young kids stealing cars and going on joy rides, some even unfortunately losing their lives as they are too young to even know how to properly operate a vehicle. The safety of the community is paramount. We should put community safety ahead of offenders, but we cannot have young Queenslanders putting themselves in these positions. We must guarantee that we are doing the right things to ensure these children are given every opportunity to become better citizens. Unfortunately, this is not affecting just one section of society, making it all the more important to create multiple channels of support while coming down hard on those who commit serious crimes.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.15 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to this debate of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I am particularly proud of the contributions of the government members. Every single one of them was intelligent and well considered and reflected the genuine interest that members on this side of the House have had in taking youth justice reform out of the too-hard basket and sorting it out once and for all. I thank all of them for the many excellent conversations we have had in the lead-up to the bill and the work they are doing in their own communities. They are committed to changing the story for their communities and they are committed to changing the story for our young people.

We know that the community wants our young people to be accountable for their actions, and so do we, but if we keep doing the same thing we have been doing in youth justice year after year then we cannot expect the results to be any different. We know that the community also does not want to see those young people reoffending. That is why we have put together the most historic package of reforms in youth justice ever seen in this state. We want to break that cycle. We do not want those young people committing crime in the first place. We do not want them committing crimes again. We want to break that cycle. That is why we have committed to evidence based strategies. We have committed over half a billion dollars to those reforms.

Underpinning those reforms are the fundamental principles of ensuring community safety and community confidence. It has been referred to a number of times in this debate that Bob Atkinson's groundbreaking report and set of recommendations for youth justice reform in this state basically bookended community confidence and community safety as the fundamental principles for this youth justice reform.

There is a range of initiatives in our package because we know that not one thing is going to be the answer. This bill will be one of the important things that will make a difference. From what I have heard over the past couple of days, it is pretty clear that, aside from the couple of amendments that the LNP will put forward, everyone is in agreement that this bill and our youth justice reforms are the way forward. It has been great to hear that everyone, including the LNP, is in favour of a whole-of-government plan underpinned by significant investment in addressing the causes of youth crime.

They want to get our young people back into education, training and jobs. They want to address the complex social issues that see them involved in the youth justice system. They recognise the lack of family support, the lack of accommodation, exposure to poverty, neglect and domestic violence and the other issues that place these young people seriously at risk. They want everyone working together. They clearly support Bob Atkinson's report. They clearly support Stuart Smith's report. They seem to support our Youth Justice Strategy. They want investment in youth justice, so they must be supporting our half-a-billion-dollar investment in order to implement our recommendations.

Those opposite are saying that that is what is needed. It is as if they have read all of our documents and they have read all of those reports because they just have such strong support for them! I am so pleased to think that they must have read them all. I was really proud to release the *Working together changing the story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* on 11 December last year. One of the key initiatives that we announced in that comprehensive whole-of-government plan for youth justice was this review of the Youth Justice Act, and this bill delivers on that commitment.

As we know, the bill has three key objectives and is underpinned by this government's commitment that we do not want young people in watch houses, apart from the normal processing. Let me repeat that: we do not want young people in watch houses. Several weeks ago I was very pleased

to stand beside the new director-general of the new Department of Youth Justice, Mr Bob Gee, to announce that there were zero young people in watch houses on that day. That is as a result of the significant investment we have already made to date in moving young people through the youth justice system. I did say at the time that we were not out of the woods yet in that we do not have young people spending 12, 14 or 16 years of their life exposed to the sort of trauma that they are exposed to and expect things to change straightaway. However, it was a very good milestone.

This bill reduces the period in which proceedings in the youth justice system are finalised, it removes legislative barriers to enable more young people to be granted bail and it ensures appropriate conditions are attached to grants of bail. Some 83 per cent of the young people in detention in this state are there on remand—that is, they have not been sentenced. They are there largely because they do not have a home or a safe home to go to. These scare tactics that the LNP has been raising in the last couple of days about these young people and criminals who have committed these terrible offences who are going to be let out on the streets are simply not true. These are young people who would be allowed out on bail if they had a safe place to go. This bill says that where it is safe and possible for the community and for the young person to do so we want those young people out of detention, especially when they have not been convicted of an offence. If they are charged with a serious offence then they will face the consequences and I make no bones about that. As Bob Atkinson said at the launch of the Youth Justice Strategy—

This is not in any way in my view about being soft on crime or being hard on crime. It's about being sensible and about applying strategies that work.

We have been very pleased to see as we have rolled out our Youth Justice Strategy some early initiatives which are showing excellent results. In the 12 months ending 31 June 2019, 74 per cent of our Transition 2 Success participants successfully completed one or more certificates and 67 per cent of young people who completed the program did not reoffend within 12 months of completing the program. That is why we have invested \$28.7 million over four years to expand on that program and support young people to connect with education, training and life skills. It is shown to reduce reoffending and get those young people getting their lives back on track.

With regard to restorative justice work, 97 per cent of restorative justice conferences resulted in parties reaching agreement about restorative actions to be undertaken and 77 per cent of the young people who completed a restorative justice conference either did not reoffend or showed a decrease in the magnitude of their reoffending within six months of their conference. This is what the community wants to see. They want to know that we are investing where things work and where we can get outcomes. We have invested \$27.5 million over four years to enhance restorative practice, including restorative justice conferencing and family group meetings. What was one of the things that the LNP scrapped when it was in government? Who can guess? It scrapped restorative justice conferencing way back in 2014. Why would you bother investing in something that actually works? We all want the best possible results for Queensland's young people and this bill aims to achieve that, so we are focusing on what works.

I now turn to the amendments that the opposition is going to move during consideration in detail. The member for Toowoomba South has flagged that he proposes to move two amendments to the bill—one to introduce a statutory prohibition on prolonged detention in watch houses and the other to create a new offence that a young person can be charged with if they breach their bail by committing another offence. The government strongly opposes these amendments.

In relation to the first proposal to amend the bill to include a provision that limits the time a child can be held in a watch house for 72 hours, we have made it clear that children should not be held in police watch houses other than for normal arrest and processing. Under the Youth Justice Act, if a child is held in police custody, the child must be moved to a youth detention centre as soon as practicable. If a statutory limit of 72 hours is introduced, that would mean that children would be detained in watch houses for up to 72 hours, even if it is not necessary, and that would be inconsistent with our clear position and inconsistent with the statement made during the debate by opposition members who say that they do not support children being held in watch houses.

It is also a fact of life that if we set a maximum of 72 hours then that could too easily become the default target for all young people and we believe that many could be bailed or transferred sooner once our reforms are fully in place. In fact, that is the very basis for our wanting to take away the 15-day threshold for presentencing reports because that has become the standard. The 15 days became the maximum and everything started to take that long. We need to know that we are going to move those young people through the system as quickly as possible. Quite apart from that, it is completely at odds with the claims of those opposite that if we let young people out they are going to be marauding around

the streets committing crime. I am not quite sure how you restrict the amount of time they are in there whilst at the same time you do not want them out committing all of these crimes those opposite say they are going to commit.

The member for Toowoomba South also proposes amendments to the bill to introduce a new offence that a young person can be charged with if they breach their bail by committing another offence, but this could mean a young person ending up with two convictions for committing one offence. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Maiwar, who spoke out very strongly against this. For instance, if breaching bail is an offence, this would apply to a child on bail who cannot afford to get a train fare to get home from school or training or some such so commits fare evasion. This is pretty common and I have sat in the Magistrates Court when young people who clearly did not have enough money for the train fare were appearing before the magistrate for fare evasion. This is what happens on a regular basis.

Breach of bail is likely to result in more children being held on remand unnecessarily and risks more demand on police watch houses. This is how the opposition proposes to deal with the most vulnerable members of our community. We repealed this offence in 2016 because the evidence is clear that harsher penalties do not work to reduce youth offending and they do not make our communities safer. In fact, we know that if you lock young people up and throw away the key they are almost 100 per cent likely to reoffend. We cannot solve this issue by simply building more detention centres. If a child breaches a condition of bail, including by committing another offence, there are already options for police to take appropriate action, and this bill gives police even more options. For this reason, the government will not be supporting the amendments to the bill proposed by the opposition.

I want to address some issues that were raised during the debate. One thing that has been excellent about this debate is that I am much clearer now about what the LNP thinks about young people in the youth justice system and what should be done to reform youth justice, because that has been really confusing up until now. Sometimes they would be doing the 'lock them up and throw away the key' and then at other times they would be wanting to rehabilitate them. The shadow Attorney-General said that the LNP believes in more early intervention to stop the revolving door of youth crime to help get young offenders back on track. He then said that under an LNP government young offenders will be kept in youth detention facilities and not allowed to run riot in the community. Then he said that Labor urgently needs to get a grip on these centres and start properly rehabilitating offenders. The member for Nanango said—

If you do the crime, you should do the time. No-one wants to lock up kids and throw away the keys, but young offenders need more than a tickling to stop offending.

Then she said—

It's obvious we cannot have these kids in these watchhouse circumstances for a minute longer than we need to ...

Then the shadow Attorney-General said—

What we need to do more than ever is find new solutions to what is a very complex problem. We need to make sure we keep the community safe but we also need to give troubled youths the very best opportunities to turn their lives around.

I think the most charming of them all was the member for Broadwater, who we have come to know as a particularly charming person, who on 13 June in his speech in the debate on the appropriation bills referred to a 'little cretin'. I thank the member so much for his edifying contribution.

It is clear from this debate that the members opposite—although they were getting a bit confusing again today—recognise that the vast majority of these people are on remand and have not been convicted and that they are victims of serious trauma in their lives. In fact, the Queensland Public Guardian described these young people on remand as having never felt safe in the environment that they have grown up in, never felt loved. Up until now, the approach of the members opposite to youth justice has been pretty confusing, but I think we are a bit clearer now than we were with the boot camps and the helicopter rides. That was the LNP's sole contribution to youth justice reform. It expanded boot camp trials. It was over budget by \$7.4 million. There was no financial benefit. In fact, what did we have? Seventy-five per cent of them reoffended.

At the last election the LNP's plan was to lock up 17-year-olds with adults up to the age of 25. The LNP's demand management strategy showed that it was negotiating with the Queensland Police Service to facilitate longer term remand in watch houses. The LNP suggested putting young people who could not get into the detention centre into the Brisbane Childrens Court with no beds and no hygiene facilities. At the time, the LNP was warned that breach of bail and the removal of detention as a last resort would increase youth detention centre demand and did absolutely nothing about it.

However, there has been an epiphany on the road to Damascus. The members opposite are into youth justice reform. That is absolutely fantastic. I want to address the false allegations that have been aired here as fact in this House.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. I will not have quarrelling across the chamber. Member for Theodore, you are warned.

Ms FARMER: Yesterday, a couple of LNP members took umbrage at the speech by the Minister for Police, who quite clearly warned them that all of these allegations that had been aired in the media and about which the member for Nanango had been informed in writing—in fact, I think she was told twice in writing—were without foundation. They had no compunction about rolling out every single thing that was an appalling allegation that was not founded on truth. They then took umbrage when the police minister pointed out to them that they were misleading the House and that, worst of all, they were reflecting on those police who were working in the watch house. Whomever the member opposite was who asked, ‘Why are you saying we are insulting police?’ I can tell them right now, from having spoken to those police, that they were dedicated to looking after young people and they were absolutely offended and insulted by the insinuation that they were doing the wrong thing by those people.

The other issue I want to talk about is youth crime statistics—‘It is terrible. Youth crime is up everywhere.’ In the 12 months ending 31 March 2019, the total number of offences committed by 10- to 16-year-olds decreased by six per cent from the number in the previous year. In terms of the transition of 17-year-olds to youth detention, there is funding of \$200 million for intricate planning and consultation with a range of stakeholders, planning for new detention centre facilities, multiagency interventions, trauma informed practice, conditional bail programs. There is intense planning going into the transition of 17-year-olds to youth detention.

There were crazy ideas that we put young people who have been placed by a magistrate in detention into motels and caravans. In fact, during the estimates committee hearing there was quite an awkward moment when the shadow attorney-general asked us about motels, because he thought that was true. I think he worked out that he was asking us a question based on a rumour. I can assure anyone who is concerned about young people being allowed out on bail—because we are not going to be asking magistrates to have welfare considerations—that the \$200 million that has gone into our initiatives is about supporting those young people into accommodation and into wraparound services so that they can meet their bail requirements.

As I said, this bill is a really important part of our youth justice reforms. It is not the sole answer. It is one of the big pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that we have put together to try to change the story in this state. I thank all of the stakeholders who have been involved not only in putting together this bill but also in putting together the whole package. I thank the police, who have done an absolutely brilliant job, our youth justice workers, our youth justice reference group, the magistrates who are really the people who started this off and made so many excellent suggestions, the legal stakeholders—many stakeholders. I do not want to start mentioning too many in case I miss out anyone, but they know who they are. There are people who are dedicated to reforming youth justice in this state. They have gone to a lot of trouble. I acknowledge that there has been huge angst. As I said, we are not out of the woods yet, but we are making great progress. I feel greatly privileged to commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr JANETZKI (5.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Before clause 4

Page 7, after line 2—

insert—

3A Amendment of s 42 (Preferred way of starting proceedings)

Section 42(1), after ‘serious offence’—

insert—

or an offence under section 59B

3B Amendment of s 50 (Dealing with a child if court can not be promptly constituted)

Section 50(4)—

insert—

- (d) a police officer must not keep the child in custody under subsection (2) at a police station, police establishment or watch-house for more than 72 hours after the child's arrest.

3C Amendment of s 54 (Custody of child pending court appearance)

- (1) Section 54(1), after 'child'—

insert—

(an **arrested child**)

- (2) Section 54(3), 'the child'—

omit, insert—

the arrested child

- (3) Section 54—

insert—

- (4) However, the arrested child must not be held in custody under this section at a police station, police establishment or watch-house for more than 72 hours after the child's arrest.

3D Insertion of new ss 59B and 59C

After section 59—

insert—

59B Finding of guilt while on bail

- (1) This section applies to a child if—

- (a) the child is granted bail after being charged with an offence (an **original offence**); and
- (b) a finding of guilt is later made against the child for another offence (a **subsequent offence**) committed while on bail for the original offence.

- (2) The finding of guilt made against the child for the subsequent offence is taken to be an offence against this Act.

Maximum penalty (subject to part 7)—20 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.

- (3) For this section, if a finding of guilt is made against the child for more than 1 subsequent offence arising out of the same, or the same set of, circumstances, subsection (2) applies to only 1 of the subsequent offences.

59C Proceedings for offence against s 59B

- (1) A proceeding for an offence against section 59B—

- (a) may be started without complaint and summons; and
- (b) must be started immediately after the child is found guilty of the subsequent offence.

- (2) In a proceeding for the offence, a copy of a bail order issued by a court, or a copy of the child's undertaking, for the original offence is, unless the contrary is proved, sufficient proof the child was on bail for the original offence from the date of the bail order or undertaking.

- (3) Upon production to the court of the copy of the bail order or undertaking, the court must immediately call on the child to prove why the child should not be convicted of an offence under section 59B.

- (4) In this section—

original offence see section 59B(1)(a).

subsequent offence see section 59B(1)(b).

undertaking see the *Bail Act 1980*, section 6.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.

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

AYES, 42:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

NOES, 48:

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.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Janetzki) negated.

Clauses 4 and 5, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms FARMER (5.42 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 5

Page 9, after line 23—

insert—

5A Insertion of new s 313A

After section 313—

insert—

313A Review of particular matters

- (1) The Minister must review the operation of sections 263A and 263B to the extent the sections relate to the use of body-worn cameras by detention centre employees.
- (2) In carrying out the review, the Minister must consider the effect of the use of body-worn cameras by detention centre employees on the privacy of children detained in detention centres.
- (3) The review must be completed as soon as practicable after the day that is 2 years after the commencement.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments—

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Di Farmer's amendments [\[1345\]](#).

In verbal submissions to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during its inquiry into the bill the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner and the Queensland Privacy Commissioner suggested that there should be a statutory review of the body worn camera related provisions. The Queensland Human Rights Commissioner also recommended a statutory review of these provisions in his written submission to the committee. Amendments to clause 5 give effect to these recommendations. The statutory review requirement will provide an additional mechanism to safeguard the privacy of children in youth detention centres and enable any issues that arise during implementation to be considered.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Mr JANETZKI (5.43 pm): The opposition will be opposing clause 10. Ultimately this clause will result in more youths who commit serious offences that put community safety at risk being released on bail. These are serious offences: stealing of cars, breaking and entering. The current act is appropriate. What we have seen so far from the government in relation to this bill is an insubstantial argument to

justify the changing of the law. It is an appropriate clause to oppose. The current provisions balance the appropriate punishment with the humane treatment of offenders. Communities right across Queensland will be very concerned about these changes to the bail provisions.

I note that in 10 days time we will be in Townsville. While the minister here this evening may seem very clever with what she was saying and sought to belittle the opposition's approach, I do look forward to the minister repeating some of this language in Townsville where we know that there is a youth crime epidemic. Cars are being stolen. People in their homes are deeply concerned. When they are getting advice to hide their keys inside their home we know that the battle is being lost. The opposition will always stand up for victims of crime, for those people in Townsville who are living through this crime epidemic. Time and again we have seen the crime statistics from Townsville. We know that there is a crime epidemic there.

These bail provision changes will not address this problem. The opposition looks forward to repeating some of the wording used by the minister and other speakers on that side of the House when we arrive in Townsville. It is only the opposition and an LNP government that will get crime under control here in Queensland, that will stand up for the people of Townsville and ensure that community safety, property and personal liberty is secured and protected. It will only be an LNP Frecklington government that delivers that.

Ms FARMER: As I said, there has been an epiphany on the road to Damascus. The LNP suddenly has a solution to youth crime. The only thing those opposite came up with when in government was something that increased reoffending. They do not have an excellent track record. I am happy to have that conversation in Townsville. We are the ones who are getting runs on the board.

This clause replaces the existing section 48 with a new framework for courts and police to apply when they are deciding about release on bail for children held in custody in connection with the offence. It ensures that decision-makers can exercise discretion bearing in mind community safety. As I have said all the way along, the fundamental principles underpinning our reforms are community safety and community confidence, which is what this clause will effect.

Division: Question put—That clause 10, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 48:

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, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Katter.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 11 and 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—



Ms FARMER (5.54 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 13 (Replacement of s 49 (Arrested child must be brought promptly before the Childrens Court))

Page 21, after line 17—

insert—

(2A) However, if the child is being detained under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, chapter 15, part 2, the child must be brought before the Childrens Court to be dealt with according to law—

(a) as soon as practicable and within 24 hours after the child's detention under that part ends; or

(b) if it is not practicable to constitute the court within 24 hours after the child's detention under that part ends—as soon as practicable on the next day the court can practicably be constituted.

Agreement agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—



Ms FARMER (5.54 pm): I move the following amendments—

3 Clause 20 (Amendment of s 151 (Pre-sentence report))

Page 27, line 28, after 'court a'—

insert—

written

4 Clause 20 (Amendment of s 151 (Pre-sentence report))

Page 27, line 30, after 'further'—

insert—

written

Amendments agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in accordance with the business program agreed to by the House, I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That clause 20, as amended, and clauses 21 to 48 and schedule 1, as read, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 48, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.56 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONALISED TRANSPORT OMBUDSMAN BILL

Resumed from 13 February (see p. 135).

Second Reading



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.56 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I begin by thanking the Transport and Public Works Committee for their consideration of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman Bill 2019. I acknowledge the role of the committee's chair, the member for Kurwongbah, in leading the parliamentary scrutiny of these reforms. The committee's report was tabled on 19 March 2019 and outlined eight recommendations, with the LNP members including a statement of reservations. I will discuss matters raised by the committee in more detail shortly.

The bill provides a comprehensive framework to enable the appointment of an independent personalised transport ombudsman and to establish the Office of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman to support the ombudsman. The framework outlined in the bill includes the Personalised Transport Ombudsman's essential functions, powers and responsibilities. Other models of ombudsmen


were utilised as a starting point for the functions and types of powers that might be needed for a personalised transport ombudsman. Importantly, the final position on the functions and powers was developed specifically for the Personalised Transport Ombudsman based on the role it was intended to play and the issues it would likely be expected to address.

During the committee process, there were comments querying how this legislative framework was developed and why other ombudsmen models, such as the Training Ombudsman, were used for an ombudsman that will need to deal with issues specific to the personalised transport industry. Put simply, other models were used to help build the framework of core elements essential for this type of role—things such as who should appoint the ombudsman and what happens if the role is vacant. Those are features needed to make sure that the Personalised Transport Ombudsman could operate as a legally valid entity. The essence of the ombudsman role is articulated in clause 3. It is to provide services to receive, investigate and facilitate resolution of personalised transport complaints.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

REPORT


Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.59 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 [[1346](#)].

REPORT


Ombudsman

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Queensland Ombudsman the Forensic Disability Service report of August 2019 titled *An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Queensland Ombudsman: The Forensic Disability Service report, August 2019, titled 'An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service' [[1347](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Townsville, Media Rules and Administrative Matters


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have prepared a set of media rules similar to those that apply to the media on the precinct in Brisbane for the purposes of the regional sitting to be held in Townsville from 3 to 5 September 2019. I now table those media rules for the information of members, those members of the parliamentary media gallery attending the sitting and other members of local media attending the precinct to cover the regional sitting.

Tabled paper: Rules for media access to parliamentary precinct and the Legislative Assembly chamber for the regional sitting of Parliament in Townsville from 3-5 September 2019 [[1348](#)].

Also, given that the House has now resolved to approve the temporary sessional orders, I wish to advise that the Clerk will soon be emailing members in relation to some further administrative matters regarding the regional sitting. The Clerk's email will include a handbook for members and a link to the digital media kit designed to assist members in raising awareness of and promoting the regional sitting via their own social media networks.

ADJOURNMENT

South Burnett, Paediatrician

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): The South Burnett needs a paediatrician. In just a few weeks at our Townsville sitting I will be tabling a petition coordinated by the South Burnett Under 4s Network calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to

fund a full-time paediatrician to be based in the South Burnett. I acknowledge Peta Clarkson, who has worked hard to get this petition around our community. It already has 1,100 signatures. This weekend at BaconFest there will be a table for all of the locals to come and sign the petition because we need a paediatrician for the South Burnett.

On this side of the House we have been highlighting this important issue for years now. My previous requests to the Labor health minister have been rejected. He has an obvious disregard for regional communities such as ours and does not understand the difficulties facing parents who are trying to have their—

Mr Dick: We're building the hospital.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection because I was waiting for it. This is how out of touch this government is. They think that building a building is going to bring a paediatrician.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is exactly what the community have been saying. They have been saying, 'Minister Dick came in. He talked about the big building.' He talked about it, but it is empty. They want a paediatrician, Minister. That is how out of touch these people are. It is unbelievable. We have the screeching happening over there saying, 'Kingaroy, you should drive to Toowoomba,' which is what the minister told my locals. Do not worry about when we are going to build the new hospital. It is still not going to have a paediatrician. Catch up!

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, it has been a big week. We are on the adjournment. Let us get through the adjournment.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: How embarrassing is the Minister for State Development, who thinks that a building is going to be able to deliver paediatric services to the youth. We have a hospital right now that does not have a paediatrician. The teachers want it. The parents want it. The community want it. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk government believe that they are going to build the building but they do not have to put the services in it. That is why the South Burnett is calling on this incompetent Palaszczuk government to give the South Burnett a paediatrician. The minister has just asked someone out there to write something for him. You would think he would be smart enough to write his own speech. We need a paediatrician for the South Burnett.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next speaker, member for Theodore, I hope I did not hear you interjecting given that you are on a warning. I would like to acknowledge that we will have with us in the gallery for the remaining time this evening the Chermside-Burul Scout Group, the Kedron Scout Group and the Wilston Scout Group from the electorate of Stafford.

North West Youth Accommodation Service

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.04 pm): I rise today to speak about the sterling work provided by the North West Youth Accommodation Service. The service is funded by the Palaszczuk government as part of our Housing Strategy and has seen regular increases in support since 2015. The service plays an essential role in assisting young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to establish roots and create stability in their lives. The material aid, domestic assistance, self-reliance training and financial management skills provided by the service all contribute to cultivate social inclusion and a sense of self-worth.

It is important to recognise that homelessness is not a choice. It can be caused by a number of reasons and is usually the result of a combination of factors which are often beyond any individual's control. Homelessness can be the result of a mild trigger such as a car breakdown or more commonly the loss of a job—to say nothing of family crises, unexpected pregnancies or domestic violence. For people living week to week, even the threat of homelessness can cause stress on families and dislocation from community.


For young people particularly who are still trying to find their way in the world homelessness can greatly impede their life possibilities and create a downward spiral which is particularly difficult to escape from. North West is focused on helping young people who are aged between 16 and 25 and who find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service is dedicated to transitioning those people to independent living by offering safe accommodation and a healthy environment for lives to thrive.

The work is demanding but rewarding, with staff in the service providing an exceptional level of individual tailored programs for each young person in the service because no two person's circumstances are the same and no two programs are like. Since it was founded in 1986, North West Youth Accommodation Service has helped hundreds of young people to reclaim their lives and transition to independence.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Nicole Walsh and her team and the management committee and volunteers led by Robert Granger. Homelessness is a daily reality for over 100,000 Australians but it is not a situation which any caring society can deem acceptable.

The Palaszczuk government believes that helping people who are homeless to get back into housing and to assist them to take control of their own lives is a worthy investment in Queensland's future. Through services such as North West, this is what we are doing as a government. The only thing which ends homelessness is having a home.

Manthey, Mr F; Anderson, Mrs J; Cleary, Mr P


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise this evening to speak about three irreplaceable constituents of mine in Toowoomba South. They all deserve far more time than I am going to give them, but I want to acknowledge their contribution and their value.

Firstly, I want to talk about Frank 'The Bilby Man' Manthey, who may in fact be known to some members of the House. Frank was a hard-bitten Cunnamulla fella. He got behind the Save the Bilby Fund and he was very well known for preserving our beautiful landscapes and our beautiful wildlife. His legacy will be the Save the Bilby Fund, which was well supported by many in this House. He retired to Toowoomba to be closer to friends and family. I had the great privilege of having him in my office a number of times sharing his political advice. He will be sorely missed. The Save the Bilby Fund will be his lifetime legacy. It is a tribute to him that he cared so much about our landscapes and about our native wildlife.

The second person upon whom I want to reflect this evening is Joan Anderson. Joan Anderson is truly one of the quiet Australians. She served in World War II. She worked hard on the land and when her husband passed away she moved to Toowoomba. In Toowoomba she hosted National Party meetings for 40 years at her house in Harristown. So many members for Toowoomba South passed through her house, shared meetings, shared conversation and received the wisdom of her strong opinions—always deeply held and beautifully communicated. My predecessor, John McVeigh, called her Auntie Joan. He had a very close relationship with her, as did everybody in the Toowoomba South branch. She will be sorely missed.

Finally, I wanted to reflect on the life of Peter Cleary, who was a dear friend to so many at Heritage Bank. I had the great privilege of working with Peter for nearly 10 years. He was set apart by his quiet dignity and decency. He was also known for his patience, as he repeatedly explained to me the workings of interest rate swaps and securitisation trusts. I will never forget his calmness under pressure during the global financial crisis. His loss at the age of 60 was deeply and keenly felt by all of us who worked closely with him. He was faithful, he was inquisitive about others and he was deeply loved by his wonderful wife, Marie, who spoke so beautifully at his funeral service, as well as by his family and all those who knew him well. He was deeply loved by many. He will be sorely missed by everyone with whom he worked and those who knew him right throughout the Toowoomba community.

Stretton Electorate, Transport Infrastructure


 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (6.10 pm): I am very pleased to update the House in relation to some important road and transport initiatives in the electorate of Stretton. On Monday the Premier officially opened the new upgrade to the Gateway and Logan motorways, which has been a fantastic outcome for my community. Wembley Road has been upgraded. Not only that, there has been a dedicated left-hand turn lane installed, which has been in operation for a while now, from Macquarie Way onto Wembley Road, that has really helped residents in Drewvale. The new underpass is open on Beaudesert Road to access the Logan Motorway. Very shortly there will be a new ramp going from

Compton Road onto the Gateway Motorway southbound. This is all great news for my local open. It will help everyone get to where they need to go. It is fantastic to see this project completed. It was a \$512 million project that created a lot of jobs in our local area.

There is more good news in the electorate of Stretton. I have updated the House previously in relation to this issue. I can inform the House that there are plans now to activate what is called the 'ghost' bus stop outside the Stretton Gardens Retirement Village. The council put a bus stop out the front of the retirement village but did not schedule any buses after 7.30 am on weekdays and none on weekends. We are going to fix that. The 130 bus will be stopping outside the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate, and I know that Noel and all the team at Stretton Gardens are going to be very happy because they had to walk a long way to get to the bus. There are also going to be three new bus stops along Gowan Road and an upgrade of some of the existing bus stops, which is fantastic.

There will be a new bus stop near Stretton State College, which I know will be well received by the school community. It can also be used by anyone visiting the new performing arts centre, which is due to be completed in December. This \$23.5 million project is a huge benefit to our community. There will be further new and upgraded bus stops along Gowan Road which will help locals in Stretton get to where they need to go. It will provide better public transport access. It will complement all of the road upgrades we have seen recently which help locals in Stretton get to where they need to go, whether it be work, school or visiting friends and relatives. I am very pleased to update the House in relation to this fantastic news in Stretton. I will continue to fight for improved road access and public transport in our local community in Stretton to continue to enhance our lifestyle and make it a fantastic place to live.

Waste Levy; Bribie Island Fire

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (6.13 pm): Labor's waste tax is severely impacting Queenslanders. One local resident recently visited his tip and was confronted with a \$320 fee to dispose of some cardboard and a few pieces of polystyrene. He declined to dispose of the polystyrene and was forced to take it home. To his amusement, his rates notice was waiting for him in the letterbox. Accompanying his notice was an information sheet on the Palaszczuk Labor government's waste tax. It said, 'The state government has committed to ensuring the levy has no direct impact on householders.'

A local building company contacted me and informed me that their skip bin supplier has been forced to increase costs by \$220 per bin since 1 July this year. Considering there are around 10 skip bins used on a standard house build, this equates to an average increase of \$2,200 per build for this company. Like others in the building game, they were not able to forecast these additional costs in relation to homes they currently have under construction or those under contract waiting to be built. What is most disturbing is that by a conservative estimate Labor's waste tax will result in \$170,000 being removed from their projected profit.

Just this week I received a letter from the management board of the Solander Lakes Bowls Club, which is in my electorate, objecting to Labor's waste tax. I table a copy of that letter.

Tabled paper. Letter, dated 19 August 2019, from the Secretary, Solander Lake Bowls Club Inc., Ms Pamela Payne, to the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, regarding the state government tax waste levy [\[1349\]](#).

It states—

As a small club operating to provide services to the community on Bribie Island and surrounding districts, absorbing this extra cost puts another financial strain on its members.

They will be slugged around \$2,168 in extra costs as a result of Labor's waste tax.


They go on to say that in the everyday struggle to keep a bowls club alive and operating it is just another imposed cost they have to cover. The cost to all businesspeople throughout the community is enormous. It will affect the livelihoods of many people, whose jobs will be lost if they cannot continue because of the extra economic burden. Perhaps the minister will explain to my electorate how \$320 to dump 300 grams of polystyrene, \$170,000 added to the cost of home construction for one business alone, and over \$2,000 in additional charges for a small sporting club is having 'no direct impact'. We would like to know.

While I still have the floor, I would like to say thank you to all of the fire crews who are currently trying to get the out-of-control wildfire on Bribie Island under control.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next member, I acknowledge that we do finally have our Scout groups in the gallery from the electorate of Stafford: Chermshire-Burul Scout Group, the Kedron Scout Group and the Wilston Scout Group. Welcome to Queensland Parliament House!

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Woodridge Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.17 pm): On Monday this week as Queensland Minister for Infrastructure—but, more importantly, as the state member for Woodridge—I was delighted to join the Premier and other members of the Labor government at the official opening of the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project. As I said on Monday, I was the happiest bloke in Queensland when this project was announced by the Labor government, and I was even happier on Monday as this project reached its conclusion.

The job numbers that come from this \$512 million infrastructure project are as big as the project itself: 1,300 jobs were supported during the two-year obstruction. The 15 kilometres of new lanes on the Logan Motorway will unlock some of our busiest pinch points by removing dangerous intersections and delay-plagued roundabouts. This includes the notorious Wembley Road roundabout and crossing in my electorate of Woodridge. With a new four-lane bridge doubling previous capacity, this is a fantastic outcome for long-suffering local drivers and residents.

The project will improve the lives of 170,000 Queensland motorists every day, helping people get to work faster, drop their kids off to school more quickly and get home faster. To give you some scale of the project let me quickly speed through some of the fast facts of the project's delivery: more than three million hours were worked on the project; there were two years of major construction; 70,000 cubic metres of concrete were poured; 454,000 tonnes of asphalt were placed; 10,000 tonnes of steel were used; and 5,000 trees were planted. This infrastructure project has been a huge undertaking. It is expected to generate around \$1.2 billion in economic benefits for Queenslanders over the next 30 years. I thank you in your role as the Treasurer, Mr Speaker, for facilitating this project.


This has only been made possible because of the strong working relationship between our government and Transurban Queensland, and I thank the Transurban team for their efforts. Now delivered, the Logan Enhancement Project stands as a transformational piece of transport infrastructure for the south-east. The project is also backed by our state's trucking industry, with the Queensland Trucking Association chief executive, Gary Mahon, saying—

The road upgrade made Logan more efficient for distribution and attractive to businesses and investors.

Big multinationals such as DHL chose to move here because they now have access to efficient networks to the port, to Brisbane, to Toowoomba in the west and south.

This is all part of our plan to create move livable communities and to create more jobs for Queensland. It will also support the growth of our state in the south-east as more people choose Queensland to settle in our state, particularly those who want to raise a family. As the state member for Woodridge, I am absolutely delighted to be part of a Labor government that is delivering for our community.

Protesters

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.19 pm): On Tuesday the government announced its intention to introduce new laws that would create unnecessary new offences and extend police powers to stop and search individuals who might be carrying rope or glue which might be related to an action that might block traffic. This proposal is a bold-faced attempt to limit civil liberties and silence dissent. It is reminiscent of the type of police state that would make Joh proud.


Most concerning of all, the supposed justification for these new laws appears to be nothing more than a furphy. The Premier has claimed activists are using dangerous booby traps designed to harm anyone who cuts them free, yet police have never charged a climate change protester in Queensland with an offence alleging they had set a trap or intended to cause injury to others, and there appears to be no public record of police ever even alleging that this has occurred. Our laws already cover instances where one person seeks to harm another, including with the use of what is called a 'man trap'. It could easily cover the use of these devices, if they actually existed.

Police also have extensive powers to stop and search people who are suspected of being involved in a criminal act. They already use these powers liberally, including to raid the homes of individuals suspected of being involved with, or who simply even know, protesters. These new laws are a terrifying and misguided overreach designed to dehumanise, vilify and deliberately target climate justice activists, because the Labor government refuses to actually consider their reasonable policy demands. Labor are so scared of the next *Courier-Mail* headline that they are now taking policy pointers from Rupert Murdoch.

Let me put this simply. Peaceful protesters calling for action on the greatest threat that has ever faced civilisation are not extremists. Governments with their heads in the sand and their hands in the pockets of climate criminals are the real extremists here. Criminalising everyday people to protect their fossil fuel donors—that is extreme. Condemning our children, our Pacific neighbours and First Nations people on the front lines to a future of ecological collapse, job and food shortages, mass migration and increased natural disasters—that is extreme, unjust and unbelievably negligent.

I do not know how much more disappointed I could get with Labor at this point, but this latest effort to emulate the LNP has left even me feeling particularly shocked. I can only hope Labor wake up from this fever dream as soon as possible and pull themselves off the slippery slope we appear to be on at the moment. I hope they do it for all our sakes.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Community Groups

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.22 pm): I rise tonight to talk about recent events celebrating milestones in the Kurwongbah electorate. Recently, the mighty Pine Rivers Bears held their 50-year celebrations over a weekend of great football and entertainment. In this club's proud 50 years of existence, they have nurtured talented players like Peter Jackson and Scott Blacker, and even Bob Lindner played under 12s for the bears. My son played his junior footy there and this club's success is that it has always been about families and football. They have no pokies and they have struggled financially from time to time. It was really pleasing to see in this budget nearly \$400,000 to assist them in building new change rooms to allow them to expand their women's football teams.

I also attended the Lake Kurwongbah Water Ski Zone 60th year celebrations, a milestone which nearly did not happen as the club was kicked off the lake after their 50th year under the watch of the Newman government. After a great campaign run by the club and championed by me and my neighbour, Nikki Boyd, between Minister Bailey in his former role as the minister for energy and water supply, Seqwater and the club, we came to an arrangement which allows them seven-days a week access to Lake Kurwongbah, along with the rowers and the paddlers all being accommodated. I hope they see at least another 60 years. They are a great club, and I am proudly their patron.


Another club I am the patron of celebrated their 50-year anniversary—that is, the North Pine Country Park Potters. This group is the oldest working display at Old Petrie Town and is really worth a visit when anyone visits the park to see a bit of yesteryear. Their proud history was the topic of conversation. Although I am not a potter myself, I have been invited to drop by and learn some basics and, when time permits, I will more than likely do just that. There are many award winners who are members there and it was an honour to hand out the awards on the night.

The Kallangur Lions, which services Kurwongbah so I will still claim them, also celebrated 50 years recently and I attended with my wife. This hardworking group does so much for our community and is very highly regarded in the area. Several of them also assist with the Youth Insearch program, which assists teens who have run into trouble in their lives and has amazing results.

The final milestone is one I will attend in a week's time. The Burpengary Community Progress Association will celebrate 60 years of community service and I look forward to enjoying that day with them. This group largely focuses on running the Burpengary Christmas Spectacular every year and the event is a credit to them. They also provide me and our councillors with often frank feedback on what is happening in the Burpengary community, and their monthly meetings often give us a long list of issues to look at and sort out.

With long-serving clubs and groups like these and others in our community, it makes being their representative a pleasure. I look forward to continuing to help them serve our community in the various fields they cover.

Ninderry Electorate, Peter Doherty Awards

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.25 pm): I am lucky in my electorate of Ninderry to have some first-class schools giving our kids a world-class education. During the week, I had the privilege of attending two of these schools and meeting two local winners of the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. These prestigious awards are named after Professor Peter Doherty, a Brisbane born Nobel Prize winner and former student of Indooroopilly State High School. He won the award for his research in the field of immunology and influenza.


Peregian Springs State School year 6 teacher Sandy Neisler is one of only five teachers across the state to receive the award for teaching excellence in recognition of his passion for all things science related. On the day I visited Sandy at the school, his year 6 students were mentoring students from year 4 in robotics and virtual reality. I must admit that I was amazed to see kids in grade 4 on the computer doing robotics and virtual reality when I know—and some members in the House might agree—that Outlook and Explorer sometimes trouble me. It was certainly amazing to see these tiny kids working on robotics and virtual reality. Their teacher's interest and passion for STEM has clearly influenced the students who are embracing these new technologies like ducks to water. Sandy admits to loving emerging technologies and thinking about ways they can be used to make life easier. Sandy said his job was made much easier thanks to the support of his principal, Dr Gwen Sands, and his colleagues at Peregian Springs State School where his interest and passion are encouraged.

Just around the corner, St Andrew's Anglican College is also scoring goals in STEM subjects, with year 12 student Sam Rieger one of only 12 students across the state to receive the Peter Doherty outstanding student award. According to Sam, STEM is the future and there is little doubt he is passionate and is positioning himself to be at the forefront of those emerging fields thanks to the quality education he is receiving. I also acknowledge the principal, Chris Ivey, who is fostering an amazing learning environment at St Andrew's.

Labour force data already indicates that jobs in STEM related occupations are growing significantly faster than other occupations. We know that many of the jobs of the future will be based in STEM so it is important that students are given as much opportunity as possible to enhance their knowledge, learning and passion in these subjects. Figures show that a one per cent increase in people choosing STEM careers could contribute an additional \$50 billion to the Australian economy and that 40 per cent of the workforce will be replaced by technology in the next 10 years.

It is amazing to see what our students are learning and achieving in our local schools. The sky is the limit for them thanks to the high-quality teaching resources on the coast and in my electorate of Ninderry.

Rail Services; Road Infrastructure

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.28 pm): This week I have joined with the many Queenslanders who are enjoying the 200,000 additional seats on Queensland Rail trains. We have a great story to tell in the train space, with 430 additional weekly services just recently being added to the timetable. For the last two financial years, we have seen increased patronage on our trains which is sensational. This week I have caught the train from Lawnton, Strathpine and Bray Park.

At Strathpine station I was able to examine firsthand the accessibility upgrade work that is occurring at that station. I am really excited because this weekend we will see the lifts installed on platforms 2 and 3 and the western car park. That is going to cause a little bit of inconvenience for commuters as that western car park will be closed throughout the duration. Lawnton station is also seeing an upgrade of 250 car park spaces. It is a train station I share with my colleague Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah. I know he is as excited as I am about that additional infrastructure for our local community.

At the last election I committed to improving transport through my community and I identified local transport upgrades as a key priority. The recent Palaszczuk Labor state budget will see much needed road projects completed in every single corner of the Pine Rivers electorate. The Linkfield Road overpass will be duplicated and the Strathpine Road-Gympie Arterial Road overpass will also have significant capacity increases once the promised federal funding has been made available. Earlier this week my colleague the member for Aspley, Bart Mellish, called on the federal government to bring forward that funding. I support those comments wholeheartedly. We need to get moving on these major bottlenecks in our communities.

Major intersections will also be upgraded on Samford Road and South Pine Road, and works are already underway on Gympie Road through both Lawnton and Strathpine. This budget will see those works completed. Really excitingly, outside the front of what was the Westfield at Strathpine, now the Strathpine Centre, the roundabout is in the middle of being removed. That will completely transform that section of Gympie Road for my community.

Every state road connecting my electorate is being improved to help reduce congestion, to help commuters get home sooner and to spend less time on the road. These are really exciting initiatives for the community and I could not be prouder to deliver them than I am now.

The House adjourned at 6.31 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