



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 17 September 2019

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TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2019



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 5 September 2019

A Bill for an Act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

9 September 2019

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 September 2019, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 5 September 2019 [[1473](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 16 September 2019 I received correspondence from the member for Burleigh advising of his absence from the House this sitting week. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Rulings, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: On 25 July 2019, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging that the member for Broadwater deliberately misled the House in asking a question without notice on 12 June 2019. Also on 25 July 2019, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging

that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Glass House and the member for Chatsworth deliberately misled the House in statements made on 12 and 13 June 2019. I have decided that no matter canvassed in the correspondence warrants the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring any matters arising from that correspondence. I table the correspondence in relation to these matters.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 July 2019, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, alleging the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, the member for Glass House, Mr Andrew Powell MP, and the member for Chatsworth, Mr Steve Minnikin MP, deliberately misled the House [1487].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 August 2019, from the member for Chatsworth, Mr Steve Minnikin MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding allegations by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, of deliberately misleading the House [1488].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 August 2019, from the member for Glass House, Mr Andrew Powell MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding allegations by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, of deliberately misleading the House [1489].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 August 2019, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding allegations by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, of deliberately misleading the House [1490].

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to allegations by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, that the member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, deliberately misled the House [1491].

I seek leave to incorporate the rulings circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED MISLEADING OF THE HOUSE

On 25 July 2019, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging that the Member for Broadwater deliberately misled the House in asking a question without notice on 12 June 2019.

The matter relates to a statement that the State Budget 'only allocated another \$5 million towards the second M1 studies'.

In his letter to me, the Minister contended that the statement was incorrect because the Queensland Government committed \$10 million for planning for the Coomera Connector (known as the second M1) and this is shown in the Queensland Transport and Main Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) document, released as part of the State Budget.

I sought further information from the Member for Broadwater about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Broadwater advised me that that his statement was based on his analysis of the preceding year's QTRIP document which showed that a contribution of \$5 million from the Queensland Government for Coomera Connector transport planning had previously been allocated, which meant that only an additional \$5 million was allocated this financial year.

On the material before me, I consider there has been insufficient evidence provided to establish the relevant elements of the alleged contempt. In particular, I note that there has been no evidence presented, other than assertion, that the Member for Broadwater had specific knowledge that the statement he made regarding funding for the second M1 was incorrect and misleading.

Accordingly, on the material before me, I consider that the Member for Broadwater has made an adequate explanation for his statement under Standing Order 269(4).

Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

On 25 July 2019, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, Member for Glass House and Member for Chatsworth deliberately misled the House in statements made on 12 and 13 June 2019.

The matter relates to statements about the lack of government funding in the State Budget for Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road.

In his letter to me, the Minister contended that the statements were misleading because there were clear references in the Queensland Transport and Main Roads Investment Program (QTRIP), released as part of the 2019-20 State Budget, to funding for Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition, Member for Glass House and Member for Chatsworth about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition, Member for Glass House and Member for Chatsworth advised me that that their statements on 13 June 2019 were factually correct because the QTRIP is not a Queensland State Budget document and there was no reference to funding of Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road in the State Budget documents.


The Member for Glass House further submitted that his statement on 12 June 2019 that 'there was nothing in the QTRIP' was factually correct because the expenditure relating to construction of Stage 2 of the Mackay Ring Road as set out in the QTRIP is indicative only and not equivalent to actual budgeted expenditure as committed within State Budget documents.

On the material before me, I consider the Leader of the Opposition, Member for Glass House and Member for Chatsworth have made adequate explanations for their statements under Standing Order 269(4).

Therefore, I have decided that the matters do not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

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

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Rockhampton, Parkinson's Disease

Mr O'Rourke, from 860 petitioners, requesting the House to provide medical specialists who deal with Parkinson's disease to the Rockhampton region [[1474](#)].

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

Stocklands North Rockhampton, Police Beat

From 1,478 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a permanent police beat stationed at Stocklands, North Rockhampton [[1475](#), [1476](#)].

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

Oral Immunotherapy Pilot Project

From 474 petitioners, requesting the House to establish an oral immunotherapy pilot project in Queensland [[1477](#)].

Religious Instruction

From 4,198 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a review into the Religious Instruction provisions in the Education Act 2006 [[1478](#)].

Sunshine Coast Council, Local Government Elections

From 147 petitioners, requesting the House to change the electoral process for the Sunshine Coast Council elections [[1479](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

6 September 2019—

[1456](#) Road Franchise Agreement: Toowoomba Second Range Crossing—Project Deed (including Schedules and Exhibits)

[1457](#) Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2018-19

11 September 2019—

[1458](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019: Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 163, explanatory notes: Erratum

[1459](#) City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009: Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Regulation 2019, No. 164, explanatory notes: Erratum

[1460](#) Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999: Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 165, explanatory notes: Erratum

12 September 2019—

[1461](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (3180-19) presented by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, and an ePetition (3143-19) sponsored by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, from 854 and 994 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure that a local government change commission is appointed to independently review the Granite Belt Community Association's de-amalgamation proposal

- [1462](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3118-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 462 petitioners, requesting the House to examine the actions and decisions of the directors of Ipswich City Properties Pty Ltd and ensure the ICP directors are held to account for any breaches of duty that led or contributed to the \$78 million loss incurred by the ICP and the Ipswich City Council
- [1463](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3144-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 908 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure local government councillors or executives do not use ratepayer funds or instruments to fund private or personal litigation matters
- [1464](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Police Service (Discipline) Regulations 1990 and the State Buildings Protective Security Regulation 2008
- [1465](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3152-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,093 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend the current legislation to curtail irresponsible breeding of puppies and to enforce mandatory standards

13 September 2019—

- [1466](#) Letter, dated 21 August 2019, from the Chair, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, Ms Linda Lavarch, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the financial report 2018-19
- [1467](#) Screen Queensland Pty Ltd—Financial report 2018-19
- [1468](#) Gold Coast 2018 XXI Commonwealth Games—Final report for Gold Coast 2019 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) for the period 1 July-31 December 2018

16 September 2019—

- [1469](#) Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2018-19
- [1470](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3123-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 352 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to ban the practice of male genital mutilation
- [1471](#) Response from the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3072-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 133 petitioners, requesting the House to have the Valuation Registration Board of Queensland chaired by other than the Valuer-General and independent from the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy
- [1472](#) Response from the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3085-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 314 petitioners, requesting the House to reform the Valuers Registration Board of Queensland

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005:

- [1480](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 184
- [1481](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 184, explanatory notes

Police Service Administration Act 1990:

- [1482](#) Police Service Administration (NDIS Worker Screening) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 185
- [1483](#) Police Service Administration (NDIS Worker Screening) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 185, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPERS


The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

- [1484](#) Biodiscovery Act 2004: Collection Protocol: Collecting spinifex (*Triodia pungens*) under a collection authority (biodiscovery) granted to the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation
- [1485](#) Biodiscovery Act 2004: Collection Protocol: Collecting spinifex (*Triodia pungens*) under a collection authority (biodiscovery) granted to the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Bushfires

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Queenslanders have become unfortunately accustomed to dealing with disasters. In the past two years, we have experienced the almost overwhelming fallout of destructive events, but in the past week a new deep scar has opened across our state's landscape. Queenslanders who call the Southern Downs region,

the Gold Coast hinterland and the Sunshine Coast home have lived through the horrifying experience of witnessing fire rage through their communities and many have watched helplessly as flames engulfed their homes.

The story of the September fires is one of loss and emotional turmoil. This fire emergency has affected 55,000 hectares of land, with more than 600 community warnings issued in the past two weeks, and 17 homes have been lost. I have spent the past several days in those affected communities, and to witness the damage and talk to the people who have lost their homes and the people who came to protect them has been confronting and, at times, highly emotional. To walk along Timbarra Drive in Beechmont where 11 homes were lost is a devastating experience. It was here that I met Liz and Melissa, whose homes were miraculously spared, and Lisa whose house was also saved thanks to the efforts of people like Suzanne from the rural fire brigade. However, their neighbours on the other side of the street were not so lucky. These houses now lay ruined, reduced to twisted piles of metal.

Thanks also to the bravery of people like Jimboomba police officer, Darren Ward, who went door to door to ensure their safety, they have not lost the most precious thing—their lives. They have banded together to help in this time of need. Timbarra Drive residents Lauren and Steve are a young couple starting out in their first home which was damaged by the fire. On Sunday, I visited them and 20 tradies arrived, mostly their friends, tools in hand ready to help.

Five minutes up the road, the historic Binna Burra Lodge now lays in ruins. The sad consequence of the fire is not just that this 86-year-old venue has been left to ruin; it is also that chairman Steve has been left with no option but to lay off his 70 staff members until the lodge is rebuilt. Tomorrow the first meeting of a worker's transition group will look at finding these workers new jobs in the meantime so their skills are not lost to the local area.

At Canungra, people like Penny and Jay from the Kilcoy SES and Mark and Peter from the South Australian Country Fire Service have dropped everything to enter the fire zone. In the Southern Downs townships of Stanthorpe and Applethorpe, locals have experienced a terrifying ordeal. Four homes in these close-knit communities were lost and it was only through the staggering efforts of emergency crews that many more properties were saved. People like Anna and Megan from the rural fire command were part of that effort which saved homes and lives.

It is easy to forget that emergencies like this have consequences for everyday lives. There are consequences for people like Sally, a Stanthorpe local, who because she lost power to her home also lost her refrigerated supply of insulin which is critical to treat her illness. People like Applethorpe orchard owners Silvia and her husband John must now rebuild their livelihood. Silvia showed me the damage to the netting over her orchard as well as the scarred ground from the fire, but she was at pains to point out she remains absolutely resilient.

Queenslanders who call Marcus Beach, Peregian Beach, Peregian Springs and Peregian Breeze Estate on the Sunshine Coast home were faced with their deepest fear as a wall of flames swept through the community. When the fire came to the doorstep of Pam Murphy's home of 40 years, it came with ferocity. Pam's neighbours ensured she was safe, but now at the age of 89 she is faced with the devastating loss of her home and most of her possessions. Pam's neighbours across the street, Jackie and Lester, immediately took her into their home—such a great act of kindness. Pam told me that the neighbours next to her have offered her their home until Christmas, which is also a lovely, kind act of humanity.


The fire emergency has been devastating, but what is incomprehensible to those who have been affected is that many of these bushfires have allegedly been deliberately lit. Queenslanders should be assured that the police are taking the suspicious nature of some of these fires very seriously. I cannot commend highly enough the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly. I pay tribute to the staff of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, who are often the unsung heroes in battling bushfires, and the staff of RoadTek, who are out everywhere.

I want to pay special tribute to the mayors of these regions, especially Greg Christensen from Scenic Rim, Tracy Dobie, the mayor of the Southern Downs region, Tony Wellington from Noosa and Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson. They played a critical role in keeping residents safe. I also thank the mayors right across the state who joined our teleconferences. These efforts saved lives, but many communities have experienced an incredibly traumatic time. I want to assure those people that we are committed to helping them now and into the future. My government has kickstarted the financial contributions to the disaster appeal with \$100,000—\$25,000 each for the Australian Red Cross, Lifeline, the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul. We are providing emergency hardship assistance grants to help cover the costs of essential items.

The bushfire season has hit early and will be with us for several more months. As the Prime Minister said when he visited Queensland last week, this is not a time for politics; it is a time for us to reach out and help communities and people heal. I urge all Queenslanders to remain vigilant in the days and weeks ahead and heed the advice of authorities. At the same time, I urge all Queenslanders to stick together and reach out to one another. They can be assured that my government is with them.


Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I ask you to please keep your conversations to a minimum. There is too much general noise in the chamber.

Byerwen Coalmine

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): I have good news for Queensland. This morning I can announce the expansion of the Byerwen coalmine in the Bowen Basin. This mine is great news because it comes with hundreds of jobs—350 jobs in construction and 500 jobs when it reaches full production. The mine is a partnership between QCoal and JFE Steel, one of Queensland's biggest coal customers, and it is a deal done by my government. Its leases were granted in 2017 following my visit to the company's Fukuyama steelworks in November 2016. It forms part of \$20 billion worth of investment in resources since I became Premier leading to the creation of more than 7,000 jobs. You cannot make steel without good, quality metallurgical coal. The expansion of this mine allows production to rise from three million tonnes per annum to more than 10 million. It is a spectacular vote of confidence in our workers and our economy.

Unfortunately, I could not be at the mine for today's announcement, but I am pleased that our mines minister, Anthony Lynham, is there on my behalf representing our government. The mine is just the first of a number of metallurgical coalmines facilitated under my government, with the Coordinator-General progressing approvals on the \$1 billion Olive Downs coalmine east of Moranbah which will support another 500 jobs in construction and 1,000 operational jobs. There is also the Winchester South coalmine project that will support another billion dollars worth of investment and another 950 jobs. I commend that information to the House.

Olympic Games Bid

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): There are three reasons why we are even considering a Queensland Olympics: livability, prosperity and jobs. If having an Olympic Games delivers more jobs, private investment and the infrastructure needed in our growing state, then I am all for it. If it delivers these things sooner than they would otherwise come, then so much the better. However, let me make this absolutely clear: if the games do not offer real benefits to this state then, of course, we will not pursue them. Since July, my department has been examining the feasibility, and we are developing a value proposition proposal. I expect this to be delivered by the end of the year and considered by cabinet by December.

We clearly have the attention of the International Olympic Committee. The delegation I led to the IOC headquarters last week represented all levels of government and both sides of politics and it was welcomed with open arms.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Chatsworth.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cooper.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It showed that—


Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you are skating on thin ice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It showed what can happen when we work together in true partnership. This is not just about a couple of weeks of competition; it is about accelerating decades worth of jobs investment. It is about getting things off the drawing boards and into our lives. Approximately 85 per cent of the venues we need to host the games are built. The IOC is also determined to commit funds. We ran a successful world-class event in the Commonwealth Games. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a goal that Queensland can achieve. We look forward to the results of the value proposition assessment.

Rheinmetall, Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): In further good news for Queensland, today I am excited to announce that Queensland is one step closer to a multimillion dollar contract which would bring an incredible jobs bonanza for the state. Rheinmetall Defence Australia has been successfully short-listed to one of two companies by the Australian government in its bid for the lucrative \$10 billion to \$15 billion Land 400 phase 3 tender process. This is such important news that the Minister for State Development rang me as soon as he found out last night. Should they be successful, up to 400 Lynx KF 41 infantry fighting vehicles will be manufactured at the company's new Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Ipswich. When complete, it will be the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia. Only last month I inspected the progress—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was only last month that I inspected progress on this incredible \$170 million Milvehcoe site, which is due for completion next year. The Redbank site was buzzing with activity, with the project creating 300 construction jobs, most of them tradies and including 50 apprentices and trainees. My government is backing this bid just like it backed phase 2 because defence contracts like this create long-term, highly skilled jobs with the initial contract directly supporting another 450 ongoing jobs and hundreds more in the supply chain.

Bushfires

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.45 am): I join with the Premier in expressing our deepest gratitude to emergency services personnel, our tireless volunteers, our parks and wildlife rangers, and our resilient communities for their herculean efforts and tireless dedication in what has been an extraordinary start to our fire season. I want to also commend, as the Premier has done, the leadership of mayors right across the state and councillors. In particular I commend the mayors of Noosa, the Gold Coast, Scenic Rim and Southern Downs whose communities have been so severely impacted. For the benefit of the House I also want to call out the actions of the member for Noosa, who was so tireless in her efforts overnight at a number of evacuation centres. She got a standing ovation when she entered the Y. That was because she had spent a tireless night there supporting her local residents.

As QFES Inspector Andrew Sturgess noted, data recorded over 130 years shows that in Queensland a total of 40 homes had been lost in bushfires until only one week ago. In the week that followed, the first week of spring, we lost another 17 homes—almost 50 per cent of what had been lost in 130 years in just one week. Last week I had the opportunity to visit Canungra and the Sunshine Coast and to meet with affected residents and emergency services workers on the front line. In total, Queensland has lost the equivalent of 55,000 football fields of vegetation.

The Insurance Council of Australia has declared a catastrophe for bushfires in South-East Queensland and in northern New South Wales. The declaration gives priority to claims from affected policyholders. Claims will be triaged by insurers to ensure support is directed to property owners impacted by these fires. An insurance disaster hotline has been enacted to assist policyholders if they are uncertain of their insurance details or have general inquiries about the claims process. Insurers are on the ground assisting with the processing of claims.


Although affected households and businesses will be going through the process of lodging claims with their insurers and calculations for the cumulative damages to date are still being done, the communities impacted by these fires need our immediate support, and they are getting it. We have activated joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to provide immediate personal hardship assistance. Beyond this week, Queensland is looking at a long, hot and exceedingly dry summer. We will continue to roll out our additional 100 professional firefighters to help Queenslanders in their time of need. I welcome the Premier's call for an audit of Queensland's access to water-bombing assets as we look to increasingly severe fire seasons in years to come.

While some people still question if climate change is real, Queenslanders who are bearing the brunt of a warmer atmosphere and changing weather patterns have tuned out. They are too busy picking up the pieces after one disaster and then the next.

Queensland is Australia's most disaster impacted state, with more than 80 disaster events in the past decade causing more than \$15 billion in damages to public infrastructure. This is a trend that will only continue. Since the 1950s, the fire season in southern Queensland now starts 28 days earlier and

ends 25 days later. The Palaszczuk government is already looking at ways to adapt to our changing climate because, for us, this is critical to our social, environmental and economic prosperity as a state. It has been a very big few weeks for our hardworking response and recovery agencies and our disaster-weary communities. Sadly it is not over; it is just beginning. Recovering from these devastating bushfires will be a long and difficult journey. I reassure those who have been impacted that the Palaszczuk Labor government is with them for the long haul.

Bushfires

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.50 am): I rise to support the Premier and Deputy Premier's statements to the House and to commend them both on the way they reached out to and worked directly with Queenslanders in this most trying of times. Recently, I joined the Deputy Premier to visit Canungra and saw firsthand not just the devastation but the sheer determination of Queenslanders to stand strong when the worst of Mother Nature hits us. What we have seen since 5 September is a frightening, early start to the 2019 bushfire season—some of the worst bushfires in 130 years following last year's unprecedented events. As Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and on behalf of everyone in this House, I extend a great debt of gratitude to our Queensland fireys, emergency services personnel, police, volunteers and everyday Queenslanders. They all have been working nonstop to keep their communities safe.

I also join the Premier and Deputy Premier in acknowledging our cousins from New South Wales who came to help when our own crews needed time to rest in between battling what were at times some ferocious fire conditions. I acknowledge also the 170 crew from other states and from New Zealand who joined and of course the 120 crew who now are still currently on the fire ground. Having more than 1,400 active bushfires burn across the state in under two weeks is quite simply extraordinary. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' response continues, with 26 appliances currently on scene and three aircraft tasked as of yesterday. There are currently 12 aircraft available for tasking, including bombing and mapping.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt you, Minister. Members, I have already asked members to keep their conversations to a minimum or to take them outside. There is too much general conversation in the chamber. It is time for ministerial statements.

Mr CRAWFORD: More than 25 emergency alert campaigns, including one advice, 10 watch and act and 14 emergency warnings, were issued over the period of this bushfire event. Today and until the end of this week, Queensland is set to experience in some parts of the state severe to high to very high fire conditions. Severe fire danger ratings are forecast to affect the Darling Downs and Granite Belt today and may affect isolated parts of the northern Maranoa and Warrego, southern Central Highlands and coalfields and western south-east coast districts. Current fire bans remain in place for much of the state including the Central Highlands region, the Fraser Coast, Gold Coast, Townsville, Hinchinbrook and Moreton Bay.

We know too well that with extreme weather events in this state it is not a matter of if but when. It is never too late for Queenslanders to prepare their household emergency plan for the unexpected. I strongly urge everyone to remain calm and prepared and to listen to their local radio for updates, monitor their mobile phone for alerts and warnings, and keep their mobile phone charged. Queenslanders are a resilient bunch and we plan for the unexpected, but we should brace ourselves for more to come. This means a change in the way you do business in your community and in your backyard. From food and fresh water to first-aid kits and batteries, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services website is a one-stop shop for information on what you will need to get ready to protect what is important to you.


Our QFES staff and volunteers without a second thought always roll up their sleeves through our state's darkest times. Queenslanders can be assured that, no matter what the weather throws at us, they can always rely on the dedication and professionalism of QFES staff and volunteers when we need it most. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to supporting the work of our emergency services now and into the future. That is why we have put record investment into fire stations, equipment and staff. Since 2015 this government has brought on board more than 330 new firefighters. As the Deputy Premier stated, we have 100 more firefighters being delivered by the end of next year.

We also boosted our fleet with 365 new appliances—222 trucks for the Rural Fire Service and 143 trucks for our fire and rescue service at a cost of nearly \$40 million. The budget this year allocates more than \$50 million for more fleet for fire and rescue and the Rural Fire Service. On top of that, there is \$35 million for capital works. We will always back our QFES men and women.

As always, we learn from every event so we can always be best prepared for the next. That is why, as part of good practice, as I did after last year's fires and floods, I reached out to Inspector-General Emergency Management and asked them to undertake a thorough review of this latest emergency response.

I put on record my thanks to Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing from QFES, who has done an outstanding job, along with the State Disaster Coordinator, Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski—a fantastic pair who have done an exceptional job in leading this state through very trying times in a season which certainly still has another good two to three months yet to run. The Palaszczuk government has supported our wonderful emergency services people since 2015 and will always continue to back our emergency services and volunteers in the future.

Bushfires, Binna Burra Lodge

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to help manage the impacts of the unprecedented bushfires our state has recently faced to ensure Queenslanders recover stronger than ever. While the Scenic Rim's iconic Binna Burra Lodge may have been destroyed by recent bushfires, I am pleased to report to the House that the spirit to rebuild is strong and resolute. Last week I toured the lodge site with Binna Burra chair Steve Noakes and Scenic Rim mayor, Councillor Greg Christensen. The aftermath of the fire was absolutely shocking: the landscape scarred, this beautiful and historic ecoresort burned to the ground. There were, however, surviving symbols of hope for the Binna Burra Lodge team.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. Every time the member for Everton opens his mouth, I am reminded of the quote from Mark Twain: 'Better to keep your mouth closed'—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I ask you to resume your ministerial statement.

Mr DICK:—'and be thought a fool than to open it and demonstrate it to everyone.' Let me say something about the dinner bell at Binna Burra Lodge.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I appreciate that you were taking an interjection. You took the interjection. I ask you to return to your ministerial statement. Members to my left will cease their interjections or members will be warned.

Mr DICK: Let me say something about the dinner bell at Binna Burra Lodge. The dinner bell at Binna Burra Lodge is a sign of hope; it is not a sign of politics. Anyone in this House or in this state who seeks to profit politically because of the tragedy—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have given some guidance. I ask you to return to the ministerial statement. I ask you not to stray from the factual and public information that we are seeking to put forward.

Mr DICK: Anyone who does so ought be condemned. There were symbols of hope for the Binna Burra Lodge including the iconic dinner bell, which we helped recover from the site to present to the staff and the Groom family, who started this iconic resort 86 years ago. I can report to the House how happy and how moved they were to see a sign of hope for the future of Binna Burra.

Mr Mander interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I give members formal notice that I have a short temper today. My back is playing up. You know what that means for the House.

Mr DICK: To support economic recovery efforts, my department will lead a task force to provide Binna Burra Lodge owners and staff with the assistance they need to get back on their feet. The task force met in Beechmont on Friday to discuss the extent of the damage, short-term actions to assist recovery and the long-term vision for Binna Burra. I am pleased to inform the House that a draft action plan has already been developed to propel these actions. This includes restoring road access and

electricity, removing hazardous waste, obtaining water access and permits, fast-tracking planning approvals and repairing walking trails, and I know the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and her department are also working hard to support tourism industry recovery in the region.


The task force's immediate priority though and that of the lodge board is to ensure displaced staff have access to the support and opportunities they need. That is why tomorrow my department will host a workers transition session in Beechmont for Binna Burra staff. A number of important local tourism and hospitality employers on the Gold Coast will be promoting job opportunities, including Accor, the Mantra Group, Peppers, Spicers Retreats, Village Roadshow, Club Training Australia and nearby O'Reilly's resort, which has also been affected by the fires, and I want to thank all of them for contributing to this important work. Employment agencies will attend the session, as will state and federal agencies that can help with hardship payments and community support groups such as Red Cross, Lifeline and UnitingCare. Our cross-government approach to recovery is already making a difference and we will continue working with Binna Burra to help guide its path towards economic recovery and a positive and prosperous future.

Bushfires, Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.01 am): The recent bushfires in South-East Queensland have had a devastating impact on many communities and businesses, including our tourism industry. I am proud to say that our government is working closely with operators to get businesses back up and running. Today, in addition to the comments my colleague the Minister for State Development has made, I can announce that the Palaszczuk government has committed \$300,000 for new tourism marketing campaigns to support communities impacted by these fires. This funding will be divided equally between Southern Queensland Country Tourism, Visit Sunshine Coast and Brisbane Marketing, which is responsible for Binna Burra and the Scenic Rim. These campaigns will be designed to boost visitor numbers in the upcoming school holidays and in the lead-up to Christmas, sharing the message that Queensland is open for business.

The best way we can help these communities recover is to visit them, stay in their hotels, eat at their cafes and restaurants and experience everything they have to offer. There is no doubt these fires are some of the worst we have seen in decades, but one thing is for sure: Queenslanders are resilient and so is our tourism industry. We will continue to work with these businesses to help them recover and to bring more tourists back to these regions in weeks to come.

Bushfires, Agriculture Industry


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.02 am): Once again we have seen the devastating impact that bushfires can have. Communities in southern Queensland have faced some very difficult days over the last couple of weeks and, like many, I stand in awe of the magnificent job our emergency services and volunteer services have done in response. There can be little doubt that their actions have saved lives and I join those who have thanked them for their selfless service and professionalism.

Of course after the fire comes the recovery, and we know that fire events like these can have an immediate and deep impact on primary producers. More than 55,000 hectares of land has been burned, and that includes farming properties in the Scenic Rim and Southern Downs. That is why we have joined the federal government in making category B disaster assistance available to primary producers in those areas. Many of these producers are already impacted by the cruelty of drought in a changing climate, only now to have their farming assets damaged by fire. Like we have with Queensland communities stricken by drought, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with these primary producers to help them get back on their feet.

Under category B assistance arrangements, primary producers directly affected by the fires will be able to access concessional loans of up to \$250,000 while those who have suffered losses of income because of the fires but without suffering direct damage will have access to loans of up to \$100,000. Freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 will also be available to assist primary producers with recovery.


We know that sometimes disasters like this can have seemingly random impacts, with one property devastated while others around it are unaffected. Primary producers who are outside the category B declared areas but who have been impacted by bushfires can apply for an individual disaster stricken property declaration to access the same assistance as long as their circumstances meet the appropriate eligibility criteria. There has never been a more important time to stand beside our farmers, and once again the Palaszczuk government is doing exactly that.

Bushfires, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): We have experienced an unprecedented start to Queensland's bushfire season, with Queensland families, communities and businesses heavily impacted. The hot weather associated with bushfires is becoming more frequent and more intense and it is occurring a lot earlier. I want to commend the incredible efforts of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers. At the peak of the bushfires, there were more than 200 QPWS rangers deployed to the front line across the state alongside other emergency services personnel protecting property and our state's unique environmental and cultural areas. Some of them continued to respond to fire threats in protected areas even while their own homes were at risk. These men and women work year-round to prepare for bushfire season and then put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe.

Since January this year, the Department of Environment and Science has conducted 281 planned burns on protected area across Queensland covering almost 1.2 million hectares. This is a further increase on last year and the most hectares treated by planned burns in six years. Currently there are still a number of parks that are fully or partially closed and I urge anyone planning to visit a protected area to check park alerts on the department's website for the latest information before leaving home. The changing climate means that the important work of QPWS rangers will be even more critical as we head into this fire season, so I thank them for their bravery and commend their work to the House.

Formica, Mr M; ieMR


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.06 am): Our paramedics have been an important part of the bushfire effort. Our health and ambulance staff do not stop saving lives when they are out of uniform, and I want to share one particular story with the House.

Just after 5 pm on 10 September, a house in Harristown was engulfed by flames, trapping a mother, her eight-year-old daughter and two family pets inside. Off-duty paramedic Michael Formica, who is the officer in charge at Murgon, was visiting family when he noticed the smoke. He raced to the burning house. When he entered the backyard he heard screams coming from inside. Michael entered the burning house and rescued the mother, but her eight-year-old daughter was still inside. He smashed a window and kept searching. He found a dog inside the cupboard and a puppy in the bedroom and got them out. He finally found the young girl in the garage, her face covered in soot. He examined both mum and daughter, assessed them for injuries and contacted QAS for backup. I am pleased to inform the House that the family's precious dogs were also unharmed. It was not until mother and daughter were handed over to hospital staff that Michael got treatment himself for smoke inhalation and a burn to his left hand. When Michael was asked how he felt about rescuing the family, his response was humble. He said he was just glad he could do something—a true hero in my books.

Last Tuesday intermittent logging difficulties were experienced by hospital staff using the integrated electronic Medical Record. I am advised that at all times clinicians retained electronic access to patient records for the prior seven days and a summary of their critical care needs. Queensland Health has advised me the issues arose because of an update to the system delivered by the vendor. It was resolved at 5.48 pm on Tuesday. Standard hybrid medical record contingency plans were enacted and I am assured there was no impact on patient safety during this time. A full review of this incident is underway.

The ieMR is improving patient outcomes. In 2019, going backwards to a paper based system is not an option. As I announced at estimates though, we have suspended the rollout schedule to allow time for existing ieMR sites to fully realise these benefits. Earlier this month Mr Damian Green was named as the new CEO at eHealth Queensland. Mr Green has been tasked with optimising the digital hospital system, including implementing any recommendations of the review of the incident last week before any further ieMR rollouts proceed.

Youth Justice

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): When it comes to youth crime, the community expects young people to be held to account, and so do we. But the community also does not want to see those young people reoffending and we know that locking them up and throwing away the key almost guarantees that they will. We cannot keep doing the same thing that we have been doing decade after decade in youth justice and expect the results to be any different, which is why the

Palaszczuk government has committed over half a billion dollars since February 2018 to taking youth justice out of the too-hard basket and addressing the issue once and for all. That figure includes the almost \$200 million for a suite of non-infrastructure initiatives, which I announced earlier this year, to address the causes of youth crime. Many of these are backed by strong evidence. Several, such as our Transition 2 Success and restorative justice conferencing initiatives, are already showing outstanding results, with 67 per cent and 77 per cent reductions respectively in reoffending.


But no one thing will solve youth crime. We are committed to using every lever available to us to address this issue. Many of the young people committing offences do not have a home, or a safe home, to go to. If a court or police determine that a young person should be granted bail, we are working to ensure that that young person is safely supervised and is supported to pursue better options in life so we do not see him or her back in the system again. Initiatives like our new bail support program, our community youth response and our police-led supervised bail checks are all aimed at achieving this.

Our supervised community accommodation facilities are another part of that response, with four of these currently in operation. Since then, 119 young people have been provided with beds and support services in these facilities. More than 70 per cent did not reoffend while they were in the SCAs. One young person just left an SCA last week to commence a pre-apprenticeship course and is on the way to success. Another is working in the construction industry and another is studying horticulture.

Some of the costs reported publicly on our SCAs do not include any assessment of avoided costs and that is why Ernst and Young and Griffith University are working with Youth Justice to ensure that we get the best outcomes in terms of safety and value. Other jurisdictions have trialled initiatives with similar success. In New York, the program took two years to mature, with a number of changes made over the period to get the model right. I can say that, by reducing offending and reoffending, costs avoided include the cost of court for each offence, over \$400 for each lower court matter and over \$6,000 for each higher court matters; and the cost of the offence itself, the average costs for robbery being \$5,100 and vehicle theft \$6,400.

The cost of reoffending to the community is also very high—many victims of crime would say too high—but, if we can reduce reoffending by offering appropriately supervised alternatives, we can reduce the cost to the community and we can reduce the number of people who become victims of crime. We will continue to monitor SCAs and improve and refine the SCA model.

Legal Services Commissioner

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.11 am): I rise to provide an update for the House on the recruitment of Queensland's next Legal Services Commissioner and to address the allegations that appear in the media today. This is a vitally important role to the delivery of justice throughout this state, ensuring that our legal practitioners act with honesty and integrity and that Queenslanders can have confidence in them. It is a role where you need to go to every length to ensure that you get the best possible person for the job.


The House will be pleased to know that that is exactly what has happened and will continue to happen as the selection panel works towards the appointment of the next Legal Services Commissioner. Every step of the way I have done everything in my power to protect the integrity of the process. The same cannot be said for the disgruntled former applicant for the position, who has tried to unduly influence the selection process. I would not usually comment on private discussions, but I feel I have no choice after Mr Brittan's comments brought into question the judgement and independence of senior members of the Bar Association of Queensland and the Law Society, so I need to put some facts on the record.

In the lead-up to the original interviews for this position, Mr Brittan, a candidate at the time and Acting Legal Services Commissioner, tried to manipulate who was on the panel. Mr Brittan criticised every person on the original panel—not only the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society but also senior officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. In fact, he said he would withdraw his application if the original panel remained. What candidate for a job gets to choose the selection panel for such a senior position? It was this attempt at influence that forced the original process to be abandoned. That is why I have done everything in my power since then to ensure that the current process is robust and rigorous.

In addition, Mr Brittan has recently requested that the director-general of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General appoint him to the position of deputy without going through a merit based process, relying on a process undertaken by the former Legal Services Commission in early 2015 that did not seek the Legal Services Commissioner to formally make that appointment.


On 19 June this year, I met with the Integrity Commissioner to seek advice about the suitability of the panel that would be used for the recruitment process. The panel included the director-general of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General as chair and also the President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Rebecca Treston QC; the President of the Law Society, Bill Potts; and the President of the Queensland Parole Board, Michael Byrne QC. Eight days later the Integrity Commissioner wrote to me advising that the panel was appropriate. The commissioner could not see any inherent issues with the recruitment and appointment process proceeding on the basis of the panel put to her and she had no ethical or probity concerns with the panel. On that advice, I am 100 per cent confident about the suitability of the panel, the appropriateness of the process continuing, and the best candidate being selected for the position.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy will be absent from the House today. The Premier and Minister for Trade will take questions for the minister during question time.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report


 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.15 am): I table the following Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner report: *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, July 2019 [[1486](#)].

The committee is required to table the report within 14 sitting days of receipt. The committee received the report on 30 July 2019. If anyone has any issues, I draw their attention to paragraph 38 of that report.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instruments

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—


That—

the Fisheries (Commercial Fisheries) Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 178 of 2019, tabled in the House on 3 September 2019;

the Fisheries (General) (Vessel Tracking) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 180 of 2019, tabled in the House on 3 September 2019; and

the Fisheries Amendment Declaration 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 181 of 2019, tabled in the House on 3 September 2019, be disallowed.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge in the gallery the presence of a parliamentary delegation from Japan. The delegation has been organised by the Australian Political Exchange Council, founded to facilitate exchange visits of young political leaders between Australia and other countries. In the gallery today we have three members of the Japanese National Diet, Mr Sugi, Mr Seki and Ms Ikeda.


The relationship between Queensland and Japan is a warm and enduring one. On behalf of the Queensland parliament, I wish to offer a warm welcome to the Japanese delegates here in the gallery today.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Crime and Corruption Commission, Declaration of Interest Recommendations

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. Does the Premier accept the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations that ministers who fail to properly declare their interests, like Deputy Premier Trad did, should face criminal charges?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The way the question has been framed, the questioner is requesting an opinion from the Premier. I ask that it be ruled out.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take some advice. My initial reaction is that the question used the term 'does the Premier accept', which I do not believe is seeking an opinion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As we know, the CCC made its determination, which came down and made a number of recommendations. It made five recommendations. I can confirm that the government will accept those recommendations and we will implement those recommendations as outlined by the CCC.

In relation to recommendation 1, it has already been implemented. I have asked the Attorney-General to look at recommendations 3 and 4. I have asked my director-general to look at recommendation 5. Recommendation 2 is an onus on ministers to prepare a management plan for any conflict of interest before being involved in cabinet or other related decisions.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Declaration of Interest Recommendations

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Can the Premier tell the House what is the penalty for a minister who fails to properly declare their interests to this House and to cabinet from now until the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommended laws are enacted?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, those recommendations are going to be implemented. I made it very clear. The Attorney-General is looking at the provisions in relation to legislation. It says very clearly, as I just read out to the House—perhaps the Leader of the Opposition was not listening—in relation to recommendation 2, during the current term of parliament, the government ensure a cabinet process to provide guidance to ministers to prepare a management plan for any conflict of interest before being involved in cabinet or other related decisions. That is very clear. In relation to the matters around the Deputy Premier, I made it very clear, when that recommendation came down, that the transfer of Cross River Rail will be to Minister Jones.

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Bushfires, Recovery Assistance

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier detail what help is being provided to people affected by the bushfires?

Ms PALASZCZUK: There have been a lot of applications that have been made for financial assistance and I would like to provide some details to update the House. First, 1,256 applications for financial assistance have been received and 1,129 applications for emergency hardship. The amount of \$351,000 has been paid out to people. I really want to thank the Department of Communities, as well as our community recovery people on the ground. I visited and spoke to them. They are drawn from all different government departments across our different agencies. I really want to thank the ministers. They get training, of course, and they are provided release from their normal day-to-day jobs. They want to help people in need. I pay tribute to them.

We have had 513 calls to the community recovery hotline. I am very concerned about the emotional impact on people. It is great to see the Australian Red Cross and Lifeline present at these community recovery hubs. As I mentioned to the member for Keppel, after Tropical Cyclone Marcia we had people who went into Byfield and areas where people congregate to provide emotional counselling. Already there have been over 1,000 people who have been talking to some of our partner agencies about further assistance that can be provided, including Queensland Health, the Salvation Army, UnitingCare, Lifeline and Red Cross. We have 65 community recovery workers on the ground today in affected areas across the state.

Whilst I am on my feet I want to comment on the interjection from the member for Everton to the Minister for State Development. I spoke personally with the mayor, Greg Christensen. I also spoke with Steve from Binna Burra. That bell that was recovered from that lodge means so much to the workers and the community on the ground and to have the member for Everton come in here and make a joke out of it is disgraceful. It is absolutely disgraceful and shameful.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Condamine, member for Maryborough, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that the mayor has asked or is asking the member for Everton to apologise for those comments. People woke up and they had lost their jobs. We will do everything we can to help them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

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

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the Crime and Corruption Commission's statement and time line and ask: is the Deputy Premier so out of touch with the struggles of working Queenslanders that she would have everyone believe that her husband bought a \$700,000 house on 27 March but did not tell her until days later by text message on 29 March?

Mr SPEAKER: There is, I believe, an inference in that question to suggest that the Deputy Premier has been untruthful. Questions cannot contain an inference of that type. I ask that you rephrase your question or we will move on to the next questioner.

Mr MANDER: I will do that. Does the Deputy Premier stand by her statement to the Crime and Corruption Commission that the first time her husband informed her that she was buying another investment property in Woollongabba was by a text message two days after he had signed the contract of sale?

Ms TRAD: I refer the member to the 10-page statement released by the CCC earlier this month—I am not sure of the date—where it actually says that there was no evidence of dishonesty or corruption. The CCC did an exhaustive assessment of all of the matters related to this issue. Over seven weeks they assessed this matter and copious amounts of material, including information provided by the Integrity Commissioner, and they found that there was—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. Cease your interjections.

Ms TRAD: They found that there was no evidence of dishonesty or corruption. If the member for Everton has a problem with the CCC's assessment process and the information then that is something that he needs to take issue with, but what we do know he takes issue with is women having careers.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance, 118. The question was about the evidence the Deputy Premier gave to the CCC about the corruption assessment of the Deputy Premier, nothing in relation to the attack the member is making now.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I ask that you come back to the question as asked.

Ms TRAD: It comes back to the issue about whether I stand by my comments. In busy families where two people have a career—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maroochydore withdrew from the chamber at 10.27 am.

Ms TRAD: As I was saying, the member for Everton has a problem with women who have careers. He has a problem with too many women on the Parole Board.

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that comment and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, will you withdraw?

Ms TRAD: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. We know that the member for Everton—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Relevant to my first point of order on relevance, the Deputy Premier just repeated exactly the same commentary. You had asked her to go back to the actual question and she has just repeated it again.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Commenting on that point of order, the Deputy Premier had not even moved on to any further comment in relation to answering the question other than to withdraw. For the member to jump to his feet and take a point of order is just being deliberately disruptive.

Mr SPEAKER: My ruling to all these points of order is that I have given some clear direction and guidance to the Deputy Premier to come back to the question as asked otherwise I will sit her down.

Ms TRAD: I made my remarks truthfully and honestly. I stand by them. I stand by them because, as many women in this House would know, having a career and raising a family makes for a very busy life. We know that the member for Everton takes umbrage at that. He does not want women to control their own bodies. We know what is happening in New South Wales—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, I have given you guidance twice about the question asked. You will resume your seat.

Drought

Mr MADDEN: As members of this House would be aware, some parts of Queensland are suffering the worst drought in history. My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier advise what is being done by the government to help Queensland communities suffering the effects of the prolonged drought?

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering, Premier, members to my left there was general conversation while the question was being asked. I have asked for silence. That will be my last warning to you today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for that question. We know that large parts of Queensland are going through a prolonged drought at the moment and communities are really feeling it. Currently some two-thirds of Queensland is drought declared. Some areas are into their seventh year of drought. We had a drought summit in Canberra and we know that the federal government has a multibillion dollar fund that I believe they should bring forward to help communities in need. I know New South Wales is also going through a period of drought and in Queensland we have been going through drought for a very long time. We need support and help now.

Since 2013, the Queensland government has contributed some \$690 million to help drought affected communities and this year's budget contains an additional \$74.6 million. As we know from the briefing that the Bureau of Meteorology gave to cabinet yesterday, there is not much rain on the horizon and the next few months will be tough for many communities. At the moment, we have a watching brief on 14 communities across Queensland in relation to water, which of course is essential for our families.

A month ago I was very pleased to travel to Stanthorpe with the minister for agriculture. We met with the mayor and the community to talk about their water needs.

Mr Lister: Thanks for letting me know you were coming!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Southern Downs should be jumping for joy at the announcement that my government has made. My government listens. I immediately went back and spoke to the Minister for Natural Resources and asked him and his department to work very quickly with the council to come up with a plan in relation to water security. On Friday I was very pleased to go to Stanthorpe and announce the following: my government will provide an extra \$2.4 million in infrastructure and we will also provide up to \$800,000 per month to cart 1.6 million litres of water each day to the Stanthorpe community. We are listening and delivering. On Friday I conveyed that news to Mayor Tracy Dobie and the council was extremely grateful. After what they have been through with the bushfires, they do not have to worry about long-term water security. We will look after the Stanthorpe community.

(Time expired)

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

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Is the Premier's leadership so weak that the only action she will take to discipline the Deputy Premier is the removal of Cross River Rail, something that the Deputy Premier already did voluntarily while under assessment by the Crime and Corruption Commission, leaving the Deputy Premier on the same pay for less work?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe there was an imputation in that question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! When I am taking advice from the table, you will remain quiet. Member for Kawana, I believe the first part of the question may have contained an imputation. I ask that you rephrase your question. Members to my left and all members in this House, this will be the last opportunity for members to get a second go at a question today. There is too much creeping in.

Mr BLEIJIE: Is the Premier's only action to discipline the Deputy Premier removing Cross River Rail from the portfolio responsibilities of the Deputy Premier, which is something that the Deputy Premier had already done voluntarily while under assessment by the Crime and Corruption Commission, leaving the Deputy Premier on the same pay for less work?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question, because when the member for Kawana was the worst attorney-general in this state the premier of the day did absolutely nothing to him.

Mr Dick: Put him in a locked box for six months.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They put him in witness protection and for six months he was not allowed to front the cameras. I will say very clearly that the issues around the Deputy Premier and Cross River Rail were canvassed by the CCC. I will repeat that for the House, although I know that the opposition does not like this outcome. We know that they do not like the CCC, but on this side of the House we respect the CCC and we listen to what they have to say. The CCC said that they will not commence a corruption investigation. That is point No. 1.

Mr Hunt interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Point No. 2 is that the CCC said that no evidence of corruption or dishonesty was found. I will say that again: no evidence of corruption or dishonesty was found. As I said very clearly to this House earlier, Cross River Rail has now been transferred to Minister Jones.

Bushfires, Technology

Mr POWER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in resources and technology for fighting the growing threat of bushfires and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative strategies?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Logan for the question. I know that there is quite a bit of peri-urban environment within his electorate and that people are very concerned and are preparing for the ongoing and harsh bushfire season that we are currently in the midst of. I am very pleased to report to the House further details of what the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has reported, as did I, in ministerial statements. In particular, I want to acknowledge the predictive analysis software that has been brought on board in Queensland since the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria. The Premier and I first saw the technology being used when we had to evacuate Gracemere. Only last week, the technology was again used to evacuate both Peregrine Beach and Sarabah. The predictive analysis software is an incredible tool that has literally saved lives.

Ms Palaszczuk: World's best practice.

Ms TRAD: I take the interjection from the Premier; it is world's best practice. While unfortunately it did result from horrific disasters in Victoria, I am so pleased that we have this tool in Queensland. In Queensland we have not only this tool but also some of the best brains, feeding in important information and data, and talking through the issues that are necessary in order to make sure that the tool is used effectively. I pay tribute to Inspector Sturgess for his work in leading this team. He is incredible.

This technology proves that science saves lives. Whether it is in medicine or through tools such as the predictive analysis software, science saves lives. Unfortunately, the federal natural disaster minister has questioned science. He has questioned the science on climate change, around which there absolutely is far more consensus than anything we see in terms of the effects of tobacco on smokers. We have seen more consensus on climate change than on the effects of tobacco, yet the Commonwealth natural disaster minister says that he does not know that human impact is the driving force of climate change.

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: It is embarrassing. I will take that interjection. It is Queenslanders who are picking up the pieces disaster after disaster and who have tuned out to the flat-earthers like David Littleproud—flat-earthers who refuse to believe that our climate is changing and that we need to take action in order to mitigate emissions. The question is: what do those opposite believe?

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I want to acknowledge the former member for Noosa, Mr Glen Elmes, in the gallery today.

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

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Treasurer now provide the House with details of the 'bit of a void' to do with her Woolloongabba investment property that she said would be clarified after the CCC reported on her case?

Ms TRAD: I refer the honourable member to the significant statements that I made on 6 September when the CCC brought down its assessment report—some 10 pages—which went to that issue.

Land 400 Phase 3

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's campaign to secure the Land 400 phase 3 contract for Queensland? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Jordan for her question. I am pleased to report to the House, as honourable members might know, that on Monday, 25 March the Premier and I announced the launch of a campaign with one clear objective: to make sure that Queensland and Rheinmetall made the short list for the Land 400 phase 3 tender, worth up to \$15 billion to Queensland. Last night we were delighted to hear that that campaign had paid off.

The defence department has put Queensland on the short list with just one other tenderer. It just goes to show, that when our Premier sets a target she delivers for Queensland. We are absolutely in the box seat, in the prime position to succeed in achieving and obtaining the single biggest contract in the history of the Australian Army for Queensland. We welcome the decision made by the federal government. We welcome the fact that the federal government announced it at the start of our sitting week. We are really delighted by that. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition is too.

Remember, the only reason this announcement is happening for Queensland is that the Palaszczuk government got Rheinmetall to come to Queensland. We did this by building, in the words of the global CEO of Rheinmetall, Armin Papperger, 'one of the best defence manufacturing facilities in the world right here in Queensland'. That had nothing to do with Scott Morrison.

Speaking of people who have done nothing. What about the Leader of the Opposition? Before the Leader of the Opposition gets too carried away about Rheinmetall she should check in with Siri and Google Maps. Who could forget when the Leader of the Opposition was supposed to be spruiking Rheinmetall jobs in Redbank and she ended up in Wacol? Only this Leader of the Opposition could get the City of Ipswich and the City of Brisbane confused. It is simple, four words: 'Hey Siri, where's Redbank?' The members for Jordan, Ipswich, Ipswich West and Bundamba know where Redbank is.

How typical of the Leader of the Opposition—inserting herself into a story where she did nothing, helped no-one, got the basic details wrong, but then tried to claim credit. She is like the uninvited guest who turns up at the party, does not bring a present and then wants to take over the speeches. It is no wonder, in the words of former LNP MPs Scott Emerson and Sam Cox, this is a leader and an opposition that have no hope of cutting through. They are not our words; they are the words of your former MPs.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, address your comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: It says everything about the Leader of the Opposition—no substance on manufacturing except cuts, nothing about defence, nothing about the future of Queensland and no vision for our state except a \$7 billion cash giveaway that she cannot fund except without cutting, sacking and selling.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DICK: It is about time the Leader of the Opposition came forward with her genius shadow Treasurer and told us where the money is coming from.

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

Crime and Corruption Commission, Declaration of Interest Recommendations

Mr MINNIKIN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier accept the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendation that the failure of the Deputy Premier to declare the investment property should be a criminal offence?

Ms TRAD: I note that it is halfway through question time and there has not been one single question about the bushfires, not one single question about jobs, not one single question about homelessness, not one single question about climate change. Here we are halfway through question time and the No. 1 issue that we are confronting as a state is battling less than 50 bushfires and those opposite have asked not one question—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I called the House to order. Members will be warned without notice if interjections continue. Deputy Premier, I ask that you answer the question asked by the member for Chatsworth.

Ms TRAD: I refer the honourable member to the statement that was released by the CCC. The way he has put together the question is taking liberties with the CCC's assessment report.

Ms Enoch: They have form.

Ms TRAD: They have form on that. I will take the interjection from the honourable Minister for Environment and Science. Those opposite have read the report given by the CCC. In their exhaustive seven-week assessment of all the matters the CCC has found no evidence of dishonesty or corruption. If those opposite think that the CCC made that statement in their report and then did not find or should have found that I should have been charged, do you not think they would have? Those opposite do not understand logic, they do not care about science and they certainly do not believe that the earth is round.

The CCC did their assessment in seven weeks. They provided a 10-page report for those opposite. Those opposite have spent a third week of question times asking these questions. Meanwhile, Queenslanders are wondering where future jobs are coming from. They are wondering about the future of their children and what sort of economy they are going to inherit. They are worried about what sort of environment their children are going to inherit. Meanwhile, those opposite continue—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I would ask that you direct the Deputy Premier to again respond to the question that was asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, do have anything further to add to the question asked?

Ms TRAD: No.

Regional Queensland, Tourism

Mrs LAUGA: 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 government's strategy to create jobs by investing in tourism in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As we just heard from the Deputy Premier, our job is getting on with the job of creating jobs for Queenslanders. We are doing that right up and down Queensland's coastline. I am so pleased to be reporting today on a very successful campaign that the state government has run in collaboration, for the very first time, with all seven regional tourism organisations along Queensland's coastline that benefit directly from the tourism industry and the Great Barrier Reef. That is why on this side of the House we will always fight to protect the Great Barrier Reef. We know that it is critical to the \$25 billion tourism industry that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across our state.

I am very pleased to report that we have had a winning campaign. I acknowledge the regional tourism organisations that have worked together for the first time in a collaborative fashion to attract new travellers from Europe, particularly Germany, to Queensland. We worked with 600 travel agents to upskill them on the experiences people can have when they come to Queensland to see the Great Barrier Reef. As a consequence, we have seen more than double the number of travellers coming to Queensland to see the Great Barrier Reef than we anticipated with this campaign.

This is a great win. I can see the nods from all of the local members—the member for Keppel, the member for Rockhampton and the member for Townsville. We know that these communities rely increasingly on tourism. This is an example of a winning campaign. You only have to look at Scott Emerson's comments to see an example of a losing campaign. In actual fact, his critique of the Leader of the Opposition is pretty awful. 'Of concern to hardheads in the LNP was their enduringly low primary vote' and the fact that their leader just could not cut through.

We know what campaign will be getting worked on right now. The member for Broadwater has had to put it on ice for 18 months longer than he expected, but we know the rumblings are starting to happen, just like we are seeing with the blokes in New South Wales trying to knock off the popularly elected Premier of New South Wales. The blokes behind closed doors are trying to knock off the popularly elected leader. We are seeing it here in Queensland. We know that the blokes—and it says 'blokes' because they are blokes—behind the scenes are doing the numbers on the Leader of the Opposition. We know that the member for Broadwater is waiting in the wings.

While they fight amongst themselves, while they try to work out whether they are going to knock her off in November or in December, we will get on with the job of creating jobs. This campaign is a great example of the government working hand in glove with the business community to deliver jobs. This is the first time that we have seen all of these regional tourism organisations working together. We understand how important the Great Barrier Reef is to the future of Queensland—its environmental value and its economic value. We will stand up for the Great Barrier Reef.

(Time expired)

Legal Services Commissioner

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to reports today that the government ignored the initial Integrity Commissioner's advice about the process for appointing the new Legal Services Commissioner—something the acting commissioner described as 'unethical conduct'. Why did the Palaszczuk government ignore the initial Integrity Commissioner's advice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. For everyone who was in parliament for ministerial statements, the Attorney-General gave a very detailed explanation. In fact, the Attorney-General has her own detailed integrity advice addressing this issue. I have every confidence and every faith in the process that the Attorney-General has followed as the first law officer of this state.

Caboolture Hospital, Redevelopment

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, you will cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders. I ask for silence during questions. Please state your question again, member for Bancroft.

Mr WHITING: My question is to Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Caboolture Hospital's redevelopment?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question. I know how passionate he is about health services in the Moreton Bay region. Caboolture Hospital has been delivering fantastic health services to residents in the Moreton Bay region for 25 years now. I was pleased to be there with the member for Bancroft, Minister Ryan and the member for Kurwongbah just last week to inspect stage 1 of the interim expanded emergency department. It is just fantastic. When you step from the old emergency department into the new emergency department, it is like stepping into a whole new hospital—a whole new world. I look forward to being back there with those members to open stage 2 in just a couple of months time.

This \$20 million interim expansion of the emergency department has provided many new treatment spaces including a number of procedure rooms. While we were there, more importantly, we met with the staff of the emergency department—the doctors and nurses and health professionals and their support staff who actually deliver the services to residents in our region. We are backing them with our \$353 million investment in their workplace—in their hospital.

Hospital redevelopments are not just about jobs for nurses and doctors and midwives and other health staff. They are also about the 1,165 jobs that will be created during the construction of the new hospital. I am really pleased to announce today that, in addition to the already announced initiatives, we are also building a new emergency department mental health short stay unit at the hospital that will

be ready in the middle of 2020. This \$5.4 million investment will allow the emergency department to fast-track the roughly 2,000 mental health patients who present to the hospital's emergency department every year, allowing them to see specially trained staff quicker than ever before.

We are investing in hospitals right across this state because it allows us to create not just more jobs in health care but also more jobs in construction. None of these projects would be happening if those opposite had been elected in 2017. In fact, they did not plan for this expansion in 2012. They did not plan for it in 2015. They did not plan for it in 2017. It is still not part of their plans now. The only side of the House with a plan to redevelop and expand our hospitals is this side.

(Time expired)

Resources Industry, Royalties

Mr COSTIGAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. With the new coalmine Byerwen officially opened today, will the Treasurer consider a new approach to royalties from the resources sector in which at least 50 per cent of royalties from new mining projects in the Bowen Basin, the North West Minerals Province and the Galilee Basin would go back into communities in Central and North Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question—the honourable member who has a great voting track record in this place of 57 times out of 58 times voting with the LNP. He says that he wants to start a new party of his own. I think he just wants to start a sub-branch of the LNP. That is the fact of the matter.

As it is, all of the wealth created in our state gets shared by everyone in our state. Whether people are paying elevated levels of payroll tax in South-East Queensland, it gets distributed to our regions. That is why more than 60 per cent of our capital expenditure budget is being spent outside the South-East Queensland corner.

As Queenslanders—and I will refer to comments that are consistently made by the Premier—we are stronger when we are together. At no time is that more obvious than when we face natural disasters. The appeal, which the Premier has kicked in \$100,000 to, will see donations from right across our state. It does not matter what communities have been affected in Queensland. I know that Queenslanders right across our state will help out fellow Queenslanders.

That is what we do when it comes to sharing the wealth of our state. Whether it is in mining, whether it is in stamp duty, whether it is in payroll tax, whether it is in making sure that regional communities get a helping hand by differential payroll tax, we are there to help everyone. Whether it is in their time of need or whether it is in achieving their aspirations, all Queenslanders deserve the support of this government and any government. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing.

Rockhampton, QBuild

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's plans to reinstate QBuild in Rockhampton and how QBuild workers support Queenslanders in disasters?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right are reminded about questions being heard in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. As those on this side of the House know, investment plus skills equals jobs. In Central Queensland, Labor is proud to be investing \$1.1 billion to build schools, health infrastructure and roads. I know the Attorney-General will be pleased to hear that in just a few weeks the \$12 million courthouse redevelopment, which supported 39 jobs, will be finished and ready for operation. It is why Minister Fentiman delivered free TAFE for Queenslanders. It is why Labor is investing \$23.3 million in Skilling Queenslanders for Work and \$21.5 million in Back to Work programs to support people into employment in Central Queensland.

Investment plus skills equals jobs. That is why the Palaszczuk government is bringing back QBuild to Rockhampton. Labor's investment in QBuild tradies and apprentices equals more jobs for Rockhampton. Through QBuild we will deliver jobs. Through QBuild we will deliver skills. We will be on the front line to rebuild communities after natural disaster strikes. We will rebuild our schools, public housing and public assets after natural disasters.

If you go to North Street in Rockhampton today—I was there on Sunday with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel—you will see the QBuild depot that was mothballed. Those opposite shut the doors. They shut the gates. The good news for the people of Rockhampton is that

the Palaszczuk government is re-opening those gates. When the LNP shut that down in 2014 there were 80 Rockhampton based tradespeople who called that place their workplace. They were sacked by those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition said she was proud of the decisions she made. I urge the Leader of the Opposition to go to Rockhampton and tell those workers that she was proud to take their jobs.

I will tell you what else honourable members will see if they go to the North Street depot. You will see the disaster recovery container, which is a mobile toolbox with chainsaws, ladders, tarps, fuel, shovels, ropes, saws and tools. That depot is an incredibly valued public asset and it was wasted by the LNP. The LNP did more than just put 1,627 QBuild workers—including 80 in Rockhampton—on the scrap heap. They did more than just end the apprenticeship program. The LNP left Queenslanders and Queensland families vulnerable when natural disaster strikes. They left them without support to get their lives back. It was reckless and it was heartless. If you ever want to see a political party or the leader of a political party so out of touch, you only need to look at the LNP in Queensland and this opposition leader.

Premier and Minister for Trade

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. While the Premier stayed in five-star accommodation in Switzerland and sipped champagne in the Chairman's Lounge—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Members to my right, the question will be heard in silence. The Premier will have three minutes to respond to the question. You will cease your interjections. Please start your question again, member.

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. While the Premier stayed in five-star accommodation in Switzerland and sipped champagne in the Chairman's Lounge, some Queenslanders took refuge in emergency shelters after fleeing their homes in unprecedented fire conditions. Why did the Premier abandon Queenslanders while our communities were burning?

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

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have given some guidance this morning about questions that impugn members, and twice I have asked members to rephrase those questions. I have given a clear direction that I will not allow that again. I rule the question out of order.

Agriculture Industry, Science

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister outline how important science is to agriculture, and are there any views that are outside mainstream thought?

Mr FURNER: I thank the honourable member for Mansfield for the question. Last week I was in the electorate of Callide visiting Gayndah and Mundubbera, and I want to place on record my appreciation of Mayor Rachel Chambers, the mayor of the North Burnett Regional Council, for being in regular contact with me leading up to my drought declaration for that region. The mayor was the only person on the phone ensuring that we were aware of the situation in that electorate.

With 66.1 per cent of Queensland now in drought, we on this side of the House are really concerned for our primary producers doing it tough. We are also concerned about the long-term profitability and productivity of the agriculture sector, and this means taking climate science seriously. Some of those opposite are Neanderthals when it comes to science.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, that language is unparliamentary and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr FURNER: I withdraw. Some of those opposite are climate change deniers. You can see them walk out of their caves in the morning, dragging their knuckles on the ground, rubbing their eyes and trying to focus on the sundial. Those opposite are climate deniers; nevertheless, we on this side take science seriously. We respect our local constituents, and those opposite who doubt climate change should really respect their constituents.

In this chamber I have previously raised the member for Callide's tirade about the coming of the ice age. This local member does not do the region and Queenslanders in general any favours by advertising fringe ideas that go against the majority of scientific consensus and reports issued by the

federal Liberal National coalition government. While the LNP allows pseudo and fringe theories peddled by representatives like the member for Callide, they can have no credibility when it comes to facts, science and reality. An article published in the *Guardian* on 23 August states—

The Callide MP, Colin Boyce, whose Facebook page includes hundreds of posts doubting climate change, posted that he was joined by several LNP colleagues at one of Ridd's lectures last week.

'THE GBR IS NOT DEAD,' Boyce said on Facebook. 'The science being spread by the FAKE GREENS is flawed and is manipulated by the lefts political ideology.'

Typical of those opposite. The article continued—

97% of the reef is unaffected by sediment from the river systems.

The Peter Ridd roadshow should not be taken seriously by those members opposite—

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, you are warned under the standing orders. I called the House to order.

New Acland Coalmine, Approvals

Mr WEIR: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier advise what assistance packages her government will provide to New Acland mine employees who will be out of a job because the Palaszczuk government has delayed the necessary approvals?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As this House is aware, the Court of Appeal handed down their decision just recently. It has been referred back to the Land Court. In the interests of those workers I hope that we can get a decision by the end of the year.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I believe that those workers do need certainty. There has been legal process after legal process. It went to the Court of Appeal. It has been referred back to the Land Court. I hope the Land Court makes a determination as quickly as possible.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Science

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Can the minister please update the House on how the Queensland government is supporting Queensland science, and is the minister aware of any alternative positions?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question and his ongoing support for science in this state and the way that he, along with all of those on this side of the House, champions science and the integrity of science in this great state of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government has always supported science across this state. We have seen various programs that are supported by this government, including the Engaging Science Grants Program, and I launched the most recent round of grants for that program only last week. We have seen Citizen Science Grants and the World Science Festival. That festival was an incredible success for this state, with more than 200,000 people being engaged in science right across Queensland in places like Gladstone, Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Ipswich and Townsville.

We have seen other work happening across the state. Last month I joined the member for Maryborough for a National Science Week activity, where we saw more than 200 people turn up on a Tuesday night to engage in some conversations about science and the importance of science, not just to jobs but to our environment going forward. Just this week, we have seen SparkLab at Queensland Museum celebrate its one-year anniversary. Some 150,000 people have come through the doors there to be engaged in SparkLab activities. That is more than 400 people a day on average.

These activities indicate that Queenslanders understand the importance of science. They get the importance of science. What is disturbing, however, is that those opposite continue to undermine science in this state. It is extremely concerning that there are reports—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: There are currently reports that there are Queensland based federal members of parliament, including the leader of the Katter's Australian Party and members of the Liberal National Party, who have been in Canberra lobbying the federal Minister for the Environment calling science into question. I have written to the federal minister myself to ensure that the Commonwealth will continue to use the best available science that both our governments have accepted in protecting the Great Barrier Reef among other things: that is, science that is peer reviewed and published—not scientific opinion, but science that is peer reviewed and published. We will continue to ensure that we are using the best available science in everything we do because we accept science on this side of the House. We do not undermine it. We do not rubbish scientists in this state. We protect and we champion science in this state, and we will continue to do that because we accept science.

(Time expired)

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

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier explain why it does not appear that her Woolloongabba investment property is listed on the open market for sale as promised?

Ms TRAD: I made a commitment that the property would be sold and it will be sold.

Schoolteachers

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise what the Palaszczuk government is doing to attract the teachers needed to meet future demands and if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Nudgee for the question because she knows how important it is that we have the very best teachers in our schools. Teaching is a rewarding career, particularly when you are in front of a class and teaching our young people in regional and rural Queensland. I note the *Courier-Mail* articles about the teacher-to-student ratios and how well resourced our schools are in regional and remote Queensland. They have some of the lowest ratios, although it is a very raw measure. In fact they have better ratios than what is on the ACARA website when you take into account teacher aides and other kinds of teachers. That is because this government has made a commitment to ensure that we have the very best teachers in front of our students no matter where they are in the state.

We want to attract even more teachers, and that is why the Palaszczuk government is investing \$136 million over five years in the Teaching Queensland's Future program. The Premier and I were so impressed in Townsville when we went to the Townsville State High School and we had a breakfast there. At that breakfast was young Bonnie. She was a disengaged student, but she got up and spoke about how she engaged with education, how her teachers inspired her to go from Ds to Bs once she engaged, and how she is now part of our program that we have developed and is benefiting from it.

In this program, year 11 and 12 students get a career in teaching through their local universities. They attend the university course and get credits towards their degree, and the department pays for their tuition at the university during years 11 and 12. Bonnie was so happy with what she was doing. She is on the path to a rewarding career in teaching in this state because of the program we have put in place. Bonnie was from Thuringowa State High School and she spoke passionately about this program.

We have committed to bringing in extra teachers in this state, unlike those opposite and their actions in 2013 when we had the highest enrolment of students. I saw the member for Surfers Paradise go over to the member for Scenic Rim and slap him on the back about his question that was ruled out of order. When he was the education minister, we had the highest number of students and 519 teachers were required, but how many did they put on? Zero. Not one. They cut 519 teachers. Then we saw the member for Kawana go up and hold the hand of the member for Scenic Rim because of the question that got ruled out of order. When he was the IR minister, he was the worst employer in this state. He went over there and slapped him on the back.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast, Casino Proposal

Mr MOLHOEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. The KPMG report into a second Gold Coast casino and the 11 secret sites was to have been completed in the past few weeks. Will the Premier release the full detailed report and provide the community with the list of the secret sites?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have two minutes to answer the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised by the minister that John Witheriff is undertaking a report and will be providing that to government.

Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the government's investment in major transport to support the Gold Coast?

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

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Macalister for her question, because we know that the only party that invests in Gold Coast infrastructure is Labor—whether it is the M1 upgrades or the road upgrades before the games—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Listen to them. If they were only so loud when they were in power and they had the capacity to do something for the Gold Coast, other than to ignore it, other than to sack people and other than to cut programs. We have got \$351 million on the table to get stage 3 of light rail done—after we built light rail stage 2 in record time in time for the games. With the federal Treasurer on the Gold Coast soon, I look forward to the federal government coming to the party to get the third stage because the first two stages occurred because of Labor governments. We want the third stage to go all the way to Burleigh. Our money is on the table. We had the lowest ever offer from the federal government. We need them to come to the party.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Medicines and Poisons Bill and the Therapeutic Goods Bill (cognate debate), a maximum of one hour to complete all stages,
 - (b) the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of seven hours and 30 minutes to complete all stages, and
 - (c) the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill, a maximum of two hours and 30 minutes to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in paragraph 1 apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (ii) for the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (d) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 19 September 2019, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I am glad that I get the opportunity to stand up to speak to this motion because I am certainly never going to get any questions from those on the other side during question time. They claim that there are major integrity issues going on, yet they will not ask me a question about them. That is how seriously they take these issues. They do not want the truth. They do not want all the facts. They are happy to go out and slander people but they will not ask any questions in this place.


I take this opportunity to welcome all members and staff back to Brisbane and thank everybody, particularly the Parliamentary Service, for their tremendous effort in ensuring the Townsville regional parliament ran smoothly. We thank them all. I thank the members of the Business Committee for their constructive contribution to the discussions last night. I certainly will not verbal the member for Kawana. He adequately continues to represent the opposition in his opposition to the business motions. Of course, I welcome any contribution by the opposition in relation to talking to bills and the length of time they would like to see allocated to these bills.

As members would know, the cognate debate on the Medicines and Poisons Bill and the Therapeutic Goods Bill commenced in Townsville and I have been advised that approximately 1½ hours of debate has already occurred with 11 members having already spoken. That is why these collective bills have been allocated less time than others this week. I have also been advised that the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill is technical in nature and aligns Queensland to national standards, similar to previous heavy vehicle bills and, as such, debate on this bill will not be extensive. However, it is important that we pass this bill this week.

The government has listened to the feedback from the crossbench representative the member for Noosa and, indeed, the opposition via the Manager of Opposition Business and has allocated the bulk of the time this week to debate on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am sure the additional time that has been requested will be put toward constructive and thought-provoking ideas and debate and not just to speeches in which members stand up and read from generic, filibusterous notes. Only time will tell.

To accommodate the additional time allocated for the Great Barrier Reef bill I can advise that there is an agreement between the Manager of Opposition Business and me as Leader of the House to defer the debate on committee reports for this week's sitting. I look forward to the support of the opposition when I move a motion later this sitting to allow this to occur. With those few words, I ask for the support of the members of the House to ensure that we get the business of the parliament done to fulfil our obligations as members of parliament, to debate and to consider these bills and to see these laws come into force in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Kawana, I give members a reminder that the following members have already been issued with warnings under the standing orders. They are the members for Everton, Glass House, Maryborough, Condamine, Kawana, Southern Downs, Nicklin, Nanango, Redcliffe, Scenic Rim and Southport.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): It will come as no surprise to honourable members that we are going to oppose this motion moved by the Leader of the House. We are opposing the motion for a number of reasons, some of which I will detail, that I have not spoken about before in these debates.

The reality is that there is not enough time to debate these three bills this week. I attended the meeting yesterday. Interestingly, I would have thought the reef bill would have been debated in Townsville. It has a huge impact for North and Far North Queensland. I would have thought the reef bill would have been debated then. We had an active audience in the gallery, albeit small but there was an audience. I thought when we were in North Queensland and Far North Queensland that would have been the appropriate time to debate the reef bill. We attempted to bring on the debate of the reef bill, but something tells me the government did not want to debate the reef bill. That is because they are not comfortable talking about the issue in regional Queensland; they have to do it in South-East Queensland, where the ministers are more comfortable in their little bubbles. That is why we will debate them here.

I attended this meeting yesterday and I acknowledge the member for Noosa. Again, I am not going to verbal the member for Noosa but she did express concern about the reef bill; she said that members should be afforded the opportunity to speak to the reef bill. That is what I say every week about every bill. While the reef bill might be important to the crossbench, so are other bills important to the opposition. That is why I always say that if a member wants the opportunity to speak they should have it.

In response to that, the health minister, who sits on this committee, made the flippant remark that if we want more time, then the opposition can easily forgo things during the week such as the disallowance motion that we were talking about. Such an arrogant, self-righteous, irritable, smug individual you are, just dismisses—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Through the chair, please, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The vice-regal premiership is now rubbing off on the government ministers so he says, 'Take stuff away. Let them eat cake.' Let me repeat: the smug, arrogant, irritable, self-righteous minister yesterday said, 'Just get rid of stuff. Just don't do stuff.' Do we just not turn up to work? Is that the health minister's answer to all this? For the government to get its agenda through, the opposition just does not debate disallowance motions? We want to debate the disallowance motion because it is about the hike in registration costs and the cost-of-living pressures felt by Queenslanders because of the government.

The minister yesterday said, 'Just don't do the disallowance motion. That way you will free up an hour. Don't do the committee reports.' I looked into the committee reports. I will accept that we will not debate the committee reports and then we will get another hour of debate on the bill. However, this egotistical maniac of a Minister for Health, who sat in this meeting yesterday thinking that he controls the shots and that this parliament is just a plaything for him, is wrong. That is the arrogance that this government now has because of its majority. This parliament is its political plaything. Parliament is never a political plaything; it ought not to be. That is why we will oppose the motion; that is why we will oppose the timing for the debate of this motion: we always believe that members should be afforded the opportunity to speak.

The Leader of the House got up and talked about 'the opposition members with their speaking notes'. If she listened to her own members and she can tell me that those members opposite are not using speaking notes, then I will get up and take it, but I think not. I am looking at the member for Stretton and his in-depth analysis in his speech. I see it there; he is ready to go.


The reality is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is treating parliament like a political plaything, displayed yesterday by the health minister, who was so dismissive of disallowance motions that members should be afforded the opportunity to debate. We look forward to the disallowance motion debate when we can talk about the cost-of-living pressures caused by the Labor government under the weakest Premier in Queensland's history.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.26 am): Of course, I rise to again speak in support of the business program motion moved by the Leader of the House. If ever there were anyone in this place to describe someone else as smug, arrogant and self-righteous, it is the member for Kawana. In fact, from him I almost take it as a compliment.

The Business Committee met yesterday afternoon and we heard from the crossbench and the LNP members that they thought the most important matter of government business to be discussed this week was the Great Barrier Reef protection measures. We took that feedback on board. I have to say that I agree with them. As someone who first ran for office in 2015 motivated by the need to protect the Great Barrier Reef, I believe that that bill is the most important one to be discussed this week. That is why with the feedback we received from those opposite and the crossbench we shortened other government business: we shortened debate on my bill, we shortened debate on the national heavy vehicle bill and we agreed to defer committee reports to another sitting so that we can allow 7½ hours to debate the very important measures to protect our Great Barrier Reef.

I have a message for the Leader of the Opposition—actually, it is not my message; it is Scott Emerson's message—and that is she is never going to cut through if she hates the Great Barrier Reef. LNP members are never going to cut through when they want to spend 7½ hours, eight hours, nine hours or 12 hours arguing against measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef. They will never cut through while they are the opponents of protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Queenslanders love their Great Barrier Reef. They love its diverse ecosystem. They love the fact that we are the custodians of the only living thing visible from space. They, of course, appreciate the jobs and the investment supported by the Great Barrier Reef.

People all over Queensland support protecting our Great Barrier Reef. People all over Queensland care about this bill to provide better protections to the Great Barrier Reef. People all over Queensland will be watching those opposite use their 7½ hours to oppose protecting the Great Barrier Reef, no matter how much time they have. They will never convince Queenslanders that the reef should not be protected. I commend the business program motion to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.29 am): I rise to speak in support of my colleague the Manager of Opposition Business in speaking against this motion. Once again, we see in another sitting how the Labor government treats parliament with contempt—the implications or repercussions of not just limited debating time but also the truncated hours of this parliament, the so-called family-friendly hours. Not only does it limit debate on the issues that we would like to debate—and I will come to those in a moment—it also does not allow us to speak on other issues very relevant to Queenslanders and very topical since the last sitting of parliament. One of the big issues of the last fortnight is the Deputy Premier's plea to be able to fill the void, to give her side of the story.

We are a very tough but very fair opposition. We are an accommodating opposition. We think it only fair that we allow the Deputy Premier to take as much time as she would want to give her side of the story. In fact, at the conclusion of the debate of this motion we will seek leave to move a motion for the House to allow the Deputy Premier, as she so desperately wants, to fill that void. We cannot do that if we have truncated hours and truncated debating times.

Mr Minnikin: It is not fair to the Deputy Premier!

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is not fair to the member for South Brisbane not to be able to give a full and detailed account of the purchase of the property at Woolloongabba—to fill the void. We want to do what the Deputy Premier has requested and allow time for that to happen.

In the last fortnight the Premier also went overseas for the Olympics bid. For many Queenslanders, it would seem that she abandoned the state in its hour of need. It is important that we get time, again, to talk about the bipartisan attitude that we took with regard to the Olympics bid and about the absolute hypocrisy of this government in praising the federal government for its bipartisan support but not allowing the shadow minister for the Olympics to go on this trip to try to get the Olympics for Queensland. Would it not be important for the Olympics movement to know that a new future government of Queensland supports the Olympics bid?

Another issue we would love to speak about this week, if we had the time, is whether Ron Harding will be the lord mayoral candidate in Brisbane. It was so interesting that before the federal election minister after minister supported then opposition leader Bill Shorten. I want to see minister after minister get up and give their support to Rod Harding. He is friendless. He will not be the Labor mayoral candidate.

Of course, we also want to talk about the great discovery of the dinner bell by the member for Woodridge, the Minister for State Development. The remaining time does not allow me to give that issue the attention it deserves. Members should stay tuned later this afternoon when we talk about that issue in more detail. Once again, we come here today to fight this government's quest to stop us debating the bill. Seven and a half hours of debate for the reef bill is not enough. It is time for only 40 speeches, and that barely gets the opposition in let alone the whole parliament. The government continues to treat this parliament with contempt.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 46:

ALP, 46—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, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

NOES, 43:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.


PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the debate of committee reports be postponed for this week's sitting.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.40 am): As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition just indicated, 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, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Costigan.


NOES, 46:

ALP, 46—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, 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.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.46 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I draw your attention to a serious matter where I believe the rights and immunities of a member of this House have been impacted negatively. The opposition has sought leave to move a motion to allow the Deputy Premier to fill the void and explain the purchase—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: You had better be going somewhere with this, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe that the Deputy Premier has not been afforded the opportunity by the parliament to explain—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will resume your seat. I will take some time to decide whether this is a frivolous matter being raised, given the House has just voted on whether leave be granted.

MEDICINES AND POISONS BILL

THERAPEUTIC GOODS BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 4 September (see p. 2692), on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019 and the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019. I would like to begin by first addressing the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019. At the outset I note that, while the Liberal National Party will not oppose the bill, a number of concerns raised by stakeholders warrant the further attention of the House. There is no question that the bill before the Queensland parliament represents a significant legislative overhaul of the way medicines and poisons are regulated here in Queensland. Indeed, the bill's explanatory notes state—

A new regulatory framework is needed to modernise and streamline the regulation of medicines and poisons, ensuring requirements are easier for industry and the community to understand and apply in practice.

To achieve such an outcome, this legislation will repeal and replace a number of existing pieces of legislation and regulation and introduce a new regulatory framework that consists of the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019, the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019, a draft medicines and poisons regulation, a draft Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management, Poisons and Other Regulated Substances) Regulation and a draft therapeutic goods regulation.

Whilst the parliamentary committee charged with examining this bill—the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee—recommended that the bill be passed, it is important to note that there were an additional nine recommendations made to either the Minister for Health or Queensland Health. Such recommendations underscore many of the significant concerns that have been raised by stakeholders and Liberal National Party opposition members throughout the consultation on and consideration of this bill. Crucially, and as articulated through the Liberal National Party opposition members' statement of reservation, there are a number of concerns regarding elements that seem to be incomplete, with references to subordinate legislation and standards requiring more detail.

In turning to the specific measures contained within this bill, I would particularly like to address the introduction of real-time prescription monitoring and add my support for this initiative. There can be no doubt that in Australia we are seeing a significant increase in the number of deaths as a result of prescription drugs, in particular prescription opioid analgesics. Just recently, with the release of Australia's 2019 annual overdose report, it was revealed that prescription opioid medications continue to be the cause of the majority of overdose deaths, accounting for some 53 per cent of all accidental drug induced deaths in 2017. It was also shown that accidental deaths involving other prescription medications, including anticonvulsant medications and antipsychotics, have also had a significant increase in recent years.

The parliamentary committee's report paints a similar picture of the overdose crisis seen here in Queensland and Australia, with Dr Jeannette Young, Queensland Health's Chief Health Officer and deputy director-general of Queensland Health's prevention division, stating in evidence before the committee—

In Queensland we are seeing an increase in cases of prescription opioid related overdoses and deaths, an increase in people on treatment programs, increased referrals to alcohol and drug treatment services, and more evidence of these drugs entering into illicit markets.

I also want to echo the evidence provided by Dr Richard Kidd, Chair of the Australian Medical Association Queensland's Council of General Practice, who informed the committee that—

... every day four Australians die from overdose and the majority of those are from prescription medicines, particularly opioids and benzodiazepines.

That is why implementing real-time monitoring of prescription medications is crucially important—to provide real, lifesaving benefits to patients and to also assist doctors when prescribing dependence-forming medications, minimise overprescribing and reduce doctor shopping. That being said, whilst the benefits of real-time monitoring can literally save lives, the implementation of such a system must be appropriate with proper consultation whilst also recognising that supply reduction strategies are not the only single solution. As a specialist physician registered with AHPRA in addiction medicine, I can attest to the fact that it is only an investment in a balanced approach of supply reduction, demand reduction and harm minimisation that reduces the prevalence and harms of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. I table a number of articles for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media articles relating to addiction [[1492](#)].


I note recommendation 8 of the parliamentary committee—that is, the establishment of a real-time prescription monitoring system across all of Queensland's hospitals should be a matter of priority and that the Queensland Minister for Health address this in his second reading speech—as well as recommendation 9, which again calls on the health minister in his second reading speech to provide to the House an update on cross-jurisdictional data sharing arrangements in relation to a national

real-time monitoring prescription database. It is vitally important that there is a further investment in alcohol, tobacco and other drug services across Queensland to deal with a range of substance dependency disorders. Whilst supply reduction and identification of at-risk patients via a real-time monitoring system is important, access and availability of treatment services is also just as vitally important. Limited access to treatment in many communities across Queensland means that there are many Queenslanders who are not getting access to evidence based care and treatment for substance dependency disorders.

There are also many aspects of the bureaucracy of Queensland Health's opioid substitution therapy program administered by the Monitored Medicines Unit, formerly the medicines safety and quality unit or drugs of dependence unit, that need modernising. With the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme's listing of newer modalities of treatment including injectable forms of buprenorphine, the urgency of such reforms is becoming more critical. In Queensland we have ongoing issues in relation to heroin and amphetamine type stimulants including crystalline methamphetamine, known as ice, as well as speed and other forms of amphetamine. Oxycodone is diverted into the illicit market. The 40 milligram tablets can retail anywhere from \$50 to \$100 per tablet and certainly that is of significant concern. We need a greater investment in education around therapeutic guidelines for our health professionals and analgesic stewardship programs and increased availability of chronic pain programs as well as workforce plans that look at both medical nursing and allied health practitioners getting to rural and regional Queensland as well as within our ATOD services and our pain services.

Before turning to the Therapeutic Goods Bill, I finally want to add my support to two other measures within this bill—that being the introduction of a new requirement for certain substance authority holders to develop a substance management plan, the development of which is intended to assist substance authority holders to consider and manage known and foreseeable risks specific to regulated activities with regulated substances, and the streamlining of the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland by enabling non-specialist medical practitioners to prescribe medicinal cannabis without the need for approval from Queensland Health. I want to thank all who made submissions to the consideration of this bill, including the 109 submissions received during the consultation in 2014-15 along with the other 25 submissions received by the committee this year. I also want to acknowledge my LNP colleagues in the member for Condamine, the member for Bundaberg and the member for Buderim for their work in examining the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019.

In my remaining time I want to address the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019. The Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019 will give effect to the recommendation of a national review of medicines and poisons regulation commissioned by the Council of Australian Governments and the *National competition review of drugs, poisons and controlled substances legislation*. This review recommended all states and territories adopt the Commonwealth's Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 and the bill before the House today proposes to adopt this act as Queensland law. I note that this bill proposes and implements a number of reforms and complements the changes that are proposed by the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019. Crucially, these reforms will go towards reducing the duplication between state and Commonwealth regulatory frameworks whilst, importantly, maintaining appropriate safeguards. In concluding, I thank all those who contributed to the committee's consideration of these bills, and in particular this final bill, with particular reference to the work done by my LNP colleagues. These are important reforms in Queensland and I commend both of these bills to the House.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.55 am): Today I rise to speak in support of the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019 and the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019 in this cognate debate. The Medicines and Poisons Bill establishes a new regulatory framework to modernise and streamline the regulation of medicines and poisons in Queensland. A new regulatory framework is needed to modernise and streamline the regulation of medicines and poisons. The bill aims to ensure medicines and poisons are made, sold, used and disposed of in an appropriate, effective and safe way; to ensure health risks arising from the use of the substances are appropriately managed; and to ensure persons who are authorised to carry out activities using the substances have the necessary competencies to do so safely.

I am particularly supportive of the provisions of this bill relating to real-time prescription monitoring. The Medicines and Poisons Bill provides a head of power for the establishment of a real-time prescription monitoring scheme to essentially align with other jurisdictions and to meet Queensland's obligations under the national agreement to manage the use of dependence forming medicines. The scheme will include all schedule 8 medicines and some high-risk schedule 4 medicines such as Valium, codeine and Stilnox.

I was speaking to two pharmacists at the chemist recently and they told me that they are very pleased with the proposed changes to implement real-time prescription monitoring for schedule 8 medicines and also the higher risk schedule 4 medicines. Pharmacist Cindy told me that she regularly sees people with multiple prescriptions for schedules 4 and 8 drugs who have doctor-shopped to get the prescription and she agrees that these new measures will put a stop to not only the abuse of these medications but also the use of these medications in the cooking of illicit drugs.

If we are going to have a full and frank discussion about addressing drug addiction in Queensland though, we must address the prescription medication addiction epidemic. Drugs of dependence are prescription medications that have a recognised therapeutic need but which have a higher potential for misuse, abuse and dependence. Drugs of dependence like morphine, hydromorphone, pethidine, methadone, codeine phosphate, benzodiazepine and oxycodone are all drugs of dependence.

The 2019 Australian wastewater drug monitoring report found that consumption of prescription medication like oxycodone in regional Australia was much higher than in capital cities. In fact, the average oxycodone consumption increased in both capital and regional cities across the country. Oxycodone and fentanyl are two legally prescribed pharmaceuticals in Australia, but they have potential for absolute abuse. The abuse of and addiction to prescription medication in Australia is a real problem. We are experiencing what I would suggest is an overdose crisis, and many of these overdoses are accidental as a result of misuse of legal prescription medication.

The 2019 Australian overdose report has revealed a spike in the number of overdose deaths. We know that opioids cause the majority of overdose deaths in Australia, accounting for 53 per cent of all accidental drug related deaths in 2017. Coronial statistics indicate an annual death toll from prescription opioids approaching 1,500 people each year and increasing.

In fact, in the last 12 years the number of drug induced deaths involving opioids has nearly tripled—increasing from 338 in 2006 to 904 in 2017. The majority of opioid induced deaths continue to involve pharmaceutical opioids only. Further, from 2008 to 2017, accidental deaths involving benzodiazepines have more than doubled.

Although drug abuse is typically associated with younger people, the report found that it is middle-aged Australians aged between 30 and 59 years who have the highest incidence of accidental drug induced mortality. It also showed that rates of accidental overdose remained higher for men and Aboriginal Australians and that this gap is widening.

Even though pharmaceutical drugs of dependence may be prescribed by a doctor—and it is legal—that does not mean that there are no consequences and that addiction will not occur. Someone is addicted to prescription medication when they lose the ability to control their prescription usage. They feel an uncontrollable urge to use and they have incredible difficulties stopping themselves from using the prescription medication. They will also be likely to be using much more than the prescribed dose, as their body builds up a tolerance to the drug. Over time, as their body's tolerance increases, they must increase their dosage to feel the same effects.

Expanding access to drug treatment services and increasing drug education in the community is key to addressing the rising rates of overdose. I am incredibly proud of the Palaszczuk government's \$14.3 million commitment for a 42-bed ice, alcohol and other drugs residential detox and rehabilitation centre for Rockhampton. It is even better that this new facility will provide treatment for people who are not only addicted to ice, alcohol and other illicit drugs but also will provide detox and rehabilitation treatment for people in my community who are addicted to prescription medication.

It is great news that, this week, the non-government organisations are being invited to submit offers to the new alcohol and other drug treatment service in Rockhampton. The successful service provider will be responsible for the delivery of residential rehabilitation and withdrawal management services at a suitable Rockhampton site, the location of which is yet to be confirmed, and a day program. This is another big step in extending these vital services in Rockhampton and Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to tackling drugs and the devastating effects they have on individuals, families, communities and our economy. It is important for us to find an experienced NGO service provider to deliver these much needed treatment services in my community.

In addition to the residential service, a non-residential day program will be established in Rockhampton by mid-2020. The day program will be targeted at young people to help them get the right treatment and support within their community at a central location that is easy to access. The NGO chosen will also deliver rehabilitation and withdrawal management services at the new \$14.3 million residential facility once it is open. By selecting the NGO now, the organisation can be involved in the

planning of services at both locations and can contribute to future community consultation. I have been fighting hard to get this facility built in Rockhampton for years and this funding is a great next step closer to it becoming a reality.


This facility will be the first of its kind in Queensland, so finding the best possible alcohol and other drug provider to run it is really important. We want this facility to be one that other regions, states and countries look to as best practice. With the right NGO, we can make this happen. Additionally, early engagement will enable specialist advice to be considered as part of the design and fitout of buildings and assist in the early coordination of service delivery with other local service providers. We know that providing care closer to home, in communities and for communities improves lives. This process is getting us closer to being able to do that for the people of Rockhampton and the wider Central Queensland community. Currently, Queensland Health is continuing discussions with the Rockhampton Regional Council and undertaking several preliminary land use planning investigations to determine the feasibility of the proposed Music Bowl site, including traffic, bushfire and flood investigations.

I was quite shocked when the member for Mudgeeraba came into this place when parliament was sitting in regional Queensland—in Townsville—and outlined the LNP's ice plan. She made it very clear that the LNP has no centre promised for Central Queensland whatsoever. The LNP and the member for Mudgeeraba came into this place and refused to commit to the detox and rehabilitation centre for Rockhampton. They have made a commitment for four detox and rehabilitation centres across Queensland, but have completely overlooked the desperate need of my Central Queensland community.

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. That is not true. We have committed to the detox facility—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member, there is no point of order. If you believe that the member is misleading the House, there is a process to follow in relation to that. I urge you to follow it.

Mrs LAUGA: Only Labor is delivering on a new detox and rehabilitation centre in Rockhampton. Only Labor went to the 2017 state election with a plan to build this centre. The member for Mudgeeraba and those other members opposite did not make a commitment for a detox and rehabilitation centre in Rockhampton at the last state election. Only Labor did. No other party had the vision to commit to building this centre to provide the treatment to people in Central Queensland that they need to get well. I look forward to the successful tenderer being announced to run the detox and rehabilitation centre in Rockhampton. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.04 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this cognate debate on the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2017 and the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019. The Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019 introduces an act to regulate activities in relation to particular substances, to repeal the Health Act 1937 and the Pest Management Act 2001, and to amend this act, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, and the acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes.

I acknowledge the policy objectives of this Labor government when introducing this bill. They include providing greater assurance to the community that the medicines, poisons and therapeutic goods that they use are regulated by a modern, outcomes focused framework that enhances public safety and ensuring that Queensland Health is better able to monitor and respond to health risks associated with inappropriate access to and use of medicines and poisons. Another policy objective of the bill is to simplify licensing requirements—for example, manufacturers with licences for multiple sites. The bill tidies up the legislation so that they can have one licence for multiple sites, making it easier for access to different facilities owned and run by the same company.

The policy objective of this bill that really catches my eye helps out some of our vulnerable people in the community who are looking to manage their pain and other ailments by streamlining the requirements for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland by enabling non-specialist medical practitioners to prescribe it without the need for approval from Queensland Health. That will eliminate the crossover of Commonwealth legislation.

The Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019 introduces an act to apply the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 and related Commonwealth laws in Queensland. The policy objectives of the bill include the adoption of the requirements of the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act to ensure nationwide regulatory controls, thereby applying consistency to Queensland based manufacturers of therapeutic goods. That will ensure that Queenslanders feel safe in using therapeutic goods, giving them the opportunity to have confidence that what they are purchasing has been approved and that the manufacturers have gone through stringent frameworks to ensure that the products that they are selling are doing what they are meant to be doing.


I refer to that part of the bill that relates to medicinal cannabis. It frees up the way GPs and doctors can prescribe that medication to members of the community. Medicinal cannabis is helping people with everything from pain relief through to dealing with seizures. We have read multiple stories in the media and social media and have spoken to people in the community about the relief that these cannabinoid products are giving people compared to what has been available in the past. As legislators, we are going to make it easier for people to access that medication. I think that is a step forward for Queensland.

The benefits of medicinal cannabis also extend to people who are undergoing cancer treatment. Medicinal cannabis can help people who are undergoing chemotherapy by helping them get back their appetite, which is suppressed by chemotherapy and a lot of other drugs that people take to help save their lives when they are having that hard battle with cancer. After speaking with members of the community, I would also like to see legislation relating to medicinal cannabis freed up so that more cannabinoids can be used for pain relief instead of opiates.

The KAP supports and will continue to support the growing of medicinal cannabis in Queensland. We should be doing all that we can to make sure that this emerging industry gives opportunities to existing farmers. We should be making it easier for regional and rural Queenslanders to access the right permits required to grow medicinal cannabis in Queensland instead of looking outside for foreign investment.

Real-time monitoring of scripts within Queensland is close to my heart. Many members in this House would know a friend, a family member or someone close to them who has been affected by misuse of prescription medication or someone who has fallen to the wayside due to overdose of what they thought, because it was prescribed by a doctor, was a safe drug. Unfortunately, many people become addicted to opioids and similar medications because they feel safe using a prescribed medication and, once they are hooked, go doctor shopping. I have been in a doctor's surgery where they have asked if I would like my script renewed. I told them I had not used that medication for eight months—since my operation. It pained me to hear the doctor say that he has people coming in 12 months after an operation asking for opioids. I am not going to put any pressure on the doctors, but I can imagine it being quite difficult to have that conversation and to say no when it is easier to write the script and let them move on. Real-time monitoring will be a handy tool for GPs when trying to deny scripts to people who are doctor shopping.

In relation to the public register for poisons, when we were in Townsville other members in this House raised this issue. It has also been brought up in conversations with farmers in my community. We use poisons to manage feral pest problems on our farms and rural areas, poisons such as strychnine and 1080. These poisons would also have to be put on to the public register. The fear from the community and the agriculture sector is that this public register may be used by animal activists or people wanting to access these poisons for uses that are detrimental to the community. Even though our farmers and people housing these poisons will be doing the right thing in their best efforts to keep them locked up and looked after in the best possible way, if these poisons were to fall into the wrong hands they would be quite detrimental to the community, whether they were intentionally used or disposed of incorrectly. While I have concerns about that, the KAP will be supporting this bill as it goes through the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.13 pm): I rise in this cognate debate to speak in support of the two bills before us, the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019 and the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019. May I begin by acknowledging the great work of all of the members of the committee; not like the member for Moggill who plays political games by only acknowledging the LNP members because apparently the other members did not contribute anything: they did not give up their time to attend those meetings, they did not go away travelling; it was only the LNP that contributed! I acknowledge all members of the committee because I know, and every other committee member here knows, that each and every one of them works hard on committees and we should all be acknowledged, not just certain members, although I believe some members do more—and they are probably on this side of the House.

A new regulatory framework is needed to modernise and streamline the regulation of medicines and poisons, ensuring the requirements are easier for industry and the community to understand and apply in practice. Additionally, a new regulatory framework should be outcomes focused and enhance public safety. Medicines and poisons in Queensland are currently regulated by the Health Act 1937, Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 and the Health Regulation 1996.

The Health Act is one of the oldest acts on the statute book and the current framework is almost entirely contained in subordinate legislation or regulations. The Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 regulates the possession, supply, administration and other activities related to the medicines and

poisons in the Commonwealth Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons, the Poisons Standard. The Health Regulation 1996 provides controls for manufacturing, advertising and labelling substances and also sets out requirements for dispensing substances at a pharmacy. In addition, the Pest Management Act 2001 and the Pest Management Regulation 2003 regulates access to and the use of poisons and provides for licensing and competency requirements for people who undertake pest management activities.

The Medicines and Poisons Bill will repeal and replace the current legislation with a new regulatory framework, which consists of the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019, the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019, Draft Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation, Draft Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management, Poisons and Other Regulated Substances) Regulation and Draft Therapeutic Goods Regulation. The primary objective of this bill is to ensure that any activity performed with a substance must be performed in an authorised manner. The purpose of the new framework is to ensure that medicines and poisons are made, sold, used and disposed of in an appropriate, effective and safe way to ensure the health risks arising from the use of the substances are appropriately managed and further to ensure persons who are authorised to carry out activities using the substance have the necessary competencies to do so safely.


The bill regulates all substances listed as medicines and poisons in the Commonwealth Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons and this standard classifies substances into schedules from schedule 2 to schedule 10 based on risk and the level of regulatory control required. This adopts the classification into schedules which is in accordance with the Commonwealth Poisons Standard therefore promoting national consistency for stakeholders and industry.

The bill also regulates pesticides and fumigants registered or permitted for use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Under the framework established by the bill, an individual may undertake a regulatory activity with a regulated substance if they hold an authority under the bill, such as a manufacturing licence, wholesale licence, retail licence, pest management licence, prescribing approval or a general approval. The bill will authorise a regulation to prescribe classes of general approval.

The main purpose of the bill will be achieved by identifying practical activities and substances to be controlled; authorising classes of persons to use these substances in controlled ways for particular purposes; providing a scheme to authorise additional activities with a substance under approval or licences and requiring persons authorised to use the substances to have the necessary competencies and be accountable for their safe and effective use; requiring that particular things be done to ensure that the safety, quality and appropriate use and disposal of the substances at all stages from manufacture to supply to the consumer and final disposal as waste; and further providing for compliance with this legislation to be monitored and enforced.

Therapeutic goods comprise a diverse range of products, including those that treat serious conditions such as prescription medicines, surgical implants, to everyday products such as vitamins, tablets and sunscreens. Interestingly, in Queensland, responsibility for the regulation of therapeutic goods is shared between state and Commonwealth governments. Currently, all corporations and entities in Queensland that trade therapeutic goods interstate or overseas are regulated by the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. However, due to constitutional limitations, the act does not apply to manufacturers that trade only in Queensland and this includes non-corporate entities such as partnerships, trusts or sole traders. As a result, the quality, safety, efficacy and timely availability of these therapeutic goods is not regulated. The purpose of the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019 is to adopt the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 as Queensland law and this will enhance national consistency in the regulation of therapeutic goods, reduce regulatory burden and ensure that appropriate safeguards are implemented to protect the health and safety of the community.

These bills are part of a package of legislative proposals that seek to reform and modernise the regulation of medicines and poisons in Queensland. These bills support the medicines and poisons framework by improving the regulation of medicine safety and quality assurance, and enhancing national uniformity in the regulation of therapeutic goods. Again I acknowledge the great work of the entire committee and the committee secretariat. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.19 pm): In recent memory, few things have caused as much devastation to Queenslanders and their communities as the scourge of illicit drugs. Right across Queensland, few communities have been spared the horrors of drugs such as ice and heroin, and regional communities, such as those I represent, are often hardest hit. Those drugs do not discriminate. People from all walks of life can fall victim to them. They destroy people's lives, they destroy the lives of their families and they destroy the lives of many of their friends.

Like me, I am sure each member of this House will have their own tale to tell from their home towns regarding a life or lives lost to drugs. Fighting to bring an end to Queensland's illicit drug epidemic should be a key priority for all. The only question is what changes can we make to bring our state onto the right path to best fight drug use and addiction? There must be a multifaceted approach to this complex problem and these bills, though far from perfect, offer us a reasonable starting point. Both the Medicines and Poisons Bill 2019 and the Therapeutic Goods Bill 2019 aim to replace and modernise Queensland's existing health and poisons regulations.

The bills further intend to institute a new regulatory framework around poisons, medicines and other therapeutic products to ensure that requirements are easier for industry and the community to understand and apply in practice. Noting the need for improvement in this area, like my colleagues in the LNP I will not be opposing these bills. However, I will be highlighting some of the concerns raised by the many stakeholders and demanding assurances from the government that the recommendations made by the committee on the first of these bills be acknowledged and applied.

Before continuing, I thank the members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee and its secretariat for their work on the bills. I also thank the witnesses and the large volume of submitters for their contributions. I make special mention of the members for Condamine, Bundaberg and Buderim whose statement of reservations on the Medicines and Poisons Bill lays the basis for many of the concerns I will now raise.

While the most attention on Queensland's drug epidemic, particularly recently in the media, is placed on the effects of illicit drugs such as ice, for many drug addicts their addictions started with something far less sinister. Prescription drug addiction is a huge problem throughout Queensland, with addiction to seemingly harmless prescription pain medication often opening the door for patients to get hooked on more harmful opioids. In my previous policing role, I saw dozens of families destroyed by drugs, including prescription medications. Those people are desperate and will make up any story to get their hit.

The rising prevalence of that dangerous practice needs to be addressed. Our hardworking doctors and health professionals go to work each day and use their expert knowledge to do what they feel is best for each patient they see. However, they cannot do their job properly if patients are simply looking to pull the wool over their eyes. The process is hastened through the practice of doctor shopping, whereby addicts go to multiple doctors in the hope of getting multiple prescriptions. I repeat: these people are desperate and will make up any story to get their hit by obtaining drugs for themselves or in many instances to get them to sell to others.

Real-time prescription monitoring, which these bills would see introduced, has strong support and could go a long way to stopping doctor shopping in Queensland. The LNP also supports the introduction of real-time monitoring. However, like most of this government's plans, this one needs quite a bit of work to get right. Doctors and other medical practitioners have raised concerns over the real-time monitoring system proposed. Our already overworked doctors are concerned that, without proper integration between the proposed model and existing safeguards, they will be saddled with more bureaucracy and forced to unnecessarily duplicate tasks. This is also a concern due to the requirements for doctors to check the medical history of patients who have previously lived interstate. Without proper cross-border integration, doctors will not be able to effectively manage the prescription of medications, opening the way for cross-border doctor shopping and minimising the effectiveness of the real-time monitoring introduction.

With deaths from unintentional overdoses rising by more than 40 per cent in the past 10 years, something more must be done to curve prescription drug addiction and its serious consequences. While the government's proposal is a good start, it is far from perfect. It is imperative that those opposite continue to work with stakeholders to get this right. The lives of Queenslanders are at stake and if this Labor government fails to act it will be at their peril.

Another element of the bills that has raised eyebrows with stakeholders is their failure to address the dual licensing requirement imposed on pest management companies in Queensland. As the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association outlined in their submission, Queensland is the only state in Australia that requires authorised pest management professionals to be licensed by two separate entities. With the Medicines and Poisons Bill set to repeal and replace the Pest Management Act 2001 and the Pest Management Regulation 2003, stakeholders believed that this discrepancy would be addressed to tighten the regulatory burden on those professionals. Unfortunately, no such action is taken in the Medicines and Poisons Bill and, as such, pest management professionals will still need to be licensed with both the Queensland Department of Health and the Queensland Building and

Construction Commission. While we understand the different purposes for these licences, surely some effort could have been made or perhaps could still be made with these bills to simplify the system. Put simply, while the bills aim to reduce red tape and regulation, in this bill's case it does nothing about that.


Regulatory overburden was also a concern raised by AgForce Queensland regarding this bill. In her presentation to the committee, Marie Vitelli of AgForce stated—

Under the proposed regulations and standards, users will require those two levels of competency. Like everything, everyone is busy. Everyone needs to access the training. The registered training organisations—the ones that do good delivery—are out there, but they are going to be inundated.

This is a glaring oversight and one that will place a further financial burden on some of Queensland's small businesses. It is critical that this oversight is quickly addressed. Government departments and agencies should not operate as isolated entities. After all, they are under the control of this Labor government.

Agricultural groups also raised concerns regarding the public register of schedule 7 poisons. While we note the advice of Queensland Health about the discretion of the chief executive, I support our agricultural representative groups and would urge caution in any publication of the register, given the recent well-documented illegal protest activities by animal extremists and the irresponsible actions that some of that minority group of extremists have undertaken. Who knows what they are capable of?

Ultimately, these bills offer a practical and reasonable starting point. They are far from perfect and we should now know to expect that standard from this Labor government. Nonetheless, in their current forms, the bills are worth supporting for the small steps in the right direction that they will take. However, it is concerning that, even when viewed in cognate, these bills still fail to properly rectify the flaws. If the government truly wishes to make these bills as strong as possible, the LNP is offering them the chance to put people ahead of politics and work with us, the stakeholders and the practitioners who have made such constructive suggestions to patch the bills' shortcomings.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.29 pm): This is a significant piece of legislation. It will repeal and replace existing legislation with a new regulatory framework that has greater alignment with national regulations. In creating a new regulatory framework it, amongst other things, provides greater assurance to the community that the medicines, poisons and therapeutic goods they use are regulated by a modern, outcomes focused framework that enhances public safety. The bill streamlines requirements for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland by enabling non-specialist medical practitioners to prescribe without the need for approval from Queensland Health, eliminating duplication in the Commonwealth approvals process. I will talk more about the medicinal cannabis issue in my electorate.

There are real benefits from these advancements. I will talk about an enterprise that has evolved over the last 20 years. The expansion in research and development by THC Global will create 75 to 85 direct jobs in my region and another 80 jobs in South-East Queensland over the next 18 to 24 months. THC Global has secured 6.6 hectares of existing hydroponic greenhouses in Bundaberg which will be repurposed for cannabis cultivation subject to final licensing. An additional 18 hectares of agricultural land has been secured for a proposed open-field cannabis cultivation operation. Initial production is expected to produce 80,000 kilograms of dried cannabis flower grown hydroponically. Securing an existing hydroponics operation allows production to commence almost immediately following the granting of licences and permits by the Office of Drug Control.

THC Global will be the primary supplier of medicinal cannabis flower to THC Global's facility in Southport as early as next year. This is a major step in being able to deliver Australian produced medicinal cannabis products to Australian patients on a commercial scale in 2020. THC Global Group advises that it has secured agreement to lease a property with 66,000 square metres of existing hydroponic greenhouses and an additional 180,000 square metres of agricultural land for the cultivation of medicinal cannabis in our region. The 66,000 square metres of hydroponic greenhouses on the property are able to be easily repurposed. This is a great step forward. We are looking forward to the hemp cultivation and its benefits.

Within the next 14 days I understand that THC Global will submit a request to the Australian Office of Drug Control for the property to be an additional cultivation site under the existing licence held by THC Global's subsidiary, Canndeo. Canndeo currently holds all three cannabis licences in Australia and has its primary operations at another facility in Bundaberg. THC Global expects to be able to produce an initial 80,000 kilograms of dried cannabis flower annually. There is potential to increase its capacity through its open-field cultivation area. This is important in terms of medicinal cannabis. THC

Global will explore using part of the open-field land for hemp cultivation, potentially enabling THC Global to enter the food and nutrition and cosmetic markets globally. We would all agree that that would be a great outcome.

The medicinal cannabis cultivated at the property will be processed at the company's Southport facility. I welcome the federal health minister coming to Southport a couple of weeks ago to open that facility. As we know, it is capable of producing good manufacturing practice certified active pharmaceutical ingredients as well as the full-spectrum and broad-spectrum extracts. That is an exciting development for the great state of Queensland. Access to an additional cultivation site, which could be in production within a month, would support the rapid acceleration of production at the Southport facility.


I acknowledge chief executive officer, Ken Charteris. Ken has commented that the facility in Bundaberg complements existing cannabis production assets THC Global has around Australia. In addition to seeking ODC approvals for the existing hydroponic greenhouses on the property for the cultivation of medicinal cannabis, THC Global intends to explore the potential to use part of its open-field agricultural land on the property for hemp cultivation as the company considers nutrition and food and cosmetic markets as an additional revenue stream for the company. THC Global is in a unique position to enter this hemp based market due to being an existing licence and permit holder under the regulatory scheme for medicinal cannabis. The extraction of hemp is another exciting development. Research and development and science are being undertaken in this regard. Entering into this market would take advantage of THC Global's significant expertise, experience and infrastructure available.

The terms of the lease for the property will be settled in conjunction with the application for the property, which is owned to Eden Farms. It is a local farming enterprise that has been involved in food production since 1985. They are now in partnership with THC Global. We know that THC Global operates under a farm-to-pharma pharmaceutical model, holding all three cannabis licences being a research licence, a medicinal cannabis licence and two manufacturing licences through its domestic medicinal cannabis subsidiaries, THC Pharma and Canndeo. THC Global is in a prime position to commence medicinal cannabis production to service both domestic patients and the global export market. We know for domestic patients that access to the product is quite expensive. Any expansion in this market will hopefully make these products more affordable.

THC Global is active globally with operations in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. They have partnerships across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. In addition to its core Australian medicinal cannabis assets, THC Global has a significant Canadian presence both in cannabis and hydroponics equipment. This puts us in a great position to make sure the Australian operations are successful.

Eden Farms has joined these exciting projects. Eden Farms was established in 1983 at Highfields, Queensland. They were the first suppliers of continental cucumbers on the east coast of Australia. Their producing farm area spans 12 hectares of greenhouses in three locations. They have been market leaders for two decades and dominate the marketplace in the supply of horticultural products through production innovation. Eden Farms is proud to be a pioneer of fresh food direct to market. We are excited that Eden Farms has teamed up with this enterprise. I acknowledge John and Penny Hall and David and Ruth Gillespie for their persistence and dedication to the industry over 20 years and Ken Charteris and THC Global for their confidence in the Burnett electorate.

Going back to the bill—and thank you for your leniency in allowing me to go where I went—I note that the committee made 10 recommendations. We recommend that the minister accept those recommendations. The recommendations talk about clarification of the management plans and the development and rollout of comprehensive communication strategies. We want to make sure the bill is passed. I will end my contribution there to allow other speakers to contribute. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Medicines and Poisons Bill and the Therapeutic Goods Bill. I note at the outset that the LNP will not be opposing these bills. These bills were referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee given the health committee was apparently a tad busy. It made for some interesting questions, which I suspect departmental staff were not expecting—particularly those in relation to the impact on primary producers' use of poisons in wild dog baiting programs.

I thank the committee secretariat staff, ably led by Dr Jacqui Dewar, for their support in considering these bills. I also acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members—the members for Bancroft, Condamine, Bundaberg, Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney. Despite our clear differences in political opinion, for the most part the committee's hearings and work are conducted in a constructive fashion.

The Medicines and Poisons Bill is a complex one. It seeks to make considerable changes to the way that medicines and poisons are regulated across the state. Throughout the committee deliberations it became clear that much of the information concerning the proposed legislation was incomplete, with considerable new regulation and standards required to implement the proposals. Such an approach has caused concern among industry and other stakeholders who have indicated they need confidence in relation to the detail of what is being proposed by the government.

One of the most significant aspects of this legislation is the introduction of real-time prescription monitoring. The proposal had widespread support as it seeks to reduce the significant problem of death or serious injury resulting from the inappropriate consumption of prescription medicines. The practice of doctor shopping is well known, and real-time prescription monitoring will significantly restrict the ability of those who seek to misuse prescription medicines. It is pretty clear that drug use, both prescription and illicit, is at record levels. Since 2008, the number of Queenslanders who died from unintentional overdoses has increased by more than 40 per cent. In my own community on the Sunshine Coast, we have seen a 340 per cent increase in accidental overdoses.

Of considerable concern is the fact that the proposed real-time prescription monitoring system will be used only by GPs and that hospitals will not be captured under the proposed scheme. The AMA informed the committee—

... we feel it is very important that the real-time prescription monitoring and the framework of prescribing monitored substances around that applies to all prescriptions that are going into the community

...

While many prescriptions are generated in primary care, I would suggest possibly a majority of monitored substances are initiated outside of primary care—either in an emergency department or as part of a discharge—so it is important that those prescriptions are monitored and subject to the framework as well.

Given those comments and the committee's recommendation in relation to this issue, it is disappointing that the minister has decided not to extend the system to hospitals in a timely fashion. Such an approach would better capture the high-risk prescription medicines such as painkillers and opioids which are routinely provided in hospitals.

The committee also heard concerns from doctors in relation to the implementation of the proposed real-time prescription monitoring system and the requirement for a model that avoids duplicating existing processes or creates an additional time burden on already time poor doctors. Given Queensland Health's history in relation to the implementation of IT projects, I suggest that their concerns are warranted and the implementation time frames outlined by the Chief Health Officer are cause for concern. I ask the minister to ensure that these concerns are given the attention that they deserve given the potential impact on practitioners and patients alike.

Concern was also raised in relation to the checking of patient history from other states, which is particularly of relevance in areas close to the border such as on the Gold Coast. Systems integration which provides capability for the real-time checking of patient history in other states is the next logical step in the evolution of real-time prescription monitoring.

Just to highlight the complexity of this bill, concerns were raised by pest management companies in relation to the dual licensing requirements from both the QBCC and Queensland Health. While I can appreciate that the licensing requirements for both departments differ, surely it is the role of government to reduce these kinds of duplicated processes and the web of red tape that is choking small businesses such as local pest controllers.


We heard in Townsville from the member for Bancroft, who suggested that the LNP's only answer to drug misuse is to lock people up, but his comments are misleading. As the member for Caloundra so succinctly outlined, the LNP believes that more needs to be done to break the ice epidemic which is devastating families and the broader community. That is why we have committed to establishing four new drug rehabilitation centres across the state. Our comprehensive plan to address the ice scourge was informed by a statewide community engagement process where those who are affected by drugs had the chance to tell their stories. In addition to the rehabilitation centres, the LNP's policy includes greater education and awareness along with coordinated law enforcement which targets the organised crime networks that are peddling drugs within our community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I note the committee's recommendation in relation to the concerns of the rural sector, particularly in relation to the requirement for substance management plans for some rural poisons and animal husbandry products. Specific concern was

detailed in relation to the need for publication of S7 poisons held on rural properties in the substance authority register. Given what we have seen this year with vegan extremists disregarding the law and storming privately owned farms, the concerns of primary producers are to my mind justified.

Before I finish my contribution, I will touch on the Therapeutic Goods Bill, which proposes adoption of the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 as Queensland law. To date, Queensland and Western Australia are the only two states who have not adopted the Therapeutic Goods Act. Adoption of the Commonwealth act aims to remove the need for separate manufacturing, advertising, labelling and packaging requirements which seems to make sense to me and will reduce unnecessary regulatory burden.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.43 pm): I will start by thanking the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for taking this legislation on. I am sure I am not the only health committee member who appreciates not having this legislation added to our lengthy task of inquiries at the moment.

I will make a brief contribution in the time allowed. I want to start with the prescription monitoring scheme. This is broadly supported. In particular, I note the comments of the AMA, who have said that they are supportive of the scheme, including the requirement for prescribers to obtain an approval before prescription of controlled drugs, or S8 drugs, and particular S4 medicines to drug dependent people. It is a welcome step. The new system appears to simplify and improve efficiency of the process for prescribers to check the relevant database for drug dependence.

There are a few concerns with this scheme that were noted by submitters. I note first of all that privacy concerns will necessarily arise from a monitoring system like this. As recommended by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the database should only be accessible during the prescription process and not by third parties such as WorkCover or other insurers. It is also vital that the government provide necessary support and resources to support the rollout of this new system—for example, by incorporating new real-time prescription monitoring—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will interrupt you there, member. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That the Medicines and Poisons Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Therapeutic Goods Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Medicines and Poisons Bill

Clauses 1 to 290 and schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Therapeutic Goods Bill

Clauses 1 to 16, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Medicines and Poisons Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Therapeutic Goods Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the long title of the Medicines and Poisons Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the Therapeutic Goods Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 27 February (see p. 439).

Second Reading

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 27 February 2019 I introduced the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into the Queensland parliament. I would like to thank the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee for its detailed consideration of the bill. The committee tabled its report on 26 April 2019 with one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I am delighted to bring a bill to the House that has undergone a rigorous and considered consultation process over almost 2½ years and that is supported by the committee.

This bill has one very important objective—that is, to protect the Great Barrier Reef by improving water quality. This legislation is a direct response to a recommendation of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce in 2016 that government introduce water quality regulations across all reef catchments. In acting on this recommendation, we are helping to protect the future of Queensland's most valuable natural asset, an asset that brings in millions of dollars and supports thousands of jobs.

Our Great Barrier Reef is one of the most extraordinary places on earth. It is the largest living structure on the planet. Science tells us that the Great Barrier Reef is more than 500,000 years old. It is one of Australia's most treasured wonders. It supports more than 60,000 jobs and contributes about \$6 billion to the Australian economy. However, scientific evidence shows that it is under threat, and the two major threats are climate change and water quality.

The 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement, the recently released 2017 and 2018 Reef Water Quality Report Card and the outlook report 2019 all confirm that, in spite of the efforts of some, poor water quality continues to threaten the reef. The federal government, via GBRMPA, recently released their Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. It gives us a stark message: the outlook for the reef is very poor and the window for taking action is now. The federal LNP's outlook report also made it clear that there are two major threats to the Great Barrier Reef: climate change and, at the regional level, water quality. With the impacts of climate change being felt here and now, improving water quality is absolutely critical to the future health of the reef.

We know that improving water quality will help the reef recover from other impacts such as cyclones, coral bleaching and a change in climate. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to have the reef on our doorstep, and as its caretakers we are at a pivotal time in human history. The action we take now will impact the reef in the future. The Palaszczuk government knows how critical it is that we protect the Great Barrier Reef, and this is why we have made it one of our six Advancing Queensland priorities. Our government is acting for the sake of the reef itself, the marine ecosystems it supports, the industries that rely on its health and our future generations. How we respond to this challenge is being closely scrutinised by the world.

In December this year the federal government must report back to UNESCO on the state of the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef and the actions we are taking to safeguard its World Heritage status. In its last consideration of the reef in 2017, the World Heritage committee asked Australia to accelerate its efforts to meet the targets of the Reef 2050 Plan, particularly for water quality. The bill we are debating here today is critical action to do just that. Queensland, in partnership with the federal government, will be doing its part to protect the reef.

We have seen from the UN Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that the global rate of species extinction is already tens to hundreds of times higher than it has been on average over the last 10 million years. This report has been written by 145 experts

from 50 countries and looks at marine and terrestrial threats. We cannot let this be the trend for the Great Barrier Reef—one of the world's most diverse and remarkable ecosystems. The Great Barrier Reef is critical to the spiritual, cultural, economic and social wellbeing of the one million people who live in its catchment and to all Australians. The Great Barrier Reef also brings significant economic opportunities to Queensland. Our tourism industry depends on it and our local fishing industry depends on it. For those of us who accept the science, we are aware that the Great Barrier Reef is under enormous pressure. This affects its ability to thrive now and survive into the future.

The federal LNP government's recently released 2019 outlook report tells us that initiatives to halt and reverse the effects of climate change at a global level and effectively improve water quality at a regional scale are the most urgent to improve the region's long-term outlook. This is why our government's actions, including the proposed reef regulations, and our action to reduce emissions and address climate change are so important. Reliable scientific evidence shows that excess nutrients and sediment are contributing to a decline in reef health. Fine sediment and nutrients from farms and other land based activities can travel hundreds of kilometres through waterways onto the reef. Sediment blocks the light that keeps corals and seagrasses alive, and excess nutrients are linked to outbreaks of the crown-of-thorns starfish which devour coral. This is a problem that we have been working on for a long time.

There are those who say that voluntary action is the only way to go. I have personally visited many farms across the reef regions. I know there are fantastic farmers who are doing an incredible job to voluntarily change their practices to improve water quality and their land's condition, which is ultimately building their long-term business success. In the Mackay and Whitsunday region, work across 50 cane farms last year saw a reduction of nearly 100 tonnes of nitrogen being applied. Farmers reported no impact on productivity and that they had actually saved money on fertiliser costs. In the Burdekin a nutrient management project helped reduce the amount of nitrogen applied by 200 tonnes across 150 cane farms, again with no loss of productivity or profitability, and farmers achieved an increase in tonnes of sugar per hectare. This is proof that there is a way to reduce run-off and improve profitability and productivity for farmers.

For the last decade the government has been working with industry to help embed these practices voluntarily. Unfortunately, the uptake of these voluntary practices has not been fast enough, and water quality has not improved at the rate required to meet our targets. For example, under the previous Grazing Best Management Practice Program only 73 farmers in reef catchments were accredited. This represented only one per cent of all graziers across reef catchments, or 2.7 per cent of grazing land. Similarly, only 11 per cent of Queensland's sugarcane farmers are accredited under the current voluntary program. This represents just 23 per cent—less than a quarter—of the total cane farming area.

There are some incredible farmers pretty much doing the heavy lifting on water quality, but we need more like them to get on board. The recent Reef Water Quality Report Card has shown a very slight improvement overall in the reduction of harmful sediment and nutrients flowing to the reef, and of course there is a lot of gratitude for that improvement, but we know that much more—much more—is needed. The Queensland government has invested more than \$120 million since 2009 to help farmers voluntarily improve their practices to improve water quality whilst also supporting productive and profitable industries. Of this funding, around \$55 million has been allocated to the cane industry and \$11 million to the grazing industry. We continue to invest, with a record amount of more than \$330 million targeting reef protection under the Palaszczuk government. It is clear from the science that we need to accelerate the uptake of improved practices to ensure the reef has the best possible chance into the future.

This bill is not aimed at those who are already meeting their own industry's minimum standards. In fact, those who are already accredited under their own industry standards will be able to have their hard work recognised in this legislation. This bill is aimed at ensuring those farmers who are not yet on track will accelerate their progress. This bill and the supporting regulations will complement current voluntary efforts and investment and fast-track efforts to help bring everyone up to minimum practice standards to protect the reef and improve water quality.

There are two key elements of the bill. Firstly, this bill ensures growers and graziers are operating at standards that mirror their own industry's best management practices and use the best available science to reduce run-off while maintaining productivity and profitability. There are minimum practice standards established by industry that are workable and practical, and this bill and associated regulations will help ensure these standards become the minimum across the board. Ultimately, as I have outlined, good farming practices mean long-term business success and a healthy reef.

There have been concerns raised by industry and stakeholders that standards in this legislation could be easily changed. The Palaszczuk government has always been a consultative government and one that listens to the people of Queensland. It is for this reason that I make the commitment to industry that these minimum standards will not be substantially further amended for at least five years once they are finalised later this year. If they are significantly amended after that time, the law requires that this would only be done after public consultation and consideration of the costs and benefits of the change. This five-year commitment will give industry the certainty they are seeking to invest in their businesses and help strike the right balance between protecting the reef while also ensuring farmers can increase productivity and profitability.

I would like to acknowledge the regional members of parliament who have strongly advocated for this commitment, in particular the member for Mackay and the Townsville MPs—the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville—and the member for Maryborough. All of these members have been strong voices for their communities, and I thank them for their efforts.


The Palaszczuk government will always listen to science. The latest 2017 and 2018 Reef Water Quality Report Card, jointly released with the federal government last month, says that Cape York's water quality pollution reduction targets have been met. This is a great result and the Palaszczuk government, including the member for Cook, has taken notice. Because of these results, which were achieved through voluntary action, I can announce today that we will not be switching on the minimum practice standards in Cape York as planned.

Debate, on motion of Ms Enoch, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Bushfires

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I was born and raised in country Queensland and I represent a regional electorate in this House. When you are from the bush, you know how harsh it can be. Queensland is a beautiful place and it gives us everything we need, but sometimes this state can just break your heart and that is what it did to so many people last week. I visited Binna Burra, Canungra, Ballandean, Stanthorpe, Bundaberg, Linville and Peregian and saw communities that had been pushed to the absolute limit. Seventeen homes were lost to the flames. The historic Binna Burra Lodge, which opened 86 years ago, was gutted. Farms were ravaged by fire and precious feed was lost.

All of Australia saw the destruction on the TV news, but we must remember that many other communities were also affected. Wide Bay, Central Queensland, North Queensland and the Far North all faced terrible fires last week, but while hearts were broken by the bushfires the spirit of ordinary Queenslanders was not. In fact the strength, courage and compassion of Queenslanders only grew as the danger increased. I am a proud Queenslander but I have never been more proud of our state than I was last week. There are no strangers in the communities I visited. Everywhere I went, Queenslanders were doing all they could to help others, and no-one did it more than the fireys, the police and the volunteers who were on the front line. They fought the flames around the clock, day after day, despite all the dangers that they faced.

The word 'hero' gets used a lot these days, but there is no other way to describe the men and women who risked their own lives to keep the rest of us safe. They showed us the meaning of courage and they showed us the meaning of community. Where would we be without them? How many homes and lives would have been lost? I cannot thank them enough and I know everyone in this House feels the same. On behalf of all of us, I say to them again thank you.

My own electorate of Nanango was among the first to be hit by the fires. On Friday, 6 September, the first reports came through of a bushfire at Goodger, just a few kilometres west of Kingaroy. Within hours, 16 crews were on the scene battling to bring the flames under control as the smoke spread across Kingaroy. Thanks to the work of local crews at Goodger and later in the week at Linville and Esk, my electorate was spared the worst but many other electorates were not so lucky. Over the next few days, the fires tore through the Gold Coast hinterland and across the Southern Downs. Fireys told me how they watched as flames ran up and over hills faster than any fire they had ever seen. The long drought and the blasting winds combined to turn the bush into a blazing furnace.

On Monday, 9 September, I met up with the member for Theodore at the Coomera Valley Rural Brigade to see how that community was coping, and they were coping magnificently. Matt Walker's team of fireys were exhausted, but their spirits were lifted by the reaction of local people. Help was pouring in. There was food and drink for the fireys, as well as a mountain of supplies for people who had fled from their homes. A big shout out goes to the member for Theodore and his community for organising the water run to Stanthorpe later in the week to deliver drinking water to help another community whilst his own community was under threat.

I then met with the member for Scenic Rim in Canungra. I have seen the aftermath of fires before but nothing can prepare you for the shock of seeing ordinary communities which have been consumed by flames. It was incredible that no lives were lost. The locals knew that they had been lucky. We met so many wonderful helpers from the local QCWA and the Salvos. There were people directing traffic and food and there were those who continued 24/7 to battle the blazes around the clock.

That is where I met Pamela and Stuart Skeen who moved to Beechmont 25 years ago and made their beautiful home for themselves in the hinterland, but that home was reduced to ashes when the fire swept through. When I met Pam and Stuart on the Monday, they were not complaining. Pam told me with a bit of a smile that she grabbed her most important possessions—her husband Stuart and then her beloved canaries, her shoes and a bag of Stuart's underclothes. Pam is definitely the kind of woman you need in a crisis.

Stanthorpe came close to suffering the same fate as Beechmont. Along with the member for Southern Downs, I met rural fireys as they snatched a moment's rest at the Ballandean Tavern. Rural firey Graham Parker showed me firsthand the front line of the fire and explained to me the desperate need on the ground to back-burn to save those homes. They described the awesome intensity of the fires and told me how close those homes came to being lost. They were too modest to say it but it was only their bravery and the true Queensland grit that saved them.

I saw firsthand the remains at Stanthorpe. Sadly, many homes were lost. Kim Vogel was taken in by Pastor Jeremy Greening after the home where he had lived alone had been destroyed. Kim is 79 years old and homeless, but he was still cracking some pretty awesome jokes. Kim proudly showed me around the ruins of his home and how he had done the right thing and had trimmed the vegetation around that home, but sadly the fire was too fast, too hot and too devastating and it took his home—the only one in his street. Kim's niece reached out to me when she saw pictures of Kim, the member for Southern Downs and me on my Instagram. They run Just Garlic in Kingaroy and she said, 'I was so glad to see him smiling.' She told me that even the bushfire could not keep their Uncle Kim down. All the best to Kim Vogel and his family.

I saw the same defiant spirit among the police and the fireys at Peregian Beach. The member for Ninderry introduced me to many of his old QPS mates who had been on duty when the bushfire broke out on Monday evening. With the flames right behind them and around them, Gabby, Cam, Diesel, Mark and Peter all helped evacuate every single home in the path of the fire. Some of these coppers were motorbike cops. They did not even have the PPE gear to wear, but they just got on and did that job and saved the lives of people by evacuating them out of their houses. Thanks to the fireys and the emergency services, Peregian was saved from destruction but it was a close run thing.


As well as the emergency services workers and community volunteers, I want to recognise those members of parliament—the members for Ninderry, Theodore, Scenic Rim and Southern Downs—who helped their communities to react. Some even fought the flames and they brought their communities together. I also wish to thank the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and his wife, Jenny Morrison, for their visit with me and the member for Scenic Rim to Canungra and Binna Burra. I introduced the Prime Minister and Jenny to the stoic, beautiful soul that is Pamela Skeen and her husband, Stuart. Pamela and Stuart lost everything but they still managed to explain to the Prime Minister, Mrs Morrison, me and Jon their plans to rebuild in that beautiful part of the world. They will rebuild and put their canaries back and it will be wonderful for them. They will look forward to having that cup of tea when she gets back into that home that she will rebuild.

Like I said, I wish to thank the Prime Minister and his wife, Jenny, for their visit. As we have seen before, the Prime Minister never forgets the people of Queensland. He was there when we needed him and so were his federal colleagues. It was great to see the federal members Scott Buchholz and David Littleproud in the Scenic Rim on that day as well.

The bushfire crisis is not over. We face weeks and possibly months of danger. Our priority today must be to ensure that our emergency services have everything they need to deal with this threat. However, we must also be prepared to learn lessons from the past 11 days. I believe Queensland has

been far too complacent about the threat of bushfires and that must be corrected. However, there is one lesson that has already been learnt and that lesson is that Queenslanders will always pull through. No matter what challenge we face, we always come together. I promise the people who have suffered in those fires—people like Kim, Pamela and Stuart—that they will never be forgotten by me, they will never be forgotten by the LNP and they will never be forgotten by the Prime Minister.

Hydrogen Industry

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise today to speak of the next big thing for Gladstone and that is hydrogen. I recently attended the Queensland hydrogen forum right here in Brisbane hosted by the Premier, Minister Dick and Minister Lynham. The topic of that forum was fuelling a future for hydrogen in Queensland.

The race is on to find a new source of clean energy in Queensland that can create jobs, drive industry growth and maintain Queensland as a world-leading energy supplier; and renewable hydrogen is that solution. This event was a great opportunity to hear from new renewable hydrogen experts in the field and learn just how we can benefit from this exciting new industry. I was buoyed and also excited to hear from the keynote speaker, Dr Alan Finkel, who spoke passionately about the opportunities that Queensland has in this brand-new industry.

Hydrogen provides the opportunity to export Queensland's sunshine to the world and support more jobs in regional Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Gladstone. The Palaszczuk government's record of attracting investment in renewables combined with our existing gas pipeline of infrastructure and export facilities make us the ideal state to lead the future production and export of hydrogen. We backed the \$60 billion LNG industry in Gladstone and in Western Queensland, providing thousands of jobs for our regions. Now the world is looking to hydrogen and we want them to get it from Queensland. Even more so, we want them to get it from Gladstone because of the jobs it will create for our people. This emerging industry will have economic benefits here in Australia, worth an estimated \$1.7 billion in exports annually by the year 2030. Now is the time for Queensland—and for Gladstone—to position itself as a significant hydrogen trading partner with our international neighbours.


Earlier this year we celebrated our state's first delivery of green hydrogen to Japan, exported by the Japanese petroleum conglomerate JXTG. I acknowledge the member for Redlands, who was at the forum with me the other day, too. She was responsible for helping that hydrogen to come from her electorate. It was produced at the Queensland University of Technology's solar cell facility at the government's Redlands research facility. Queensland's and Australia's growing populations and economies also require increasing supplies of reliable, affordable and preferably renewable power. Manufacturing sectors that use hydrogen in their processes will also benefit from a reliable domestic supply here in Queensland.

One of the Palaszczuk government's priorities is to create jobs in a strong economy, and supporting the development of this new industry strongly aligns with that. The \$19 million strategy that has been committed to will give Queensland and Gladstone the best start possible to succeed and become a hydrogen exporter of choice to the world. I want Gladstone to be at the forefront of renewable hydrogen production, supplying an established domestic market and export partners with a safe, sustainable, reliable supply of hydrogen. In doing so, we will be creating thousands of jobs in the future while propelling and diversifying our economy, which remains a key focus of the Palaszczuk government. That is why we are committing to growing Queensland's hydrogen industry as it holds significant potential for our state: for its employment, for its investment and for our overseas exports.

The development of a domestic hydrogen industry, including the production of competitively priced renewable energy, will have widespread economic benefits. Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier with a diverse range of applications, including energy supply, transport and industrial applications like biorefineries that we will see in Gladstone. Gladstone, one of Queensland's industrial powerhouses, will be the focus point for hydrogen development for good reason. Existing industries, gas infrastructure, access to a deepwater port and skilled local workers make it an attractive location for this emerging industry.

For too long the workers of Gladstone have had to go away to find construction jobs. It is time they came back home to Gladstone, and the future hydrogen industry will do just that. Gladstone has already had a strategically placed state development area that, through the powers of the Coordinator-General, gives our government the ability to facilitate these large-scale developments. Only the Palaszczuk government will create this new industry and only Labor will create the jobs that we need in regional Queensland.

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to fill the void. If the Deputy Premier thinks that a clearance by the CCC of official corruption allegations is going to make this matter go away, she is sadly mistaken. In fact, what this investigation has done is raise more questions than answers, and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer has an obligation to come to this House and fill the void.

Why did the Deputy Premier and Treasurer buy a property where there was a perceived or a real conflict of interest? Why did the Deputy Premier fail to declare that purchase within the prescribed time limits? Why did the Deputy Premier claim that she knew nothing about the purchase? Why did the Deputy Premier then change her story about that advice on at least two occasions? Why did the Deputy Premier ring the CCC chair on the weekend on his personal number after the matter referring to her had gone to the CCC to have a discussion and to let him know about her cooperation? Why did the Deputy Premier not stand down during that investigation by the CCC?

In stark contrast, news has just come from New South Wales that the sports minister, John Sidoti, is stepping aside from cabinet pending an ICAC investigation into what? It is into the purchase of land he made near the Metro Northwest and Metro West projects which stand to make him millions. This was when he was only an assistant minister. This is the difference in standards between a Labor government and a Liberal National government. The Liberals in New South Wales know right from wrong and have done the right thing and the minister has stood down.

The CCC said that the behaviour was not corrupt because the law did not say it was corrupt. However, they have now recommended that that behaviour should be made corrupt. In a number of weeks when this government comes into the House to hopefully bring in these laws, they will go down in parliamentary history as 'Trad's laws'. The reason these laws are necessary is because we have a Premier who is too weak to act. Steve Wardill's column in the *Courier-Mail* last week hit it on the head; this would not be necessary if we had a Premier who was strong enough and had the intestinal fortitude to keep—

Mr Watts: Any authority.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection—or any authority to keep ministers accountable to the ministerial code of conduct. This Premier is too weak to act and that means that legislation has to come into this House to make sure they do the right thing because they cannot do the right thing unless the law tells them to do so.

Quickly, I want to move to some of the statements made today by the Minister for State Development. This minister said that 'anyone that uses the bushfire tragedies to gain political ground should be condemned.' The Minister for State Development and member for Woodridge stands condemned by his own words. I refer to a tweet of the state development minister parading the Binna Burra bell—

An honourable member: The bell boy.


Mr MANDER: 'The bell boy'. The member said, 'We recovered it from the site today.' I table this document.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 11 September 2019, from the Twitter account of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, in relation to the Binna Burra dinner bell [[1493](#)].

My question to the member for Woodridge is: what did the member do in the attempt to recover that bell? What was his role in the recovery? Did he get his hands dirty? Did he have ash over his face? What a shameful display of grandstanding! What a shameful display of undermining the great work of our firefighters—the firefighters who risked their lives for their communities. This minister shamefully claims credit for something that he did not do, because he was politically grandstanding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, members. Before I call the member for Nudgee, joining us in the gallery this afternoon are students from Wondoan State School in the electorate of Callide.

Gender Sensitive Scrutiny

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.20 pm): I rise to speak about gender sensitive scrutiny. It is a term that I think it is fair to say is not routinely used in Australia, where terms such as 'gender parity' and 'gender equity' are preferred. Recently I was asked to travel to Westminster to represent our parliament at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference on Gender Sensitive Scrutiny.

I attended the conference along with Labor, conservative and independent parliamentarians from across Australia and the Commonwealth nations. While, sadly, the location and topic of the conference were used recently to score cheap political points, this is a topic on which our Commonwealth nations should continue to convene because it continues to be a live and significant issue.

What is gender sensitive scrutiny? While most government policies appear gender neutral, in reality government policy can and often does impact on women and men differently in respect of the distribution of benefits and burdens of taxation and spending. Gender sensitive scrutiny is the process of applying a lens to government policy, budgets and programs to ensure such differences are understood. All government policies, whether in respect of early childhood development, workforce participation, investing in particular industry sectors or caring for the aged or those living with disability, have gender implications.

From 1983 to 2013, Australia was said to be a pioneer in analysing how budget measures affected women. During this time, the federal government produced a women's budget statement. State and territory governments were also among the first in the world to scrutinise annual budgets for their impact on women and girls. I do not think anyone on this side of the House would be surprised to learn that the former Abbott-Hockey federal government has the unenviable legacy of having ceased the practice.

In recent years at the Commonwealth level Australia has fallen behind in regard to gender analysis. Currently, there is no systematic process to assess the impact on women and men of taxing, spending or government programs either before or after the government enacts legislation, institutes policies or appropriates funding. At a state level, in 2016 our government introduced Queensland's first women's budget statement in almost 20 years. At the time, then minister for women Shannon Fentiman said—

Despite positive steps forward, Queensland women continue to face gender inequality that prevents them from participating fully in society and the economy

...

No society can achieve its full economic potential without the full engagement of women—not just in political life, but across the community sector, in business and industry.

Truer words were never spoken, so the question is: where are we in 2019? In response to the 2019-20 federal budget statement released in May, the National Foundation for Australian Women said in its annual gender lens report—

The overall trends in policy on superannuation, housing, education and other areas continue to see a diminution of spending on young Australians contrasted with the increasing relative generosity towards older generations.

There is no clear over-arching vision for the future of Australian society, let alone a strategy for the advancement of Australia's women, young or old.

...

The 2019 budget continues a pattern of underfunding social housing and housing assistance and overfunding tax breaks for investors. This business as usual approach to housing in the face of a chronic affordable housing shortage, which sees almost half a million women in housing stress, continues to undermine all other efforts towards women's safety and economic security.


This is a sobering assessment of where we as a country find ourselves. As a state Labor government, we are keenly aware of these challenges and will continue to stay the course by investing in programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work to assist disadvantaged Queenslanders into employment, with 52 per cent of program participants being women. We will continue to implement the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report to put an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland; to invest in vital family support services including counselling, pregnancy and parenting support services; to deliver maternal, parenting and child health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women; to deliver safe housing and specialist homelessness services; and to complete the delivery of improved female sport and recreation facilities to remove barriers to participation—amongst many other tailored initiatives—for Queensland women.

In recent decades, women have made significant strides in improving access, respect and treatment between men and women in the workforce and community. At universities, in workplaces, in boardrooms and in government, a growing number of women have taken on leadership roles, forging pathways for other women and girls to follow, our own Premier lead among them.

Principally, it is for the many other women across our society whose struggle continues that I direct this statement: equality does not mean that women and men are the same but that their enjoyment of rights, opportunities and life chances are not governed or limited by whether they were born female or male.

A women's budget statement is not a panacea for gender equality but is an honest and frank assessment of where we are and on what we place our value as a society. It is time for such a statement and, more importantly, a commitment to what it represents to be reinstated at a Commonwealth level as it has here in Queensland.

Bushfires

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.26 pm): Five minutes is too short to tell of the whole event, but the bushfires that impacted the Canungra and Beechmont districts, including Binna Burra, left an indelible mark on so many people in the area. The fires started, it seems, at Sarabah during the week starting 1 September. By Thursday afternoon of 5 September, with severe fire conditions forecast for Friday, a lot of area around Canungra and Sarabah had already burned.

Words cannot express the gratitude of our community and the huge kudos that needs to be given to the crews from Canungra Rural Fire Brigade and volunteers from a number of other brigades that kept this fire from crossing the Darlington Range and also from moving further along the north-western side of Darlington Range close to dwellings in Canungra. It was a close-run thing, but strong local knowledge of the terrain—and, it should be said, experience in dealing with local fires—meant that crews could put in place firebreaks that prevented a much larger fire front from developing metres from Canungra town, and also in Witheren around the Kokoda Barracks.

I have a heavy heart for all who lost their homes and for the loss of Binna Burra Lodge, an icon of Queensland's national park history. Our community is embracing all those affected so badly. Thankfully, so far nobody has lost their life. It does not bear thinking about how much worse things could have been but for the heroic actions of rural fireys on Thursday, 5 September and Friday, 6 September, but I suspect that we would be dealing with an extraordinary disaster that would have dwarfed losses to date.

After returning from parliament in Townsville, on Friday I visited the incident control centre ahead of the forecast gusty winds, reported to be up to 80 kilometres per hour at times. People will not forget that Friday afternoon, and I was actually on air with ABC Gold Coast when told that the first home was lost. As the fire raced along the valley towards Beechmont and Binna Burra at a terrific speed, spot fires started in surrounding areas, particularly up the Tabletop Road in Illinbah. I have been told that the fire generated such pace, with the wind behind it and significant fuel loads on the ground, that it jumped a 200-metre-wide gorge and kept going on the other side. All the while, our rural fireys were on the ground, doing their best to contain the bushfires as much as possible.


As the fire headed towards Beechmont and Binna Burra, I am told that crews from the Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade took it upon themselves to doorknock homes around Binna Burra, telling people to get ready to leave. It was recounted to me how, after doing this, crews then saw the approaching fire front from a higher spot in the area and immediately returned to the same homes, telling people to leave immediately. Most, if not all, did. To all involved in this process: thank you. Thank goodness that this area has a rural fire brigade that is active and had the ability to go door to door and to look after their community. It probably saved lives.

Unfortunately, late Friday night or early Saturday saw those gusty winds pick up again. Across the whole region they were felt, but in Beechmont and Binna Burra the winds carried the fire towards Timbarra Drive and surrounding streets, causing huge loss of property. Apart from losing a family member, surely there is no greater loss than to lose one's home. As your local representative, I am extremely sorry for your loss. As I said, it certainly gives me a heavy heart and I will do what I can to assist you in getting through this. As the LNP leader said, Stewart and Pamela Skeen lost their home at Binna Burra but they certainly did not lose their spirit. As Pamela said to us, 'If you don't laugh, you'll only cry.'

Saturday again saw dreadful conditions for fire. While spot fires continued to break out in different places, the front became a 10-kilometre line stretching from Sarabah to Binna Burra. As night fell on Saturday, over 60 rural fire crews from across the region were deployed from Canungra to protect property and contain fire. The extent of the line, the winds, the tinderbox conditions and heavy fuel loads meant that, sadly, Binna Burra was lost in the early hours of Sunday morning. Just hours before, I had been on the fire line at an equestrian stud only a few kilometres from the lodge, on the edge of thick wood and the Lamington National Park. Property there was protected, but it would seem that the terrain around Binna Burra, damage to the road and, most of all, the fire and weather conditions would see the lodge lost.

I could certainly continue recounting this fire, but at this point I want to say a huge thank you and congratulations to everybody in the region. This has been a hugely distressing event for everybody. They have all pulled together and shown incredible spirit. Food, clothing, water, household supplies, hay and stockfeed—you name it, it was donated and it flooded in to Canungra. The QCWA Beechmountain mobilised and fed rural fire crews from the Beechmont Rural Fire Brigade. Canungra residents organised for horses, cattle and other animals to be evacuated and kept at the showgrounds. On more than one occasion, donations were so great that they had to put out a call to stop them coming. To everybody who helped organise all of this: thank you. The Canungra and Beechmont districts have acted with an extraordinary sense of community spirit. I thank the QFES staff; rural fire brigade volunteers; the Queensland Police Service, especially Ben Marcus; Kevin Walsh from QFES; the mayor; the council; and the LDMG. I thank them for their diligence and hard work.

Moreton Bay, Small Business

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.31 pm): The Palaszczuk government is opening up opportunities for small businesses to create jobs and is providing training for local Moreton Bay people to fill those jobs. The Moreton Bay region is a hotspot for small business. Businesses are moving in and local people are starting up their own businesses.

In June 2018 there were 28,000 businesses in the Moreton Bay region. Nearly 17,000 of those had an annual turnover of less than \$200,000. Two years earlier, in June 2016, there were 26,400 businesses. Nearly 16,000 had an annual turnover of less than \$200,000. Some 1,500 businesses have emerged in two years. These are nearly all small businesses—tradies and start-ups. There are businesses such as Fresh Hot Smoked, a smokehouse in North Lakes. Kerrie and Campbell have started up the business they have always wanted. I talked to many of those small businesses at this morning's North Lakes Chamber of Commerce AGM. I congratulate them.

There is a gap experienced by these 1,500 businesses. Some parts of our area have higher rates of unemployment than others. Unemployment in Deception Bay is about 12 per cent, against the national average of about seven per cent. At the same time, businesses need skilled workers. Some of those businesses are telling me that they cannot get skilled workers. How does the Palaszczuk government address this mismatch? We invest in skills and training.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work in Bancroft has put over 800 people into work. The Deception Bay Community Youth Programs has a 90 per cent completion rate. Seventy per cent go into paid employment. Skilling Queenslanders for Work has supported over 54,000 Queenslanders into work. It is a \$420 million investment over six years. This is an example of how we actively support jobseekers and businesses.

We have also increased the payroll tax threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million. That is helping to relieve pressure from something like 2,000 Queensland businesses. There is also the Small Business Digital Grants Program and the Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program. Each of those programs offers about \$5,000. Both programs are very popular with small businesses in my area.

We are also offering free TAFE for year 12 school leavers. Add onto that free apprenticeships for Queensland aged under 21 years—


A government member: Sounds like a good Labor government!

Mr WHITING: I take that interjection. This is what an active government does to deliver jobs to Queenslanders. We are seeing this active support for training and skills bear fruit in the Moreton Bay region. Twelve months ago Hastings Deering opened a new depot in Caboolture that employs 25 people. Hastings Deering has about 60 apprentices on the books around Queensland. This active support for training and jobs is a reason 216,000 jobs have been created in Queensland since January 2015, when the Palaszczuk government came to office. Last month nearly 20,000 jobs were created in Queensland. That is nearly half of all the jobs created in Australia.

Many times in this place we have heard the question: 'Are there any alternative approaches?' Sadly, there are not. If there are, they are very mediocre. The LNP has announced a procurement policy for small business. We have already done that with Buy Queensland. If a business's main workforce is within 125 kilometres of the job, it meets the criteria. The LNP has announced that it will cut payment times from government to Queensland businesses. We have already done that. We have already driven down payment times. That is one of our policies. The LNP has also announced \$20 million for Queensland manufacturers. We are already doing that, except ours is twice as good: we have a \$40 million program to support Queensland manufacturers with the Made in Queensland program. I note the opening of another round of that program.

Today it has been proven that those opposite offer nothing. I think former member Scott Emerson was right when he said today that the LNP is not cutting through. Who am I to disparage his judgement? It is very clear that when Queenslanders look at the alternatives they will see nothing to like from those opposite.

Mount Isa, Youth Crime; Fuel Security

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.36 pm): I rise to talk about youth crime in Mount Isa. Over the years social problems have grown in Mount Isa and the north-west. In the past few weeks we have seen further bad incidents. We are often forgotten in the mix. There is a lot of talk about Townsville, Cairns and other areas of the state—I know that they have their problems—but the reality is that, for most offences, the crime rate per capita in our area is five to 10 times higher than in South Brisbane. Comparing Mount Isa to South Brisbane, the rate of assaults in Mount Isa is 12 times higher, for unlawful entry and break-ins it is 3.5 times higher, for drug offences it is three times higher and for domestic violence it is 10 times higher. They are some pretty awful statistics. Governments of any persuasion should be losing sleep over these sorts of statistics. These issues need some deep consideration and attention and, more importantly, action. It is nice to have studies to look into these things, but action is required and the right people need to be involved.

What are some of the influences at play here? One is the alcohol bans in the Northern Territory. There are still unresolved issues surrounding that. There need to be discussions between the Queensland government and the Northern Territory government to try to resolve some of those issues. For people escaping alcohol bans the first port of call is Mount Isa. Another influence is the failing blue card system. People cannot access jobs in their communities. If they turn to substance abuse, their kids start wandering and often end up in Mount Isa and perhaps Townsville. Other influences are the declining number of jobs in traditional industries such as the railways and the lack of access to title deeds in communities. These are all factors that have contributed to the decline in families and the structure of families. Often it results in kids wandering around the streets.

Regardless of the causes of these problems—they are not new; they have been there for a number of years—we need the right action to be taken. The KAP has a relocation sentencing policy. You can call it whatever you want, but it is a pretty simple principle: you need a circuit-breaker. When the police pick up these kids, often they do not know what to do. We all know that Cleveland is not working for these kids and it is getting jammed up. The magistrate has a decision between sending them to Cleveland and putting them back on the street. There are some available programs. You need something in between.


There is broad consensus on the need for a circuit-breaker by taking these kids out of town. I have seen these kids who have played up in town out at Urandangi, on the Mona project: they are quiet, they are easy to control, they become engaged and they start learning skills. That is what needs to happen. When these kids are out there they are not thinking about trying to get into town to cause mischief. They are out in a remote area and are forced to consider these things.

A processing centre is a good circuit-breaker, but it needs to happen now. It needed to happen a year or two ago. There is no more time for studies; we need this to happen. We need it as much for Townsville as we need it for Mount Isa and all those places in-between. I have experienced what these programs can do. There are some good programs out there and some really good people working in them right now, but that is not enough. We need that circuit-breaker in the processing centre, and relocation sentencing—or whatever we want to call it—needs to play a role in that. From that point we can teach them and get them re-engaged in school, send them back into programs and process them into the programs that are most suitable for the child in question. That desperately needs to happen. It is bad in Mount Isa, but we have had some real troubles in Normanton. We are crying out for help on this from the government. We definitely need action in that regard.

In the time remaining I want to make reference to the discussion in the media federally about fuel security—that is, the fact that there are two to three weeks fuel supply. The discussion keeps avoiding the elephant in the room—that is, ethanol or biofuels. A 10 per cent ethanol blend on fuel in Australia will cost the taxpayer nothing. If anything, it will bring down the price of fuel. Every other country—the 63 other countries—in the world all mandated ethanol, and that is one of the primary reasons why they have fuel security. It certainly is one of the primary drivers in the US so it has fuel security. It reduces car tailpipe emissions by 30 per cent, so it is akin to taking 30 per cent of cars off the road in Australia. Even if people do not care about that, they should worry about fuel security. It is a problem. There is a

solution sitting there, but it needs to be driven by government at a state and federal level. Oil companies will keep dancing around it unless there is firm action from government. Just like when we moved from leaded petrol to unleaded petrol, unless companies are forced to do it, it is not going to happen, we will not have an industry and we will always be battling fuel security.

Logan, Federal Government Welfare Reforms

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to address an issue of concern to me not only as the member for Macalister but also as a Logan resident. In Logan we are used to being disparaged because of where we live. We are used to the sly and snide remarks and the broad generalisations based on postcodes. I live in Logan, I raise my family in Logan and I love it there. That is why I am absolutely appalled at the decision to make Logan a trial site for the federal government's proposed welfare reforms. We have worked hard to turn Logan around, to bring business to our city, to make it a destination, not just the place people drive past on the way to the coast. To have that all undone by declaring it a trial site for drug testing welfare recipients under some apparent attempt at benevolence by our federal overlords is a devastating blow for our community. It is a stark reminder that we have failed to change the public perception—even that of our own federal member—that we are more than just a welfare city.

Randomly selected Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients will be forced to attend appointments where they will be immediately required to provide saliva, urine or hair samples. This is not an opt-in scheme. Recipients will have to sign up to this regime or have their payments suspended or terminated. Those who refuse to concede their bodily autonomy in privacy will have their payments suspended until they submit to the test. This is all done under the guise of helping people get jobs. It falls into the easy and populist trap of labelling those on welfare as job dodgers who would rather sit at home playing video games and doing drugs rather than getting a job.


One in four Newstart recipients is over the age of 45—my mother is one, still looking for work after being 'Newman-ed'—so let us put that myth to bed, shall we? Next we can look at the notion that it is drug use that prohibits welfare recipients from getting a job, not the fact that there are 800,000 people on these allowances and a further one million underemployed all fighting for just 200,000 jobs. Sure, let us say it is the drugs that are stopping people from getting a job. Let me be clear: there is no evidence that random drug testing of unemployed people is an effective strategy in helping people either overcome addiction or find a job. What there is evidence for is that such measures create greater levels of harm, increase stigma, marginalisation and poverty.

The government would have us believe that this is not a punitive measure, but what else do you call immediately suspending a person's only income for refusing to urinate in a bottle in front of a stranger? There is no evidence that keeping people in poverty decreases consumption of substances or improves health outcomes. Addiction is a health issue. Addiction will only be successfully addressed when treated as a health issue, not as a compliance measure. Successful treatment programs need to start with a willing participant, not one mandated to attend against the threat of impoverishment. The demand for treatment programs currently outstrips supply and promises of \$10 million funding across three states will have little impact in meeting the demand for treatment services. It will also further clog the treatment waiting list with people forced onto a program to participate unwillingly at the expense of those who truly want to change their behaviour and outcomes.

These facts have been reiterated to the federal government time and time again—2017, 2018 and here we are again—but do not take my word for it. Try research groups like the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre or the Public Service Research Group or even perhaps professional organisations like the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the AMA or the Rural Doctors Association of Australia. They are unanimous in their opposition to the bill. It even goes against the government's own National Drug Strategy, which identifies as an underpinning strategic principle to use evidence based research. Imagine that! This bill fails the federal government's own strategic principle.

I have been subject to random drug testing throughout my entire adult life, but I signed up for it willingly. I opted in. I chose that employment. Not only that but in those occupations, those who did identify with addiction or dependence issues were enveloped with support, not immediately discarded to fend for themselves. What this will do is increase the rate of criminal activity, as those experiencing physical withdrawal symptoms will seek other ways to acquire money. I will staunchly defend my city and its reputation. We do not deserve this kind of paternalistic treatment from Canberra. If it wants more people off drugs, fund the treatment. If it wants more people in work, create the jobs.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Education; Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.46 pm): When it comes to education, the Labor government is failing our students and teachers. In July we saw the government only narrowly avoid a teacher strike, which would have been the first teacher strike in a decade and caused major disruption for parents and students across the state. The recent NAPLAN results are also further conclusive proof that Labor is failing to deliver better education for hundreds of thousands of Queensland students. It is alarming that most of Queensland NAPLAN results have gone backwards on a year ago. Where was the minister? He was hiding out in Cape York instead of facing the cameras.

Hardworking teachers, deputy principals and principals are also extremely concerned that their voices are not being heard by the minister. We have seen one of the biggest changes to curriculum and assessment systems in Queensland in 28 years, yet the issues and serious concerns being communicated by our educators in Queensland schools are falling on deaf ears. Teachers and principals are telling me that the additional workload and stress is a serious problem and no-one in the Labor government is listening. I have received letters from educators, principals and teachers imploring me that this government is ignoring the credible pressure that teachers who are teaching in the senior years in Queensland are currently feeling and the changes they are experiencing.

We should be doing all we can to support our wonderful Queensland teachers, not creating an environment which has seen even the most seasoned professionals throw their hands up in frustration. We know the curriculum is overcrowded. We know we have kids now striking from school for climate change protests and no discipline happening about it. We want autonomy for schools. We will bring back independent public schools. We will make sure there are more independent public schools in Queensland because we believe in autonomy for schools and school principals. We will also air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland. Every state school classroom in Queensland will be air conditioned. At two P&C meetings I attended last week the principals actively said in front of the parent body, 'We can't wait until the LNP government is elected so our P&Cs don't have to fund raise for air conditioning in classrooms.' That is what the LNP government will do: we will listen to our teachers, we will listen to our principals and we will listen to the students and staff.

Another serious matter I want to talk about is the fact that for weeks now the Premier has been in this House saying, 'When the CCC finalises its assessments, I'm going to take strong action against the Deputy Premier.' That is what the Premier said—'Strong action. I'll do it. I will take action.' What did she do? She promoted the Deputy Premier and then flew to Switzerland!

The day she flew to Switzerland she promoted the Deputy Premier after the CCC released its findings saying essentially that what the Deputy Premier did should be a criminal offence. It might not have got up to the level of corruption, but the CCC said that what the Deputy Premier did do by failing to declare to cabinet and CBRC should be a criminal offence, and now we will see legislation in the not-too-distant future about that.

The Deputy Premier was promoted to Acting Premier whilst the Premier was jetsetting in Switzerland—that is, she has less work and the same pay. That is the punishment one gets under a Labor government when they breach the ministerial code of conduct and do not disclose serious conflicts of interest: they get promoted, they stay on the same pay and then they lose a little bit of their responsibility, which she had already lost because she had voluntarily given it up weeks before. That is the strong action that this weakest Premier in Queensland's history came up with. As members of parliament, we have serious obligations and we should honour those obligations.


The CCC's assessment and press release said that on 27 March there was a submission to the CBRC by the Deputy Premier concerning matters related to Cross River Rail and by the education minister in relation to the inner-city school. Also on 27 March, the Deputy Premier's husband signed a contract for the purchase of the Woolloongabba property. As the Deputy Premier is sitting in 1 William Street looking out the window, her husband is just across the river signing a contract for the very purchase that she should have said meant she had a potential conflict of interest in the CBRC meeting, which she did not do.

On 29 March, the CBRC met to discuss more submissions on Cross River Rail. Of course, on 29 March the text message was sent by the Deputy Premier's husband to the Deputy Premier. This morning, the Deputy Premier stood up in here and said, 'I'm a busy woman. We have a working family. That's why he didn't tell me about the purchase price.' My wife works full-time. I work full-time. If I bought

a \$700,000 investment property, I could imagine what my wife—a working mum—would tell me if I did not tell her about it. Does the Deputy Premier's husband treat the Deputy Premier like some sort of chattel, that she gets only a series of information? I think that is disrespectful to the Deputy Premier. For the Deputy Premier to think that anyone believes her, it is nonsense.

(Time expired)

Works for Queensland

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.51 pm): The Works for Queensland program delivers for the needs of the communities in my electorate. The 2019-2021 Works for Queensland program supports advancing Queensland's priorities through our future plan by creating jobs in a strong economy and being a responsive government. This program gives local government in regional and remote areas greater capacity to deliver minor infrastructure projects and create opportunities for local jobs.

Just last week Minister Bailey and I visited Lockhart River for the opening of the new Morrison Claudie Bridge, which was funded under this program. The rickety old wooden bridge was at the end of its tether and well overdue for retirement. The old bridge had weathered many severe weather conditions. Although it served its purpose, the safety risks it posed for road users were way too high. The Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council secured \$450,000 in Works for Queensland funds, which went towards the upgrade of the bridge. Work commenced on this project on 25 September 2018 and was completed on 6 December 2018. This project employed four local people.

While in Lockhart River I was able to meet and chat with some of the locals and hear their stories about being able to work and deliver something that is beneficial to the whole community. The opening of the bridge was a special occasion for the Lockhart River community. It was wonderful to see locals, young and old, come out to take part in the ceremony. To me, it signified something much greater: support for critical infrastructure that connects families and community. The opportunity created through Works for Queensland enabled this community to have full ownership, to drive their own infrastructure agenda—to not only build and upskill local people but also restore community pride and confidence in being part of this important narrative that would deliver a brand-new bridge built by local people, named after a local elder, and acknowledging the traditional owners of the area whilst serving the long-term benefits of this community.

There is no doubt that geographical isolation places a huge barrier to people living in regional and remote communities. Everywhere I travel throughout the Cook electorate people tell me that they want jobs. They want the opportunity to participate in paid work or engage in training and apprenticeships to gain skills and trade qualifications. Local businesses want certainty to lock in short-term contracts. In the three rounds of Works for Queensland, more than \$79 million has been invested in infrastructure and roads in local communities, making the Cook electorate an even better place to live. In the Cook electorate alone, under this program 1,931 jobs have been created or sustained so far, with 800 more to come with the round we announced earlier this year.

The Morrison Claudie Bridge in the Lockhart River community is one of the many projects that has been delivered to communities across the Cook electorate. There has also been the \$335,000 upgrade of the supermarket in Hope Vale, the \$1.1 million community hall in Mapoon and the \$500,000 allocated in the 2019-20 budget for the Mareeba animal shelter. Whatever the project, Works for Queensland delivers and gives local councils the independence to plan for projects well in advance.

Works for Queensland is a great initiative, attracting great reviews from local government in the Cook electorate. Mayors in my electorate tell me how valuable this program is to supporting infrastructure and social and economic growth and development. People in my communities want jobs. They want to be able to go to work every day, earn an honest pay cheque and support their families by putting food on the table, a roof over their heads and a bed to sleep in. Having a job can be transformational. For people in regional and remote areas, Works for Queensland acts as a gateway to other opportunities, thus creating financial independence. It fosters new and improved skills. Most importantly, having a job is a source of pride and confidence.


The Palaszczuk government backs growth and development for all Queenslanders no matter where they live. The Works for Queensland program is particularly important in regional and remote communities. I am proud to represent a government that is committed to not only addressing local needs and demands but also to empower, strengthen and build community capacity for a bright future.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2831, on motion of Ms Enoch—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.56 pm), continuing: Before lunch I announced that we will not be switching on the minimum practice standards in Cape York as planned. Cape York is a great example of what can be achieved through voluntarily methods if there is enough uptake. I would like to thank the member for Cook for her advocacy in this regard, as she has spoken up for the good work of those industries in Cape York to be recognised.

The second aspect of this bill is to put in place measures to ensure that industry growth and new development can occur without compromising the improvements that have already been made to water quality while also minimising the regulatory burden on existing activities. The provisions outlined in this bill ensure that reef water quality targets for nutrients and sediments are taken into account in regulatory decision-making. Implementing this regulatory package will see real progress towards the water-quality targets. Using the latest figures available from the government's Paddock to Reef monitoring, modelling and reporting program, it is estimated that, if there is widespread compliance with the practice standards in this legislation, we could reach about 80 per cent of the 2025 target for reducing dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads.

When it comes to sediment loads, we have achieved only a 0.5 per cent reduction across the reef in the past two years. That needs to drastically improve and this bill will help achieve this. One of the realities of a regulatory system is that penalties are needed as part of the enforcement system. Much has been said about the size of the penalties in this bill, which have been set to align with penalties for similar offences under the Environmental Protection Act. However, these are the maximum penalties reserved for action taken in court for the most deliberate or seriously negligent offenders. Following consultation with industry, if a fine is imposed—and it will be only after other means of encouraging compliance are exhausted—it is much more likely to be a penalty infringement notice. Of course, these are much smaller penalties. For example, failure to keep records will have a fine of around \$600 for an individual.

To help producers improve practices, as part of last year's state budget the Queensland government allocated an additional \$13.8 million over four years. This includes \$10.1 million as part of the Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme to support producers to access professional advice to help them meet the new requirements. Under this scheme, which is being implemented by the Queensland Rural Industry and Development Authority, producers will be able to receive a rebate of up to \$1,000 to offset the costs of professional advice. This funding comes on top of a suite of other investments that the Palaszczuk government is making to accelerate industry transition to best practice.

Today, I am pleased to announce an additional \$5.7 million for the new Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions program. This program is a combination of extension support and incentives for graziers in the Burdekin, Burnett-Mary and Fitzroy catchments and will be delivered in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Fitzroy Basin Association, NQ Dry Tropics and the Burnett Mary Regional Group. This investment ensures the same levels of support that were available under the Grazing Best Management Practice program, which was once delivered by these organisations in partnership with AgForce, until AgForce suddenly and quite shockingly deleted graziers'—their own members'—data without consent. The Queensland government wants the hard work of those graziers who participated in and were accredited under the Grazing Best Management Practice program to be recognised and built upon.

I also announced over the weekend an additional \$1 million investment in the Banana Best Management Practice program to provide for additional extension and incentives for banana growers in the Wet Tropics and Cape York. The banana industry is working very hard to voluntarily meet the minimum standards. This was reflected in the Reef Water Quality Report Card, which showed more than 64 per cent of banana land is operated in accordance with best practice. This is a great result, and the extension of this program will help encourage more growers to meet and surpass the minimum standards.

These new investments come on top of already existing funding programs the government provides, including for best management practice programs such as the Smartcane BMP and Hort360 BMP. Other programs include assistance for nutrient management planning in the sugarcane industry

under the successful RP161 project in regions such as Burdekin, Mackay-Whitsundays, Isis, Herbert and soon Russell Mulgrave, and programs to improve ground cover in the grazing industry such as the Grassroots program.

I would like to thank all those who have been engaging with the Department of Environment and Science over the almost 2½ years on the development of the regulatory package and those who made a submission to the committee and appeared before the committee at its numerous public hearings. The development of this regulatory package has been a textbook example of a thorough consultative process. The Department of Environment and Science held over 70 meetings with agricultural and industry groups, environment groups and hundreds of landholders from the cane, banana, grazing and horticulture industries.

I have personally met with farmers from across the catchments to hear firsthand about the practical concerns about the regulatory proposals. I have been on farms in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Burnett-Mary, Mackay-Whitsundays and Cape York. Recently in Townsville I spoke directly to cane, banana and grazing farmers and it is as a result of these conversations and the direct advocacy of government members that I have been able to announce important concessions today. I am particularly grateful to those farmers, as well as submitters to the committee, industry and conservation groups and scientists, for sharing their unique circumstances and insights. I have engaged with and listened to canegrowers and graziers and to the Queensland Farmers' Federation, and today I have committed that a Labor government will not make further amendments to the minimum standards once adopted under this legislation and regulations for at least five years. This responds to the issue of certainty that has been raised by these stakeholders.

We have also made significant amendments to the minimum standards. For example, the practical, respectful and considered approach of the Australian Banana Growers' Council and its members has seen revisions to the nutrient requirements, such as allowing for a nutrient management plan. Another example is the contributions from graziers who attended workshops with the Department of Environment and Science in the regions and made an effective case for a simple and flexible outcomes based minimum standard.

Before the bill was introduced earlier this year, the entire grazing minimum standard in the legislation was rewritten after consultation with graziers to ensure it applies only to land in poor condition, rather than the more prescriptive approach that was originally proposed. I am also pleased to inform the House that changes have been made to the proposed thresholds for the new cropping environmental authority as a direct result of concerns raised by the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Australian Banana Growers' Council, Growcom and Canegrowers about the impacts of the proposal on industry growth. The threshold has increased from two to five hectares for when an environmental authority with standard conditions is required for new cropping, and from 30 hectares to 100 hectares for when a site-specific application for new cropping is required. These changes will be made as part of the regulations that sit under the legislation we are debating today. The increased thresholds will allow for most new cropping to go through a simple process with standard conditions, while only the largest developments will need to undergo a site-specific assessment considering land suitability for the activity.

Another aspect of the regulatory package that has been the subject of strong representations is section 89, the head of power to make a regulation about additional data. As a result of these representations, we will not be making a regulation at this stage and instead will seek to work voluntarily with industry to collect relevant data. However, data continues to be critical both for industry and for government to make the best decisions. For this reason, we will not remove the head of power in the bill.

Speaking of voluntary action, where we are providing industry sectors with additional time to comply, there is a real opportunity for those areas to demonstrate that they are voluntarily meeting best practice standards. Growcom, for example, see this opportunity for the horticulture sector and we will be working with them to see what can be done to fast track voluntary uptake of the Hort360 program. Honestly, nothing would please me more than to be able to say in the future that regulated minimum standards are not needed, like I have done in relation to Cape York today.

In addition to being responsive to industry, we have responded to concerns raised by groups like WWF, Australian Marine Conservation Society and the Environmental Defenders Office about the need to ensure that new development did not add to the water quality problem. As a result, all new and expanding point source activities, like sewage treatment plants, aquaculture and mining, will be required to achieve a 'no net decline' in water quality from nutrient and sediment release.

I would also like to thank the volunteers and community conservation groups who work to protect the Great Barrier Reef on the ground every day. Their hard work and dedication is invaluable to the preservation of this natural wonder. I also want to recognise the work of the scientists whose work has underpinned this legislation. Of course, the LNP has been participating in a full-scale attack on science with their plans to create an Office of Science Quality Assurance which they are proposing in order to score cheap political points but fundamentally to undermine the legitimacy of science. Reef science has been at the centre of this attack. It has been deeply disappointing that there has been misinformation spread across communities, which has caused division, suspicion and fear. The chair of the reef independent expert panel has been so concerned that he wrote to me and the federal Minister for Environment. He has elsewhere noted that we have seen these tactics before from the cigarette industry when the health science showed the terrible impacts from smoking.

I would also like to recognise the member for Mirani who, last sitting week, commented during his adjournment speech that regenerative agriculture, which includes using less chemicals while making their land more productive, will help protect the reef, and I look forward to seeing his support for this legislation.

Lastly, I want to recognise the shadow minister for the environment, the member for Broadwater, who seems to have accepted some key truths. I was pleasantly surprised by his comments in the *Australian* on 18 July. He said—

The reef is not dead. It had big challenges but there are signs of how resilient it is.

...

That does not give us a blank cheque not to care about runoff from agriculture.

...

It doesn't excuse us from doing something about global warming.

He also said—


The reef will adapt if we can have the cleanest possible water flowing into it.

He is right on this and I look forward to the full-throated support of the member for Broadwater today. This final package of regulatory amendments will strike the right balance between protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the over 60,000 jobs and the economic value it provides, while maintaining productivity, profitability and jobs. We want to protect all jobs and this package is a step towards that.

I will briefly touch on the fact that this bill also contains amendments that give effect to the common assessment method for threatened species and amends wildlife classes to be consistent with the method through amendments to the Biodiscovery Act 2004, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999. These amendments will allow for a nationally consistent approach to threatened species listings and therefore better protection for our most vulnerable creatures.

I have said this before and I will say it again now: we are at a tipping point. This is our opportunity to make very sensible responsible changes to protect the future of the Great Barrier Reef and everything that connects to that magnificent area. We will do this in a considered responsible way, but we must also act with urgency. We are the stewards of the reef at this moment in time. The decisions we make today will determine the living legacy we leave behind. I firmly believe that we can protect Queensland's most iconic natural asset, but we must step up. We must work together so that we and future generations can enjoy a strong and healthy reef, while ensuring a thriving agricultural industry.

If we do not do something now, there could be irreversible consequences in the future. Certainly the federal LNP's outlook report for 2019 makes it very clear that we must act now. The threats regarding climate change and water quality are very real, which is why this bill is so incredibly necessary to ensure that we give the Great Barrier Reef the best possible chance to withstand a changing climate. This bill strikes the right balance between protecting the reef and protecting all jobs—rural, regional and those that rely on the reef. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.10 pm): One of my earliest memories is sitting on the mudguard of a tractor as my father fertilised ratoon paddocks. In those days there was no science. Fertilising was done by a spreader box. The fertiliser would go in and would be sprayed willy-nilly. I also have memories of dad pulling up with a spray unit and pouring chemical into that spray unit, guessing at what was needed to do the right thing to grow a crop. Times have changed. Today on my father's farm not one grain of fertiliser is applied above the soil. The spraying of chemicals is so scientific that what is applied is measured down to the millimetre. The evolution of this story is shared not just by one family in one sector; it is shared across the state.

The other day in Dalby, I had the great pleasure of talking to Andrew Johnston and his crew at Dalby Rural Supplies. To see the technology that that firm is implementing in this era is something that, as Australians, we should be proud of. They have reduced chemical output by over 90 per cent by using technology that identifies weeds. I thank the member for Condamine for introducing me to that fine farming family.

My father loves farming. He also loves fauna. I have seen, through good practices and a commercial imperative, what has happened on his farm. In the past decade alone, his fertiliser use, particularly with urea, which is one of the key issues with reef run-off, is down by 50 per cent in some paddocks. In other paddocks, chemical usage is down by 20 per cent. I know that the two industries can coexist.

My wife, Tegan, and I love the industry. To this day, we own two very small farms. Both are leased, so this legislation will have an infinitesimal impact on us financially. However, it gives me a deep understanding of the importance of agriculture to small towns. As shadow tourism minister, I have had an exposure to the importance of tourism and the importance of the reef to small communities. The government would have us believe that only one side can exist and only one side can thrive. That is not true. The truth is that if we continue to progress, if we continue to do the right thing, if we continue to incentivise and put money on the table, both industries can and must survive for the sake of this state's economy.

Unfortunately, both sides of the debate have sought to use the health of the reef as a political weapon against the other. Both sides have done that. One side would have us believe that nothing that comes off a farm has an impact and they—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the minister, although I am not sure she heard what I said. One side would have us believe that nothing that comes off a farm has an impact and they seek to mix up sediment and nutrient to do so. That is not fair. It is not fair on the environmental movement to push that agenda. Equally, some environmentalists say that there is no way that agriculture can occur and that the reef is dead.

The minister referred to some quotes of mine from the *Australian*. I thank the minister for that, as I intended to use those quotes later on. There is a reason why I dived on the Great Barrier Reef. It was because, to use a word that has been used in this House quite a bit today, there was a void that needed filling. We have armies of people who are not prepared to stand up and say that the reef is recovering from things such as coral bleaching and cyclones. That does not give us an excuse not to do more. We must continue to improve our practices in things such as agriculture and the urban environment, which this bill does not discuss. We must continue to improve our practices for the sake of that mighty asset. In her contribution, which I will address later, the minister articulated very clearly how important the reef is.

The main crux of this debate—and I urge every person who makes a contribution to at the very least address this point—is that today we are asking this parliament to blindly hand over powers to set the farming practices of industries throughout this state to an unelected bureaucrat. In this House there are 93 members who were elected by their communities—different communities, great communities. We are accountable to those communities. This legislation hands the power to set farming practices to an unelected bureaucrat. That is scary. That is not good government. Every day I will argue for the need for better enforcement and better standards. When changes are made, I want to see this House debate them. I want to see the members for Cairns, Townsville—

An opposition member: Mackay.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—Mackay and Maryborough come into this place to debate these standards having looked their communities in the eye, because today we are handing over responsibility. What this means is that in the future when changes are made we will see hands thrown up and hear, 'It wasn't my responsibility.' A little later in my contribution I will have more to say about those members and the safeguards.

In the past week, we saw something masquerading as a government rebellion against the cabinet. I have some advice for those who are planning rebellions. When you are doing the old 'get the backbencher to throw up a Dorothy Dixier midway through to make them look like they had a win', do not coordinate members from different regions to do that on the same day, because the media clips pick it up.

I do not think that the member for Mackay and the three members from Townsville all woke up on the same day determined to say, 'I'm fighting this government to not have any changes for the next five years.' Even if they did and even if it was the forcefulness of those members that made the minister today say that there will be no changes for five years, I can tell the House what that guarantees. It means there will be no change to the legislation that provides the power to the unelected bureaucrat to change these rules every day of the week. That is what we are saying. It is a five-year—

Ms Enoch: Incorrect.

Mr CRISAFULLI: More on that later, Minister—stand by. It is a five-year blank cheque to continue to abrogate the responsibility of this House.

There are other issues in this legislation which must be condemned and debated. One of them is the mandating of the collection of data. I am going to read an extract from the legislation and then we are going to go on a little journey and explore what it means. I refer to the collection of data relating to the 'production, distribution, supply or use of an agricultural ERA product, fertiliser or chemical'. That is pretty broad.

I will tell members what I read into that. I certainly read that that pits grower against farm consultant—no doubt about that. If someone engages somebody in good faith to get advice then that person is all of a sudden bound by this legislation to, dare I say it, compromise an engagement in good faith. It certainly pits grower against supplier. All of a sudden the guy people go to buy their fertiliser from has to keep a dossier. Hope they have not brought an extra bag for their neighbour because they might have Big Brother coming to knock on their door to ask why they needed an extra bag of fertiliser.

Do members want to know something? I read the supply or use of an agricultural ERA product, fertiliser or chemical relating to the production, distribution or supply and I wonder whether it pits on-farm worker against farm owner. If that is the case, that truly is a sad day for the relationship.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, in your contribution you can rule that out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member, direct your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The minister is able to rule that out in her contribution. Unless those words are changed, I fear the worst. I certainly understand how that works between grower and consultant and grower and supplier. I fear Orwellian like powers—the kind that pits people against farmers who just want to feed the nation, who just want to do the right thing by their family, who have been part of the journey that we have witnessed to better agricultural standards and who want to keep doing it for the sake of the environment, for the sake of their hip pocket and for the sake of the next generation.

It has been shameful the way people have been treated during this process. Less than two weeks ago in parliament the member for Kawana moved that this debate occur in Townsville where we had an army of people wanting to have their say. We were told that it was not ready to be debated. Hallelujah. We have had a lot of science in a short of period of time, but here it is. I would have liked to have thought that real consultation occurred.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Education.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the education minister. Do you know what real consultation on something this significant looks like? It looks like a Premier who would be prepared to meet with these people. The Premier of this state has not been willing to meet these industry bodies on this legislation. Can members imagine Peter Beattie not meeting groups on something like this? Can members imagine that? The Premier of this state is refusing to meet these group who represent thousands of people across dozens of industries.

In my many negotiations and briefings with these bodies I gave them advice to deal with the minister in good faith because the minister is not a malicious person and is someone who will listen. I also gave them the advice to engage with the Premier. I would have thought, with all the machinations and the circus that has happened over there and with the removal of the Deputy Premier's power, that maybe a Premier from the right faction of the Labor Party might have been able to strike a balance between good environmental protection and protection for workers. I would have thought that the agenda of the noisy Greens, who have run this government for five years, might have been put to bed, but clearly not. Still we have a Premier who owes her existence to a group who do not share her values or indeed the values of the traditional base of the Australian Labor Party.

We continue to hear about scientific consensus—a statement which was produced as part of the *Reef 2050 water quality plan 2017-2022*. If one reads that scientific consensus it says we must act, and act we must. That consensus talks about the value of changing practice through voluntary means. It talks about the need for greater investment to allow this change to occur and it uses the word ‘collaboration’. It talks about farmers working with the community and with government. It talks about the need for reform to be done in a manner that will take people on board.

I fear that so much of this decision to put in place this legislation is politically motivated. These results could be achieved by using strengthened BMPs, by using strengthened investment and by ensuring those doing the wrong thing feel the full force of the law—the laws set by this parliament. I will tell members what it has been set up for. It has been set up because one side of the House will not support a blank cheque to an unelected person and that side of the House will be branded all sorts of things about being anti the reef. I say to the minister and the government: every day between now and the end of October next year I will make the message clear that only one side of the House will embark on the environmental reforms needed while protecting agricultural industries. Only one side of the House will do this because only one side of the House does not owe its sole existence to a group of people—the hard core Greens—who keep them there and keep them in survival mode.

I wish to make a contribution around the minister’s second reading speech. The minister quite clearly raises the two major imperatives we must deal with in our battle for better reef protection and better reef quality. The minister has outlined both of them. She is right on both of them. One is the need to act on climate change. The second is improving water quality. The first is one that we all must do more on as a society. All of us have to do more. The second is the one that fits most within our bailiwick and that is improving water quality. I will strive to do that every day. I am confident that we are able to do that in a manner that does not have to pit farmers against the community and does not have to hand over power to somebody who is not accountable.

The minister talks about some of the low accreditation numbers through BMP across many sectors. What the minister does not highlight is how many people have reached the BMP standard without getting formal notification and how many people are on that journey and closing in on it very fast. I must acknowledge the member for Glass House, who is here today. It was the member for Glass House who, as environment minister, embarked on the BMP process. It was brave. There were those who pushed back very hard and he stood his ground. It is something that we must do more on.

The minister touches on incentives. She parrots figures like \$13.8 million, \$5 million and a whopping \$1 million for the banana growers. I went to the committee hearings. I thank the member for Scenic Rim for allowing me to take his place at those committee hearings. I went to those hearings because I thought it was important to hear people at the coalface. Despite all of the powerful messages from the industry groups, the contribution that rang the most alarm bells for me came from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies during the hearings in Townsville. It was a single line where that body said that, in order to embark on effective implementation of what the government is proposing, we would need \$1 billion per year every year for 10 years. Please do not come in here with a \$5 million trinket and \$1 million for the banana growers and somehow think that all is solved. We are a long, long way from solving a problem when we are talking about money running into the tens of millions if we want to embark on radical, hard core, immediate reform and handing over blanket powers.

The minister says any changes to law must go to public consultation. To those who have embarked on this journey in recent times, I am not so convinced that they like the form of public consultation they have just embarked on that was part of the debate on this legislation. Unless at some stage today the minister is going to set some standards, the parliament is never going to see it again. I am not so convinced that people have a lot of faith in the process having been through this sham.

The minister thanked the committee for their input. I welcome the efforts of all of those on the committee. I note the member for Noosa, who is here and who attended the hearings and made an excellent contribution. I thank her as well. Despite hearing all of the desire for people to do better, despite being told about the lunacy of pitting farmer against consultant and farmer against supplier, despite people saying, ‘If you want tougher standards, debate them. Put them in the legislation and come in here and have a debate,’ despite all of that, the committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed.

The minister mentioned her visits to farms. I thank her for that. From those whom I have spoken to, they have all said that the minister was sympathetic in her views, was genuine with her time and gave them a fair hearing. The significance of their story has not been reflected in what we are debating today. Indeed, we do not even have the regulations here. We have a draft version which got shopped around to groups at two minutes to midnight.

A government member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It was last night. I am not sure if I can take an 'Oh,' for an interjection but, if I can, may I? They got it last night. We have not got it. This parliament has not got it. We are being asked to vote on a massive piece of legislation which hands over blanket powers through regulation. I would not be comfortable handing blanket powers over through regulation regardless, but we are being asked to do that and we have not even seen the regulation—and so it goes on.

In my short time remaining I flag that the opposition will be moving amendments to this legislation. They are the sorts of common-sense things that I have been saying—the things that the member for Noosa, the member for Stretton and other members on the committee heard in our travels around the state. Those amendments will provide the last chance—at the last chance saloon—for those members who have gone missing in action, for those members who thought that a coordinated, 'Oh, we're going to get a five-year stay of execution'—the old, 'Here's this from the Premier's office. Put your name where the Xs are. Make sure you don't put the name of your neighbouring seat holder. Get your name right.' They thought that somehow that was going to be the highlight, that they had had a go. Well, it is not, because the industry groups are lining up. They are lining—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise a point of order. The member for Thuringowa does not belong in those seats and cannot interject—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Just hold on. You can take a point of order, but I will run the House. The member for Thuringowa cannot interject from that position. He knows that.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is the last chance for members in areas such as Cairns, where 384 jobs are on the line; Townsville, where over 700 sugar jobs are on the line—

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, thank you. You also know the rules.


Mr CRISAFULLI:—Mackay, where 1,783 jobs are on the line; and Maryborough, where 441 jobs are on the line.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Education, thank you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: This is a big moment. While those opposite will seek to use this debate as a tool one way or another to say, 'These people do not support better quality water run-off and these people do not support the reef,' I hope I have been able to make it clear in this contribution that I will not walk away from doing more. We must do more. Every one of us—every industry, every person, every local government—must do more, but there have been amazing improvements. We owe it to our kids for those improvements to continue.

In closing, I make the point that times have changed. The young girl who today is riding shotgun on her father's tractor does it in an air-conditioned cab. She does it with the best science and the best quality agricultural pursuits in the world. Improvements are needed by working together, not by pitting farmer against community and, above all, not by allowing an unelected bureaucrat to determine how farming and the environment can go hand in hand. With that, the LNP will be opposing this bill.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.38 pm): There certainly has been some fertiliser spread in the parliament this afternoon after that contribution. The Great Barrier Reef is a vast and spectacular ecosystem and one of the most complex natural systems on earth. Recognised for its outstanding universal value, it is important to traditional owners, communities and industries that depend on a healthy reef for community benefits and livelihoods. The reef is core to Australia's identity and improving its outlook is critical. We have known this for many years. We knew this more than 10 years ago when the then Queensland Labor government introduced the first round of reef protection regulations. We have tried to work cooperatively and voluntarily with all stakeholders to protect the reef, but it is increasingly clear that voluntary efforts will not be enough. We must act now.

The introduction of the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 is one very important step that we as a parliament can take to address one of the most significant impacts on the reef: poor water quality as a result of nutrient and sediment pollution from agricultural land use run-off. The bill aims to do this in a number of critical ways, including: setting nutrient and sediment pollution load limits for each reef catchment at the river basin scale; provide the ability to apply commodity-specific minimum practice standards to a broader suite of agricultural ERAs such as sugar cane, grazing, bananas and other horticultural crops and grains

production; and provide an alternate pathway for producers to meet regulatory requirements through accreditation against a recognised BMP program which currently exists for cane, grazing, bananas and horticulture.

In 2003 the Queensland and Australian governments made a 10-year commitment through the reef plan to address diffuse pollution from broadscale land use and to halt and reverse the decline in water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef. The reef plan at the time stated that there was a need for regulation 'where there was a risk that voluntary approaches will fail to deliver significant water quality improvements'. In 2009 regulations to protect the Great Barrier Reef were introduced to reduce the impacts of agricultural activities on reef water quality. Reading through the explanatory notes of the 2009 bill felt like *deja vu*. The explanatory notes state—

The key focus of many actions in Reef Plan has been to assist landholders in adopting best management practices through voluntary and incentive schemes.

The 2008 *Scientific consensus statement on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef* states—

Water discharged from rivers to the GBR continues to be of poor quality in many locations.

Land derived contaminants, including suspended sediments, nutrients and pesticides are present in the GBR at concentrations likely to cause environmental harm.

That was in 2008. We have known all of this since 2003 and we implemented regulations in 2009, only to take a step backwards in 2012 when the LNP Newman government stopped enforcing regulations and determined that a voluntary approach was better. This policy change can only be described as irresponsible. It was irresponsible then and it is irresponsible now. We know that the voluntary approach has not worked. There has not been sufficient take-up, as evidenced by overall progress. Only one per cent of Queensland's graziers and 11 per cent of canefarmers are accredited under BMP standards. This represents less than a quarter of the total cane farming area and is despite over \$120 million in industry-led BMP programs, science and ongoing programs to assist landholders in improving agricultural management practices. Report after report shows that water quality and the outlook for the reef are not improving. We need to accelerate progress towards meeting reef water quality targets, which is what the bill before us aims to achieve.

Those opposite have attempted to paint the picture that there has been limited consultation on this bill and what it proposes to achieve. I believe this is quite disingenuous, as it is clear from information provided by the Department of Environment and Science that since August 2016 there has been ongoing consultation on reef regulatory proposals through the Agricultural Stakeholder Advisory Group. This group comprised a number of key stakeholders, including AgForce and Queensland canegrowers, and there were three separate public consultations held in March 2017, September 2017 and January 2018. There was also a discussion paper and a consultation regulatory impact statement which provided details on the regulatory proposals included in the proposed minimum standards. As for the so-called 'lack of consultation', there were 51 submissions received on the RIS, including from agricultural, industrial and conservation sectors and the community.

In October 2018 a consultation draft of the bill was released for comment to key industry stakeholders. It is very important to be clear on the matter of consultation. During the public hearing the executive director for environmental policy and programs in the office of the Great Barrier Reef said—

I have been involved in legislation for the department on and off for 15 years, and I can say that this bill has been one of the most extensively consulted bills that I have ever worked on.


Having said that, our parliamentary committee undertook an extensive examination of this bill and not only held public hearings in Brisbane but travelled to key regional areas including Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg. These hearings were very well attended, with many witnesses appearing before the committee. We received valuable information for our deliberations. I would like to thank those farmers who invited us to their properties to see firsthand the work being undertaken through BMP programs and hear about the personal impact this legislation will have on their operations. I do understand and have great sympathy for those farmers who have been doing the right thing voluntarily to improve water quality through their practices and who I genuinely believe understand the importance of protecting the reef.

I would also like to thank the scientists we met during our visit to the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Townsville. It was such an eye-opening experience to visit AIMS. This organisation was set up with foresight by the Whitlam government in 1972. The work that is occurring at AIMS is incredibly important and, importantly, credible. With an initial focus on exploring and defining the Great Barrier Reef, they have spent the past 20 years monitoring and understanding the changes, knowing that in the next decade the focus will be on action to help sustain and repair those ecosystems in the face of a changing climate.

The attack on science to justify inaction is quite frightening, and I do believe history will not be kind to those who continue to push this perverse line of 'science quality assurance'. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority publishes its outlook report every five years. This report is a scientifically robust assessment of more than 1,400 references which have undergone peer review. The assessment is clear: the overall outlook for the Great Barrier Reef in this report is very poor. The reef report cards are showing limited improvements in water quality. We know that change will remain slow while improving land management practices remains voluntary. As the outlook report states—

It is important to remain vigilant, active and optimistic in managing the Reef. Actions taken now ... will matter and make a difference to the Region's long-term outlook.

Actions begin today with these proposed reef protection regulations. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.46 pm): The LNP and I reject these outrageous laws, which are yet again another hammer blow to farmers in this state. We have seen so many from this government already. This is the worst government in history when it comes to supporting the agricultural sector in this state. We have had draconian vegetation management laws, the trigger mapping debacle, gouging farmers through power and water prices, the tick line debacle and the failure of the government to properly manage fuel loads when it comes to bushfire risks, especially when it comes to state owned land. Of course, that is topical in my area at the moment.

This government is the worst government in history when it comes to dealing with agriculture and supporting our farmers. These unfair reef laws will cost more jobs in the regions. No doubt it will cost the livelihoods of some farmers in the affected regions, whether they are cane farms, beef farms or, dare I say, even dairy farms. During the public briefing I asked whether the dairy industry would be impacted by these regulations. The answer that came back was, 'At this point there are no minimum standards planned for the dairy industry.' The key words are 'at this point.' As if the dairy industry in this state does not face enough challenges as it is, when this bill is passed by the government today it will provide yet another tool for the ALP to turn the screws on the dairy sector through regulation, red tape, fees and charges.

Talking about fees and charges, the mob opposite has a very good track record: 10 new taxes this term. That is another issue I raised during the committee process, because there is a regulatory process if farmers wish to put new land into production. After this bill has been passed today, I think I heard the minister say the threshold for new land to be farmed will go from 30 hectares to 100 hectares. If people want to put new land into production they will have to go through a bureaucratic process with the Queensland government, and that will cost money.

When I asked about the cost to primary producers of that process, the answer was, 'We don't know yet.' Again, we are being asked to vote on a bill when we have no idea of the costs that will be passed on to the primary industry sector in this state. We did have somewhat of an answer from the officer in question at that hearing and it was given in a very nonchalant way: 'It'll be in the thousands of dollars.' It was very casually said. I could read it from the transcript if members would like, but it does not really do justice to it because you had to see the nonchalance in which he actually said, 'It'll be in the thousands of dollars'—as if canegrowers and other farmers who are going to be affected by this bill can just pull thousands of dollars from their bank account to pay for additional regulation that will be imposed by this bill. Not only is this bill bad in its regulation of the agricultural sector; it is yet another tax and another gouge on the hardworking farmers of this state.

Those opposite should hang their heads in shame at what they are doing to the people affected by this bill in the regions and in the agricultural sector. Sadly, that is what we have come to expect from this Labor government. They cannot support their local jobs in the regions. We have the weakest members for those regions—whether it is the members from Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton or Mackay. They are not standing up for their communities. They should be rejecting this bill but they are just going along with the party line like they are told to do time after time after time. They are asked to vote for bills like this bill today that actually destroy the jobs in their communities and destroy the potential for growth and economic opportunity in their communities.

I spoke about the costs to be imposed. I will talk about the sugar industry because it will be very impacted by this bill. The sugar industry is already doing it quite tough, with low international prices for sugar putting pressure on the viability of existing canefarms and mills. We need to ask the question: does the Labor government actually support the sugar industry, and does it support the agricultural sector in this state more generally? This bill is yet another example of taking the hammer to agriculture.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: It is getting a bit rowdy up the back there. The member for Logan obviously knows that he will be voting for the bill but he needs to put his views on the record. The member for Logan should get on the speaking list if he wants to have a say.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): I thank the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Logan. Please come back to the bill, member for Scenic Rim.

Mr KRAUSE: I want to refer to the Australian Sugar Milling Council's submission to the committee on this bill. They said—

... the Queensland economy would be quite negatively impacted if the focus on improvement of reef water quality led to a significant reduction in the productivity and size of the State's sugar industry, and agriculture more broadly.

They fear what is going to happen. This bill could be used as a means to turn the screws on farmers. In the public hearing, I asked what will happen if the reef water quality targets are not met after this bill comes in. The Reef 2050 plan report that came out in 2016 actually said that, even if most land was in categories A and B, their targets may not be met. I asked the department whether they were going to start shutting down canefarms if the targets were not met during that time. The minister may look over here and say that is an outrageous statement, but I would say that the answer that came from the department was extremely evasive.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you had your say.

Mr KRAUSE: It was absolutely outrageous and it shows the contempt that this government has for that part of the world and for agriculture in general. Both farmers and scientists have stated that the assistance package that has been announced by the government is deeply inadequate. Again, I come back to the question of whether they are going to force farms to close if people cannot make the changes or they cannot afford to make the changes to their practices to meet the standards that will be imposed on them.

I also want to highlight that this bill has always been about politics over policy. We saw it from the start with the time frame that was imposed on our committee to deal with this bill. It was very, very urgent. It had to be reported on by 6 April or thereabouts to start with. Before 6 April, we had not even had a chance to go into the regions to actually hold a regional hearing. It was so urgent that they had to put that time frame on it, but then there was no time to do a regional hearing so we got an extension from the Committee of the Legislative Assembly for another two weeks. That allowed us to have those hearings.

Concerns were raised about the consultation process and the rushed time frame from a whole range of stakeholders, including Mr Burns from the Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. He said quite bluntly—

... the process by which the bill has been prepared has been too rushed. There was only two weeks provided for stakeholders to make a comment to the committee—

In the public hearing in Brisbane, I think there was one hour—or it could have even been 45 minutes—for three of the key agricultural stakeholders to make their submissions. In the first round of questioning, I got to ask two questions and my colleague only got to ask two questions. That was four questions in total for AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and Canegrowers about a bill that will have a huge impact on all of their industries.

Mr Crisafulli: It was urgent.


Mr KRAUSE: It was very urgent, member for Broadwater, so urgent that I got to ask two questions. When I asked for an extension of time, that was denied by the government because they were rushing this through.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Member for Broadwater, I have turned to you two or three times now and asked you to cease interjecting. Please do so.

Mr KRAUSE: As I was saying, the bill was too urgent. I got to ask two questions and the member for Theodore got to ask two questions. It was politics over policy from the start.

One thing is clear. When we have bills like this that have the potential for an unelected chief executive to impose standards on farmers that we in this place do not get to review, and when we have a system where the government can tell farmers how to run their business and the government keeps

all the data on exactly what they are putting on the ground, we are heading down a slippery path. It is a path that shows that this Labor Party in government does not support farmers or agriculture. Clearly, if we want to have a future for agriculture in this state, if we want agriculture to grow and be allowed to innovate and have the funds available within those businesses to actually allow them to grow, we need a change of government. We need to remove the Labor Party from government or else the future for agriculture in this state is very, very grave indeed.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the parliamentary staff and all those who took time out of their busy schedules to write submissions and attend the public hearings. I must say from the outset that we all want to protect the Great Barrier Reef. All members on both sides of the chamber want to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It is a world famous icon. It brings tourists from all over the world to our great state. It is an asset that is worth protecting for future generations, but the issue I have with this is that the government's whole approach is to blame one sector.

During the committee process, representatives from different groups complained about the limited time they had to prepare for this process. This was certainly highlighted by the Cape York Aboriginal communities which stated there was simply not enough time for them to comprehend and understand the potential impacts this bill would have on the communities of Cape York.

This bill has a one-size-fits-all approach, yet let us put the Great Barrier Reef into some context. The Great Barrier Reef stretches 2,300 kilometres and covers an area of 344,400 square kilometres. Along this vast distance there are different soil types and topography that react differently to weather events and erosion. Some areas are highly vulnerable to soil erosion whilst others are not. Therefore, the one-size-fits-all approach will be very difficult to implement in some areas yet easier in others.

In addition, not knowing what the standard will be places further questions around the issue. There were some regulations released last night, but opposition members have no idea what they were. That leaves the decision to one individual who is beyond the scrutiny of the parliament, and this was a major point of contention for the majority of stakeholders.

Equally concerning for agricultural groups is the paltry sum of \$25 million that was going to be allocated over four years to help farmers and graziers meet the new guidelines. This paltry amount will do little to help; it is a drop in the ocean. In his submission, Professor Brodie stated that the real cost will be in the ballpark of \$10 billion over 10 years, and the farmers will be forced to bear much of that cost themselves. This would be simply unattainable for farmers. It will force farmers off the land. This will also have a domino effect through other industries that rely on the farming sector. There is no better example of that than the sugar-milling industry. As we all know, sugar mills require a certain volume of cane to make their mill viable. If the mill falters, the other industries that rely on those mills will also falter. Therefore, there is a complete domino effect all the way along the Queensland coast when it comes to farming and other industries.

As I stated earlier, each region reacts differently due to soil types, topography and terrain. The reef south of Cairns is in a better condition than the reef north of Cairns, which certainly does raise some questions. I spoke to one of the submitters after a hearing and he spoke about the numerous cyclones that went through those areas, causing quite a bit of damage. Many farmers have been implementing best practice techniques and have reached accreditation whilst others are working towards it. It is in the best interests of farmers to look after their soil and their farming properties and to ensure that they remain viable. This also includes ensuring fertiliser remains on the land, which allows a maximum crop yield. The last thing a farmer wants to see is his fertiliser going down the river and off the coast, because it costs them money.

Therefore, we need to customise approaches and help farmers bear the cost of bringing them up to these standards. As I said, each farming area may have a different requirement. For example, some could build water retention ponds to stop water going out to sea so it can then be recycled on the property. Others could reinforce gullies for graziers to limit soil erosion in those areas. Potentially these can be significant and, therefore, cost vast amounts of funds.

During the Brisbane hearing I asked the WWF and the Environmental Defenders Office about another issue. I asked them their opinions about the dropping of dredge spoil onto the Great Barrier Reef and what we could do with this. Ms Pointon stated—

Firstly, you could require, as is required for capital dredge spoil, that it is dumped on land. We have required it of capital dredge spoil. There is no reason not to require it of maintenance dredge spoil as well.


Mr Hoobin then jumped in and said—

Just quickly on that point, I think it is one of the other glaring omissions from this bill. As Revel says, it is being dumped on the reef right now. We are spending all this money and we are asking the farmers to do all this work, yet we are allowing ports and the major companies they support to dig stuff up and dump it directly in the reef. It seems a crazy thing to do. It is best on land but, if not, at least offset it and create revenue streams for more on-ground action in the catchment.

Therefore, this legislation still allows dredge spoil to be dumped directly onto the reef and members opposite continuously attack farmers over water quality issues. Therefore, I can certainly understand why certain individuals in the hearings brought this up with me and expressed their frustration.

If the agricultural industries are forced to do all this heavy lifting without the necessary support they desperately need, an industry that creates jobs and wealth in our state with a domino effect through other industries, I fear it will be too great a burden for the sector to bear. Therefore, I say that we need to protect the reef, but we need to give the farmers the help they desperately need and want.

In Mackay one of the farmers stated that they go out snorkelling on the reef on a regular basis. They love to go out there. It is a family outing on the weekend for them to go out and enjoy the reef. The last thing these people want to do is destroy something they hold so dear, something they have grown up with and something they want their grandkids and their great-grandkids—future generations—to see. Therefore, we need to support our farmers in this endeavour. We need to give them the help they desperately need. If we are here to protect the reef, we need to ensure that we best equip our local communities and our farmers.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.06 pm): The Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 has two parts, as we have heard. This first section aims to implement stronger regulation measures to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland's most iconic natural asset, worth around \$56 million to the economy and employing over 64,000 Queenslanders.

The 2017 Scientific Consensus report, which resulted from a multidisciplinary group of scientists overseen by the Independent Science Panel, concluded that Barrier Reef ecosystems continue to be in poor condition due to the collective impact of extreme weather events, climate change impacts such as warming waters, land run-off associated with past and ongoing catchment development and coastal development activities. In keeping with the targets set out by the joint Australian and Queensland government *Reef 2050 water quality improvement plan 2017-2022*, the bill has a focus to achieve a 60 per cent reduction in nitrogen loads and 25 per cent reduction in sediment loads.

However, in its current form, the bill does not make clear how these water quality targets for each catchment area will be applied to non-agricultural and industrial sector activities such as mining and port maintenance dredging, nor how the bill interacts with other regulatory tools such as the sustainable ports act 2015 and existing state and federal offset legislation. This siloing of contributors makes it difficult to assess the situation in isolation and has appeared to our farming communities that they are again being targeted and, as a result, vilified by coastal communities. This is unacceptable. They not only feed us; they do so facing challenges that many could never comprehend.

There are other concerns which have been outlined in submissions from stakeholders including environmental councils, advocacy groups and farmers, and I will summarise a couple. Firstly, the current Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy enables environmental authority holders to meet their point source water emission discharge requirements through investing in offsets such as river restoration, improved farm practice or wetland construction. The majority of these offsets have not been taken up and reportedly are not available to farmers. Secondly, the proposed new regulatory framework sets minimum standards for all farming activities.

While this legislation seeks to reward producers who have adopted best management practice models, the extra regulatory burden placed on farmers, many of whom are either in or still recovering from drought and floods and already operating under these BMPs, could have unintended consequences. Further, the blanket approach financial support offered to each producer to seek professional advice to develop a compliant environmental management plan could be more effective if directed to those identified by extension officers as needing it the most, especially in financially and environmentally vulnerable sites.

The audit report on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef also outlines difficulties in regard to land management practices, with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries still unable to report adequately on the level of practice change in management practice because it does not possess the necessary management practice data to measure that change. Additionally, data collected for the reef

report card only included farms that had received grants, whereas the majority of farmers had self-funded initiatives including settlement funds. As farmers stated—and we heard earlier—they cannot afford to lose their soil, fertiliser or water as these are costly. With margins of between only one and two per cent, this would lead to financial losses and loss of their livelihood.

The Burnett-Mary region, previously excluded as deemed ‘not impacting on the reef’, is now included. With industry demonstrating that 70 per cent of the run-off from their farms goes through at least one settling pond and hard cover coral increasing by 50 per cent between 2009 and 2015, understandably they cannot understand the rationale for them being included. As submitted by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, the regulations ‘will theoretically result in higher ground cover pasture levels and improved grazing land management but will not directly impact on the key sources of sediment for the Mary River catchment’.

A common agreeance from both farming and environmental advocates was that targeted financial assistance is needed for key vulnerable areas that contribute to the majority of sediment run-off, which includes gullies and riverbanks. With a reported only 10 per cent of applicants to grants funded due to oversubscription, increased regulations cannot overcome the reality that some of our farmers need funding partnerships.

There was also a clear call from these communities for the return of the numbers of extension services and officers of the past as they are intimate with farmers in their region and trusted for their advice and expertise. A common response to questions asked during the public hearings on whether the results required from this legislation could have been achieved under the current legislation with targeted funding was yes. New legislation without targeted funding for projects will not deliver the outcomes sought.

The second part of the bill recommends that the common assessment method for threatened species take effect across associated legislation to address the lack of consistency in listing nationally threatened species. This will provide greater protection for threatened species and their habitat through a suite of welcome amendments to the Fisheries Act 1994, Natural Conservation Act 1992 and Vegetation Management Act 1999, and is to be commended. However, it is important to note key findings from the Auditor-General’s report No. 7 of 2018-19 titled *Conserving threatened species* which highlighted some concerning gaps in the Department of Environment and Science’s implementation of a cohesive and coordinated strategy to manage conservation and recovery efforts, particularly in the process of listing threatened species in Queensland.

Going forward, it is imperative that all departments work together with the scientists, traditional owners, environmental policy and planning and the dedicated frontliners, including QPWS and local conservation groups, to rebuild these habitats. This takes funding, and we consistently hear from volunteer based groups that it has become increasingly impossible to undertake works when grants are oversubscribed. However, as the audit stated, a strategy is needed urgently and it is pleasing to receive updates that the seven recommendations are well advanced, including an overarching biodiversity conservation strategy. Good work, everyone.

Overall, the inquiry into this bill regarding the Great Barrier Reef showed that every single stakeholder is committed to the health of the reef; however, they have concerns on the appropriate methodology to achieve better outcomes. Questions are being asked about why it is only the farming community being targeted when, as the scientific consensus report concluded, impacts were from a combination including coastal developments such as housing as well as dirt roads, gullies and erosion on state owned lands.

There is also discontent in that we have been repeatedly told that the greatest challenge to the reef is extreme weather events and the warming of waters. We cannot overlook Queensland’s role as the third largest exporter in the world of fossil fuels. If we subscribe to the beliefs surrounding the contributors to climate change, we need to be consistent in our efforts to avoid being labelled as hypocrites.

I support the amendments to this bill and their admirable intent; however, as outlined in my statement of reservation, there must be targeted funding for farmers, streamlining of water quality offset legislation and extra extension officers on site to assist our farmers. Additionally, there must be an independent audit of the findings of the scientific consensus statement to give assurances around the concerns found during this investigation.

In closing, I thank my fellow ITDE Committee members, the Auditor-General, Minister Enoch, departments and agencies for their incredibly hard work. I thank all submitters, and especially those who travelled many miles to attend the public hearings. It was heartening to see everyone committed

to the endeavours regarding reef health and being prepared to work together to get this right. Now it is up to us as MPs to ensure that they all have the appropriate levels of assistance and that as Queenslanders we support our farmers in their efforts, as well as support our threatened species and their habitats.



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (4.15 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I quote—

The Great Barrier Reef is an important part of Queensland's extraordinary natural heritage, and this government is committed to ensuring the reef continues to be one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world. The reef is the world's largest living organism and an international tourism icon supporting more than 50,000 jobs and is worth around \$5 billion yearly to our economy. However, having such an extraordinary environmental asset on our doorstep brings great responsibility.

Those are not my words; they are the words of the member for Glass House in a ministerial statement on 5 June 2012, when he was the responsible minister. The member for Glass House went on to say—

This government is committed to ensuring that the Great Barrier Reef is cared for and protected. I, along with my LNP colleagues, want to ensure the Great Barrier Reef can be enjoyed today, tomorrow and for many generations to come.

They are very interesting words in the context of this debate. I will be interested to see, given those sentiments, whether the member for Glass House makes a contribution to today's debate.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections from the member for Glass House in saying that he stands by those words, because I argue that those words and sentiments expressed by the member for Glass House seven years ago contradict the sentiments expressed by the members for Theodore, Broadwater and Scenic Rim. I agree with the member for Glass House's sentiments back then. I am just extremely concerned that he no longer holds those views.

To update the member for Glass House, the reef is now estimated to contribute \$6 billion to the economy. In fact, 60,000 jobs now rely on the reef's health. There has been a lot of talk so far about jobs in this debate. The ongoing health of the Great Barrier Reef is essential to jobs in regional communities. We know that the Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world. I am sure we in this House all enjoyed our time on the reef at some stage during the course of our lives. Of course, in having such a great natural asset on our doorstep we have important responsibilities as custodians of the Great Barrier Reef as well. All members of this House should bear that in mind.

Essentially, there are two threats to the reef: one is climate change and the other is water quality. That is what this bill is all about. It is really interesting to hear members of the LNP debate some of the science around this issue. Given his statements seven years ago, I will be very interested to hear the member for Glass House in relation to the science on this issue. The member might have the seven-year itch? I am not sure. Hopefully, we will hear the member's contribution very soon.

I direct members to page 9 of the report, which states—

Sediments, nutrients and pesticides flowing from the land to the Great Barrier Reef are the three biggest pollutants that affect the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef 2050 Plan references the 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement's science advice on key pollutants, which identifies that the greatest water quality risks to the Reef are from—

nutrients, fine sediments and pesticides.

If those opposite want to debate the science, there is clear scientific backing for the fact that water quality is vitally important to the health of the reef and that managing water quality into reef catchments is important for the ongoing health of the reef.

In this debate those opposite have tried to set up a false choice between supporting the health of the reef and supporting our farmers and those in the agricultural industries that make a tremendous contribution to Queensland. That is far from the truth. You can do both. Indeed, I would argue that the ongoing health of the reef is very important to the agricultural sector and the farming community. I acknowledge that some farmers are already doing the right thing through voluntary practices. I acknowledge and thank them for their efforts.

Mr Powell: Some?

Mr PEGG: I take those interjections from the member for Glass House. I am not sure that his interjections accord with the facts, so I am really keen to make sure he is on the record. I am glad he is on the record with that comment.

In his contribution the member for Scenic Rim talked at some length about the committee process. I want to set the record straight in relation to that. We had a comprehensive committee process in terms of examining this bill. I thank all the committee members and the committee secretariat. We received 230 submissions. We held public hearings in Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg and Cairns.

They were extremely well attended. In fact, in Mackay there were people sitting on the floor. In Townsville we had to open up one of the doors on the room—I note that the member for Townsville is nodding—to let more people in. Those committee hearings were extremely well attended. People who wanted to have their say had that opportunity. I note that the member for Townsville is nodding again. I commend almost everybody who attended those hearings for the manner in which they expressed themselves.

Mr Crisafulli: 'Recommend that the bill be passed'.

Mr PEGG: They certainly behaved a lot better than the member for Broadwater is behaving right now. They certainly showed a lot more restraint than the member for Broadwater is showing right now in relation to this debate.

It is unsurprising that there is a range of views in relation to this bill, just like there is in relation to most bills we consider. That is unremarkable and unsurprising. People have the right to hold different views and bring different perspectives to the table. That is something that I think is very unsurprising. I do want to set the record straight. For the member for Scenic Rim to say that people did not have a right to have a say and that he did not have a right to ask questions is patently ridiculous. He had a fair go. Of the people who attended, not one stakeholder came up to me after any of the hearings to say that they did not get a fair go. We did our absolute best to give everyone a fair go.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr PEGG: The honourable member turned up in his green shirt to one of the hearings. I notice that he is not wearing it today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member for Stretton, this is a fascinating dialogue but can we come back to the bill?


Mr PEGG: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I apologise for being distracted by all those interjections. I issue a challenge to the member for Glass House. Let's face it: the member for Glass House is the last LNP member to hold the position of minister for environment. Is he going to protect his legacy today? Is he going to stand by his statements of 7 June 2012? Does he even remember making those statements? I am not sure. Certainly, the sentiments expressed by the member for Glass House on World Environment Day 2012 in relation to protecting the reef do not accord with any of the contributions I have heard so far. We know that some of these LNP members hanging out in the dim, dark back corner—those jelly backs over there—are climate change deniers—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I have already asked you to come back to the bill. In some sense please do so.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise a point of order. The clock was not stopped when you made those remarks.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not required to pause the clock. Member, you have one minute and five seconds remaining.

Mr PEGG: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. Like government members, I accept the science of climate change. I accept the threats that the Great Barrier Reef is facing. I know that many of those opposite do not agree. It is funny: they will not get up and say it. I challenge those members, and I challenge the member for Glass House to put them in their place and to stand by the statements he made on World Environment Day back in June 2012. It is all very well when you are the minister for the environment to get up on World Environment Day and talk about how much you love the reef and how much you love to protect it. The real challenge is whether you are prepared to do it and take concrete steps to protect one of the great natural wonders of the world, one of the icons of Queensland—something we all enjoy and we have a responsibility to protect. I do not know if the member for Glass House will speak next. I certainly hope so.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.26 pm): Do I stand by the comments I made in this House in June 2012 and by the LNP's record on the environment and the Great Barrier Reef? Too right I do. I love the Great Barrier Reef. I have had the privilege on numerous occasions to visit this exceptional natural wonder, whether it be at Heron Island or in the Whitsundays, off Cairns or off Port Douglas. I have been there. I have witnessed it firsthand. I love it and I am committed to protecting it. It is simply spectacular.

I also love the tourism that the reef attracts. As the shadow minister for the environment and shadow minister for tourism highlighted, Queensland would not be the same without the tourism the reef brings and the jobs it supports. I love that Queensland and indeed Australia have become world

leaders in studying reefs, in understanding what makes them tick and in applying the research we have conducted over decades of studying the Great Barrier Reef. No other nation can boast a natural wonder of the standard and magnitude of the Great Barrier Reef. Similarly, no other nation can claim to contribute so much to international understanding of how best to protect reef systems around the world.

I am sick and tired of a couple of things. I am sick and tired of speaking after the member for Stretton in this House and being verbally abused by him. I am fed up with those who constantly talk down the Great Barrier Reef, particularly those who use false and misleading information to run scare campaigns not only here in Queensland and across Australia, particularly in our southern cities, but also across the world—people who have suddenly gone quiet when a Labor government is in power. Why? Perhaps it is because those individuals are now working in the Department of Environment and Science.

Let me give a couple of examples of the kind of scare campaign of talking down the reef. One evening when serving as this state's minister for environment I arrived home to be dragged to the computer by my wife, saying, 'Did you do this?' On the screen was a photo of a channel through the Great Barrier Reef with the words 'Minister Powell and Minister Hunt have dredged this channel through the Great Barrier Reef'.

That channel was Hardy's Channel and, as I reminded my wife, God did that, not me. There is no-one in their right mind who would dredge a channel through the reef. That is the level that those campaigns would go to. Similarly, as I left my office at 400 George Street one day, I was confronted by a Greenpeace activist wanting me to sign a petition to save the Great Barrier Reef. She said, 'You look like you might have a few questions.' I said, 'Well, actually, I might have a few answers. I'm the minister for environment.' She said, 'Can you tell me why you're developing ports and dredging 20 ports up and down the length and breadth of Queensland?' I said, 'I'm sorry, but we're focusing on five, four of them in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, and that's consistent with UNESCO.' 'That's my second question,' this lady said. 'Why are you taking your directions from an Indian mining company?' The poor young lady could not distinguish between the United Nations environmental body and an Indian mining company known as Adani. That is the level that these activists have gone to.

I am also fed up by those opposite and their political activists besmirching the LNP's record on the reef, making false and ridiculous statements that somehow we on this side do not love it or value the reef. Let me tell them: it was the LNP that threw out Labor's crazy plan for port developments up and down the coast of Queensland. It was the LNP that dismissed Labor's crazy plan to dredge so much at Abbot Point that it would have created a whole new island from the dredge spoil. It was the LNP that worked with UNESCO to consolidate growth in only five ports, as I said, and one of those was Brisbane—nowhere near the Great Barrier Reef.

It was the LNP that worked with the federal government on a strategic assessment on banning offshore capital dredge spoil disposal on the Reef 2050 vision. It was the LNP that instigated the best management practice programs with our cattle graziers and canegrowers and looked to expand that program to our horticultural industries. It was the LNP that took the successful Healthy Waterways program from here in the south-east and replicated it in the Gladstone harbour and in the waters of Mackay-Whitsunday. It was the LNP that went to the corporate market to find a partner for vital beach restoration work on Raine Island. It was the LNP that invested in a hugely successful crown-of-thorns starfish eradication program. Member for Stretton, do I stand by my record and that of the LNP? You bet I do! That was all done by the LNP.

I am also fed up with the Labor-Greens alliance using the reef to terrorise, demonise and drive to the wall this state's hardworking farmers but, sadly, it is the Labor-Greens way. They do not trust farmers, even though farmers intrinsically know how good land management is directly linked with profitability. If they do not manage their farm and if they do not manage the inputs, they do not get a profit and it does not last for generation after generation. Not only does the Labor-Greens alliance not trust farmers; it does not trust industry groups despite the success those industry groups had in rolling out BMPs across Queensland. No. Instead, those opposite put their decisions in the hands of faceless public servants quarantined from Labor scrutiny. I loved what Matt Leighton from Bundaberg Canegrowers said in that regard. He said—

It's hard to think that someone who may never have stepped onto a canefarm or a farm or doesn't have an agronomic background is telling people who live and breathe and work on their farms what they need to do on their farms.

That is appalling, but that is this Labor government's way.


I am fed up with the creep—the expansion of those anti-farmer, anti-regions laws by stealth, so much so that those laws now apply to my backyard in the electorate of Glass House. Farmers in Maleny, Witta, Montville, Flaxton, Mapleton, Bellthorpe, Reesville, Curramore, Kidaman Creek, Obi Obi,

Conondale and Cambroon are now impacted by these disastrous laws. What is the alternative, as I heard the minister and others ask earlier? It is working with the farmers, with the industries. That is what we did through the BMP program. That is what groups like Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group do—a group that, over the course of nearly 30 years, has improved on-farm productivity for landowners while delivering significant environmental benefits.

How did it do it? It worked with those farmers to fence and revegetate riparian zones in the Upper Mary catchment. It has installed alternate livestock watering points and stream crossings. It has dealt with erosion and land instability through repair work. It has removed invasive weeds and it has upgraded effluent systems, feed pads and drainage—all achieved not by a big stick but by partnership with the farmers by building relationships and using those relationships to leverage co-investment to change practice. Do members know what? It has been recognised for it. It has won National Landcare Awards for its work.

Sadly, whether it be because of a Greens preference deal or simply a propensity to revert to legislation and regulatory approaches, this government seems incapable of working with our primary producers. I heard the minister talk about consultation. Sorry, Minister, but consultation is not just meeting or visiting farmers and being empathetic. It is about listening, adapting and changing. Platitudes, handouts, delays and promises just do not cut it.

Seriously, farmers should take comfort in the minister's promise that there will not be further regulatory change? I am sorry, but they have heard it before from Labor premier and Labor minister after Labor premier and Labor minister who have declared that this is a line in the sand. That line keeps shifting. They do not trust you. They do not believe you. If those opposite want to truly demonstrate that they love the reef and they are willing to work with farmers and that they have listened, they need to withdraw this legislation or, if not, vote it down.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.36 pm): The Bundaberg region is famous for farming. It is who we are. Our farmers produce an abundance of sugar cane, peanuts, macadamias, sweet potatoes, cherry tomatoes, zucchinis, blueberries, strawberries and so much more. Without our farmers, Bundaberg would be a completely different place. Nobody wants to see the Great Barrier Reef come under threat, including our farmers, but clearly the Labor government wants to hurt them and put their livelihoods under threat.

Today I will speak on behalf of Bundaberg's farmers and fight for what they undoubtedly deserve. Just like every single Queenslander, farmers deserve a fair go, but under Labor they are getting the opposite. They are constrained by red tape, being hit with soaring electricity prices, dealing with decreased water security, facing extreme vegetation management laws, and now they are copping ridiculous reef regulations. Labor's reef reforms are excessive, they are unnecessary and they fail to guarantee that the Great Barrier Reef will reap any benefits. As a result, our farmers are calling for a delay in the implementation of the laws until the science they are based on is confirmed to be right and true.

Many of our farmers come from farming families. Many grew up on farms and have watched their parents do the job they do now. It is their way of life. It is how they support their own families, with many hoping their kids will follow in their footsteps for generations to come. Ahead of these proposed reef regulation reforms, many fear this could be the end of the farming in their family, feeling as though Labor has set their livelihoods up to fail. One Wide Bay farmer who has 37 years of industry experience under his belt believes he has already addressed any potential run-off issues after undergoing major works back in 2000. Since then he has had busloads of people visit his property to look at his innovative farming techniques, yet still Labor is telling him that he is not doing enough. Similar circumstances can be abundantly seen at the Greensill Farming Group, an agribusiness growing sweet potatoes in Bundaberg which has spent millions of dollars implementing world-class run-off initiatives.

Ever since this piece of legislation was introduced into this place on 27 February this year, alarm bells have been ringing in the ears of our farmers, particularly for those in the sugarcane industry. In Bundaberg our sugar industry has an economic value of \$141 million and employs over 650 residents. With the industry facing low international sugar prices on top of all of the additional challenges, these reef reforms place additional pressure on the viability of canefarms and mills, putting these hundreds of workers at risk.

The Australian Sugar Milling Council—or ASMC—in its submission to the reef bill highlighted specifically that 'the Queensland economy would be quite negatively impacted if the focus on improvement of reef water quality led to a significant reduction in the productivity and size of the State's

sugar industry, and agriculture more broadly'. The council added further that Labor's laws and regulatory approach could have 'far reaching and disastrous impact from an economic, social and environmental perspective'.

As I mentioned, no-one wants to see our wonder of the world, the Great Barrier Reef, come under threat, but we want to see this Labor government making evidence based decisions. After all, these changes will affect the lives of hundreds just in my region alone. My local Canegrowers group is rightly concerned that the proposed new reef regulations are based on statements that have not been quality checked. Bundaberg Canegrowers' manager, Dale Hollis, is asking for this legislation to be deferred until the underlying science on which these regulations are based is checked through the establishment of an independent office of science quality assurance. Dale believes that this is a fundamental and reasonable request by farmers, and I agree. It is not just Bundaberg Canegrowers who oppose these unfair reef laws. Labor has been met with a huge backlash and protests from industry groups, including AgForce, the Australian Banana Growers' Council, Growcom, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the Burnett Mary Regional Group and even its own MP from Mackay.


In addition to statewide concerns regarding Labor's failure to ensure that the science has been quality assured, farmers in Bundaberg were genuinely blindsided by the reforms. My region falls within the Burnett-Mary catchment, an area that has been exempt from the implementation of previous legislation that is similar in nature. That is because of my region's southern location and distance from the Great Barrier Reef. If members have not been to Bundaberg, I strongly recommend that they do. The people of my region are truly lucky to live in an absolute pristine part of the world, with Fraser Island, Lady Elliot Island and Lady Musgrave Island right on their doorstep.

At a recent chamber of commerce breakfast, Lady Musgrave Experience owner, Brett Lakey, talked about my area's local reef program and the reef's untouched, flawless condition. He talked about the Eye on the Reef program that his company is working on for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and told everyone that he is seeing new corals and new growth and that our reef is looking beautiful. Brett also talked about these reform regulations, saying that, if there is any run-off, it is certainly not hurting the reef in this part of the world.

Not only are local farmers and tourism groups in my region confused about the sudden inclusion of the Burnett-Mary catchment, many are angry that they were not even given the opportunity for proper discussion, with Labor giving them just two weeks to contribute their submissions. This lack of community consultation seems to be becoming a theme with this Labor government. We have heard about the public hearings as part of the consultation. I attended the hearing in Bundaberg. It was interesting to hear what the Labor members think of consultation. When one speaker was asked about what consultation they had had and advised that they had had a one-day workshop last year with the department and one day this year, the member Stretton made the comment of something along the lines, 'So you've had a year of consultation.' The gentleman had to tell him, 'No, we've had two days.' The LNP is the only party that will ensure that our farmers always get a fairer reef regulation deal with a proper consultation process that listens and considers the real impact on farmers and their surrounding communities.

After hearing and listening to Queensland's farming communities, the LNP has proposed three significant amendments to this bill. The first seeks to remove the overarching provisions that enable the government to mandate the collection of any data relating to the production, manufacture, distribution, supply or use of any agricultural ERA product, fertiliser product, or agricultural chemical. The second seeks to require all standards, minimum and best management practice programs to be prescribed by regulation rather than being set by an unelected department chief executive. The third, which is vital for my region of Bundaberg, seeks to introduce a phase-in period of 10 years for the Burnett-Mary catchment set at the same time frame the other regulated regions have had since regulations were introduced in 2009. This is only fair.

Queensland farmers deserve so much better. The LNP will not stand by idly while the anti-regions Labor government attacks our farmers and our communities. There is no reason Labor cannot support local jobs, local farmers and protect the reef at the same time. It does not have to be one or the other. That is why I oppose this bill.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, for her strong advocacy to protect the future of the Great Barrier

Reef. I also acknowledge the committee secretary and assistant secretary for their support of the committee and my colleagues and other committee members for their hard work and valuable contribution to the consideration of this bill.

When the bill was introduced and referred to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, that committee hit the ground running to consult communities, stakeholders and industry groups. The committee held a number of public hearings—from South-East Queensland to various sites in regional Queensland—to capture a broad audience and hear firsthand from key stakeholders and industries. I would like to thank all stakeholders who took time out to attend public hearings, for their submissions and valuable contribution to the consideration of this bill.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Queensland's greatest treasures and its natural beauty continues to amaze and fascinate people from all over the world. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system and it supports a wide diversity of life. The reef contributed \$6 billion to the economy and 6,000 jobs rely on the reef's health.

Sadly, the reef is facing two major threats: climate change and water quality. The *2017 scientific consensus statement: land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition* highlights that poor water quality continues to be a significant issue for reef health and that the main source of nutrient and sediment pollution is cumulative run-off from agricultural land use, with local scale contributions from urban and industrial land uses. There has been significant government and industry investment, particularly in agriculture, and voluntary approaches have failed to facilitate a sufficient uptake of improved practices.

At the present trajectory, the reef water quality will not be met. Despite nearly \$70 million in Queensland government investment since 2009 in industry-led best practice management programs, science and on-ground programs directed at agricultural industries and over \$220 million in Australian government funding since 2008 in similar activities, the slow rate of voluntary adoption of improved practices should be noted. It is quite clear that, without further regulation, the reef water-quality targets are unlikely to be met.

I would like to acknowledge the farmers who are already doing the right thing through voluntary practices. I thank them for their efforts, but quality improvements have not been fast enough. The risks associated with uncontrolled regulations will most definitely see an increase in sedimentation and nutrient run-off. As such there will be higher algal growth, a build-up of pollutants in sediments and marine species, and reduced light and smothered corals. The immediate risk to the Great Barrier Reef will potentially compromise reef dependent industries such as tourism, fishing, recreation, research and education. The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce recognised that transformational change was needed to reduce diffuse-source pollution from agriculture in our reef catchments. That means a fundamental shift in the way in which land is managed in order to avoid the poor reef outcomes of a continued business-as-usual approach.

Although we have jobs and industry depending on the health of the reef, I also want to acknowledge the First Nations peoples and their connection to the Great Barrier Reef. First Nations peoples are the first traditional owners of the Great Barrier Reef area and have a continuing connection to their land and sea country, going back millennia through their Dreaming. The reef is of great significance to more than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups—from the Torres Strait Islands in the north to Bundaberg and K'gari in the south.

The first people, the first scientists of this country, have been experiencing its changes and documenting in dance, songlines, storylines, art and ceremony. The formation of the Great Barrier Reef thousands of years ago is reflected in creation stories that are still being retold today—passed down from generation to generation through language and dancing. First Nations customary lore and practice underpins caring for the reef for thousands of years and maintaining its health as a component of a fully functioning biocultural ecosystem. The reef is embedded in traditional owner beliefs, knowledge, language, lore and way of life and First Nations peoples know themselves as an integral part of the reef. They are spiritually, culturally, socially and economically connected.


The storylines from now will tell a new story of rapid seasonal change and the impact on species, on long-held hunting and cultural practices and on land management. First Nations people have told us of their vision for a healthy reef and healthy people. Indigenous land and sea ranger groups are increasingly working to conserve important ecosystems and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage locations, including the reef catchments and adjacent sea country. The rangers have been very successful in delivering outcomes for conservation as well as positive social and economic outcomes for local communities.

The implementation of this legislation will strike a thriving balance by protecting all jobs: Indigenous jobs in agriculture, those that rely on the reef and the ranger jobs in between. Economic development opportunities, including on Aboriginal lands, are maintained by the bill as it allows for future development. However, this development must be undertaken in a sustainable way so as not to compromise the ability to meet the water quality targets for a healthy reef. We need everyone to adopt good practices as the customary way of caring for the reef so that it can continue to ensure healthy people for generations to come.

We recognise the importance of embedding traditional knowledge in equal standing with Western knowledge and valuing the work that First Nations people can do to care for country. That is why we continue to fund Indigenous land and sea ranger groups with \$12 million per year, supporting over 100 rangers across the state. Many rangers are located alongside the reef and are increasingly working to conserve important ecosystems and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage locations including in the reef catchments and adjacent sea country.

The rangers have been very successful in delivering outcomes for conservation as well as positive social and economic outcomes for local communities particularly through junior ranger programs which are giving confidence in a positive future to young people who can be proud of their traditional knowledge. Queensland has embarked on a reform journey through Tracks to Treaty, reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and we will continue to expand our partnerships with the traditional owners of the Great Barrier Reef to protect this icon together.

On a final note, I recently suggested changes to ensure the minimum agricultural standard in the Cape York catchment is not switched on as planned once proposed reef protection laws pass through parliament. I asked the minister to acknowledge the good water quality results from the Cape York region in the latest Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Report Card. The latest water quality science showed promising results for Cape York and showed the region had already met sediment and particulate nutrient targets. These are great results. I am delighted that the minister has announced that the government will not switch on the minimum standard in Cape York because of these results. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting the reef and this government is making decisions about the protection of the reef based on scientific evidence. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, specifically surrounding the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and the agricultural lands that adjoin the reef. It is very important that it is clearly on the record that everybody in Queensland absolutely loves the Great Barrier Reef and wants it to be there for generations to come to enjoy. I have dived the reef. I have snorkelled the reef. It is a wonderful, natural tourist attraction.

All of that said, we have to ask ourselves what this bill is trying to achieve. Clearly this bill is trying to achieve politics over policy. One can get no clearer example that this bill is politics over policy than the fact that we are debating it in the CBD of Brisbane rather than on the coastline of Townsville. If we were debating on it the coastline of Townsville then we would be able to hear from the people whose lives will be directly affected, potentially good and bad: those who are in the tourism industry and those who are in the sugar and other agricultural industries. We are not debating it in Townsville; we are debating it in the CBD of Brisbane. It clearly shows that this is all about politics over policy.

The desire of the Labor Party is to atomise the Queensland community into small segments and give them false dichotomies by saying, 'It is either farming or the reef. You cannot have the reef and farming.' This is simply not true. In fact, we owe it to the world, because we are a great scientific state—and Australia is a G20 nation—to show a better way to manage potential conflicts between agriculture and the natural environment.

This Labor government does not want to achieve those outcomes. It wants to bring in a set of regulations that at a whim can be changed by a bureaucrat, who is unelected, who is not answerable to anybody, who is hiding in the shadows somewhere in the dark recesses of the bureaucracy, who can literally take control and ruin people lives, investments and what they have built with the sweat of their brow. A government should not do that.

There will always be devil in the detail. The reason this House exists is to analyse and look at the devil in the detail; to make sure that when decisions are made that affect many groups and many people all over our great state that they are analysed carefully, that they go through a reporting process, that information is gathered, that there are public hearings and that expert opinions are sought. Instead of that we have a bill before us that will just let some bureaucrat somewhere change everything because

that is what they feel they should do that day. I think that is a complete abrogation of the government's responsibility to protect our environment and ensure that we have a thriving agricultural sector going forward.

It is the desire of those opposite to send the virtual signal up that they are the only people who can protect the environment, the only side of politics that will be able to save planet earth. It is an absolute load of nonsense. The simple facts are that if we end up with zero agriculture we will have to import all of our food from other places that have far worse environmental practices than we have in Queensland. We should use science and our capacity to find solutions to managing the environment and provide that to other places in the world so that they too can protect their environments and still have a thriving agricultural sector. Simply talking to the noisy greens in the CBD of Brisbane might win those opposite a few seats in Brisbane, but make no mistake, it will not save the reef. The reef itself will be saved by decent science and discussion of the details of how to implement policies and practices—potentially in this place—not by a bureaucrat sitting behind a desk, answerable to nobody. The processes that this House goes through when it affects people's lives are important and should be taken seriously.


Economic modelling from the Australian Sugar Millers Council shows that 22,657 jobs will be directly impacted by decisions that are made in this House in relation to this bill. There are those who would say that the LNP does not have a good history of protecting the reef. The LNP government introduced the toughest laws ever to protect the Barrier Reef, increasing fines for serious environmental harm to the reef to over \$3.5 million or five years in jail. Labor had a chance to support those laws, but they did not. They voted against them. It is interesting that those who claim to be the great advocates of the reef did not want people who have caused serious environmental harm to do five years jail, which was the law that the LNP introduced.

The LNP government immediately acted to cut by 90 per cent Labor's plan to dump 38 million tonnes of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. I will say that again, because I think people in the Brisbane CBD should hear this: the Labor Party had a plan to dump 38 million tonnes of dredge spoil into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. When people are out on the streets protesting because they want to protect the reef, they should seriously think about the actions of the minister at that time, Minister Jones, and then think about how they are going to next cast their ballot. The Greens in Brisbane should seriously consider how they are going to next cast their ballot. I am challenged by exactly how much is 38 million tonnes of spoil, but I am pretty sure that Nemo would not appreciate it being dumped on his head. Why on earth somebody would do that and then claim to be the great protector of the reef is beyond me.

What we are seeing is a lot of politics but not a lot of policy. A private bureaucrat, behind closed doors, will be able to take control of how people in the agricultural sector have to go about their business, without debate or open discussion about the detail. Mandating the collection of data and other things will mean there is going to have to be an inbuilt cost imposed on agricultural producers. Unfortunately, that could potentially make them even less competitive in an international market, particularly when people are out there dumping product, as we see at the moment.

Clearly, the way forward is for Queensland to lead in developing practices that allow cooperation between agriculture and a thriving reef. That is what we should be doing. That should be our place in the world, so that we can pass that knowledge on to other societies that have coastal agriculture and reefs. We have the capacity to do that. That is the obligation that we should be passing on. We should be using science and our economic might to show that it is possible for these two things to coexist. That should be done in a voluntary way, so that we bring everybody in Queensland along on the journey. We should not be doing it in a mandatory overbearing way in which a bureaucrat has control.

We know that water quality is going to be key to the long-term future of the reef. We can all agree that we should be doing things to fix it. It should be done through science, it should be done cooperatively and it should be done with the support of the industry so that we can share that knowledge with other places in the world. In that way, we can get better outcomes not just here in Queensland but also on other great dive sites and reefs throughout the planet.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As has been already stated by other speakers from this side of the House, we will oppose the bill. One question that we have to ask is: why does the Palaszczuk Labor government hate the regions?

Ms Fentiman: There's more of us in the regions than you.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection—

An opposition member: Not really.

Mr MANDER:—because that is exactly right: not really. They regard the suburbs of Townsville, Cairns and Mackay as being in the regions. Regions are far beyond those city suburbs. Why does the Palaszczuk government hate the regions? Recently, I did an interview with Ray Hadley on 4BC.

Ms Richards interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order, member for Redlands!

Mr MANDER: That is what they regard as the regions: Redlands. Ray Hadley asked me if I thought there was a great chasm between the regions, and Brisbane and the south-east corner in the state at the moment. I said, 'I think there is a growing chasm and is it any wonder with the policies introduced by the Palaszczuk government that are anti regions.' This government was on an anti-mining crusade, but had a miraculous turnaround after the May election. We know about the vegetation management laws. We know about the commercial fishermen whom they are trying to put out of business. Now we see the same attack against our farmers who are producing the food that we need to live, not just in this state and country but also overseas.

One would think that they would have learned a lesson from the last federal election. They learned a lesson with regard to the mining industry, because they did the greatest flip-flop of all time and the Premier came in here and said that she had had a gutful and was fed up with her own policies—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that term is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. We saw the great backflip that happened then. What will it take for this government to realise that they need to listen to the regions and that they need to stop persecuting and victimising them with policies that are totally unnecessary?

Mr Watts: A federal election.

Mr MANDER: There was a federal election—and I take that interjection—but I think they will also require a result in the state election, because people are waiting on their verandahs and on their decks with their baseball bats for this government. There is no doubt about it. They will send a message to the member for Thuringowa, the member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Mackay, the member for Barron River—

An opposition member: Cairns and Maryborough.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection—and the members for Cairns and Maryborough, as well, that they will not accept policies that are anti regions, which is exactly what these are.

In the past in the regions, lobby groups have tried to be very apolitical. They understand that they have to work with both sides of government. However, the gloves are off. No other government has ever united all of those peak bodies and lobby groups, but now they are coming together to fight the anti-region policies of the Labor government. The policy that we are discussing at the moment is the most recent. We have had the Canegrowers, AgForce, the Australian Banana Growers Council, Growcom, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the Green Shirts Movement all those groups—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MANDER: I can tell the member for Thuringowa that they are not very happy. They may have been consulted, but they are not very happy because, as was said earlier, consultation is about listening and reacting. The member for Thuringowa has a great grin on his face now, but he will not in October 2020 when they will have their revenge on the sitting members representing Townsville.

There is so much wrong with these laws that it is not funny. Many members on this side of the House have detailed that and the shadow minister did so very articulately, but there are a few things that we need to highlight. This is overreach at its greatest. It is bureaucratic. It is burdensome. It is unnecessary. It shows that they have no appreciation of farm practices and what small businesses have to go through to survive.

The legislation gives power to bureaucrats, not elected officials. It is totally political. In the end, it says that the Labor government does not trust farmers. The government does not trust people who derive their income from the land and who have done so for decades, people who also rely on the health of their land for their future income. Those people are not silly. Those people know good farm practice. They also know that they have responsibilities because they care for the reef as we care for the reef. They know that they have to change some of their practices and that is what they have been doing.

Last week the member for Burdekin took me on a road trip. We went to a place called Clare, which is about an hour and a half outside Townsville. We visited some cane farms. It was a great experience. I had the fantastic opportunity to be in a harvester, watch how it works and see the skill of those who operate this machinery. They were really proud of their practices and that is why they wanted me to be there. They wanted to show somebody like me—a city boy, a Brisbane boy, a person who has lived in the city all their life and has an urban electorate—what they are doing.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. That shows us how seriously the member for Thuringowa takes this. These are people in his area. I was initially in his electorate but then went out of his electorate. That shows how seriously they take this issue.

These people on the land wanted to show me how they have changed their practices to follow best practice and make sure they are environmentally friendly. I met with Ricky Mio and Russell Hoare, both canefarmers of a couple of generations. Russell was proud of the way he had reconfigured his land to make sure water drained to a certain point. He proved that the so-called toxic water in his dam was not toxic. There were fish jumping in the dam. There were birds around it. For the television cameras Russell recently got a glass of water out of that dam and drank it to show how pure the water is. They are the efforts they are going to.

Ricky Mio, of the Mio family—one of the great cane producers in this state—has put millions of dollars into dams to be self-sufficient on their cane farms. He was proud of that and proud of the contribution they are making to the environment.

Our canefarmers and our primary producers are very conscious of protecting the environment. They know that they have had to change their practices. They are doing everything they can to do that. The last thing they need is bureaucratic, onerous, burdensome regulations and requirements that make their job a heck of a lot harder and a heck of a lot more expensive. These things are eventually passed on to the consumer.


We should be doing everything possible to make sure it is easier for primary producers to do what they do best—that is, to feed us. This government—because of politics, because of ideology, because of Greens preferences—just does not listen. They are good at charades. They are good at going out there and saying they are consulting. As has been said many times already, consultation means listening—listening to the experts and listening to the people out there who have been suffering.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MANDER: The member for Thuringowa—

Mr Crisafulli: 'Mr 31 per cent'.

Mr MANDER: 'Mr 31 per cent' and the other Townsville members are going to find out shortly what people of regional Queensland think. They have had enough of a government that is anti regions, anti jobs, anti resources, anti farmers and anti commercial fishermen. Anything to do with the regions they are against.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.13 pm): I rise to support the bill. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on this planet. We have the privilege and responsibility to be the custodians of the reef. It is home to an incredible array of unique living organisms. Its outstanding biodiversity is celebrated the world over. Of course, it is of vital cultural significance to the traditional owners who have lived amongst its shores for over 65,000 years. On that point, I acknowledge the excellent contribution to this debate by the minister and by the member for Cook.

Visiting the reef, one cannot help but be moved. One feels an obligation to protect and care for the reef which has existed for an estimated 500,000 years. It is our responsibility in this House today to ensure it continues to exist for generations to come. Today the reef is facing its biggest challenge yet. The impact of climate change and water quality is threatening the health of the reef and the marine ecosystems that depend upon it. This bill will address this issue of water quality by tackling both agricultural and industrial land based sources of water pollution such as sewage treatment plants, aquaculture and mining, as well as farm run-off.


The build-up of nutrient and sediment loads in the reef system due to run-off is a direct cause of coral cover decline. The Australian Institute of Marine Science has shown that the Great Barrier Reef lost around 50 per cent of its coral cover between 1985 and 2012. The run-off is also linked to algal blooms, loss of seagrass coverage and species decline. We must improve water quality to ensure the future of the reef.

The Great Barrier Reef has a number of economic, social and iconic values and attracts two million visitors each year and contributes more than \$6 billion to the economy while providing more than 64,000 full-time jobs. The tourism sector is dominated by small businesses, representing over 90 per cent of businesses. Those small business tourism operators employ the majority of the tourism workforce and are the backbone of the industry. That is why we have to continue to invest and protect the reef. This includes investing \$25 million into the Great Barrier Reef island resorts to boost tourism in the region, creating 150 jobs. Across the state I have met with business community leaders who are struggling as a result of declining reef quality. The international perception is one that we absolutely have to address.

The Palaszczuk government has committed over \$330 million to improve the health of the reef. We are committed to fighting for these jobs and ensuring the reef's longevity to ensure the continued economic prosperity of Queensland. We have to improve water quality to protect the reef. As its custodians, we must protect the reef, and that is what these amendments will do.

These amendments will regulate the agricultural activities in all six reef regions and expand the minimum commodity standards from grazing and sugar cane to include grains and other horticulture. New cropping activities will need to comply with farm design standards. However, existing farmers who have already voluntarily moved to improved practice standards will see little impact, and that is the point.

I understand some of the concerns of the Queensland agricultural sector and their concerns about regulatory burden. I want to acknowledge that many farmers right now are doing the right thing. They limit their run-off. However, at a macro level this is not happening fast enough to save the reef. We are at a tipping point. To ensure the future of the reef we must act now. To protect the jobs and the small businesses that rely on the tourism industry we must act now. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. To put my position straight up, I am strongly opposed to the bill in its present form. From my position on the crossbench, I wish to take this opportunity to enlighten those most deeply affected as to what I believe is going on and who is responsible for it. The new laws purport to reduce water pollution from agricultural land use entering reef waters. It will therefore affect cattle grazing, horticulture and commercially produced bananas, sugar cane and grains across multiple catchment regions from well north of my electorate down to the Burnett-Mary region.

In effect, it will be Central and North Queensland that bear the brunt of the new legislation and not population heavy South-East Queensland. As raised by others previously, the reef bill hands over considerable powers to government bodies to change farming standards and cropping activities, adding yet another layer of regulation on farming at a time when Queensland farmers are recovering from previous natural disasters. In addition, changes to the EPA will see compliance officers attend farms to assess operations against the new practice standards and request information about farming activities. There is a maximum fine of \$222,194 if these practice standards are not met. You could argue that the penalty for murder in this state is not even this harsh. It is over the top.

If farmers, growers and producers fail to provide the new regulatory bodies with the information required on fertiliser and chemical use, soil testing and crop yield, there will be a fine of \$6,672 imposed for each failure to produce the data sought. Who is responsible for this bill and for these manifestly huge penalties? One only needs to follow the money to see who exactly is funding the reef bill and the 'joint' bipartisan plan of action between both state and federal governments.

Firstly, a federal government LNP press release of 30 August 2019 from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority stated that the Australian and Queensland governments were jointly investing over \$2 billion over the next decade under a comprehensive plan to protect the Reef 2050 Plan, which includes monitoring and nutrient management. Secondly, the federal LNP environment minister, Sussan Ley, also issued a press release on the same day as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. She advised that on 30 April 2019 she tabled the Morrison government's \$1.2 billion investment in the reef and its \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package to meet international targets.

Thirdly, the federal environment minister further announced the launch of a number of reef initiatives that are being taken by the Morrison government and specifically referred to 'the rollout of a targeted sediment and nutrient reduction program focused on practice change and landscape remediation across seven priority reef catchments'. The press release specifically confirms that the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan is a joint federal LNP and state ALP government exercise.

It would seem therefore that the federal LNP and the Queensland Labor governments are as guilty as each other for imposing such hardship on Central and North Queensland farmers, growers and producers. Under the Reef 2050 Plan and other measures, the federal Liberal-Nationals will provide \$1.2 billion towards reef protection whilst state Labor are contributing \$258 million through to 2025. How much of this eventual planned investment over the next decade will go to farmers?

I put a peg squarely in the sand when I came down here and presented some ideas on making fallow crop valuable—go in where there is 60 per cent of cleared fallow land. I believe that the money from the 2050 plan should at least be put towards that straight up. Without having to dig any holes, we could stop particulate matter, hold run-off and improve water quality straight away. I spoke to the minister about that. I am hopeful that between the state and federal bureaucracies they will come to that conclusion without spending any more money the way they have been doing.

How much of this money will actually provide benefit to farmers, growers, graziers and producers, or will it just go towards white-collar welfare and paper-pushing office jobs? When I go and see the farmers out there and I ask who has come to see them and who is doing what, no-one knows anything. They have spent tens of thousands of their own money making sure that they are stopping run-off, making sure that they get the best out of their fertilisers and their paddocks and looking after their ecosystems.

Both major parties have already decided that these laws are to be introduced and have begun allocating funds to various regulatory bodies to be set up. An example of how this money will be frittered away on anything other than helping farmers was the federal Liberal government's outrageous granting of \$442 million to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation—a grant that was never put to public tender and that the Australian National Audit Office even said was a 'highly irresponsible decision'.

Some of this federal money should have been used to back up the scientific evidence, independently checking the science and assuring the quality of the science. We would feel a lot better and more secure if they did that rather than what we are doing right now by jumping into this.

I worry about the situation that we as a parliament are not whistling for the banks to go and have a look at the farmers and say, 'This is going to become more expensive for you guys. How can we give you loans going forward if your yield per hectare goes down and it may cost more per hectare to deliver?' What happens when their profitability goes down?

Mr Dametto: Sends them to the wall.

Mr ANDREW: They go to the wall and it is a fire sale to where? Someone else, some corporation, comes in. I have sat in here for the last term of government listening to the government, the opposition and the crossbench members and all I hear is attacks on everything that begins with 'c'—cane, cattle, coal. It is a cold way of delivering things to the region when we should be thinking about these people—the primary producers who pay tax, who pay for our bureaucrats, who pay for us to be here, who make sure that the state is in good form in terms of export dollars.


What will this do to the confidence of people coming into the industry? What about the succession plans of the farmers and their families? Do we ever think about that? Do they go in there now and say, 'I'm not going to let you go into this industry, but we had a great thing.' I can go back to my great-great-grandparents—the South Sea islanders who came here and delivered the sugar industry for nothing, and we are losing it for what? It is ridiculous. We need to rethink what we are doing here. There is no need for this.

I spoke to Joe Galea. He has spent 50 years on the farm. He was sitting in front of me with his wife and his wife was crying. They are not people who dress up in a fancy way. They do not own a fancy car. They have spent 50 years on the farm. They have \$40,000-odd in water costs. They have no money. They are selling their property. It is 400-acre farm and they have nothing. They have no money in the bank. Every year they whittle away their savings. He says, 'Stephen, what can we do? Why are we doing this? Why are we going through this? The costs of things now are too exorbitant. I just don't get it.' I go to meetings with all the farmers and they are standing there saying, 'Stephen, we are just working for the community. We're not making one cent ourselves, but we are giving people jobs in the community and we are going backwards doing it.'

Is this what we do here as a parliament, as a government? I thought we backed business. I have heard members stand up and say, 'Small business is the powerhouse of Queensland.' Well, prove it. Show me where we are doing it. Show me where we are giving them a hand and some leeway, rather than putting more regulation on them and forcing more red tape on them. We are not doing that.

I spoke to Justin Camilleri. I have so many different people who come to me all the time. We are talking about the Great Barrier Reef. I have never seen one whale wash up on the reef. I have fished them all—Bugatti, Round, Square, Stevens, Pompey. I could name a hundred of them. I have looked at them through viewing buckets catching trout—and I know. You never see anything washed up on that reef. I have seen a whale dead on the beach in Mirani at Sarina Beach where I live. Everything I see that goes into the ocean generally comes through the river and ends up straight back on the beach. Even offshore when a boat breaks down, where does it end up? It ends up on the beach, but we are telling everybody that everything ends up on the reef. I do not see how.

Given the substantial federal government contributions and policy directives, it remains to be seen if a future LNP government will rescind this bill. It will be interesting to see what happens if they get in at the next election, because their federal counterparts have put a lot of money into making this happen.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise today to speak to the Great Barrier Reef legislation. I do so very cognisant of my obligation to the next generation. Last week three fantastic students from my wonderful local high school came to see me about the environment and climate change. Will Greaves is making a documentary about it for his media class, and he wanted to interview me about my views on climate change, the environment, what I have done as their local member and what I will do. I told them that I, and indeed everybody on this side of the House, believe in the importance of the environment and preserving it and the importance of climate change; that the Palaszczuk government has a 50 per cent clean energy target by 2030; and that we are committed to reaching that target with programs like Solar Schools—putting solar on thousands of rooftops throughout Queensland—and the household appliances program.

Importantly, thanks to programs like the solar rebate, the largest provider of power in this state is our rooftops—and that is something I am proud to shout from the rooftops. We are off to a great start when it comes to our commitment to the environment, but we have more to do. That is what I told Will and his classmates from Centenary State High School last week.

I am here today to put those words and those values into action because the climate crisis is here. It is real and we are seeing its devastating impacts each and every day right throughout Queensland. Sadly, my electorate is no different. Mount Ommaney has had two fires in the last week. Just yesterday a blaze ignited in Darra alongside the Centenary Motorway. I would like to thank the local fireys for getting the blaze under control. We do not yet know the cause of the blaze, but we do know that in this dry weather even a cigarette butt flicked onto dry grass can be enough to ignite a fire.

No-one should be under any illusion as to the critical importance of acting on environmental pressures and climate change, which is why I am proud to honour my commitment to the amazing students I met last week and the hundreds more like them in my community.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (FEES) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.29 pm): I move—

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

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise this evening to speak on this motion. I made it very clear during my contribution to a couple of transport related bills we debated in Townsville that my role as the shadow minister is not to simply oppose for the sake of it. However, on behalf of the good burghers of Queensland, from Coolangatta to Cooktown and as far out west as Birdsville and beyond, car registration for six- and eight-cylinder vehicles affects every single Queenslanders.

A little bit of bedside reading was undertaken in relation to these regulations. I read with interest section 43, which we are seeking to disallow. When you read page 66—not so much the fine print—it goes through the prescribed fee increases for car rego. In preparing for my contribution tonight I did a bit of research and I watched an old Channel 9 news clip. I wish you could table video or Blu-ray and not just documents, because it made for some very interesting viewing. I am pretty sure that the actual interview on Channel 9 was taken at the Greek Paniyiri festival a few months ago literally over on the south side of Brisbane. It was in relation to a story that Channel 9 was running on increases to car registration that were well and truly above and beyond normal CPI.

There was a typical framed shot of the Premier and her erstwhile and as-loyal-as-ever deputy, the member for South Brisbane—one who, it seems, partakes in the odd bit of ‘value capture’ from time to time—and it went something like this. I will quote from the transcript. First it panned to the one and only Premier. She was asked about car rego increases and she said, ‘It will just be in terms of CPI, is my understanding.’ For the benefit of the former member for Greenslopes—now seat swapper in Woodridge and procurer of bells—I would point out that there is someone who learned the ‘camera swivel’ even more masterfully, because the camera then turned to the Deputy Premier, who made a sterling contribution. She said, ‘Yeah, that’s right.’ Cue back to the Premier who said, ‘Yeah, normal CPI.’ Wow! Unfortunately, this particular news grab ran a bit longer, because we then cut to Paul Turner from the RACQ who, in the same news story on Channel 9 a matter of months ago, said, ‘We believe that it is above the inflation rate and breaks the promise the state government made.’

Mr Bleijie: Another broken promise.

Mr MINNIKIN: Another broken promise; I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana. It went on. Mr Turner went on to say, ‘Queensland motorists are getting stung. They are being used as a cash cow by government.’ In his final comment on this particular Channel 9 news grab he said, ‘We have some of the highest charges for motoring in the country in this state.’

Why is this important? It goes to the very heart of framing the government’s entire rationale for the second term when the Premier said that she would govern for all of Queensland. In fact, what she is doing is taxing all of Queensland. It is not just car rego increases that frame why this is so important. Under this particular government’s watch car registration fees have gone up by 17.3 per cent, but that is just the start of it. It all adds up: waste tax, \$1.3 billion; the grey nomad campervan tax—I will speak more of that in coming sessions of parliament—LNG royalties, up \$540 million; land tax; payroll tax; betting tax; and property investors tax. It just goes on and on and on. The key thing is that whenever you do a mobile office on a Saturday morning or a Thursday night, no matter which side of the chamber you are on, particularly in South-East Queensland—but I would argue throughout the rest of the state as well—there are two issues that always come back to bite: congestion and cost of living.

The reason this motion is important is that with this particular disallowance motion the LNP is fighting the government’s latest hike in rego fees. We know that based on the numbers we will be pushing it uphill tonight, but it is important that we get this on the record—on the sticky paper—because no doubt there are members on the other side of the chamber in marginal seats where cost-of-living pressures are biting hard. If they want to support the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the member for Miller—as I always say, because it is worthwhile repeating—the member who was called foolish by the CCC, the member who had a penchant for back channel private emails, it is very, very important to remember that under this minister’s watch not only have taxes gone through the roof but the member for Miller, the Transport and Main Roads minister, simply does not know what to do with the revenue. We know one thing—as per audit report No. 4 from November of last year—it is certainly not being spent. Here is the dichotomy: on the one hand we have car rego fees well and truly above the level of CPI, yet where is the extra revenue going? Funnily enough, it is meant to go towards roadworks, infrastructure and maintenance. Where is the money going if it is being collected on the one hand and it is not being spent on the other?

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: It is not; I will take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. He carps across the chamber in his way that it is going towards maintenance. Well, member for Miller, that seems to contradict page 13 or 14 of the audit report from November last year, because the honourable member fails—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members! There is a lot of noise and a bit of cross-chamber chatter. Can we just focus on what we are doing?

Mr MINNIKIN: The Minister for Transport and Main Roads was asked a very simple question a matter of weeks ago at estimates about the \$4 billion backlog in maintenance that these increases in car rego are meant to overcome. Why is it that now, 12 months later, that figure is up to about \$5 billion? Mr Deputy Speaker, it gets worse for the good burghers of Queensland—not just in South-East Queensland—because it does not matter where you live: we all pay this particular tax. It is not being spent on road maintenance, so where is the money going? Where is it going?

The fact of the matter is this. In the last term and three-quarters, we have seen a procession of Transport and Main Roads ministers who have actually got their paws on revenue—it has been an absolute tax grab—but what are they doing with it? We know it is not being used to administer a very good public transport system. The member opposite me, the genius member for Miller, the Transport

and Main Roads minister, will be known as the minister who actually had his own hashtag devised after his maladministration. He cannot run buses, trains or ferries. He certainly cannot patch up Queensland's over 33,000 kilometres of state controlled roads.

This goes to the heart of why the LNP believes very much in this disallowance motion. The money is being raised at record levels. People are being gouged in a whole range of cost-of-living issues. At the end of the day, I believe that fair-minded Queenslanders will accept that on the very same caveat that it be spent wisely. Through the chair, across the chamber, the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, has got a fist full of money but he is simply squandering it. There is a lack of accountability, but the House should not take my word for it because it is all written in the Auditor's report. In the interests of time, I will wrap up my—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The noise level is getting up again on both sides. Let us keep it down.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gladstone!

Mr MINNIKIN: Car registration is one of those costs that pretty much all Queenslanders cannot avoid. If they are having CPI increases of X and it is X-plus-plus-plus with how they are actually increasing it, it is simply unjust over the long term. A 17.3 per cent increase over the last couple of terms is outrageous. Let me compare and contrast that with when the LNP was last in government. We froze rego. We froze the increase on car registration.


We should understand the pedigree. No wonder the member for Miller is laughing because the member for Miller's concept of basic economic precepts is nowhere to be seen, but then again the ALP have had a few cracks at this portfolio. They had the Deputy Premier. The member for South Brisbane and the mistress of value capture had a couple of goes at TMR. Then we had the failed member for Sandgate who actually fell on his own sword. Now we have the member for Miller, who has been described as foolish, who is trying to actually occupy the role. None of them are delivering for the people of Queensland. At the end of the day, the revenue is at record levels but where is the money going? They are so broke, they have actually got all of their eggs tied up in one major infrastructure project. They say it is \$5.4 billion. Yes, as if it is \$5.4 billion! There is a little thing you have to add to that Hornby train set that is called carriages and trains, but we will get back to that on another day.

The fact of the matter is that all of the money this government have tried to save is being put into one particular project, and the problem with that is they are simply out of money. When it comes to the federal government trying to do the heavy lifting for them, despite the car rego hikes that are well and truly above the CPI, they simply have not even got their fair share. The minister will get up no doubt and try to have a crack about the fact that there is a record spend—blah, blah, blah. Do you know what? Tell that to the people of Queensland. They know the real truth. The money is not being spent wisely. It is coming in on one hand but it is not going out on the other.

I absolutely urge the members opposite in those marginal seats to think long and hard. No doubt they will comply as good democratic socialists and they will actually do what their socialist masters have told them to do. That is fine. It will be in *Hansard* so that is not a problem at all. At the end of the day, we are urging members that enough is enough. This phrase has been used all the time on this side of the chamber: you cannot tax your way to prosperity. There have been so many charges, fees and taxes and there is so little to show for it.

Rather than the member for Miller—the foolish transport and main roads minister, as described by the CCC—trying to look for the next snide remark across the chamber, which is truly water off a duck's back, he needs to understand a couple of basic economic precepts. It is simply the whole notion that under his particular watch he will be known as the minister who had his own rail fail hashtag named after him. More damning than that, every time he tries to steal the member for Woodridge's mirror and look at it, he will know that he will go down in history as probably the greatest failure of a TMR minister this state has seen.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kurwongbah, I remind members to use the correct terms when they are talking about other members in the chamber.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.45 pm): I could make up a few too, Mr Deputy Speaker, but I will take your advice. I rise to oppose the motion.

Mrs Frecklington: That was funny.

Mr KING: I am glad the member for Nanango enjoyed that. For the information of members, the annual vehicle registration charges are made up of three components: registration, traffic improvement and the CTP insurance premium. Registration fees have previously been adjusted annually in accordance with government indexation policy. An indexation rate of 3.59 per cent was locked in by the Newman government across the forward estimates from 2015-16 to 2018-19. This means the associated estimated revenue was subsequently allocated to important government initiatives, including building and maintaining roads, and I am sure that is happening because it is happening in my electorate. I drove up the coast the other day and I saw some massive roadworks, so I do not know what the member for Chatsworth was talking about.

To relieve the cost-of-living pressures on Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk government announced a lower indexation rate of 2.25 per cent for 2019-20. Light vehicle registration fees have therefore only increased by 2.25 per cent from 1 July 2019. I do not want to sound flippant about this, but I have a few V8s and old cars and I register them all. The rego will be going up \$18 a year on a V8. Yes, that is a cost-of-living expense to people but it is \$18 a year. Okay, that is what we are talking about and that is on a V8. I do not know how many people in here have a V12. I certainly do not, but that is \$22 a year and that is the highest increase on a light vehicle.

Queensland's 2.25 per cent fee indexation is comparable with other jurisdictions. For those jurisdictions that increased registration fees on 1 July 2019, the rate of increases throughout the jurisdictions ranged from 2.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent for a four-cylinder vehicle.

Mr O'Rourke interjected.

Mr KING: In some jurisdictions, it was 5.5 per cent. As I said before, estimated revenue based on this indexation rate has been allocated to a number of government programs, which include building and maintaining roads. Reducing this indexation rate would result in funding having to be cut and scheduled works and programs being delayed or cancelled.

The LNP have presented a new funding black hole with this motion. This is on top of their \$9 billion of unfunded promises. It is another funding black hole with no plan. I know as most Queenslanders do that the LNP have a simple solution to fill the black holes that they create, and that is to cut, sack and sell. Any decision to reduce the annual indexation of registration fees will reduce the amount of funding available for investment under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, or QTRIP.

The forward program of work in QTRIP is based on forecasted funding over four years from 2019-20 to 2022-23. This QTRIP funding across the forward estimates has been fully allocated to projects and programs. Reducing QTRIP funding would require cuts to the state's transport network, but it is no surprise that the LNP moved this motion because we know they love cuts. When they were in power previously, I believe they cut \$600 million from roads and transport funding so I am not surprised they think it is a good idea to once again cut funding to QTRIP.

The CTP insurance premium component of our rego fees is not indexed. Instead private insurers operate in a competitive market and set premiums within a range established by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission. This range is adjusted quarterly based on actual claims experienced. Queensland has some of the lowest CTP premiums in the country. Heavy vehicle registration fees are not the subject of a fee increase in 2019-20. Heavy vehicle registration fees are based on nationally agreed fees set by the Transport and Infrastructure Council.

Even with the increase in registration fees this year Queensland families still have relatively low registration fees for the most popular selling cars including CTP insurance premiums. For one of the most popular selling medium sized four-cylinder cars, the Toyota Corolla, Queensland is the third cheapest in the country. For the most popular selling car in Australia, the Toyota Hilux—and I am sure there are some here who have those—Queensland is once again the third cheapest in the country.


We are investing in the infrastructure which our rego fees help to pay for. In my electorate of Kurwongbah residents will benefit from the billion dollar upgrade of the Gateway Motorway, the Petrie roundabout upgrade, the Dakabin station upgrade which is part of the \$357 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program as well as the new Settlement Road-Deception Bay Road upgrade and local park-and-ride upgrades. I am sure the residents in my area who own a V8 can handle paying \$18 a year to help these road infrastructure upgrades.

The new QTRIP has seen an overall increase of more than \$1.3 billion across the four-year period when compared to the previous QTRIP. Our job-creating investment in roads and transport infrastructure will sustain 21½ thousand jobs across Queensland during the life of the program. In this

year's budget we committed money to the ultimate Linkfield Road overpass solution, but unfortunately the federal LNP's matching money is out of reach for at least another four years. We will have to wait for the Morrison government to bring their money forward. This overpass upgrade is sorely needed, but we were hamstrung by the Morrison government's decision to put their funding so far away—more than another election away. We have matched their funding. We have also brought forward \$4 million of our funding to ensure we can do any early works that are needed before full construction, so works can happen sooner. I am calling on our local federal members to stand up for the north side and fight in Canberra for this money to be brought forward.

Earlier this year the Palaszczuk government also announced the start of design work to create Australia's second diverging diamond interchange—and there are two members in here who are very happy about that—at the Strathpine Road interchange. We will provide \$15 million to build this interchange upgrade, creating 45 jobs and tackling peak congestion between Strathpine and Bracken Ridge.

The critical upgrades that people need on our roads and the jobs that are supported by our infrastructure investments might not happen if registration is reduced. If the LNP had their way, they would cut, sack and sell like they did last time they were in office. That is the only way they could pay for the black holes in their funding.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion before the House tonight and I congratulate the shadow minister on his contribution in the House. I make a comment with regard to the member for Kurwongbah's contribution. Every time those opposite cannot get things right it is somebody else's fault. It is either the Newman government, who left office in 2015; or it is the Morrison government, who just thrashed the Labor Party—

Mrs Frecklington: It was Joh.

Mr McARDLE:—it was Joh Bjelke-Petersen. It was his fault; he caused the problem.

Ms Pease interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr McARDLE: I take the interjection of the member for Lytton; she believes that is the case.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not across the chamber. Everyone knows the standing orders.

Mr McARDLE: The member for Lytton actually believes that Sir Joh caused the congestion on the roads today. The problem is we are still using the roads he built and the dams he built, and this mob will not build a dam. They will not build a dam because the Greens will not let them because there is a frog out there that has moved around from spot to spot across the state. That frog causes the Labor Party to go into conniptions and they will not do anything. They will not get behind the federal government's plan to put water infrastructure in Far North Queensland and North Queensland because they are terrified.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This motion is a disallowance motion specifically about registration. The member is straying a long way away from the motion.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take a point of order. I took the issue raised by the member for Kurwongbah—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait, thank you. I will deal with this point of order first. We have a disallowance motion in front of us here. We have some latitude and we have let it go so far. However, I remind the members that despite that latitude, if we go too far off track we will have to pull you up. There is no point of order at the moment. Please continue. I just put that out there about where we will go.

Mr McARDLE: I am following that pesky frog around the state, but I will let that go for the time being. This motion is more than simply about registration fees; that is important. This goes to the very heart of how this Labor government manages our economy and, importantly, how it treats Queenslanders, because this government is drunk on taxes. It is drunk on imposing new taxes and increasing existing taxes, and they have a track record of doing that. The simple reason is this: they do it because they cannot manage our economy. We are heading to a debt of somewhere over \$90 billion and the more they impose taxes, the more they think they are going to get a better outcome. They cannot tax their way to either efficiency or prosperity.

This government has all the hallmarks of the Beattie government and the Bligh government. They taxed and they sold assets because they could not govern the state and provide for the needs of Queenslanders—

Mr Nicholls: And they increased rego by 30 per cent.

Mr McARDLE:—and they increased registration by 30 per cent, as my erstwhile companion from Clayfield says. In addition to that when ‘rivers of gold’ were coming into this state, they still could not make it work. Queenslanders will pay \$1.9 billion this year in registration fees and this government is projecting that in 2022-23 that figure will go to \$2.124 billion, so they will keep gouging and gouging and gouging all the way forward.

Mr King: \$18.

Mr McARDLE: I take the comment made by the member for Kurwongbah. He seems to think that \$18 is nothing. For some people in this state \$18 is a lot of money. If someone has a business with 10 vehicles or 20 vehicles, that mounts up to a large sum of money. Let’s not be flippant; this is a real issue for many people in this state and many businesses as well.

The reality is this: Labor claim they are there to help and assist the worker. However, how can they defend that claim when they cannot balance the books and they cannot plan for growth? What they do is they gouge the punter. They have a plan and put into effect new taxes and increased taxes on 10 fronts, and that hurts every Queenslander because it is a cost-of-living initiative. Hardworking families and businesses are paying for this. If people run a business, the increase in registration, whether they have one vehicle, 10 vehicles or 20 vehicles, is passed back to the consumer. That means that when people phone for a plumber to come out, that registration increase on his vehicles is passed through to the consumer. It is the same with the carpenter and the bloke who runs a small shop down the street who has two or three vehicles; they pass that on to the consumer. However, that is okay by Labor as long as they get their taxes in and they gouge the pocket of the small business owner and in addition to that, the family.

This family in Queensland is paying large petrol bills. What does Labor do? They add to that burden by increasing registration. They are not just increasing petrol costs; they add further by putting increased registration fees onto that family. Under this government and this Premier we have seen an increase of 17.3 per cent in registration fees. One could argue that that is sustainable if it could be shown the moneys were used efficiently and effectively. However, the RACQ Travel Time report states that some travel distances are now slower by 28 per cent than they were 12 months ago. Think about that: 28 per cent. If someone has a business, they are paying registration, they are paying wages, maintenance and petrol and they are slower by 28 per cent. Those costs have to go somewhere and they are going to go onto the consumer, and their cost of goods are going to increase accordingly.

Congestion during the week is bad enough. On the weekends on major Brisbane roads congestion is also getting to the same point. Many of us come down here on a Sunday to attend parliament. When we reach Brisbane city we find congestion more than we have ever seen in the past. I have lived in this state all my life and I can guarantee that that is the case.

Under this government there has been a cut in infrastructure spend of \$3 billion per annum. The LNP set the pathway. We froze registration for three years, because we understood that it was a cost-of-living issue and we wanted to help people meet the cost-of-living initiatives. In addition, between 2012 and 2015 that meant there was no increase—a four-cylinder car saved \$45 over that time. The member for Kurwongbah may laugh at that, but that is real dollars in somebody’s pocket. That is real dollars in a family’s pocket. That is real dollars in a business’s pocket. If we multiply that 10, 12, 20 or 30 times, depending on who operates the business, that is real money.

One of the most shameful things is that when this Premier was transport minister transport fees increased 15 per cent per annum for three consecutive years. Now she runs the state! The woman who actually raised fees 15 per cent per annum now runs the state. By contrast, in 2014 the LNP—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I take the interjection. It is a very wise comment to make in today’s motion. There is some debate about who runs the state; I accept that. In 2014, the LNP cut fares by five per cent, again, understanding the necessity to provide for the people of this state. In 2017-18, the Auditor-General in the *Integrated transport planning* report stated that in 2016-17 the backlog of maintenance in this state was \$4 billion, to grow to \$9 billion within four years. Where is the money going? The moneys are pouring in. The figures presented by the government indicate the moneys are

coming in the bucketloads—not quite rivers of gold but a major input of cash into the state coffers. Where are they going? I guarantee that they are not going to Caloundra, Minister. I guarantee that they are not going to Caloundra Road, Minister.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Through the chair, please.

Mr McARDLE: I referred to the member as ‘minister’.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Caloundra. I have given you a direction and you are clearly following it. Please continue.

Mr McARDLE: I failed to acknowledge. The point is that the moneys are not going to Caloundra. The question has to be asked: where are the billions of dollars being raised going? To me it sounds like a black hole—

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. I do so aware that the popular thing to do is always to freeze rates, but good leadership and popularity do not always go hand in hand. Any parent in this chamber will know that. Leadership is about doing the right thing in the face of opposition. Labor turns up to this place every day determined to lead, to do what is best for Queensland, to make the hard decisions. Those opposite would rather play to the masses, aware that they are not accountable for these decisions. It is easy to call for rates, levies and fees to be frozen, repealed or disallowed. It is easy when you have no commitment to the welfare and care of those who depend on you. Each individual decision cannot be made in isolation. There are always consequences. It is essentially Newton’s third law of physics: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. For every decision there is a pair of forces acting on it—forces that are equal and opposite, action and reaction.

In government the LNP preferred to steer clear of physics and adopted Campbell Newman’s law of economics. Under ‘Newman’s law’, for every rates freeze there was an equal, sometimes greater, reduction in services. For example, on the one hand the LNP abolished the waste levy. In turn, that opened the door to interstate dump trucks dumping their waste in Ipswich. In another example, the LNP froze power price increases but at the same time slashed the Solar Bonus Scheme and feed-in tariff. The LNP in government, using ‘Newman’s law’ again, froze car registration increases for three years. Clearly it was a popular thing to do, but at the same time third-party insurance premiums rose, effectively negating that for consumers anyway. Using ‘Newman’s law’, the LNP realised that the only way to deliver was not through rates that affect its core constituency, not levies that the big end of town pays, but by selling assets and privatising public services—the services ordinary Queenslanders rely on.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

Ms HOWARD: They do not like it. We see it today. The government’s infrastructure plans are stymied by the Morrison government’s ideologically-driven agenda of privatisation. In order to fund major road upgrades—upgrades that are essential to ensuring Queensland motorists are kept safe, that are needed for businesses and industry to progress and that will support our economic advancement—the federal coalition tied its infrastructure funding to privatisation and to asset sales. It is a disgrace. The federal coalition government is holding our safety and our prosperity to ransom over an outdated and unworkable policy designed to make government smaller and services profitable. It is pure ideology and it has no place in this great state of ours.

Corporatising and privatising services do not make them work better. Just look at Australia Post. Once the heart of every community across the nation, the humble post office is now disappearing. Just recently, Australia Post threatened to shut down altogether the Ipswich CBD post office. Apparently, it was not economically profitable. It is a great example of what happens when we put economics before people. Unlike Newton’s law of physics, a natural law that is agreed upon by experts, effectively Campbell Newman’s law of economics was a massive con. They gave with one hand while wielding a scythe with the other, because one cannot freeze a rate without there being a consequence, intended or unintended. They might think it is popular, but there will always be an economic and social consequence. That is the hard lesson of leadership, a lesson that clearly the LNP has not learned since its election loss in 2015.

On the other hand, the Palaszczuk government is delivering a small increase in registration fees and is investing in infrastructure. The government’s investment in my area alone includes: route planning for the Ipswich-Springfield rail corridor; 19 new services on the Ipswich/Rosewood and

Springfield lines; the East Ipswich station upgrade to make it accessible to people with disability, people with prams, people travelling with suitcases—it is part of the \$357 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program; investment in bikeways across Ipswich and new developments in Deebing Creek; \$890,000 for the installation of wide centre lines on the Centenary Highway between Yamanto and Springfield Central; the \$635 million Warrego Highway Upgrade Program, with a \$400 million boost secured in this budget; and let us not forget the Ipswich Motorway upgrade, with work occurring between Rocklea and Darra or the Logan Motorway upgrade streamlining the access to the Gateway Motorway extension.

These investments are part of the Palaszczuk government's record \$23 billion investment in roads and transport infrastructure over four years. This is our government's fourth record Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, or QTRIP, out of five. The new QTRIP sees an overall increase of more than \$1.3 billion across the four-year period when compared to the previous QTRIP. Our investment in roads and transport infrastructure will sustain 21,500 jobs across Queensland during the life of the program. Of this, approximately \$14.5 billion, or more than 63 per cent, is funded primarily by the Palaszczuk government. Investment outlined in the new QTRIP specifically allocated to regional Queensland is \$14½ billion, or more than 63 per cent. As I said, this jobs-first, regions focused program will sustain over 21½ thousand jobs.

Under our government's procurement policies we ensure that more of the benefits flow to local communities in the region where this money is invested. The money collected from registration fees helps fund this infrastructure and helps support jobs in regional Queensland. Any reduction in the money collected from registration would mean a reduction in the money spent on roads and transport infrastructure. I know that is what my constituents care about.

The LNP's proposal in this motion will create a funding black hole which they have no plan to pay for. We know that they have over \$9 billion in unfunded promises. They have not told anyone how they plan to fund them. That brings me back to Campbell Newman's law of economics. If the LNP have not told us where this \$9 billion is coming from, you can bet it will come from asset sales, privatisation or worse. What is worse than that? Nuclear power plants. Just how much would an LNP government plan to make out of selling our state to nuclear power industries? The nuclear lobby would happily put a couple of nuclear power plants in Ipswich, I am sure. Swanbank, Wivenhoe Dam—that is right: right on the banks of our region's water supply. Past behaviour is the surest indicator of future behaviour. The LNP's plan is always to cut, sack and sell. It is in their DNA.


I want to address the issue the LNP claims to be addressing—that is, cost-of-living relief. As I have explained, there is no cut that does not have a consequence, and the LNP never saw a cut they did not embrace. The real issue here is making sure we provide the services Queenslanders need and every assistance to help them pay the cost of registration. Currently, all registered operators can renew their registration for three, six or 12 months. The Department of Transport and Main Roads also provides eligible customers with the option of paying by direct debit. Direct debit provides customers with the ability to take up three-month registration payment terms, allowing them to make smaller and more manageable payments.

TMR is also actively investigating shorter registration terms to provide more manageable registration payment terms and further assist with the cost of living. It already offers a payment option called the planned payment scheme, operated through Australia Post. This scheme enables motorists to pay registration renewal fees in instalments by making regular deposits of \$40 throughout the year before their registration expires. In 2016 a variety of services were developed to help customers make payments on time. The following services were delivered in 2016 to assist customers make their registration payment, because Labor understands that people sometimes need a helping hand.

It is no surprise that the member for Chatsworth has brought this motion forward. The member for Chatsworth has made ridiculous claims in the past that Labor wants to put up prices and attack traditional Australian values, claiming minority groups are a threat to our way of life—a claim supported by the member for Clayfield when he was the party leader. He has plenty of things to say about cutting prices, locking young offenders in prison and building infrastructure but nothing to say about how they will pay for these things. Let me conclude with an article quoting former prime minister Paul Keating. It states—

'Liberal economics is going nowhere' ... 'It has now led us into a kind of dead end.' Liberal economists did not anticipate the global financial crisis of 2008 and had no real solution to the problem of growing inequality ...

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Members, the noise level is rising. Bear that in mind. I am quite prepared to warn people.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion to disallow section 43 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, subordinate legislation No. 74 of 2019, tabled in the House on 11 June this year.

For the past five years in a row, Labor has hit Queenslanders with above-inflation tax increases on their car registration costs. In fact, since Annastacia Palaszczuk became Premier registration costs have gone up by a whopping 17.3 per cent. We think that is unfair, so we are fighting Labor's registration hikes with this disallowance motion.

My electorate of Bundaberg is a low socio-economic area, and the ever-increasing cost of living is the most common concern I hear from residents on a daily basis. It is not just car registration prices residents are worried about. Bundaberg residents are being hit by this government from all angles, with exorbitant electricity prices and skyrocketing fuel costs also taking a massive toll. The Premier and her ministers may be able to afford the constant increases, but everyday Queenslanders cannot. Whether it is driving to work, dropping the kids to school or shopping for groceries, Queenslanders are feeling the pinch from increased transport costs.

Queensland has some of the most expensive registration fees in the country, with the highest charges in the six- and eight-cylinder categories and the second highest in the four-cylinder category. If that is not enough, the RACQ has also confirmed that Queenslanders pay more for their car registration than the average of all other states and territories. Families and businesses across Queensland—all 5.3 million people—are paying more than they should be paying, all because of Labor.

At the start of this speech I mentioned that the registration increases are above inflation. In fact, they are well above it. In July 2017 registration fees increased by 3.5 per cent—the same as the year before and the year before that. This was nearly double the rate of inflation. Just this year alone Queensland motorists will contribute \$1.9 billion in registration tax revenue. While we recognise that that money contributes to building and maintaining our roads, Labor is not investing wisely. Instead, it is taking more from the hardworking taxpayer and delivering less in return.

For example, just like all Queenslanders, Bundaberg residents are paying the government yet they continue to miss out when it comes to transport projects. In this current financial year there was not a single dollar allocated to any major road upgrades or roadworks in the Bundaberg electorate. I say that again for members opposite: no money allocated for major road upgrades or roadworks in the Bundaberg electorate.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr BATT: I am not sure what the Bundaberg hospital has to do with road upgrades. The only line in the TMR funding section was funding for ongoing maintenance of the Burnett traffic bridge—something that has been maintained and going on for years. We have a number of roads that are screaming out for an upgrade, but our calls continue to fall on deaf ears. Hundreds of community members have petitioned the minister to upgrade the intersection of Ashfield Road and FE Walker Street and address issues relating to four schools nearby. We continually get a no from the minister. I even met with TMR staff to try to work through this issue, yet there is not one major road upgrade for the Bundaberg area. Even installing flashing lights at school zones would be a great thing to do right across Queensland for a minimal amount. Instead, we have to wait over 20 years for all schools to get flashing lights because transport budget money is not being spent appropriately.

A bikeway to Bargara from Bundaberg is a fantastic initiative that people talk to me and the member for Burnett about daily. The minister can find money for a bikeway in his electorate, but we cannot seem to get one from Bundaberg to Bargara. The Quay Street bypass would be a game changer for the Bundaberg district. The federal government has thrown \$40 million towards this upgrade, but there is nothing for it in this state budget. It would help redevelop our CBD and support jobs in the Bundaberg area. Again, we get nothing from this government.

At a time when this state is battling under the highest unemployment rate in mainland Australia and families are genuinely struggling to make ends meet, it is unfair and unjust for Labor to yet again reach into the pockets of Queenslanders. In stark contrast, the LNP has a strong track record of delivering monetary relief for motorists. We know and understand the pressure that mounting cost-of-living increases have on families. That is why we froze registration costs for the family car for three years upon gaining office in 2012.

This meant that the cost of car registration at the start of 2015 was the same as it was three years earlier. The LNP has a plan to ease cost-of-living pressures for families and build a stronger Queensland with the roads and transport infrastructure that our growing state needs. Again that is why I speak in favour of this disallowance motion moved by the member for Chatsworth.

Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The increase to registration in Queensland is relatively low compared to other states in Australia. The most popular car in Australia is the Toyota Hilux and we are the third cheapest state in Australia to register a Hilux. We are also the third cheapest state in Australia to register a Toyota Corolla. Unlike New South Wales, we do not require vehicle owners to undertake a compulsory annual safety check—a huge saving for taxpayers. This is money in Queenslanders' pockets.

In other states the increase in registration costs has been far greater. In South Australia, the Liberal-National government has raised registration fees for four-cylinder cars by a whopping 5.5 per cent. Owners of a vehicle such as a Toyota Hilux will be paying 5.3 per cent more. The same goes for the owners of eight-cylinder vehicles, with a 5.4 per cent rise for owners of six-cylinder vehicles. Rego is also going up in the Northern Territory, up by 2.7 per cent for four-, six- and eight-cylinder vehicles. In Western Australia rego fees are going up also. Compared to Queensland's 2.25 per cent increase, in WA, owners of four- and six-cylinder vehicles will now be paying 2.6 per cent more. My daughter is very fortunate because she has lived in all of those states, so she would be facing increased registration costs.

Victoria is also increasing registration costs and it is higher than Queensland's increase at 2.5 per cent. In Queensland the rises are not only lower as a percentage, but the total fees are lower for the most popular cars compared to most jurisdictions. The cost of registering a medium size four-cylinder car like a Toyota Corolla in Queensland for 12 months is \$737.10. As I have already said, this is the third cheapest in Australia. In New South Wales you would pay \$905.38, in Victoria it would cost you \$834.80 and registering the same car in the ACT would set you back a whopping \$990.45. That is \$253.35 more than the registration costs here in Queensland.

It also costs more in other states to register a Toyota Hilux, which, as I have already said, is the top-selling car in the country. Queensland is, as we know, the third cheapest jurisdiction to register a Hilux and Hilux owners pay \$783.30 for a yearly registration. In New South Wales—wait for it—they are charged a huge fee of \$1,323.86. In South Australia the fee is hefty, with one-year registration coming in at \$1,152.14. The ACT charges \$1,319.60. Think about it: just across the border Hilux owners are paying \$540.56 more to register their vehicles. Other jurisdictions also have fees that drivers have to pay to keep their cars on the road. Some jurisdictions charge administration fees. Some charge a weight tax. Some charge a motor tax. Other jurisdictions charge emergency services fees and road rescue fees.

In addition to talking about the costs of registration in other states, I want to talk about the LNP's approach to registration. What the LNP does not like to talk about is that when it left office it had planned in the forward estimates to increase registration by 3.5 per cent each and every year. This cynical motion from the LNP would mean cuts to projects which Queenslanders are expecting. It would also deliver a funding black hole and the LNP has no idea how it would patch that hole. That funding black hole would be as much as \$300 million and it has no plan to pay for it. On top of that is its \$9 billion in unfunded promises, also with no plan to pay for it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PEASE: We know that the LNP will also cut, sack and sell—we have the architect of that sitting in this very room with us today—to fill its unfunded black hole. This year we were unable to reduce the LNP's 3.5 per cent registration increase to a more manageable 2.25 per cent increase in line with inflation. If the LNP was in power now, we would still be seeing 3.5 per cent increases year on year. The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to a fairer system for indexing fees. Instead of simply applying flat rises year on year like the LNP planned, we are indexing fees and charges to CPI.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms PEASE: The rate being set in the middle of the year also enables businesses and families to know the rate in advance and budget ahead.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

A government member: No need to be rude.

Ms PEASE: I want to acknowledge the rudeness and bad mannered behaviour of the member for Chatsworth, who is actually a bully, because tonight I will be hosting—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Lytton, through the chair.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For my first ever time, I take offence at what was just said by the member for Lytton and I ask her to withdraw. I take personal offence.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. Tonight I am hosting—and I have my guests upstairs watching—the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians young women’s event. They will be delighted to have witnessed the member for Chatsworth and his outrageous behaviour in the House. I hope some of them are constituents of Chatsworth and have been able to see bad behaviour. The rate being set in the middle of the year—

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again take personal offence at the comment just made by the member for Lytton and ask her to withdraw.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government is providing certainty and affordability into the future. We are investing in infrastructure which registration fees help to pay for. For example, in my electorate of Lytton the government’s investment in the \$400 million comprehensive planning study for the Lindum level crossing is being delivered partly thanks to the money collected from registration fees. Queenslanders will always do better under a Labor government, and it is no different under this Palaszczuk Labor government. The alternative is an LNP with unfunded black holes that only knows how to cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the disallowance motion standing in the name of the member for Chatsworth, and I am proud to do so. I am standing up for the families and the small businesses of my electorate of Southern Downs against this outrageous hike in registration which would continue a succession of increases in rego which are above inflation, which I think is disgraceful. The incomes of the people in my electorate of Southern Downs—the farmers, the small businesses, the families—are not going up faster than inflation, so it is vital that this government makes sure it spends within its means and it spends the money properly rather than wasting it on the things that it wastes it on.

I will never sit in this chamber and take lectures from the Labor Party about fiscal rectitude and economic management. I have heard the member for Kurwongbah, the member for Lytton and the member for Ipswich talk about how there are consequences to people by cutting the cost of registration. I will tell them what the answer is: you spend the money better. You stop wasting it like this government has proclivities for doing. We see the most appalling economic management and wasteful spending by this government. We have heard asset sales mentioned over and over in the chamber today. Who sold all the assets? The Labor Party sold itself into shame. Those opposite are absolutely in no way fit and proper people to talk about asset sales in this place. The Queensland Motorways was sold. Abbot Point—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Logan and member for Theodore, stop the cross-chamber chatter. I notice, member for Theodore, that you are on your feet as well, so if you are going to do that do it from your seat.

Mr LISTER: Those opposite sold off the Abbot Point port, QR National, the Port of Brisbane, Forestry Plantations, the Cairns Airport, the Mackay Airport, the Brisbane Airport, wind energy assets, gas assets and Enertrade, Golden Casket, Powerdirect, Sungas, Sun Retail and Allgas. That adds up to over \$16 billion that the Labor Party has sold. We are talking about a Premier and a senior minister, the Minister for State Development, who sat around the cabinet table when those sales were occurring.

As I say, those opposite are in no way fit and proper people to come into this place and lecture us about asset sales. It is the Labor Party that sells the assets in this state, not the LNP. It has had rivers of gold coming into its coffers, yet look at all of the tax increases we have seen. We have seen billions of dollars in tax increases, many of which were not announced before the election but in the dark of night just before the election during the media blackout, such is the shabby deception that we see from this Labor government. Where has all of the money gone? It has been blown. That is what those opposite do—they waste money.

Mr McDonald: Waste!

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Lockyer. He knows, as I do, that those opposite blow money. They do not spend it on the roads in our electorates. People would not mind so much paying an increase in their registration if they knew that the money was going towards roads, but it is not. In the first years of this Labor government, for three years in a row it underspent by \$3 billion per year.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Chatsworth. That added up to an underspend of \$9 billion and, as a result, we are still behind the eight ball.

What are the effects of that underspend in my electorate of Southern Downs? In my electorate the Gore Highway, the New England Highway and the Cunningham Highway are in very poor condition. In some cases, there are cracks in the centre of the road that are a foot deep. Motorcyclists and truck drivers come to me to complain about them. I have complained ad nauseam to the department and the minister about the condition of the highways to no avail whatsoever. The people of my electorate of Southern Downs would be happy to pay an increase in their registration if they felt they were getting value for money from it, but they are not. I am here to say that that is the case.

What are the effects of increasing the cost of registration on families? The people in my electorate of Southern Downs—the people in the bush—are doing it tough. Small businesses, farmers and families in my electorate are facing shrinking incomes whilst this grasping government, which cannot control its own spending, is defending another increase in registration costs. If the Lions Club of Warwick has to pay more for the registration of its trailer, the money for that comes out of the good work that the Lions Club of Warwick is able to do for its community. On the weekend I visited the Navy cadets in Stanthorpe on the training ship the *Kookaburra*.

Mr Nicholls: They have come a long way from the sea.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. The commanding officer and the parents of the unit support committee who raise funds so that those youngsters can have a great experience in the Navy cadets have to raise more money to pay for the registration for their trailers and vehicles. That is an effect of the increase in registration on the community. That is an effect of the increase in registration on our young people.

What about Red Rock Transport? I was talking to Red out at the Inglewood showgrounds—

Mr McDonald: He's a good fellow.


Mr LISTER: I take that interjection. Yes, he is a good fellow. Red has many trucks and trailers. They cannot all be on the road at all times. He has them sitting in his yard waiting for a job, and he is paying registration for that. Red works hard for his money. He invests with no certain outcome so that he can employ people and generate jobs and generate wealth and prosperity for his community. He has been hit yet again by increases in registration by a government that cannot control its own spending.

What sort of spending am I talking about? Renaming a hospital. How much did that cost? What about the \$320,000 to fete Al Gore when he came out here to lecture us? There was \$111 million to take on board the privately run prisons just to appease the union. That was done for no reason other than that. We know that the union bosses who benefited from that appalling decision can afford to pay the increase in their registration, but not the people in my electorate of Southern Downs. What about the \$100,000 for a weight loss app for dogs? That was more waste. There was \$45 million to build a bike track linking some Labor electorates in Brisbane. We could spend that money on fixing the problems on the Gore Highway, but, no, the money has been wasted. I can see the minister opposite. He will not look me in the eye, because he knows that that bike track is a waste of funds and that the people in my electorate of Southern Downs are paying the price for it.

We cannot afford these registration increases. This Labor government does not spend money properly. The members opposite are in no position to charge us more when they spend money recklessly. I know that I speak for every family, every farmer and every small business person in Southern Downs when I say that we cannot afford these registration increases.

When the LNP was in government it froze registration costs, because the LNP understood the enormous importance of putting money back into the pockets of families so they can spend the money in their communities, they can spend the money in their small business and not on a bunch of highly paid bureaucrats.

I urge every member in this House who knows that the people in their communities are doing it tough—and that includes those on that side of the chamber as well—to oppose any increase in registration costs. Members should support this motion that stands in the name of my good friend the member for Chatsworth.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.34 pm): At the start of my contribution I would like to pass on my condolences to Denise Mann and her family on the recent passing of Brian Mann. Brian was a long-serving advocate with the Queensland Public Sector Union, a good mate of mine and well respected across the Public Service by both workers and management. His only fault in life was that he was a Manly supporter. I hope for his sake Manly beats my beloved Bunnies this Friday night. Brian will be sadly missed.

I would now like to oppose this motion. The member for Chatsworth certainly has form in this area. He has come in here before suggesting that we bring down the cost of registration. The last time he did that he suggested that we should reduce fines and get rid of fines for people who speed through school zones. He felt that we should favour people who choose to speed through school zones and put their actions ahead of the safety of students in schools. That was a disgraceful act by somebody who is supposedly the alternative spokesperson for road safety in this state.

Several speakers in this debate have asked where the money is going. Certainly, it is easy to see in my electorate when we see the veloway. I note the concerns raised by the previous speaker. I can tell members that the veloway is getting people in my electorate to and from work faster and safer. It is saving lives. The lives of the constituents in my electorate and creating safe transport infrastructure are very important for this government. We do that through the money that we raise from registration fees.


I would like those opposite to show us the infrastructure that was built by them. For me it is quite easy to see, because in my electorate you can see the one thing that they built. Perhaps it can be seen from the Chatsworth electorate as well. We can see the one piece of infrastructure that was built by those opposite and it certainly was not a piece of transport infrastructure.

Perhaps I should be generous. Perhaps I should say that this motion is driven by a concern about the cost of living. As a government that has brought down electricity prices, as a government that introduced Fairer Fares, I think that, when it comes to the cost of living, this government has a proud track record. Of course, the best protection that we can give people in terms of cost of living is giving them a job. When you sack 14,000 people, you damage their ability to manage their cost-of-living issues.

A government member interjected.

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. They forget about that. The members opposite want to talk about the cost of living. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which was cut by those opposite, puts long-term unemployed people into work. That is how you deal with the cost of living.

This is a ridiculous motion. It continues the opposition's trend of promising things costing billions of dollars and making no sense about how they are going to pay for them. At least the member for Clayfield was honest enough to say that he was going to sell or lease assets and get the money that way. The members opposite simply come in here and make promises costing billions of dollars, but they have absolutely no way of paying for them. That is why I oppose this motion.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion to disallow section 43 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 74. Queenslanders are sick and tired of being slugged more and more for their car registration by this government. Motorists are sick and tired of being treated as cash cows by this Palaszczuk government. The increases in registration continue to add to the burden of already out-of-control cost-of-living pressures for the people of this state.

For the past five years, motorists have been unfairly slugged with above-inflation tax hikes on registration fees. This latest increase will place a further strain on household budgets, particularly for those in regional Queensland who are doing it tough enough as it is. The effects of the drought are being felt right across the Condamine electorate, with some farmers unsure when their next income will be coming in. These everyday Queenslanders genuinely cannot afford another rate hike.

They are paying to freight water. They are paying more to truck livestock. They are paying more to truck in grain from whatever part of the country they can access it from in the first place. They are paying more for electricity. Now they are paying more again for their registration due to this above-inflation price hike. The current climate, especially for those in rural and regional Queensland, is enough to suffer through without a state government, that cannot control its finances, asking them to dip into their pockets time and time again.

It is not just the people on the land. We have large freight companies in the seat of Condamine. Their trucks are sitting idle. As we heard from the member for Southern Downs, while there is no produce being produced their wheels are not turning. It is the same for the contractors scattered throughout the electorate of Condamine. When there are no crops growing they are not busy so their machinery is parked in the shed and they are paying these increased costs on that machinery to sit idle.

Tens of thousands of Queenslanders are struggling to pay their bills. We have high electricity prices yet the Palaszczuk Labor government imposes a further registration increase to add to the cost-of-living pressures on the community. Whether it is driving to work, dropping the kids off to school or

doing the weekly grocery shop, Queenslanders are feeling the pinch from increased transport costs. Not only that, but to find out Queenslanders are paying more than the average of other states and territories is just another kick in the guts that families in this state cannot afford.


Queensland motorists contributed over \$1.9 billion in registration tax revenue this year. It is unacceptable that these charges have been going up well above inflation. In fact, since Annastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier, registration costs have gone up 17.3 per cent. It is recognised that the funds collected from registration fees contribute to the building and maintenance of our road network, but this money needs to be invested wisely to deliver the best value for taxpayer dollars.

I have constantly asked for flashing safety lights at Crows Nest, repairs to the Bowenville Moola Road, a turning lane westbound on the Warrego Highway at the Oakey Pittsworth Road intersection, even a simple pedestrian crossing in Pittsworth, but the community of Condamine are still waiting. The minister allocated \$4.5 million to upgrade the Bowenville Norwin Road. It is 22 kilometres on black soil. It is estimated that it will cost \$1 million a kilometre to rebuild this road. It has been damaged again since those upgrades have started.

I have asked for widening of Brimblecombe Road. I wrote to the minister about the dangerous condition of the Clifton Leyburn Road. I rode in the school bus along that road and it is nothing short of dangerous. I will admit the minister did take action. Within a couple of weeks there was a 'rough surface' sign and the speed limit went down to 80 kilometres an hour on that road. Problem solved! The list goes on.

If we are going to pay more for registration then people should at least feel safer on Queensland roads and know that their money is going towards making sure they are driving on the best possible roads. We heard from the member for Southern Downs about a \$45 million bike lane between the electorates of Miller and Greenslopes. That money would do a lot to make the kids on the Clifton Leyburn Road much safer.

Labor has poor form when it comes to transport matters. When Annastacia Palaszczuk was transport minister, public transport fares went up 15 per cent year after year. Annastacia Palaszczuk and transport minister Mark Bailey are clearly not up to the task in this state and this latest cash grab is only being implemented to prop up a Labor government that cannot manage the state's finances and its only financial plan is to tax and charge everyday Queenslanders out of its budget black hole.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.43 pm): It is always good to follow the member for Chatsworth, who was the assistant minister for public transport under Campbell Newman. You do not find that on his business card. You do not see that on his letterhead. The record of the member for Chatsworth includes cutting 48 train drivers and ordering trains from overseas that were not disability compliant. We saw so many botch-ups on transport and roads under his watch, leading to him letting the opposition leader predict 36 years before we went back to full timetable only in June and yet we went back to full timetable six weeks later. That is the sort of incompetence level we are getting from the member for Chatsworth. I see this motion in that light.

The member made two points in 10 minutes. There was an issue about maintenance. Let us look at the facts when it comes to maintenance. After the cuts of the Newman government, building on the extra \$100 million allocation by the Palaszczuk government for maintenance in last year's QTRIP we added an additional \$48 million in this year's QTRIP. The current four-year QTRIP represents an increase of \$1.36 billion, or 49 per cent, over that approved by the Newman LNP government of which the member for Chatsworth was an assistant minister. Facts are inconvenient, but they are very relevant to this debate.

In terms of expenditure, we are seeing the fourth record QTRIP in five years under the Palaszczuk government after deep cuts of \$600 million from the LNP when it was in government. Those opposite did not share that with the electorate when they went to the polls in 2012. Under Labor we have created 215,000 jobs after the anaemic economic growth as a result of the economic incompetence of the member for Clayfield when he was Treasurer, when growth got down to 0.7 per cent. It had a zero in front of it. That is the record of the LNP. Why? Because they cut, cut, cut and cut.

As the member for Greenslopes pointed out, the only major infrastructure those opposite—with a record majority—got going in three whole years was 1 William Street. That is their epitaph. That is why they lost the biggest majority in political history—120 years—in one term, not just in Queensland, in the whole nation. It is quite a record, one that they have never apologised for, one that the current opposition leader is proud of. Good luck at the next election being proud of the Newman government.

Section 43 of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2019 amends fees and charges within the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010. This increases registration fees by 2.25 per cent. This change applies to all light motor vehicles, both private and commercial, under four and a half tonnes—basically, cars, small trucks, motorcycles, buses, mobile machinery, trailers and motorised caravans. Section 43 also includes heavy vehicle registration fees. For the benefit of the House, I note that these fees are not subject to an increase in 2019-20, something the LNP appears to be absolutely oblivious of. Heavy vehicle registration fees are based on nationally agreed fees by the Transport and Infrastructure Council. Again, another mistake by the member for Chatsworth.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to relieving cost-of-living pressures faced by Queenslanders. We do not see 43 per cent power prices under this government; we see the prices coming down. Public transport fares were frozen twice and cut by this government after increases of seven and a half per cent year in, year out under those opposite. Only recently the Palaszczuk Labor government saved the people on the Darling Downs and Toowoomba from the highest toll in Australia. In its business case the LNP wanted people to pay a \$34 toll for the Toowoomba bypass. That is something those opposite never shared with Queenslanders. Isn't that extraordinary? They hid it. They did not say anything to anybody. They were going to spring it on them at the last minute. The Labor government got rid of it because we understand the economy, we understand the road system and we understand creating jobs.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! I can barely hear the minister. I note that the naughty list is empty, but it will not be for long if this keeps up.

Mr BAILEY: The LNP's fees and charges policy, which was brought down in the last LNP budget under the member for Clayfield who was then treasurer, had registration fees increasing by 3.5 per cent every year over the forwards from 1 July. That is a fact. It is in the budget papers for the last year of the Newman government. This regulation replaces the Newman LNP government approach, which was built into the forward estimates. Instead, it uses a forward-looking measure that provides a more contemporary estimate of price changes in the year in which the increase is applied.

The LNP's decision to move for a disallowance motion against a regulation that provides cost-of-living relief compared to their policy is a classic LNP own goal—another one. It is an own goal made by a struggling opposition leader whose wheels are spinning, who is not popular and who is beholden to the member for Clayfield for her tactics. Let us face it: the opposition leader is so committed to this motion that she is not even on the speaking list!

The Palaszczuk Labor government has made a commitment to fairer systems for indexing fees and charges to CPI. The indexation is based on the forecast in the annual Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review. It will also mean that the registration increases will track with the general performance of the economy and are not tied to an arbitrary increase of 3.5 per cent set over four years, as mandated by the former LNP government. Under our fairer policy, registration increased by 2.25 per cent. In 2019-20 that rate has been established and will result in about an \$8.50 increase over 12 months for a four-cylinder vehicle. Continuing to use the opposition's preferred method of indexation would have resulted in a \$13.20 increase. Queensland's 2.25 per cent increase indexation is comparable with other jurisdictions and is on the lower end compared to other states and territories. Rates of increase in other jurisdictions range from 2.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent for a four-cylinder vehicle.

As I mentioned earlier, the regulation places a freeze on heavy vehicle fees for 2019-20, which was agreed by my interstate counterparts, both Liberal and Labor. Something that the LNP needs to understand is that that is quite separate and clearly is something that the member for Chatsworth is simply not across. This decision provides revenue and price certainty to road management agencies and heavy vehicle operators. The disallowance motion would potentially jeopardise that measure. It seems that the LNP simply does not understand the impacts of this motion and the potential adverse effect on the heavy vehicle industry.

This is another disruptive disallowance motion for the increase in registration fees. If supported, this motion would have a significant negative effect on the funding of the state's road and maintenance program, but it is consistent with the LNP policy, which has never changed, to cut road and transport infrastructure. That was their policy in government and they are continuing to back it now, without being honest with Queenslanders about it. Registration fees fund the largest state controlled network in Australia. Our \$23 billion investment in road and transport infrastructure—

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Pumicestone!

Mr BAILEY: We are seeing 21½ thousand jobs created because of our investment—not cuts—in road and transport infrastructure and 13½ thousand of those jobs are in regional Queensland. The opposition has to come clean. What regional jobs and projects would they cut by cutting the revenue? They are not being honest about that. Regional Queensland is the big winner out of this year's budget and we are investing in roads right across Queensland. If this motion was carried and a freeze is applied to all light vehicles, it would result in a \$300 million black hole. That is a fact. With the ongoing impact of a \$132 million loss from 2022-23 onwards, more road projects would have to be cut because of the LNP policy. They have learnt nothing from the Newman government.

Those opposite refuse to name what they would cut. Would they cut the Smithfield bypass? Would they cut the Bruce Highway-Cairns Southern Access Corridor upgrade? Would they cut the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 or the Mackay Ring Road? Would they cut the Bruce Highway upgrades or the Warrego Highway upgrades? Having not spent a single new dollar on the M1 in three years, would they cut the four upgrades to the M1 that we have going, which is a \$2.3 billion investment? They are not being honest with Queenslanders.

Cutting the annual CPI indexation of registration and other fees would also cut the amount of funding available for investment. The 2019-20 QTRIP funding has been fully allocated to projects and programs and the inevitable outcome of the LNP policy would be cuts. So far, the LNP has made \$9 billion in unfunded promises. They need to come clean on what they would cut, because we know they cut revenue yet they say they will not cut projects. It does not make any sense whatsoever. It is magic-wand economics. They want to promise everything to everybody, but they do not want to be honest about what they would cut. It simply does not add up.

Mr Lister interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Southern Downs, you are cautioned. The next time you will be warned.

Mr BAILEY: This flailing and failing approach by the struggling Leader of the Opposition is an example that you cannot whinge your way to the premiership. All we get from the member for Nanango is a lot of whingeing and whining, a lot of knocking and negativity. If they think that is going to get them there, they have another think coming.

Recently I was on the Bruce Highway at the Haughton River Floodplain, where \$500 million worth of joint funding will be spent on upgrading to flood-proof the Bruce Highway. Is that what those on the other side would cut? Is that the project they would cut, because they would have to cut something? The Peninsula Developmental Road project will be a transformational investment by this government in Far North Queensland. Would that be on the cutting block? That question has to be asked. Would it be the Ipswich Motorway upgrade, which was started by this government? It is a key piece of infrastructure that could have been done by the LNP, but was not. Would they cut the Sumners Road Interchange? I certainly hope not.

In terms of the M1 upgrades, we see heavy investment in the infrastructure that a growing population needs. We will not make the same mistakes that those opposite made by ignoring the population growth sectors in this state. We are investing in the roads, transport infrastructure, rail and marine infrastructure that this population needs. That includes having money on the table for upgrades to interchanges at exits 41 and 49 on the M1, which were ignored by those opposite. The exit 57 upgrade is worth \$25 million.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: We are getting the job done. I know it is confusing to those opposite. I know it is a difficult concept for them, but their slipperiness and their silence is not the approach of this government. We back jobs, we back workers, we back infrastructure and we back things such as the Rockhampton Ring Road. We back the Cairns Southern Access project. The Gordonvale to Edmonton project is on its way, as is the Kate Street to Aumuller Street project. We led the way on the Townsville Ring Road. Our Townsville members of parliament led the way to get the funding for that project locked in, after we did Riverway Drive. Those opposite promised the Riverway Drive upgrade, but they never delivered. They promised the Smithfield bypass, but they never delivered. It is no wonder that they lost government. It was because the people of Queensland saw through them.

On this side of the House we are also very committed to road safety. Our commitment to road safety has manifested itself in commitments of more than \$900 million over the next four years to targeted road upgrades to ensure that our roads are safer and that our road toll comes down. Billions

of dollars have been allocated to rail and passenger transport infrastructure. Under the Newman government nothing happened with the Beerburum to Nambour upgrade, but it is now underway with \$550 million in joint funding. Those opposite did not even start the business case. What were they doing for three years? It is hard to work out. They did not even start the business case!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, if you want my—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FURNER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Seriously, I cannot even hear the minister, let alone others on this side. I ask you to bring the chamber back to order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. That is not a point of order. The minister has the call. We have a minute and a half on the clock. I ask the chamber to hear the rest of the minister's contribution.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I am in the middle of making a ruling.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I do not want any cross-chamber chatter while I am making my ruling. I do not need the cross-chamber chatter from both sides of the House. We are about to conclude the debate. The minister has one minute on the clock and counting. I trust that he will finish his contribution.

Mr BAILEY: We are investing in roads and jobs. You have to be able to fund it. You cannot cut your way through.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: If only those opposite put as much energy into investing in jobs, roads and infrastructure as they do into yelling across the chamber then they would be in a lot better position than they are in now—in the lost halls of opposition and irrelevance. We will continue to back roads. We will back rail. We will back jobs. We will fund it.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Theodore, your repeated interjections are not being taken. You are warned.

Mr BAILEY: We will not cut, sack and sell like those opposite. That is in their DNA. They know it. The Queensland public know. I am looking forward to the next election.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for the debate has now expired.

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

AYES, 41:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

NOES, 48:

ALP, 46—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, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.


Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Privilege, Matters Raised

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, after the division on a question of leave this morning the Manager of Opposition Business rose, allegedly on a matter of privilege, to protect another member's right. The member explained that he was seeking to secure the right of the Deputy Premier to speak which of course was not necessary as the Deputy Premier, as with all ministers, can rise at any time in government business in between items of business. It is apparent to me that the matter was in fact disingenuous and not a bona fide matter. Rightly, the member was sat down. I warn all members that I will take a hard line on such frivolous matters and I will immediately warn members for such conduct.

ADJOURNMENT

Broadbeach, Youth Crime

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (7.06 pm): In my 15 years in this place I have never seen a community meeting like the one I attended recently in Broadbeach. Upwards of 20 business owners, representatives from community organisations, the police, council and outreach programs gathered outside the Broadbeach United Soccer Club to talk about the youth crime and drug crisis that is affecting Broadbeach. This is in a park surrounded by four sporting clubs, a kindy, an art gallery, residences and businesses.

Many community organisations and business owners are at breaking point because we are facing a youth justice and drugs crisis. There are reports of chroming—the act of inhaling household chemicals to get a high—ice addiction and general antisocial behaviour by youths, often from Logan and Ipswich, congregating in Nikiforides Park. Here is the havoc they have been wreaking in this normally quiet community.

A government member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I take that interjection. The police have been advising me that that is the result of their investigations.


The Broadbeach Surf Life Saving Club shut the toilets to put an end to the antisocial behaviour that was occurring there. These brazen youths retaliated by throwing a besser block at the gas main. As a result, the whole street was shut off. They also stole cap starting guns from the surf club which could have been used to intimidate people within the community.

Some of these youths spat in the face of a worker's mother-in-law at the Spar supermarket. A couple of weeks ago there was a fire in dunes caused by cans of petrol and paint. It is believed this was caused by the products they were sniffing which caught alight. They are urinating outside Broadbeach Kindy and swearing whilst there are children in the centre. They are yelling obscenities at people competing at the Broadbeach Bowls Club which is home to many local, national and international competition. There are syringes on the beach and in the park. There is litter and graffiti everywhere. These youths are constantly thieving from the Spar supermarket and threatening staff that they will be back.

These youths are thumbing their noses at the law because they know that nothing will happen under this soft-on-crime Labor government. What does Labor have to say to the owner of the Spar supermarket who is terrified about leaving staff without security when these youths have told them they will be back? What do they have to say to Broadbeach Kindy where staff are desperately trying to shield children in their care from this vile behaviour, all while keeping them safe? What does Labor have to say to the Broadbeach Bowls Club, which has invested so much in our city and during the Commonwealth Games, which is now having to deal with these youths? What about the Broadbeach Surf Lifesaving Club which will be in charge of 140 kids on the beach during the surf lifesaving season launching this weekend?

As a community we have invested so much into improving the amenity of this area. There has been cash given for female facilities at the soccer club. These are facilities that will be defiled by these youths if nothing is done. Volunteer agencies, youth workers and drug outreach programs are doing all they can do to manage this issue. Police are under-resourced to deal with this. They are stretched to the limit. We do not want this happening in Broadbeach. We need more action on move-on powers from this government.

Weber, Mr T, OAM

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.09 pm): The day of 19 June was a very sad day for the Maryborough electorate because it was the passing of a Labor legend, a man called Ted Weber. Ted was one of the great members of the Australian Labor Party in Maryborough. Ted worked tirelessly for the Maryborough community. I first met Ted when I was a young man working at the local radio station. When Ted came in to do his Rugby League talk, the boss said to me, 'Watch this bloke. He can be a bit fiery.' Ted was fiery but he was also a great community man.


Ted Weber gave his life for the Maryborough community. In 2007 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to Rugby League in the Wide Bay and also Australia. Ted was very passionate about TAFE. For years he pushed TAFE in Maryborough and he pushed it right around Queensland. He was passionate about education, making sure that the future generation had the education that Ted did not have. He was a great man. He was a very fiery man. I had many arguments with Ted Weber about things that happened.

Ted was a Labor candidate. He lost the election and then he stood for council and became a very good member for the Maryborough community. A lot of fine things that we have seen around Maryborough such as the streetscapes were all started when Ted was on the council. He was a true Labor legend. He was a staunch unionist. He joined the union the day he started work. I believe that right up until he died in June this year Ted was still a member of his union. You do not see people like Ted Weber too often these days. He was committed to his community, he was committed to the Labor Party and he was committed to his family and to Australian Rugby League.

One of the things that Ted did that changed the lives of a lot of people was he helped organise the plaques at Suncorp Stadium that contain the names of 789 men who played for Queensland. He researched every name to go on those plaques. Ted was a bit disappointed in me one day when he found out that I was a St George supporter. He was not too happy with me.

The community of Maryborough owes Ted a lot. He was very passionate about the community. On behalf of the Maryborough ALP and the community of Maryborough, I would like to send our condolences to his family. We are definitely missing a great man in the Wide Bay and in Queensland and Australia for that matter.

Ninderry Electorate, Bushfires

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): Last week we observed how our brave, dedicated and hardworking fireys, police and other emergency services worked around the clock to fight the bushfires that threatened Peregian Springs, Peregian Breeze, Peregian Beach and Weyba Downs.

I saw the first puffs of smoke from my office window at around 4.30 on Monday afternoon. As the smoke grew and turned black, the sound of sirens confirmed an emergency was unfolding. Our local disaster management coordination teams, led by police Superintendent Darryl Johnson and QFES Assistant Commissioner Gary McCormack, quickly sprang into action. As the fire raced north-east thanks to a howling south-westerly wind, an emergent situation was declared and the enormous task of evacuating over 4,000 residents commenced.

At the peak of the fire at around 10 pm that night, there were over 100 fire trucks and almost 40 police units deployed to save lives and properties in our community. A wall of around 20 fire trucks held the line as the fire rapidly approached Woodland Drive at Peregian. I have been told that it came at them 'like a freight train', but each firefighter, both volunteer and full-time, knew that Woodland Drive was the last line of defence. If it got past them there, there was nothing stopping it racing off towards Noosa.

As we watched the sun rise on Tuesday morning, it became clear that our emergency service personnel had held the line and had saved our community from disaster. We will continue to count the costs in the days and weeks to come and of course the heavy emotional and psychological toll on our local community.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our emergency services. If it were not for their quick and coordinated response, the damage and destruction would have been much worse. These brave men and women do not ask for awards or rewards, but they do deserve our acknowledgement. We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude.


Similarly, the countless volunteers and the wider community who rallied together to provide help and support to those forced to evacuate their homes also deserve to be acknowledged—like the members of the Coolum Beach Surf Club who worked through the night at the evacuation centre

established at their club; the Salvation Army volunteers who manned a barbecue around the clock at the forward command post; and the steady stream of locals and local businesses who donated blankets, bottled water, pizza, baked goods or opened their own homes to others who had been displaced.

I know that I speak on behalf of my whole electorate and on behalf of every member in this place when I place on the parliamentary record our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who played a part in protecting our community during the fire emergency last week. With the severe weather conditions facing us again this weekend, I remind everyone to exercise caution and to follow safety warnings.

(Time expired)

Hayden Oration

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.16 pm): Each year I have the great pleasure of hosting the Hayden Oration—an event in honour of former member for Oxley and governor-general, Bill Hayden AC, and the incredible work he and our former Labor parliamentarians have done to reform and shape our nation for the better. At our fourth Hayden Oration two weeks ago, I was honoured to present as our special guest speaker the former Hawke cabinet minister and senator, and former age discrimination commissioner, Susan Ryan AO.

Susan Ryan is a trailblazing reformer in Australian politics who pioneered landmark legislation such as the Sex Discrimination Act. However, as Susan reminded us all in her oration that night, the path towards equal opportunity reform in this country is long and hard. Conservatives are quick to attack any reform that addresses disadvantage and inequality. Older generations of women remember a time when they were forced out of work if they got married, they remember a time when single women were forced to give up their babies for adoption, and they remember a time of the blokey male dominated workplaces where sexual harassment was norm.

The election of the Hawke government in 1983 provided the space for Susan Ryan to pursue legislation that would expand opportunities and rights for women. The Sex Discrimination Act, passed in 1984, was a landmark achievement that only happened through the persistence and hard work of Susan and made possible by the expansive reformist agenda of the Hawke Labor government—but, as Susan described in her speech, this reform was not achieved without a fight. At the time she was roundly attacked by right-wing conservatives who tried to scare Australians into maintaining the status quo. Susan described talkback radio at the time as being in ‘constant outrage mode’. I am not sure that that has changed.


Conservative groups took out full-page ads against her and made over-the-top claims that men would be sacked and replaced by incompetent women, children would be abandoned and companies forced into ruin. Of course none of that happened, but this sort of hysteria is not surprising in the least when we consider the conservative fear campaign that our government faced only just last year when the Termination of Pregnancy Bill was coming through parliament.

Thankfully, the Sex Discrimination Act, which Susan fought so hard for 35 years ago, has never been repealed, and the horrors envisioned by the conservatives have never come to pass. What the act did though was produce immediate and lasting benefits to all Australian women.

There is still more work to be done. Women’s incomes are still lower than men’s on average. Our super savings are lower. Women still shoulder most of the housework and undertake primary care of children and elderly relatives. Violence against women is also still a massive problem in Australia, killing dozens of women each year.

I want to place on the record my deep thanks to thank Susan Ryan for coming to Ipswich to speak at our annual Hayden Oration. It was such a pleasure to meet her. It really was a good reminder to all of us that the road to reform is long and hard. I also want to thank the Ipswich Girls’ Grammar School who gave us their venue for the evening. It was a fantastic venue.

Labrador State School, Vandalism

 **Mr O’CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.19 pm): Over the weekend Labrador State School was targeted by some disgusting vandalism. The racist and homophobic slurs have shocked our school. Tonight I want to call out this disgraceful behaviour and stand up for the proud community I represent.

Most school buildings were defaced with offensive language and other graphic images. The thugs attacked the positive messages and anti-bullying stance that Labrador has worked hard to promote through artwork around the school. They even got up on the roofs and attacked some of the

second-level classrooms. It would be easy to put this down to bored teenagers—young people who may not have known the significance of what they were doing—but I think there is more to it. The messages they wrote and the places they put it has a sinister element. I was also sickened to see comments that showed they are likely ex-students. There were some inaccurate reviews of the tuckshop menu.

Labrador State School actively celebrates its multiculturalism. Well over 40 per cent of this suburb was born overseas. Most of the graffiti was targeted at artwork promoting that. The mural with 'Respect', 'Unity', 'Pride', 'Diversity' and 'Learning for Life—Together' had swastikas and homophobic slurs written over it. Another beautiful mosaic wall for Peace Day, representing unity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, had a derogatory term beginning with the letter 'N' sprayed over it. Artwork promoting active travel was defaced and another with the school motto 'I am respectful', 'I am a learner', 'I am safe' had 'I am eshay' added to it.

These walls sum up the spirit of Labrador and their vandalism is a direct attack on it. One piece of graffiti made me angrier than the others. It was the crossing out of two kids on a 'Bullying has no place here' poster. I want to call it out for the disgraceful act that it is, and I table that.


Tabled paper: Photograph depicting vandalism of 'Bullying has no place here' sign at Labrador State School [1494].

This shows the vandalism of a great anti-bullying campaign. It shows a defacing of diversity. These kids are proud Australians of African origin and they were specifically targeted. This was only one of many anti-bullying posters across the school that was defaced.

The community's reaction has been overwhelming. Labrador has some unfortunate and unjustified nicknames, but to the people who live there—Labradorians, if you like—they are proud of their area and especially proud of this fantastic school. The anger displayed on social media showed this. It showed the willingness of people to help in any way they could.

I went in on Sunday afternoon with P&C president and teacher Bernie Lucht and her son to get rid of the worst of it. There was a big effort early the next morning by the cleaners and the groundskeeper Trev that meant none of the kids had to see it. I sincerely thank them. I condemn the low-lifes who carried out this attack. I am sure that today I stand with all members of this House against racism, against bigotry and against attacks like this.

Logan, Jobs

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.22 pm): As the member for Waterford, I am proud to serve in a government committed to delivering jobs. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected we have created over 30,000 jobs in the region. It is a reason to celebrate. We reinstated the very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. It has assisted 2,500 participants in Logan to get a job.


Earlier this month I was privileged to attend a local Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation in Kingston for the latest group of young people who completed yourtown's Get Set for Work program. Part of the program helped young people gain their learner's licence and complete their logbook, as getting access to a driver's licence can be a key barrier for young people trying to find work. Graduate Fono Tafa arrived in Australia from Samoa only few months ago. Thanks to the support of Skilling Queenslanders for Work she was able to receive assistance to learn English and complete her studies. She is now undertaking a traineeship in hospitality—something that would not have been possible if it were not for Skilling Queenslanders for Work and this government's commitment to skilling up young people so they can find a job.

In Logan we have also created 500 jobs through our Back to Work program. I have had the pleasure of meeting employees in Logan like automotive spray-painting apprentice Bailey Harris, who not only has a job through Back to Work but we are also assisting his employer by covering the cost of Bailey's training with our free apprenticeships initiative. Bayer Smash Repairs was thrilled to hear about our free apprenticeship program.

On Friday I had the pleasure of touring GO1 with co-founder Vu Tran. They recently opened their new headquarters in Underwood in Logan. They now employ 80 people. They are doing incredible, innovative work, providing online training courses to people across the world. They partner with the department for the prevention of domestic and family violence to provide online training to every public servant in Queensland about how to recognise, respond and refer to domestic violence in the workplace.

Our investment in Logan's infrastructure is also creating local jobs. Through our infrastructure spending, including upgrades to the Logan Hospital—and I cannot wait for the new maternity ward, which is very much needed by our growing community—and the M1—everyone who wants to get to the city for work is very pleased that we are upgrading the M1—we are creating over 1,500 jobs. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to delivering jobs right across Queensland. I am particularly proud as the member for Waterford of our job-creating record in Logan. We are backing jobs for Queensland, and I am very proud to be backing jobs in Logan.

Hinchinbrook Electorate; Disabled Parking Permits


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.25 pm): I would like to draw to the attention of the House some of the good things that are happening in Hinchinbrook at the moment. The North Shore State School opened in 2018, and it was a pleasure to attend the opening with the minister. This \$53.9 million school is one of the newest schools in Queensland. We have seen it go from the P&C group discussing what uniforms they were going to have at the new school all the way to last weekend, when the P&C held its first fundraising function. The North Shore garden party was a brilliant function and it went off without a hitch. I look forward to being part of it next year. The function can only grow bigger and better as a fundraising event for the school.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to some of the wins we have had with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I would like to thank the minister for being part of that. During the most recent flood event in Townsville we saw a lot of flooding around the back of Purono Park and the Bullimores' property along the Bruce Highway. I would like to thank the CEO of Queensland Rail, Nick Easy, and retired Major-General Stuart Smith for their input in helping us secure extra drainage along the TMR corridor, with four extra pipes going in the back of Purono Park and a new culvert nine times larger than the existing culvert to help water get away during the next flood event. That is a great achievement for TMR in the Hinchinbrook electorate.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Members, there is too much audible chatter in the chamber. I am struggling to hear the member on his feet. I would ask you to take your conversations outside.

Mr DAMETTO: There is something else I would like to bring up—and this is not the first time it has been spoken about in the House—and that is the fact that if you are visually impaired in Queensland you do not qualify for a disabled parking permit. It was brought to my attention this week by a family at Alice River from my electorate. Hayley and Chayd Brown have two daughters who are visually impaired. They are actually legally blind. Aryliah and Makenzie were born with a disability: they cannot see. Can you imagine how hard it is to try and get two young girls out of the back of a vehicle in a shopping centre car park? We are looking for some changes and a little bit of alignment with Queensland Transport and Main Roads legislation and the rest of Australia—excluding Western Australia, which is basically in line with us. The KAP will continue to fight for people who are visually impaired to ensure their disability is noted and that one day they will qualify for a disabled parking permit to be displayed on their vehicle.

Mansfield Electorate, Schools

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.28 pm): I rise to speak about the 2019-20 financial investment in education by the Palaszczuk Labor government in my electorate of Mansfield. As my colleagues are aware, the Mansfield electorate is a hub of educational excellence, with 19 schools and some of the highest achieving public schools in the state. Parents and carers recognise that the schools in my electorate are highly sought after, with a large number of young families moving into the community to access our excellent educational institutions. Given our local schools are in such high demand, I am proud of the unrelenting focus on education made by our minister and by the Palaszczuk Labor government. We are investing in the futures of our children.


In 2019-20, \$16.6 million out of a total of \$32.7 million will be spent to construct a new building with 16 general learning spaces and six specialist learning spaces, as well as refurbishments and upgrades, at Mansfield State High School. Since I was elected, more than \$48 million has been invested in Mansfield State High School—a stark contrast to the previous LNP member. Next door Mansfield State School has received \$1.5 million out of a total of \$7.7 million for additional classrooms.

It is also a pleasure to announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested more than \$5 million to build six general learning spaces and a canteen at the fast-growing Wishart State School. Further, Rochedale State High School has received \$5 million to construct a new building of 10 general learning areas and one specialist learning area. Rochedale, as the member for Springwood would

know, is one of the fastest growing suburbs in Brisbane and these additional resources are much needed. Finally, we have a vital and very unique school in the Mansfield electorate—Mackenzie State Special School. This school has received \$4 million for a new building to house eight general learning areas.

I congratulate the Premier and the Minister for Education for investing in our children, investing in our families and communities, and ultimately investing in the economic prosperity of our state and our nation. Here on this side of the House we understand that, when we invest in education, we transform the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. When we invest in the minds of our young people, we inspire a clever land.

Prenzlau State School

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (7.31 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about the wonderful Prenzlau State School, and I hope after this contribution everybody in this House will understand what a great school it is. Last weekend I had the wonderful opportunity of attending their Back to Prenzlau Day school fete. This was not just any fete; it was the 125th anniversary of the school. The school was opened in 1894 and that is a wonderful achievement.


The fete was opened by former student and current Somerset mayor, Graeme Lehmann. There were many barbecues and cakes enjoyed by those in attendance, and there were also some wonderful stalls and a great performance by the choir. They even put down a time capsule. 'Pride in Prenzlau' and 'Friendship and learning' are the mottos and values of the school. I can tell the House that the very capable principal, Lisa Noonan, and her staff, Stacey, Sandi and Rachael, live by those mottos and values. They truly are one with their community and they are one big team.

Established in 1894, as I mentioned, the school has got so much to celebrate and this year has been a huge year for Prenzlau State School. The school was the first gold level nature play primary school in Queensland, and just a few days ago the Prenzlau P&C won the 2019 Queensland Band 5 P&C of the Year. Listen to the list of support and achievements they have delivered for the school: support for camps; a jewellery fundraiser; tuckshop and special sushi days; a new oven; water coolers; trampolines; expert parents delivering the nature playground works, including mud kitchen, sand lagoon, new floors and decks; laptops; breakfasts; Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls; the mummy day spa; Bunnings barbecues; Christmas raffles; uniforms and even P&C uniforms; discos; a Color Run; the sold out 125th gala evening; as well as the Back to Prenzlau Day last weekend.

Passion, guidance, leadership and pride in Prenzlau is what the P&C deliver with their school. Special mention is made of the president, Tony Lehmann, and his treasurer, Brendon McGee, and Cassie Lole and the 125th committee secretary, Kim Burn, for their outstanding efforts. It is no wonder they won the Band 5 P&C of the Year.

I was so honoured to be there to see many past students and staff. Their pride in Prenzlau was evident, and it was not just from the past but also their current successes. I have always loved the African proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child.' Prenzlau is a wonderful, strong village and they are raising some wonderful, strong children.

Springwood Electorate, Bushfire Awareness

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.34 pm): Like other members, I want to commend Queensland's frontline emergency services workforce. They once again proved they are the heart of this great state. Our fireys, police, rangers, QBuild staff and volunteers—everyone—have proven that Queenslanders are at our best when we work together, especially when natural disaster strikes.

Like many people in my electorate, my family and I live on the fringe of peri-urban bushland at Daisy Hill and Venman Bushland National Park. It is part of what makes our community so special. However, as we have seen over the last fortnight as our state has been challenged by bushfire, it is important we be vigilant. It is, however, very comforting to know that if a fire does break out we have the world's best emergency service women and men there to protect our community right now. Peregian Springs proved that.

As the bushfire season continues and parts of our state continue to burn, it is important that we are ready for any eventuality in our own backyard. That is why last Sunday I called a community fire safety meeting in the Mount Cotton community hall. Representatives from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Rural Fire Service and the local council briefed our community on how to be

bushfire ready in our own homes. Together with Mayor Karen Williams and my colleagues, the member for Redlands and the member for Macalister, it was made clear at the meeting that everyone in our community wants to play a role when it comes to bushfire safety. We agreed to take further steps in preparing our community to be bushfire ready by doing the following: distributing tools to the local community so we could each create our own bushfire emergency plans; exploring options for a local firefighting presence; and pursuing a full-time fire station for our community.

Today I met with the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services to update him on Sunday's meeting. I have let him know that a further meeting has already been called for 10 October at the Mount Cotton Hall at 6 pm to continue the conversations. I will be encouraging anyone who is interested in being a part of the ongoing process of improving fire safety in our community to come along to that meeting. In the meantime, I am encouraging everyone to jump on either the Redland City Council or Logan City Council websites and prepare their own bushfire emergency plans. It can take some time, but I want to assure our community that I am working closely with the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services to expedite better fire services for our community as quickly as possible.

Finally, today I asked the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and the secretary of the United Firefighters Union to pass on the collective thanks and best wishes of our state and our community to the fireys for the work they have done over the last fortnight and in the last year. Of course, we wish them well and all the best for the hot, dry months ahead.

The House adjourned at 7.37 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, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, 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