



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 6 February 2020

Subject	Page
REPORT.....	205
Auditor-General.....	205
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 10: 2019-20—	
Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform.	205
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	205
Public Release of Committee Documents	205
PETITIONS.....	205
TABLED PAPERS.....	205
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS.....	206
Coronavirus.....	206
Coronavirus, Tourism Industry	206
Year of Indigenous Tourism; Year of Outback Tourism	207
Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council	207
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council: Final Report,	
30 November 2019.	207
Youth Employment Program	207
State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project.....	208
The Spit Master Plan	208
Tourism Industry, Marketing Campaign	209
Coronavirus; Queensland Ambulance Service	209
Water Infrastructure.....	210
Gel Blasters, Police Service Recommendations.....	210
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	211
Coronavirus, Seafood Industry	211
Local Government Elections	212
Illegal Dumping	212

Table of Contents – Thursday, 6 February 2020

Jobs.....	212
Transition 2 Success, TAFE Queensland	213
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	214
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	214
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services.....	214
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Email, dated 19 October 2019, from the Acting Chief Technical Officer, eHealth Queensland, Mr John Borchi, to the Chief Executive Officer, eHealth Queensland, Mr Damian Green, titled 'Brief for DG and Minister—Progress on stopping own goals in ICT'	214
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	215
Regional Queensland, Exports.....	215
ieMR, ICT Project.....	216
Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility	217
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	218
Coronavirus	218
Energy Industry, Jobs	219
Whitsundays Tourism Industry	220
State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project	220
Water Infrastructure	221
State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project.....	222
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Article from the <i>Australian</i> , dated 29 August 2015, titled 'Asset sale cost Qld taxpayers \$100m'	223
Bushfires, Wildlife	223
Social Housing	224
Buy Queensland, Lactalis.....	224
Schoolteachers.....	225
MOTIONS	225
Amendment to Business Program	225
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to	228
Resolved in the affirmative	228
Order of Business	228
PUBLIC HEALTH (DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES) AMENDMENT BILL.....	228
Second Reading	228
Consideration in Detail.....	233
Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to	233
Third Reading	233
Long Title.....	233
AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	233
Second Reading	233
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	242
State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project.....	242
Lactalis; Olive Downs Mine	243
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	243
Jordan Electorate, Public Transport	244
Burnett Electorate, Paradise Dam	245
State Schools, Air Conditioning	246
Burleigh Electorate, Crime.....	247
Coronavirus, Response	248
State Schools, Independence	248
Burns, Mr JF	249
Mooloolaba Spit.....	250
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Department of Transport and Main Roads document, undated, titled 'Request for Quote: TMR04419 Commercial Advice for the Mooloolaba Spit Development Opportunity'	250
Downer Maryborough, 150th Celebration	250
Emu Swamp Dam	251
Greenslopes Electorate, School Infrastructure	251
Drug Law Reform	252
Yarrabilba State Secondary College	253
Sport.....	253
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Email, dated 22 November 2019, relating to expressions of interest for Round One of Active Community Infrastructure.	254
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Bundle of documents regarding Activate! Queensland 2019-2029.....	254
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Newsletter from the member for Springwood, Hon. Mick de Brenni	254
Pine Rivers Electorate, School Infrastructure	254
Police Station.....	255
Bancroft Electorate, Road Infrastructure.....	255
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	256
Report, Motion to Take Note	256
Report, Motion to Take Note	259
Report, Motion to Take Note	263
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	265
Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates.....	265
AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	265
Second Reading	265

Table of Contents – Thursday, 6 February 2020

Consideration in Detail	277
Clause 1, as read, agreed to.....	277
Clause 2—	277
Clause 2 postponed.....	277
Clause 3, as read, agreed to.....	278
Amendment to heading—	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner’s amendments.....	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner’s amendments.	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner’s version C20 amendments.	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner’s version C20 amendments.....	278
Amendment agreed to	278
Clause 4—	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Mr Tony Perrett’s amendments.....	278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Tony Perrett’s amendments.	278
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	278
Non-government amendment (Mr Perrett) negatived.	278
Clause 4, as read, agreed to.....	278
Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to	278
Insertion of new clause—	279
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	279
Resolved in the negative.	279
Non-government amendment (Mr Perrett) negatived.	279
Clauses 7 to 19, as read, agreed to.	279
Amendment to heading—	279
Amendment agreed to	279
Clauses 20 to 35, as read, agreed to.	280
Clause 36—.....	280
Amendment agreed to	280
Clause 36, as amended, agreed to.	280
Clauses 37 to 128, as read, agreed to.	280
Insertion of new clauses—.....	280
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	283
Resolved in the affirmative.....	283
Clauses 129 to 131, as read, agreed to.	283
Clause 132—.....	284
Amendments agreed to.....	284
Clause 132, as amended, agreed to	284
Clauses 133 to 135, as read, agreed to.	284
Insertion of new clauses—.....	284
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled ‘Documents referred to in Paradise Dam Preparedness Review Report 2019-2020—Required for expert assessment of safety and rehabilitation options’....	286
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 6 February 2020, from the Managing Director, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Ms Bree Grima, to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, regarding Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers.....	287
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	288
Resolved in the affirmative.....	288
Amendments agreed to	289
Clauses 2 and 136 and schedule, as amended, agreed to.....	289
Third Reading.....	290
Long Title.....	290
SPEAKER’S STATEMENT	290
Absence of Member	290
ADJOURNMENT	290
Bonney Electorate, Schools	290
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled ‘Notes on the state of road and footpath network surrounding Musgrave Hill State School’.	291
Woodridge Electorate	291
Animal Cruelty; New Acland Coalmine.....	292
QEII Hospital.....	292
Sale of Public Assets	293
Sandgate Electorate, Gambling Community Benefit Fund.....	293
Water Infrastructure.....	294
Correction to Record of Proceedings; Springwood Electorate, Schools.....	294
Theodore Electorate; Evans, Mr B	295
Redcliffe Electorate.....	295
ATTENDANCE	296

THURSDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2020

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 10 of 2019-20 titled *Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 10: 2019-20—Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform [[194](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Public Release of Committee Documents



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 20, the Legislative Assembly will today release to the public the minutes of its committees from 1989. The minutes are from meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and the first meetings of the Public Works Committee, which commenced on 20 April that year. The original membership of the Public Works Committee included Henry Palaszczuk, Denver Beanland and Clive Berghofer, all of whom would make significant contributions to Queensland in their future careers.

The minutes also exhibit what were the technological necessities of a parliamentary committee in 1989 such as the purchase of a 40-megabyte Toshiba laptop for \$6,300. The minutes also show the matters considered by the new Public Works Committee such as the Gold Coast monorail proposal, an airport at Kingaroy, the proposed Sunshine Coast Motorway and the electricity supply to the Torres Strait.

Today's release of committee minutes from 1989 is part of an ongoing program by the Queensland parliament to proactively release to the public at the start of each sitting year committee minutes from 30 years ago. The committee minutes from 1989 released today, along with the information about the 30-year release of committee documents, are available on the parliament's website.

PETITIONS

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

Shute Harbour, Boat Ramp and Pontoon

Mr Costigan, from 789 petitioners, requesting the House to reopen the Shute Harbour boat ramp and adjacent pontoon as soon as possible [[195](#), [196](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham)—

[197](#) Brady Heywood—Review of all fatal accidents in Queensland mines and quarries from 2000 to 2019, by Dr Sean Brady for the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, December 2019

- [198](#) Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre: The University of Queensland—Expert Legal Assessment CMSHA, CMSHR and Recognised Standards, 8 November 2019
- [199](#) Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre: The University of Queensland—Expert Legal Assessment MQSHA, MQSHR and Guidelines, 8 November 2019
- [200](#) Letter, dated 3 February 2020, from the Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health, Ms Kate du Preez, to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): A fourth person has been diagnosed with coronavirus in Queensland. The 37-year-old man is part of the tour group that contains three others being treated. There are nine people in this group. All have been isolated in the Gold Coast University Hospital since 29 January. We are containing the virus while at the same time planning our recovery.

Yesterday I met with dozens of representatives of industries already impacted. Farmers, fishers, tourism operators and universities all told of lost business impacting now. There are trawlers unable to fish because the market for coral trout and premium mud crab has evaporated overnight. On the Gold Coast, losses to tourism operators are estimated at between \$100 million and \$400 million. The top 10 operators report a 15 per cent to 20 per cent drop in trade. This affects 3,500 businesses and 42,000 jobs. In Far North Queensland, estimates are that local businesses are losing around \$5.5 million a day. As much as \$350 million could be lost by March.

We are not talking about lines on a balance sheet; we are talking about people—people who work in hotels, shops and restaurants, drive the cabs and trucks, work at airports and do all the logistics in between. Some 100,000 seats have been lost on domestic flights out of Brisbane. Internationally, passenger numbers are down 60,000. These are impacts not seen since the pilot strike. International students bring \$5 billion into our economy. If they cannot get here, they cannot study.

How well we weather this crisis depends on how quickly and how well we respond. I once again call on the Prime Minister to treat the coronavirus the same way he would treat any other natural disaster. Our farmers are hurting—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our farmers are hurting; our businesspeople are hurting. We are looking at what practical measures we can introduce, such as helping with freezers for seafood and other discounts for fees and charges, that our producers are asking for. The tourism minister has good news on an instant promotion to lure tourists from new markets to coincide with new direct flights from the USA to Brisbane.

Finally, I again extend my sympathy to our Chinese community whose family and friends are currently in China. Queensland's Chinese community has always answered the call for help in times of bushfires, flood and drought. I urge everyone to support our Chinese community now. Visit them, shop from them and support local restaurants. I am pleased that the Chinese Consul General and members of the community came here last night to the parliamentary reception. I was pleased to see so many members in attendance—including you, Mr Speaker, the opposition leader and a large number of ministers and members from across the political divide. We have faced tough times before and have come out of it better than before. This will be no different if we all work together.

Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): When times get tough, Queenslanders stand together. Today I am proud to announce that Steve Irwin's son, one of Queensland's biggest stars, Robert Irwin, will front the government's latest domestic tourism campaign. The coronavirus will have a significant impact on our tourism industry. That is why we took immediate action this week, launching a new domestic marketing campaign to encourage more Aussies to holiday in Queensland. Robert Irwin stars in Queensland's latest digital marketing campaign, which will go live on all social media platforms today.

We need to do all we can to help our critical tourism industry through this crisis. We need to tell Australians that Queensland remains open for business, and we need to encourage them to spend their tourist dollars in our great state. My government, despite a lack of help from the federal government, is

doing everything possible to ensure the economic impact on our iconic industry is minimal. The release of this new campaign today features images from a range of iconic Queensland tourism attractions and businesses including Cape Hillsborough Sunrise Wallaby Experience, Movie World, Quicksilver Group, Riverlife Brisbane, Mon Repos Conservation Park, the Calile Hotel in Brisbane, Ocean Rafting, Pyramids Road Wines, Spicers Hidden Vale, Ballandean Estate Wines, Kingfisher Bay Resort, Mount Barney Lodge, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, Magnetic Island and Outback Aussie Tours.

One in 10 Queenslanders are employed in the tourism industry. Coronavirus is the biggest threat this sector has faced in a generation. It is crucial that we safeguard these jobs and that we safeguard the industry for Queensland's future. Meanwhile, I will continue to lobby the federal government for funding to promote Queensland in key international markets outside of China, like Japan, Singapore and the US. It is great to have the Irwins in our corner.

Year of Indigenous Tourism; Year of Outback Tourism

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): As we encourage more people to holiday at home, there are more exciting reasons to visit outback Queensland. This is the Year of Indigenous Tourism, but for added value we are also continuing to roll out events from last year's record-breaking Year of Outback Tourism when more than one million tourists visited the bush. Today I can announce the round 3 recipients of that \$3 million events program. Seventeen events will share in \$606,000, such as: the Beat the Heat Festival in Cloncurry; the Gemfest Festival of Gems; the Birdsville Big Red Bash; the Better in Blackall Festival; Outback Masters Golf in Charleville and Hughenden; an Indigenous festival in Roma; the Outback Paddle Regatta in Longreach; the Brolga Festival in Quilpie; plus events in Barcaldine, St George, Winton and Cunnamulla. That means we now have supported 56 outback events with more than \$2.2 million in funding in rounds 1, 2 and 3, which brings me to round 4. Applications are now open for round 4 of Outback Tourism funding, with grants of up to \$100,000 available until mid-March.

Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): In October last year I announced a major milestone in the fight against domestic and family violence. All 140 of the landmark *Not now, not ever* report recommendations have been implemented. A key reason for this is the hard work and commitment of the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council. Today I table the council's final annual progress report for the year to 30 November 2019 and acknowledge the valuable work and leadership of past members. I thank the inaugural chair of the council, Dame Quentin Bryce, and subsequent chair, Ms Kay McGrath, for their dedication, vision and drive in the continued oversight of this important reform.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council: Final Report, 30 November 2019 [\[201\]](#).

The report contains personal reflections and insights of each of the members of the council and acknowledges the commitment across government, the service and business sectors and the community in working towards a Queensland free of domestic and family violence. The report notes that more work remains to be done. That is why my government's Third Action Plan outlines the further actions needed to continue to embed cultural change and system reform while encouraging more community ownership of the reforms.

The newly established Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council will oversee the Third Action Plan. Kay McGrath will continue as a co-chair of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council along with former Queensland police commissioner Mr Bob Atkinson. The new prevention council will meet for the first time this month. I look forward to working with the council and the minister as we continue together to implement these landmark and important reforms.

Youth Employment Program

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): In the last financial year, more than 700 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders found employment through the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships' Youth Employment Program, known throughout Queensland as YEP. YEP works directly with year 13s and other qualified people to seek pathways to higher education, training and employment. YEP offers pre-employment activities including resume, application and interview preparation and post-placement support within a culturally appropriate framework.

YEP has helped young people like Far North Queensland's Ethan Poi Poi-Ware, who is giving back to his school community with his sights set on educating future generations. Through YEP, the now 21-year-old is working at his former high school in Cairns as an assistant educator at the after-schoolcare centre while studying for his Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. He then plans to attend university to become degree-qualified as a primary school teacher. He hopes to return to Bamaga and teach on country.

In the Darling Downs, a group of young people are on the path to success following business traineeships through the University of Southern Queensland and YEP. The university welcomed four young Indigenous women, including Gatton's Jodie Barkle, for the 12-month program. The program provided Jodie with the opportunity to pursue her ambition of becoming a teacher while still being close enough to regularly visit her family. In her own words, 'I never would have considered going to university without this traineeship.'

Connecting young people like Ethan and Jodie with opportunities through our Youth Employment Program is just one of the many ways we are empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and communities to thrive.

State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): Members may recall that last year I advised the House of my concerns about the status of an ICT program being run by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry and that the project had been referred to the Auditor-General. I note that you tabled the report this morning, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall, for this report.

The program to improve SPER manage fines and enforcement activities had been ongoing for some years before I became Treasurer, with the procurement commencing under the previous LNP government. I raised concerns with Treasury on multiple occasions, and in mid-2018 I commissioned an independent review of the project. As I said at the time, this was and remains completely unacceptable.

In March 2019 the project was referred to the Auditor-General for investigation. On 17 May 2019 the contract with the relevant ICT provider was terminated. The Auditor-General has made a series of recommendations and I can advise the House that Treasury will be accepting all of those. In fact, many of these recommendations to improve processes are already underway. For example, I can advise that in December 2019 a new payment portal for customers to pay and manage their debts online went live. In its first six weeks of operation, more than 30,000 customers used the new payment portal. More than 9,000 debts have been closed out and payments worth \$2.25 million have been made already. This is an increase of 44 per cent compared to the same period last year.

In addition, over 11,000 payment plans were entered into thanks to the new, simple and easy-to-use online customer portal. Importantly, SPER's debt finalisation rate continues to achieve record levels with a clearance rate of 95 per cent achieved in 2019-20 to date, well above its target rate of 85 per cent and the historical rate of 65 per cent.

The Spit Master Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): The Spit is a jewel in the crown of the Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to make it shine for all Queenslanders. It is a part of Queensland that truly has something for everyone. The Premier made it her personal initiative to deliver a master plan for the Spit to protect, enhance and preserve this part of the Queensland for future generations. The Spit Master Plan was released in May 2019 following a detailed 18-month master planning process led by my department and involving extensive public consultation. The community has spoken, we have listened, and 2020 is the year that Gold Coasters will see delivery begin.

Today I am pleased to announce the tender has been awarded for the first public works to be undertaken to deliver the master plan. This week my department appointed Hazell Bros to build a new shared pathway along Sea World Drive, linking the Muriel Henschman precinct to Doug Jennings Park. The project will help support jobs for locals as Hazell Bros has its Queensland headquarters at Burleigh.

This project will offer a safe and enjoyable means for cyclists and pedestrians to get to the top of the Spit and enjoy everything they love about that area. The project will also include a section of retaining walls to reduce erosion adjacent to Sea World Drive and protect existing below-ground electrical infrastructure. I am advised that building will commence in coming weeks.

We also are facilitating new private sector investment into the Spit, because through the master plan Gold Coasters have told us they want to see appropriate commercial development on the Spit to help create jobs and improve the destination. We are now seeking expressions of interest to develop a 10,000-square-metre vacant block next to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. It is the first new commercial site to be released on the Spit since the 1990s and we aim to attract the best national and international development companies to make a lasting improvement to the Spit. Any development will be required to comply with the three-storey height limit as we also look to improve public access consistent with the master plan vision. The Spit is already a Gold Coast icon and the implementation of the community's master plan vision will make it even better.

Tourism Industry, Marketing Campaign

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (9.48 am): Crikey, I am excited. As the Premier announced this morning, Robert Irwin will front Queensland's latest social media marketing push which goes live today. This is the second phase of our government's multimillion dollar campaign to give an immediate shot in the arm to tourism operators in the wake of the coronavirus.

Alongside Robert, this campaign features some of the state's most recognisable tourism attractions including the Great Barrier Reef, our beautiful beaches, our World Heritage protected rainforest, our iconic outback and of course our delicious fresh food and produce. We know that with the bushfires and the coronavirus the tourism industry is doing it tough right now. It has never been more important for Queenslanders to stick together, and that is what this campaign is all about. In 2020 we are saying to Queenslanders: this year stay here.

I want to thank and acknowledge not only Robert Irwin but also the Irwin family who have done so much to promote Queensland's brand not only across Australia but also in international markets. It is great to see the Irwins standing up for us and in our corner, as the Premier said, at a time when we need our friends. We will continue to work with tourism businesses and operators in response and I echo the Premier's call that now is the time for the Prime Minister to also stand up. Of all prime ministers, one would think that he would understand how important tourism is. To all those Queenslanders out there who know that we have some of the best holiday destinations in the world, if going to the outback or the reef is on your bucket list and you have not done it yet, now is the time to tick it off.

Coronavirus; Queensland Ambulance Service

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): I rise to update the House again today on the state of the coronavirus response here in Queensland. Overnight, health workers confirmed another case of the novel coronavirus in a 37-year-old man who has been in isolation with the same tour group from which the previous three cases were identified. He is receiving excellent care at the Gold Coast University Hospital. The rest of that group remain in quarantine as a precaution. The global number of cases is now 24,632, with 494 recorded deaths. Despite this new case, Queensland's efforts to halt the spread have been working. 13HEALTH has taken 2,100 calls and its dedicated nurses have completed 686 assessments. An extraordinary Executive Council was held yesterday to extend the public health emergency order so that there is no interruption to our efforts to protect Queenslanders from this virus.

I am also pleased to advise the House that the Chinese women's national football team has completed its isolation period. They are all healthy. The team, who flew into Brisbane a week ago, had been confined in their hotel under isolation after previously training in Wuhan province until 22 January—the Chinese city where the outbreak has been traced to. I want to thank the team for its cooperation with Queensland Health during this difficult time. We realise that it has been a major disruption to its preparation but also a difficult time for each team member personally. The team will fly to Sydney on Thursday to resume its campaign. It will take on Thailand, playing for an eventual spot to compete at the Tokyo Olympics. It is a credit to the hotel, its staff and management how well that isolation was managed. Last night I also took the opportunity to thank the Consul-General and express to him my appreciation for the Consul's support for Queensland Health through the emergency so far.

Finally, Queensland's Ambulance Service is one of the best in the world. It is so good that it is getting its own reality TV show. In recent months, observational documentary crews have been riding along with some of our best ambos. They have also been filming in our comms centre. Season 3 of *Ambulance Australia* appears tonight on Channel 10 at seven o'clock and I urge all members to tune in.

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.53 am): As members can see outside today, there has been some much needed rainfall here in Brisbane and across some parts of the state. However, the drought remains far from broken and, as such, the government is closely monitoring Queenslanders' water supplies. In the south-east the Gold Coast desalination plant is in full swing and WaterWise messages are on the airwaves and lighting up our screens, and we continue to work with regional councils like Southern Downs to ensure everyone has drinking water. Importantly, we are also making sure that Queenslanders will continue to have access to adequate water supplies in the future. We are doing this by assessing and investing in major water infrastructure projects. In fact, we have an \$848 million commitment to water infrastructure across this state delivering more than 1,600 jobs to regional Queensland.

In Central Queensland construction is underway on the \$352 million Rookwood Weir project. Crews are on site at the Thirsty Creek Road upgrade and will soon start on the Gogango intersection upgrade. Work is due to start on the Riverslea Bridge next month and the main contract for the weir is expected this year. Mr Speaker, today I want to congratulate you on your parliamentary seating plan, sitting the member for Southern Downs in-between our two most calming members—the member for Buderim and the member for Coomera—because I am about to mention Emu Swamp Dam.

Mr SPEAKER: You are welcome, Minister.

Dr LYNHAM: Our government has committed \$13.6 million to kick off construction of Emu Swamp Dam on the Granite Belt. This project will provide much needed water to local farms via a 117-kilometre pipe network. Up in the Far North Sunwater is modernising the Mareeba-Dimbulah channel. This will deliver more than 8,000 megalitres of extra water for local farmers when the project is completed in February 2022. In Townsville the Palaszczuk government is providing the \$215 million pipeline to deliver stage 1 of the Haughton pipeline duplication and a business case is underway for raising Burdekin Falls Dam. In the south-west the feasibility study into the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline is on track for completion in April. Meanwhile, our government has committed \$2.4 million in emergency funds for water for the residents of Stanthorpe. This year Seqwater will start the \$127 million Lake MacDonalld improvement project and the \$170 million improvement project on Sunwater's Fairbairn Dam which will be finished by the end of this year. When the rain comes, like it is today, we need to make sure that we are ready and equipped to efficiently capture, store and manage this precious resource.

Gel Blasters, Police Service Recommendations

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.56 am): Community safety is of paramount importance to our government, the Palaszczuk government. One of the important considerations when supporting community safety is to identify emerging trends or issues of concern. Last year we witnessed a number of incidents involving the misuse of gel blasters. This concerned many people in the community, so I asked the commissioner to look into what steps could be taken to enhance community safety. The government has received that advice. The police recommend that further regulations be put in place to enhance community safety regarding the possession of replicas and gel blasters that look like real weapons.

Firstly, it is important to reinforce that anyone who transports a replica firearm or a gel blaster that looks like the real thing in public should carry that item in a suitable bag or case away from public view. Secondly, police recommend that the owners of gel blasters that look like the real thing and replica firearms should keep them secured when stored at home. Finally, police have suggested that owners of gel blasters and replicas should have a reasonable excuse for their possession. A reasonable excuse would be, for example, that the owner of the gel blaster is a member of a gel blaster club and owns it for taking part in club activities.

Police are not proposing a ban on gel blasters. The vast majority of gel blaster owners behave responsibly, but police have advised that action does need to be taken to address incidents where gel blasters have been misused by a reckless minority. What is being suggested is a sensible regulatory framework that will support a greater level of community safety. We are a government that consults and listens to community concerns. What we want now is for members of the community to provide us with their feedback on the suggestions police have put forward in relation to gel blasters and replicas. I encourage all Queenslanders to have their say on the Queensland government's Get Involved website, which will be live by early next week.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.59 am): Last time this House gathered we had thankfully seen the worst of Queensland's bushfire emergency. What a season it was! More than 3,000 fires burnt across more than 6 million hectares of our state. Fighting them was more than 10,000 of the most exceptional men and women you will ever meet: firefighters—QFES firefighters, interstate firefighters and overseas firefighters. Through their tireless efforts we saw no loss of life and countless properties saved. But just as our bushfire season wound down, conditions only intensified in the southern states. In true Queensland spirit, more than 900 QFES personnel put up their hand to help efforts in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. Despite their own exhaustion and months away from their loved ones, they signed up to do it all again. On 3 January a deployment of 76 QFES personnel arrived in Wollongong to relieve exhausted local crews. Since then, Queensland fireys can be found in places like Albury, Bega, Shoalhaven and Nowra. Not only were they fighting fires, they were the fire behaviour analysts, the incident management teams and the mechanics. The firefighting community is certainly not defined by state borders.

There are currently 239 QFES personnel and more than 30 vehicles deployed across New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. The majority of these resources are based around the nation's capital where a large containment strategy has been rolled out. We will continue to offer as much support as we can through the National Resource Sharing Centre. Our interstate colleagues were there for Queensland when we needed them and it is only right that the favour is returned.

Last week I had the privilege of speaking with local Rural Fire Service volunteers in both Peregian and Canungra. Between them these crews faced some of the worst bushfire conditions in Queensland history. Fireys are a special breed. They pulled off an incredible response to protect lives, homes, businesses and wildlife. The road to recovery is not a short one but we stand with our bushfire affected communities as we rebuild together.

Queensland is forever indebted to those who serve on the front line. Our government will continue to do what we have always done: invest in capabilities, listen to experts and learn from our last natural disaster to better prepare ourselves for the next. I am pleased to report that last Friday QFES officially called time on the 2019 bushfire season with the conclusion of Operation Redux. As North Queenslanders now know, and the rest of the state is seeing, storm season is already upon us and that is very much where QFES's focus has now shifted to. Please stay well prepared for severe storms and have an emergency plan ready to go and if it is flooded, forget it.

Coronavirus, Seafood Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.02 am): The coronavirus health emergency is having a significant impact on Queensland's export fishing industries. Seeing this virus strike during this usual peak export period for live coral trout and rock lobster has been particularly cruel on our fishers and other seafood export sectors are seeing a significant drop-off in demand from China. The reduced number of flights to China as a result of coronavirus means that, even if the demand was to return, transportation of fresh Queensland seafood to that market would be difficult to achieve. With more top-quality Queensland seafood now remaining here in Australia we are looking at the knock-on effect of depressing prices in the domestic seafood market also affecting the value our fishers receive for their hard work.

Yesterday I met with Eric Perez from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association to explore options for support for this industry and, in particular, the hardworking fishers who currently cannot go fishing because of the unavailability of the Chinese export market. I would like to thank the QSIA for being proactive and constructive as we look forward at ways that we can support fishers during this difficult period. In the first instance I join with QSIA's call for the federal government to act immediately to make Newstart assistance available to these fishers who have suddenly, through no fault of their own, found themselves unable to continue in their jobs. Fisheries Queensland is also liaising with other fisheries agencies around Australia regarding options to assist industries affected by coronavirus to ensure a coordinated approach is achieved.

Our relationships with China are strong. That much was clear when I led a trade delegation to Hong Kong and Chongqing last year. I have every confidence that the high reputation and quality of Queensland agricultural and seafood products will ensure a return to our long-term pattern of increased exports to China. In the meantime there has never been a more important time for Queenslanders to support Queensland seafood. Ask for it, buy it, cook it up and eat it and then do it again. I urge every Queenslanders to hashtag 'eat Queensland seafood'.

Local Government Elections

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): Preparations for the local government elections, to be held on 28 March, are in full swing. Voters in Queensland's 77 local governments will have a say on how their communities are run for the next four years. Of course, it will mark the return to having elected councils in both Ipswich and Logan.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland has launched its updated electronic disclosure system, has begun the recruitment of polling officials for this large democratic exercise and is doing a great deal of other behind-the-scenes work. Similarly, in many parts of the state the campaigning by candidates has hit its straps. In light of the Crime and Corruption Commission's landmark Operation Belcarra recommendations, and with support from the Local Government Association of Queensland, candidates for local government elections must undergo mandatory training in order to nominate. Since the training opened on 30 October 2019, as of this morning almost 2,000—that is, 1,976 to be precise—Queenslanders have enrolled in the mandatory training, either online or in person, and 1,556 have completed it. This is a fantastic result and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with some requests for the training to go even further.

Queenslanders deserve representation of the highest calibre in local government. Mandatory training means we will have elected officials who have a better understanding of their responsibilities and obligations when serving their communities after 28 March and, indeed, their obligations in relation to the election period. Candidates have until nominations close to have completed the training. The ECQ has announced that nominations will open on Saturday, 22 February and close on 3 March, with the ballot draw to be held the next day. I look forward to working with all those Queenslanders elected as mayors and councillors after 28 March. Queensland mayors and councillors continue to be partners in the Palaszczuk government's rolling reform agenda and we look forward to going on that journey with them during the next four years.

Illegal Dumping

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): Queenslanders are fighting the war on waste on all fronts. With Clean Up Australia Day right around the corner, this is an important time of year to think about litter and illegal dumping. I am pleased to inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's latest investment to combat illegal dumping in our communities and at the same time support local jobs. Our work has taken another important step, with \$5 million in funding going to councils to employ 31 new field officers across the state to increase surveillance and other interventions that will reduce dumping in known hotspot areas. Acknowledging the challenges councils have in managing illegal dumping, this funding is being provided under the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnership and the Local Government Illegal Dumping Hotspot program.

In July the government kicked off a pilot partnership program, providing \$400,000 to Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Townsville councils to employ an extra eight people on the ground to investigate and respond to illegal dumping in their regions. The pilot was a tremendous success and demonstrated that, with the right resources, tools and training, councils can move beyond cleaning up illegally dumped waste to identifying and pursuing offenders. Building on that success, I recently announced the partnership program is now providing \$3.6 million for 31 extra frontline jobs in 29 councils to really tackle this problem in our regions. The program will help councils through targeted training and support programs and by boosting intelligence and data reporting on illegal dumping activities. In addition, the hotspot program is also providing \$1.3 million to 32 councils for targeted action to support programs at known illegal dumping locations.

The government is sending a strong message to illegal dumpers that there will be consequences. Our environment is too beautiful to allow it to be polluted by people who choose to do the wrong thing. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is showing how managing waste differently and focusing our efforts in the right places can also create jobs and protect the environment. Hand in hand with councils we are sending a message to all Queenslanders: let us fight the war on waste together.

Jobs

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering jobs for Queenslanders. Since coming to power in 2015, this side of the House has created over

235,000 jobs across the state. That is a fantastic achievement and it would not be possible if we were not investing in job-generating programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work. Since we reintroduced Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015, we have supported thousands of Queenslanders to gain work-ready skills and training. Already more than 28,000 graduates have gone on to find a job thanks to that program. If any members in this House have been lucky enough to attend a graduation, they will know that only about half of the graduates are ever there because the others have already found a job.

One of those graduates is Jordan Lea, a 19-year-old from Toowoomba whose school experience left him unmotivated until he joined Downs Industry Schools Co-op's Get Set for Work project. Jordan completed a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. During his training he experienced a variety of career pathways, including in hospitality and retail business, and the Defence Force. I am happy to report that the project sparked a passion in Jordan to get a job in the construction industry. It is fantastic to see that he is now undertaking a carpentry apprenticeship. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is changing lives, not just of young people such as Jordan; it is also providing invaluable skills and support for mature age people such as mums returning to the workforce after having children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, refugees, veterans and people with a disability.

Another key initiative in creating jobs is our Back to Work program, which has seen more than 21,000 jobs created since 2016, 17,000 of them in regional Queensland. With the support of Back to Work, Rockhampton based wellness centre The One Life Centre was able to employ two locals. One of those employees, Makayla Bell, is excelling in her job as a receptionist and not only has been an asset to the business but also has developed excellent customer service skills thanks to her training. Recently Makayla has completed a certificate in relaxation massage and wellness treatments that will help her further her dream career.

We are a government that is all about creating jobs and providing opportunities for locals in our regions. We will continue to invest in the initiatives that open up opportunities for Queenslanders to get their dream job.

Transition 2 Success, TAFE Queensland

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): As the Premier always says, the best way to stop young people reoffending is to give them a job. I am pleased to advise members that we are bringing together two successful training initiatives to help ensure that young people can turn away from crime and get a job. On the one hand, we have our Transition 2 Success program, which has seen excellent results. Sixty-seven per cent of graduates do not go on to reoffend and 95 per cent go on to further education or training.

On the other hand, we have TAFE Queensland, which every day is skilling up young Queenslanders and getting them into work. In an exciting new partnership, we have allocated \$300,000 annually across four years to a statewide partnership between Youth Justice and TAFE Queensland for the delivery of a youth justice specific program. I want to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of the Minister for Training and Skills Development for this partnership.

T2S provides a solid foundation for young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system to achieve recognised vocational education and training certificates, giving them a real shot at getting a job and staying out of the youth justice system. Many of the young people doing T2S and/or involved in the system have been disengaged from school for a very long time. The qualifications those young people earn are often the first they have ever actually been able to complete. Now TAFE Queensland will deliver more training options for youth justice clients, building on their previous successes with young people in the system.

A 2017 statewide pilot was trialled through TAFE Queensland to deliver a youth justice specific literacy and numeracy program. Through that pilot, TAFE redesigned the program and tailored it so that it is a course that is quite different to any other VET program. It helps young people develop literacy and numeracy skills while at the same time they get to experience different industries and visit work sites. They can dip their toe into different work options to find out what they are good at and want to do.

The new partnership that I am announcing today will provide intensive support to young people to give them every chance to succeed. It will be rolled out in three pilot T2S sites from early this year, the first in Moreton. They will be regularly reviewed and refined to ensure best practice. We wish those young people all the very best.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question is to the Premier. I table a briefing note and an email titled 'Brief for DG and Minister—Progress on stopping own goals in ICT'.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 19 October 2019, from the Acting Chief Technical Officer, eHealth Queensland, Mr John Borchi, to the Chief Executive Officer, eHealth Queensland, Mr Damian Green, titled 'Brief for DG and Minister—Progress on stopping own goals in ICT' [\[202\]](#).

The briefing note states the health minister requested ieMR upgrades not to happen during parliamentary sitting weeks. This contradicts the health minister, who denied responsibility last year. How will the Premier discipline the health minister for being more concerned about his reputation than the care of Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I will start with the end of that question, which is about the care of Queenslanders. I have absolute faith in what the Minister for Health is doing at the moment to deal with the coronavirus and the care of Queenslanders, which seems to be something that the opposition does not care about. We know that the federal government does not want to match Queensland's share of funding to help industry recover. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding dedication of Dr Jeannette Young, who is our Chief Health Officer, Dr John Wakefield and Minister Steven Miles and thank them for being at the forefront of action being taken in this national public health emergency. Other people may choose not to deal with it as an emergency, but it is an emergency because unless it is contained it is going to have a dramatic economic impact not just on Queensland but also on Australia.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Premier. Member for Coomera, we will use members' correct titles in the House. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have absolute faith in their dedication and hard work. When it comes to looking after patients and other people in Queensland who need the best care, I acknowledge our state-of-the-art emergency services, linked in with the way our paramedics work on the front line to look after Queenslanders. At the moment, at the Gold Coast University Hospital the people who are working—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I ask that you come back to the core of the question under standing order 118(b).

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition talked about the care of Queenslanders in relation to health. I want to finish on this point: at the Gold Coast University Hospital, where currently a group is quarantined, the dedication of the doctors and the nurses is outstanding. I think everyone in the House should applaud the work that they are doing—every single person. In relation to the first part of the Leader of the Opposition's question—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I always get to it; you just have to wait. You have to keep calm. I know that they are all rattled on the backbench about the division in the LNP.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is being responsive to the question that is being asked. I expect you would like to hear her response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We preselected a local in Currumbin, Kaylee—

Honourable members interjected.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you were the last to speak. You are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you have 20 seconds remaining.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was advised by the health minister that no briefing note went to the minister in the format that the opposition raised.

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister explain why he said last year that he was not aware of a Queensland Health directive not to upgrade the ieMR during parliament's sitting weeks when a briefing note states that this was done at the minister's request?

Dr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question and for giving me the opportunity to address some of the misleading claims being made by those opposite in here and in the media. There are more than 90,000 staff in Queensland Health and many of them create Word documents every single day. Some of those Word documents make their way to me as a briefing note and some of them do not.

The opposition spent a week shopping around with this draft briefing note before they could find a journalist low enough to run it, a week shopping around until they found someone whose ethics were so low that he could get it in to the end of the Channel 9 news bulletin. Every other one knew that this draft briefing note never made it to me. Every one of them knew that the claims documented in that draft briefing note, shopped around by the opposition, were untrue. Do members want to know how untrue they were? This is how untrue they were. We did a major IT upgrade on Tuesday night. This is a sitting week and Queensland Health did a major IT upgrade on Tuesday night.

The Leader of the Opposition likes to run around and say she was a senior member of the Newman government, but she obviously did not get much experience of how these processes work. Lots of documents get created but only some of them make their way to ministers. There is no evidence that this ever made it anywhere near my office. There is no evidence at all that I ever made—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders, the member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders and the member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders for consistent interjections designed to disrupt the member on their feet.

Dr MILES: There is no evidence to support the claims made by those opposite. They are using their questions in this place to attack the work of our health workers when in fact they could be supporting our efforts to fight a global health emergency and supporting our efforts to get support from the federal government for our tourism industry. Instead they are in here flinging mud around and ultimately criticising the hard work of our dedicated public servants. Frankly, it is unbecoming even for her.

Regional Queensland, Exports

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to assist regional businesses to tap into the global export market?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for that question. I know that he has been a strong advocate when it comes to the impacts coronavirus could have on the Cairns economy. Not only has he been raising it with me, but he has been raising it with other ministers. I know he is at the forefront of dealing with tourism operators, especially the seafood operators in Cairns.

As I said to this House, we brought together members of industries across a whole range of sectors yesterday to talk about the economic impacts of the coronavirus. Mark Olsen, the CEO of Tourism Tropical North Queensland, was there. He outlined some very clear facts to our group. He said that one in five jobs in Far North Queensland are tourism related and that the industry is losing \$5.5 million a day and has suffered losses of over \$25 million over the past week. It is real. It is happening.

I think we have an obligation to get the message out to Queenslanders and the rest of Australia to come and support the Gold Coast and Cairns. Cairns is a wonderful place to visit. If people have not been there for a while, please take your families there and enjoy everything the Tropical North has to

offer. Let us not forget that it is not just Cairns that is affected, it is everywhere around Cairns as well—Port Douglas, Atherton Tablelands, down to the south and the islands as well. I cannot think of a better time for all Queenslanders and all Australians to get behind our Queensland campaign, holiday at home and make sure we support the tourism industry.

Eric from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association said that 41 coral trout boats have ceased operating. This is having a huge impact. It is not just the logistics but also the people who catch the coral trout and tropical lobsters who are affected. We do not have the markets for them to go to.

Ms Jones: Heartbreaking.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection; it is heartbreaking. It is about the people. Due to the reduction in Chinese New Year celebrations across Australia, mud crabs that were \$50 a kilogram are now \$20 a kilogram. That impact is real.

We know that exports are important to Queensland. That is why today I spoke about offering a million dollars in small grants to help companies export more to the world. The Go Global program, delivered by TIQ, will help small and medium sized businesses launch more of their products into global markets. That is something we can do immediately. There will be a lot of opportunities for people to apply. We are doing everything we can to help people in their time of need.

ieMR, ICT Project

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I refer to the \$250 million blowout of Queensland Health's trouble prone ieMR project which is reminiscent of Labor's failed SPER IT system that left taxpayers out of pocket over \$76 million despite Labor's then Under Treasurer Jim Murphy promising the project was safe and sound. What steps is the Treasurer actively taking to ensure that these IT blowouts do not impact the state budget?

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I would ask for you to rule whether the question contains imputations in terms of the language used. Certainly we would say it does. We would ask that the question be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: There is not an imputation directly related to an individual. However, I would ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to rephrase the question to ensure that it is seeking a factual answer without opinion.

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I refer to the \$250 million blowout of Queensland Health's trouble prone ieMR project which is similar to the overbudgeted SPER IT program. What steps is the Treasurer actively taking to ensure that these IT blowouts are not impacting the state budget?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Everton for his question. I think it is important that we put on record some things that were missing from that question. These are facts, not imputations. Firstly, ieMR started under the LNP government. The design and the rollout started under the Newman LNP government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. You may have a difference of opinion. However, the Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms TRAD: The SPER ICT program commenced under those opposite. The business and the design commenced under those opposite.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms TRAD: I see the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, holding up the Auditor-General's report. Perhaps he wants to say something about it. He was actually the treasurer who inherited the SPER program from the then attorney-general, the member for Kawana, when he did not want it anymore. He flicked it. He did the flick pass to the member for Clayfield so he could sort out the SPER mess.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, the level of interjections is increasing. It is unacceptable. I also remind members who are already on warnings that you are to cease all interjections. That particularly goes for row C, seats 5 to 7.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I particularly thank you for that very pointed warning to row C. Then there was the Liberal National Party ICT minister at the time and her very close relationship to TechnologyOne.

Ms Palaszczuk: Who was that?

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the Premier. Who was that? It was the member for Mudgeeraba. As the small business minister will attest to, she was a minister but not for very long, and we understand how that ended. Let me say very clearly: ICT projects of this scale and size that have gone across various governments, various ministers and various terms of government are very large and complex. I want to thank the Auditor-General for handing down what I think is a very good analysis of what has happened in terms of the ICT.

Ms Palaszczuk: We have accepted all the recommendations.

Ms TRAD: As the Premier has said, we have accepted all of the recommendations to improve these processes. Of course we believe that those individuals who do incur debts and penalties should pay those debts and penalties back to the people of Queensland. I am very pleased with the progress that SPER has made and that Queensland Treasury has made in implementing the new online portal which by all accounts, I am advised, has been very well received. We have seen an escalation in the number of penalties and fines that have been closed and those on payment plans. Those opposite need look no further than their own track record when they were in government.

(Time expired)

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

Ms LUI: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk Labor government's campaign to get a fair share of funding from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Cook for her question. I know that the member for Cook is acutely aware of how much the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility would mean for her communities in Far North Queensland if it were actually functioning—but we know that this has been an underperforming and an overly complex infrastructure facility designed by the former minister for resources, Mr Matt Canavan. He has publicly declared that he would resolve these problems with the NAIF. Unfortunately, he will not get a chance to finish that job because we know that he has had difficulty in administering the NAIF—as much difficulty as he had getting the numbers for Barnaby Joyce to make a comeback to the leadership of the National Party federally.

I am pleased, I think somewhat, to advise the House that there is a new minister responsible for the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. I can see many members on this side of the House who keenly desire infrastructure dollars for their communities and have been waiting for this facility to get up and running. I am very pleased to announce that Keith Pitt is the new minister responsible for the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. Judging by Mr Pitt's performance in the past, I suspect that we will see some big things to happen out of NAIF. When I say big things—

Mr Dick: Very big things.

Ms TRAD: Very big things. The Minister for State Development is champing at the bit. We understand that Mr Keith Pitt is all for nuclear energy.

Ms Palaszczuk: Is Wide Bay in Northern Australia?

Ms TRAD: No. Wide Bay is not in Northern Australia, Premier. I take that interjection.

Mr Dick: Put it in though.

Ms TRAD: It is just like the Hinkler city deal. We will make a city deal—yes, I can see that the member for Maryborough is very happy with the news that Keith Pitt is now the minister responsible for the NAIF. They can excise the Hinkler electorate and put it in the Northern Australia region. How is that?

I can guarantee that what we will see is a lot of business cases for new nuclear power plants in Queensland. That is what we will see out of the NAIF. Make no mistake: with Mr Pitt, in his quest to have nuclear energy in Queensland up and running, given his responsibilities with the NAIF now, we will see a lot of activity in the area of uranium mining and nuclear energy development. I can guarantee you that, Mr Speaker. Everyone here should go back to their communities and make them aware.

(Time expired)

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. The ieMR debacle is the latest botched job under this health minister. It proves he values politics over patient care and he has been caught out trying to deny it. This follows the dodgy poll to change the name of Lady Cilento hospital, widespread ramping issues blocking up emergency rooms, cuts to rural maternity services and blowouts to elective surgery waiting times.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I am going to interrupt your question and ask you to rephrase that question with some of the less colourful commentary. Ask the minister a direct question.

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. The ieMR debacle is the latest problem for the health minister. It follows the name change of Lady Cilento, widespread ramping issues, blocking up emergency rooms—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat.

Ms BATES: My question is: why does the Premier still have confidence in Minister Miles to perform in the important health and ambulance portfolio?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for the question. In case the opposition is only just waking up to this, we are dealing with a state health emergency crisis. Okay? Who is overseeing that? Coronavirus is being overseen by the Minister for Health. I have absolute confidence in the work that the Minister for Health is doing. I find it unbelievable that the member for Mudgeeraba would come in here and try to criticise our health system—

Mr Mander: No, the minister.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and the minister—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—I will come to you lot in a moment—when our frontline health professionals are doing everything they possibly can to contain the virus and stop the spread of this virus. It seems to me those opposite have their head in the sand when it comes to dealing with this huge state and national issue. The federal government has come late to the party and still will not acknowledge the real economic impacts that are happening right now.

The health minister is also overseeing the new medical graduates who have started this year, the new nurses who have started this year, the new midwives who have started this year and the expansion to our hospitals that is happening this year. Contrast that with those opposite. I know that they like to black out the Newman years. Guess what? No-one is blacking out that history.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No-one is cutting out that history. We know very clearly the damage that the LNP did—the Liberal-National-Palmer party did. We know that they were all merged in together. We know what the LNP did to the hospital system across Queensland. They cut, they sacked and they completely decimated the health system in regional Queensland. I find it a bit unreal for the member for Mudgeeraba to come in here and criticise a health system that we have repaired and rebuilt after the damage that was done.

Mr Bleijie: The member was criticising the minister, and rightfully so!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know the damage that was done by the member for Kawana, but that is a whole different story. That is a whole different debate. There is not enough time for that. I am quite sure that the Attorney-General will remind everyone.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. He was put into a witness protection program for six months where he was not allowed out to do media. Please do more media. We like it when he is in the media.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is working to support the economy to manage the impacts of coronavirus and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: As honourable members have heard, yesterday the Premier convened an industry stakeholder forum to hear from business and industry about the impacts the coronavirus is having on Queensland. It is clear that the impact is more than just a health impact. We are seeing very significant problems emerging in tourism, fisheries and agriculture and international education, amongst other sectors of the economy.

That is why yesterday the Premier directed that the Economic Functional Recovery Group be immediately convened. This is the group that my department convenes in the wake of disaster events to coordinate economic recovery. We need this because the message from business and industry is clear. We need all levels of government to work together and we need the federal government to come to the party. Industry leaders like Daniel Gschwind, head of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, echoed and reinforced the comment that Queensland cannot do it on its own. We need the federal government to step in.

Sadly, yesterday we saw the LNP missing in action, and the person missing in action the most was the Leader of the Opposition. In a debate in this House on one of the most significant health and economic problems facing this state she could not even be bothered to speak. Thankfully, there was one person who wanted to step into the breach, and that, of course, was the member for Broadwater. The member for Broadwater may have been ineffective. He had no impact on the coalition government federally, but at least he had a go. What did he say? These are the words of the member for Broadwater: 'I am not staying quiet on this. I want Canberra to come forth and assist us.' At least the member for Broadwater had a go. He has many problems, I know, but he had a go. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater made the right call on this. Unlike members of the opposition who are downplaying this crisis from Cairns to Coolangatta, at least he spoke up and said that Canberra needs to do something, as our Premier has consistently said.

The member for Glass House had a go, but as always he was completely wrong. He said that the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements do not cover this. The member for Glass House needs to know that in 2018 the states and territories negotiated a new disaster recovery funding arrangement with the Commonwealth. In those negotiations the Commonwealth agreed to a revised definition of 'disaster', and the Commonwealth removed the exclusion of events where human activity is a significant contributing cause. This is exactly the type of event that can be covered by Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements if we had national leadership, and that is what we need.

The impact on our state is in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. There are hundreds of jobs that have already been lost. Business is stopping still and we have nothing from Canberra. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition stood up and did the right thing for Queensland for once and called on Canberra to help Queensland, because we need that help right now.

Energy Industry, Jobs

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. First the Deputy Premier said that Queensland mining communities and workers should re-skill to move away from mining. Now the Palaszczuk government has put the Burdekin Falls Dam power project on hold, abandoning the 200 jobs and 50 megawatts of clean energy that Labor promised at the 2017 election. Why is the Palaszczuk government walking away from its promised jobs and power supply for North Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Burdekin for the question, and I note that he has been up every day this week in question time. It is very interesting. I do note he has been a better performer this week than the member for Everton, so maybe moves are afoot. I would like to make it explicitly clear that the—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are under a warning. I have given clear instructions, actually to your panel of seats. You are to leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

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

Ms TRAD: Let's see if we can make it a trifecta.

Ms Palaszczuk: About that emu swamp!

Ms TRAD: As the Premier said, 'About that emu swamp.' I want to make it explicitly clear that the safety improvements we have promised for the Burdekin Falls Dam are proceeding. I want to make it abundantly clear that the \$350 million we provided in the 2019-20 budget is proceeding. I know that it takes a while to catch up, but more than six months ago the last Queensland state budget came down,

and the \$100 million that had been allocated for the Burdekin Falls hydro scheme has been reallocated to our state's first publicly owned renewable energy power company. It is this company that received the \$100 million in order to progress the assessment of the hydro scheme for the Burdekin Falls Dam.

That is how we do things in this government: we do proper analyses before we go ahead and build things. Let me make it abundantly clear that the \$100 million has been committed to regional Queensland for regional renewable energy jobs which would not have progressed under those opposite because they cancelled them all when they came into government. As we know, the member for Callide does not believe in the science of climate change. We have climate science sceptics over there, so they would not have had any renewable energy projects and no renewable energy jobs. The \$100 million that we have promised for renewable energy projects in regional Queensland stays in regional Queensland and will deliver energy security, lower energy prices and jobs in renewable energy for Queenslanders.

Whitsundays Tourism Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and the Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the minister please update the House on the importance of backing the tourism industry in the Whitsundays?

Ms JONES: The member for Mackay, like everybody on this side of the House, understands that the coronavirus is going to have a deep impact across the whole of our state. Already we have had reports from the tourism industry that as a consequence of the fires in southern states—which have been absolutely devastating for those states—we saw images broadcast around the world, and people in the American, European, British and Chinese markets all thought that the whole of Australia was on fire. On top of that, we now have the coronavirus.

The Premier has already spoken about Cairns and the Gold Coast today, but we know that the Whitsundays will also do it very tough. This is an economy that injects around \$670 million into Queensland through tourism. One in three jobs in the Whitsundays relies on tourism, so it is critical that we also provide support to them during this time. In fact, along with a number of other ministers this week, the mayor of Whitsundays was down here in the parliament lobbying on behalf of his community. I am very pleased to announce today that stage 1 of our very successful Wonders of the Whitsundays campaign, which we launched earlier last year, delivered more than 2,000 additional holidays into that market and \$3.35 million into the local economy. Today I can announce that we are going to bring forward and fast-track stage 2 of that campaign.

What we are hearing from industry, as the Premier and Minister Cameron Dick have said already, is that they want assistance from government and all levels of government. I too want to join in acknowledging that there is only one person on the opposite side of the House who has actually had the guts to stand up to the Prime Minister—had the fortitude to stand up to the Prime Minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms JONES:—and actually say that we need 'Scotty from Marketing' to do something. I acknowledge the member for Broadwater. I appreciate his bipartisan approach when it comes to tackling the coronavirus. A bipartisan approach is exactly what we need at a time like now.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Member for Broadwater will cease his interjections.

Ms JONES: I am trying to give him a compliment and he is arguing against that. This is a serious issue and one that needs a national approach. We are seeing the tourism industry right across our country suffering right now. We are taking action here. We are working closely with tourism operators on the ground and we echo the call of the Premier for the Prime Minister, who was the CEO of Tourism Australia, to understand. This is a man who went around this state and the country saying that he is a man of action. Where is the action now? Eating a meat pie is not going to solve it. He actually needs to get in there, dig into his wallet and support our community at this time.

(Time expired)

State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. The scathing Auditor-General's report into Labor's SPER ICT bungle found a failure in due diligence, unmanaged conflicts of interest and that Treasury did not have the skills to manage the project after Labor revised the project to change direction in 2015. Labor's blunders ultimately cost the taxpayers of Queensland over \$76 million. Why did the Palaszczuk government not protect taxpayers and properly manage this IT project?

Mr SPEAKER: The question does have a significantly long preamble. Member for Burleigh, I will give you an opportunity to rephrase it. This is a message for all members asking questions today where there are imputations and commentary in the question. I would like these questions being asked of the ministers to be direct.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I listened to the question the member for Burleigh raised. He said 'Labor's blunders', but as I understand the standing orders the imputations have to talk about personal imputations. When you talk about a government, the Palaszczuk government or a political party, one cannot take a personal objection or derive an imputation from that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I will rule on your point of order. There is no point of order. I have made a ruling. If you have concern with that ruling, you may write to me about the ruling. This is not about personal imputations. No member has taken personal umbrage. This is about the language used in the question and I am giving clear guidance about the questions being asked. I asked the member for Burleigh to rephrase his question and I will give him that opportunity instead of ruling the question out of order.

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. The Auditor-General's report into Labor's SPER ICT found a failure in due diligence, unmanaged conflicts of interest and that Treasury did not have the skills to manage the project. Ultimately, this cost the taxpayers \$76 million. Why did the Palaszczuk government not protect taxpayers and properly manage this IT project?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Burleigh for his question. Can I say from the outset the reason this was referred to the Auditor-General by the Under Treasurer was that we believed there were significant issues with the program. The Auditor-General has done his report, it is before the House and we have made a commitment to absolutely implement all of the recommendations, all of the suggestions, by the Auditor-General. That is what governments do.

Let me say, as I have said before in this House, that this program was commenced and designed under those opposite. I know they like to absolve themselves of responsibility. Just like the ieMR and just like SPER ICT, those opposite conceived of these programs, designed them and started rolling them out. Being the Treasurer, I was more interested in the \$76 million figure that the member for Burleigh bandied about because it reminded me of another \$70 million spend by those opposite. It reminded me of the big \$70 million spend—

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you will either table that document—

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I will not table it because I know that it has been tabled over and over again.

Ms Palaszczuk: We like to use it.

Ms TRAD: Yes, we like to use it. Of course the Strongest and Smartest Choice, which was asset sales, had a \$70 million plus advertising spend. This was \$70 million of taxpayers' money to force asset sales down their throat. You can put lipstick on a pig but it does not make that pig anything but a pig. The people of Queensland told the LNP exactly what they could do with their \$70 million spend on advertising asset sales back to the people of Queensland.

Ms Palaszczuk: I thought it was more than \$70 million.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection by the Premier. It is likely more than \$70 million. If those opposite want to talk about the best use and the best investment of taxpayers' dollars, they had best look at their own record when it comes to this abomination.

Water Infrastructure

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the government's investment in water infrastructure in Queensland?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. The Palaszczuk government supports water infrastructure where it is needed. We have \$848 million committed to water infrastructure right across this state. That includes \$215 million to the Townsville pipeline, \$24 million to the assessment of Hells Gate Dam and \$13.6 million to kickstart the new Emu Swamp Dam. The member for Rockhampton is obviously interested in the \$352 million for Rookwood Weir which is underway. I point out that it is only underway on the back of our coin—nothing from the federal LNP, nothing at all.

Rookwood is not the only example. The latest round of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund closed a year ago. We have heard nothing for vital water infrastructure projects in the Burdekin, Lockyer and Theodore—nothing from the federal government. Here is us standing up for

water infrastructure in LNP electorates, but there is nothing from the federal LNP at all. I met yesterday with the frustrated folk from Granite Belt Water about Emu Swamp Dam. They have been promised \$42 million from Mr Littleproud but they have not seen one brass razoo. Nothing. If only it were a gun club in a marginal electorate. They should offer Minister Littleproud a membership.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for McConnel will cease her interjections.

Dr LYNHAM: Those dam payments would be updated quicker than Bridget McKenzie's resume. We know that when the Leader of the Opposition was sitting around the CBRC table the only water infrastructure she looked at was the Connors River Dam—a dam they cancelled quicker than a sporting grant to the Blair electorate. I remember in 2013 when the LNP said they were going to build a hundred dams around this country. There was not one. You just cancelled a dam.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for McConnel and member for Everton, you are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

Dr LYNHAM: I can confidently state that with \$8 billion of unfunded promises, any LNP promise—for a Bradfield scheme, a dam, a weir, a pipe, a drain, a bit of sand across a sandcastle moat at a beach—will disappear if ever they are elected.

State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. The Auditor-General's report into Labor's SPER ICT project found the SPER project was classified as amber for 860 days of the 1,015 days it was reported on, there were unmanaged conflicts of interest and Treasury did not have the skills to manage the project. This ultimately cost taxpayers over \$76 million. Why did the Palaszczuk Labor government not protect taxpayers and properly manage this IT project?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. I am seeking advice from the table. Member for Toowoomba South, can I get an assurance that that is not the same question that appears—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right. Can I get an assurance that it is not the same question, because it is the same subject matter and directed to, I believe, the same minister with many of the same components to the question. Are you going to continue with that question?

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, there is a slightly different emphasis. There is a similar subject matter but different emphasis, talking about different days.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right will cease their interjections. My question to you, however, is that the preamble may differ, but it appears that the question itself is the same question. I am happy to take that on notice in future, but I ask that you either rephrase that question or I will rule it out of order.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, to go to the question, are you happy for me to repeat it from the beginning?

Mr SPEAKER: I am happy for you to do that as long as it is not asking the same question.

Mr JANETZKI: The Auditor-General's report into Labor's SPER ICT project found the SPER project was classified as amber for 860 days of 1,015 days it was reported on, there were unmanaged conflicts of interest and Treasury did not have the skills to manage the project. This ultimately cost taxpayers over \$76 million. Why did the Palaszczuk government not protect taxpayers, and where is their ability to manage IT projects in Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question.

Ms TRAD: The photocopier has been working hot, hasn't it?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I appreciate there was a lengthy delay in ascertaining whether the question was in order, members. Let's get to the answer to the question.

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Toowoomba North for the question—

Government members: South.

Ms TRAD: Sorry, I thank the member for Toowoomba South. I am expecting the same question from the member for Toowoomba North. I am anticipating answers. As I have said previously, there were concerns. I was concerned with this program. I asked the Under Treasurer to have a good look at the SPER ICT program. He came back and advised that it was his belief that he should refer it to the Auditor-General. It was referred to the Auditor-General.

Now the people of Queensland and the Queensland parliament have the full Auditor-General's independent report into the ICT program. All of the recommendations will be implemented. That is what should happen in instances such as this—in instances where a long-term project was started under those opposite, designed by those opposite and rolled out through successive governments and successive ministers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Ms TRAD: That is what ought to happen and that is what did happen.

While I am on my feet I would like to correct the record where I said that the LNP's asset sales program cost Queensland taxpayers \$70 million. I am sorry, I was wrong. It cost \$100 million—\$100 million of Queensland taxpayer funds—to sell their asset sales agenda. I am going to table this media report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 29 August 2015, titled 'Asset sale cost Qld taxpayers \$100m' [203].

It still did not work. If those opposite want to come into this place and talk about the expenditure of Queensland taxpayer funds, then they should just remember their track record, a track record that the LNP leader in this House is so proud of, a track record that saw Queensland workers sacked from Queensland Health, a track record that saw QBuild workers sacked in the regions and a track record that saw RoadTek workers sacked in the regions. The Leader of the Opposition comes into this place and talks about how proud she is. Let me say that we will not let the people of Queensland forget their track record: \$100 million spent on their advertising campaign for asset sales and consultancies and all of their cuts, sackings and selling of assets.

Bushfires, Wildlife

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is responding to the impact of the recent bushfires on Queensland's wildlife?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question and her ongoing interest in the welfare of wildlife as a result of the bushfires. I think everybody in this House is fully aware of the fact that at the end of last year we saw a series of major unprecedented bushfires in our state. I want to acknowledge the QFES personnel and volunteers who fought to minimise the human cost of the fires. I want to acknowledge in particular the incredible work of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, who fought fires across the state after already completing more than one million hectares of planned burns—the most since before 2012 I understand. I also acknowledge the traditional owners who, for many years, have been working with rangers to introduce and employ traditional burning methods which are making a huge difference.

Queensland saw more than 6.6 million hectares impacted by the bushfires. Hundreds of millions of animals perished as a result. I am advised that at least 648 threatened species have had their habitat impacted. This on top of the extended drought has put extreme pressure on our hardworking wildlife hospitals and stretched the incredible work that wildlife carers do across Queensland. In response to this, the Palaszczuk government announced \$250,000 in wildlife carers assistance grants, with a \$120,000 top-up to wildlife hospitals and a \$130,000 grant to wildlife carers to help them carry out their vital work.

What did we see from the LNP in terms of their response to the bushfires? What we saw was the distribution of a pamphlet—a pamphlet dressed up as a plan. They have a chance to step up on behalf of Queensland. Following the Palaszczuk government's wildlife support announcement, the federal government announced a \$50 million fund and the establishment of an expert panel to advise on the expenditure of that fund. Shockingly, Queensland was not afforded a seat for an expert on that panel.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Broadwater will cease his interjections.

Ms ENOCH: I wrote to the federal minister on this matter and I am still awaiting her reply. In the meantime the federal government has offered Queensland a paltry \$1.5 million from that fund. I have made it clear to the federal minister that this is nowhere near what is needed; it is not enough. Queensland actually needs a seat on the expert panel so the federal government might be less inclined to forget us in the future.

I call on those opposite to step up for Queensland, to lobby their colleagues at the federal level and to put Queensland and Queensland wildlife first, ensuring that we get our fair share of that funding.

Social Housing

Mr BERKMAN: My question today is for the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Last year the social housing waiting list blew out by 7,000 people to almost 40,000 while this year the government will deliver fewer than 600 new homes for social housing. Is the minister aware of how many people have died while waiting for social housing since 2017?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. Of course, we fully recognise and take very seriously our responsibility to Queenslanders, particularly those most vulnerable who do not have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. There are significant pressures on many Queenslanders when it comes to finding a home to own or a home to rent. The freezing of Newstart has created significant pressure on some of the most vulnerable. The cost of living at the national level and the cost of housing, of course, is putting demands on many families.

We are extremely proud of our \$1.8 billion Queensland Housing Strategy, our 10-year plan to ensure that we assist Queenslanders to find safe, secure and affordable housing. That plan consists of the construction of 5,500 new homes over 10 years. Just last year alone, 250,000 cases of private market assistance were provided to Queenslanders. They include services like rental grants, bond loans and our RentConnect service to assist people into the private sector.

We believe in the responsibility of delivering social housing and are investing heavily in that. The member for Maiwar is right: we will build over 600 new homes this year. Some 2,500 new homes have been built since we took office. We did stop the giveaway of \$15 billion of social housing assets that the LNP had planned. We do not believe that the only answer is providing every Queenslanders with a house. In fact, we know that the Greens policy is estimated to cost taxpayers around \$50 billion. Under the Greens housing policy, the member for Maiwar would be entitled to a taxpayer funded house. Under the Greens policy, every member in this room would be entitled to a taxpayer funded house. It is houses for everybody under the Greens policy. We take a responsible approach.

There are significant pressures on households right across the country. We have seen the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government preside over the lowest wages growth in living memory. They are the causes of more and more Queenslanders requiring housing assistance. We are very proud that such Queenslanders come to us and seek support, because they know that they will be treated with dignity. No Queenslanders wanted to go to the LNP when in need of housing assistance. Queenslanders will not forget that it was the member for Everton who poor-shamed social housing tenants for his own political agenda. We will continue to treat them with dignity, continue to build more houses and continue to take full responsibility for supporting Queenslanders into secure accommodation.

Buy Queensland, Lactalis

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday, barely three weeks after the Palaszczuk government gave a multimillion dollar contract for dairy supplies to French owned Lactalis, it sacked 47 workers in Rockhampton and scaled back its South Brisbane operations. If the Premier is as furious as she reckons, will she now order a review of the tender and the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy which clearly has failed those 47 workers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I do not think those opposite are at all a champion of Buy Queensland; they do not support Queensland. They do not fight for Queensland and, of course, they ignore issues as they come to hand. As I said, yesterday I wrote to the company. I have asked my director-general to review the contract to ensure that the contract was awarded and that they are following its terms. I have asked my director-general to do that. I understand the frustration of local members and how important these local jobs are for local economies and local regions. That is why we are fighting for those jobs. I said very clearly that they should be supporting local regional jobs. This morning on the radio I also said that we were reviewing that tender arrangement through Queensland Health. I will get my director-general to have a look at that and he will report back to me.

In the meantime, those opposite should reflect on their track record when it came to supporting regional jobs, because in office the LNP slashed, burned and decimated regional Queensland economies in terms of our Public Service jobs at the front line—in health, transport, QBuild and nursing. Queenslanders will never forget that.

Schoolteachers

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister update the House on how many new teachers have been employed across Queensland in 2020 and if there are any policy alternatives?

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

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. The member knows how important teacher numbers are in schools and, for that matter, nurses in hospitals. Right across the state last week, 53,000 teachers entered our classrooms, 19,000 teacher aides, 1,000 additional teachers and 800 brand-new teachers. The numbers were up in Central Queensland, 136; in the Far North, 61; and in North Queensland, 111. When I returned after the break, my first meeting occurred with the Queensland College of Teachers. I was disturbed—as we are at the national level—about the number of teachers graduating or registering. We in this state put in \$136 million to try and turn that around. It is concerning that the numbers are down. We talk about it at the National Education Council. We need to attract teachers and we will work hard to do that. Congratulations to all staff who started the new school year.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Amendment to Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am): I move—

That the business program motion approved by the House on 4 February 2020 be amended to omit:

1. clause 1(a) of the motion in its entirety; and
2. the words 'a maximum of 3 hours' in clause 1(c) of the motion.

I acknowledge that, under the sessional orders, as Leader of the House I am able to bring forward a motion without notice at any point to seek to amend the business program. If the House supports this motion, it will take effect one hour after the House agrees on such amendment. This amendment will extend the time for debate on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which currently, as I say, has a maximum of three hours allocated to complete all stages. It is the government's intention to debate with this bill amendments being circulated currently relating to the Paradise Dam. In doing so, we acknowledge that there should be an opportunity for both the minister and the opposition to speak in consideration in detail on that amendment. They are important amendments and members should have the opportunity to speak.

Alternatively, without this amendment, those amendments could have been put without any debate at all if the time had elapsed. There is 51 minutes left remaining in that debate. We acknowledge the importance of it. We acknowledge that the reason we put this in the sessional orders was to allow for amendments to be made to the business program so that, from time to time when these important initiatives and issues come up, we are able to be agile and flexible in our business program to adopt such. This means that those on the other side will get the opportunity, as requested of me yesterday afternoon by the shadow minister, to speak in consideration in detail on this bill. If consideration is not completed prior to 5.55, the question will be put at 5.55. It adds another approximately two hours to that debate which I hope the opposition welcomes.



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): The Leader of the House talks about intention. One never knows what is the intention of this government, because it changes minute by minute, day by day, week by week. It was the intention of the government 48 hours ago to debate three bills this week: the resource bill, the child death review bill and the agriculture bill. We started debating this business program motion, but then the health minister came forward to say, 'We also now want to debate the coronavirus bill this week; we want to do it urgently and we want it debated by Thursday.'

We had the business program motion that had three bills. By the end of the business program motion we had moved to four bills. Now on Thursday, nearly halfway through the day, what the Leader of the House did not say is that we will not now be debating the resources bill. They are taking the

foreshadowed amendments from the resources bill and will now move them in the agriculture bill, because they have failed to manage their time. They should not make out it is to give the opposition two more hours of debate on the agriculture bill. That is rubbish. It is because the government has failed to manage its time. It is because the government of Queensland is in a shambles. It is running from bungle to bungle. It is concentrating more on the leadership aspirations of ministers than on the order of the House. That is why we are in this mess now. The Attorney came in saying, 'We want to give the opposition more time.' That is not true. It is because those opposite cannot manage their time, because the government has gone bonkers.

I also want to amend the business program motion, but under the sessional orders I am not allowed to. I would amend the business program so the House could debate the Auditor-General's report about SPER.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Are you going to table that document?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will not; it has been tabled. If I could, I would move an amendment because I think the parliament should be debating the report tabled by the Speaker this morning on behalf of the Auditor-General in relation to SPER.

Mr Mander: Scathing.

Mr BLEIJIE: It showed a scathing assessment of Treasurer Trad. I suspect it is a scathing assessment that Treasurer Trad does not quite want at the moment—on top of all the other bungles and issues she has in retaining her portfolio. You only have to look at the caucus meetings happening around the parliament to understand that it is on! I am not a betting man, but I do not know how long—

Mr Mander: It won't be the health minister!

Mr BLEIJIE: The sharks are circling this week. After what aired on Channel 9 last night, I can assure members that the Minister for Health is now out of the equation. There are no leadership ambitions for the Minister for Health.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock for a moment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get back to the subject of the motion, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am anticipating what you were about to tell me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr BLEIJIE: Let us look at the facts. The government is a sham. It cannot manage the time of the House. Now a bill relating to an important industry in Queensland—one of the biggest exports in Queensland—the resources sector bill, will not be debated this week. The Attorney did not say that. Earlier the Attorney told me that we may then go on to the police bill. 'May'? We had a business program motion. The business program motion was meant to ensure that everyone knew what was happening on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—for stability, for efficiency. That is what the Leader of the House said. If this is stability in Queensland parliament, I would hate to see chaos in the Labor Party! I suspect it is a bit of both at the moment.

It is a shambles. Cover this cake however you want. The reality is that half an hour after those opposite foreshadowed the Paradise Dam amendments during debate on the resources bill the media started asking questions. Then they thought, 'Uh-oh, what have we done?' The minister went into hiding. They then stopped debate of the resources bill and said, 'Let's put that aside, go straight to the child death review bill and we'll deal with this on Thursday.' What a mess! Did these amendments even go through cabinet on Monday? Did the ministers get as much shock about these amendments relating to Paradise Dam as everyone else in this House did? I suspect so. We want to debate the SPER Auditor-General's report. Put that on the *Notice Paper* today, Mr Speaker, and we will debate it—93 members.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): At the start of every sitting week the member for Kawana gets up and says how upset he is that members of his caucus will not get sufficient time to debate bills they are concerned about. Then their members ask us to give them more time to debate a bill they are concerned about. We move a motion that gives them more time to debate the bill they are concerned about, and the member for Kawana is still not happy. He still objects.

The sessional orders allow for the business program to be amended throughout the week to ensure the House's program remains agile and responsive to members, including those opposite. The amendment motion before the House is just that and is in line with the sessional orders. The Leader of

the House's amendment is straightforward and gives more time for debate on the important Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and, importantly, for substantial consideration and discussion of the amendments the minister intends to move. I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.25 am): This amendment to the business program just shows what a joke this government is. Its management of the agenda of this parliament reflects its management of the Queensland economy and the Queensland government. Those opposite are a joke. They have proved it here this morning by moving this amendment to the business program.

Everything the Leader of the House has said over the past two years about the business program has just been shot to pieces. The Leader of the House has undermined every rationale and every reason. Apparently it is okay to curtail our ability to debate legislation in consideration in detail, but when those opposite have stuffed up and realise that they need more time we see the change in this amendment. That shows the hypocrisy of this government. If we had not made all the changes to the democratic process by limiting the hours of parliament, by limiting the hours of debate, we would not need to have this debate and this motion. This shows what a joke this government is.

There is now some confusion amongst our own members about whether they can speak about aspects of the bill that they want to talk about, because the Paradise Dam amendments are being moved between different bills. People who have already spoken in debate of the agriculture bill now wonder whether they can talk about the amendments foreshadowed to be moved to the resources bill. This is another blow to the democratic process of this state and this parliament and undermines everything the Leader of the House has said over the past two years. The credibility of the Leader of the House is shot to pieces.

Dr Rowan: It's in shreds.

Mr MANDER: It is in shreds. The Leader of the House simply follows instructions from the leadership of the government, and the leadership of the government is shambolic. As the Manager of Opposition Business has already said, those opposite are jockeying for positions. They are trying to work out who is going to take over from the left faction. We all now know that the Minister for Health—he is sitting next to the Treasurer to make it look like everything is okay, but we know what is happening behind the scenes. The Minister for Main Roads is as happy as Larry, because he wants that left faction there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stafford, I think that is the second time today you have spoken when the Speaker has been on his feet. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: Just checking, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the member was not already on a warning, was he?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: He was not.

Mr MANDER: Okay; just checking. Thank you.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I beg your pardon; you were correct. Member for Stafford, you will now need to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Stafford withdrew from the chamber at 11.29 am.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, I was on my feet; you continued to talk. You are now warned under the standing orders. You were not on the list but you are now.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, we might need an amendment to the amendment now with the minister out of the parliament for the next hour! Again, this just shows that this government is clueless. It cannot manage the agenda in parliament. How can we expect it to manage the Queensland government and the Queensland economy? What we have seen already is that it cannot manage the

Queensland economy, and the Auditor-General's report today about ICT projects is just another on a long list of failures, particularly in the ICT area where I think it is probably now up to about a \$500 million—half a billion dollars—overflow.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: We want to debate that; I could not agree more with the leader of opposition business. All we are asking for is consistency and a fair go, and we have not been getting a fair go which means that our constituents have not been getting a fair go with regard to our ability to speak on what we want to speak on and for the length of time that we want to speak about it. Now when it suits the government—when the government has stuffed up—it has come in here to make this amendment to the business program motion. We would much rather—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the leader of opposition business: we will stay here as long as we need to stay here so that each member can have their say. We used to do that. It was a standard practice to stay here while members were here, taking advantage of the fact that while regional members were here we should do as much work as we can and save taxpayers, but not with this government. It is shambolic and it has proven to be the fraud that it is.

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

AYES, 47:

ALP, 45—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, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Pegg, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.37 am): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 4 February (see p. 60).

Second Reading



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.38 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.38 am): I rise to speak on the Public Health (Declared Public Health Emergencies) Amendment Bill 2020 on behalf of the LNP opposition. The bill was introduced in the House on Tuesday this week by the Minister for Health and declared as an urgent bill

in a resolution of this House which was supported by the LNP. As I mentioned on Tuesday in the debate on the urgency motion, these are the types of issues where there is a need for urgent legislation. It is a time where we work together in the best interests of Queenslanders, a time where politicking takes a back seat.

Despite not being reviewed by a parliamentary committee, this bill is very limited and technical in nature. In fact, it only contains five clauses and, as we were briefed on Tuesday, the bill provides that the amendments will expire 12 months after commencement and revert back to the existing time frames under a declared public health emergency.

The bill extends the time frame for which the minister can declare a public health emergency beyond the existing provisions in the Public Health Act 2005 which only provide for a seven-day declaration. While we are speaking about that declaration and for context, it would be appreciated if the minister could provide in his reply the number of times a ministerial public health emergency has been declared since the powers were introduced and the context for the occasions that that has happened. Under the current arrangements, the minister would have to redeclare the same existing public health emergency every week that the threat of the novel coronavirus continues. Given the number of unknowns about this virus, that seems an overly administrative process for something that is not contentious.

There are now over 20,000 worldwide cases of the novel coronavirus, with the death toll rising. In Australia we have seen 14 cases, four of which are here in Queensland. All four are in isolation and are being clinically supported at the Gold Coast University Hospital. The National Incident Room is currently activated in response to this incident and is coordinating the Australian government response across the country. Over 1.4 million face masks have been made available from the National Medical Stockpile as part of the Commonwealth government's response and I understand the Queensland government has made similar arrangements.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee meets every day. Two hundred and forty-one Australians are currently on Christmas Island in quarantine and are being looked after by the Australian Medical Assistance Team. As I said previously, this is an unprecedented global health emergency. No-one is downplaying this issue. This is not a time for politics. The public health and safety of Queenslanders is not something to play politics with. The priority now should be about the containment of the novel coronavirus to limit its impact on the broader population and the development and introduction of an economic assistance package to protect tourism jobs and to support other industries who are suffering devastating economic impacts in the short and the long term.

The Premier's attempt to try to politicise this issue has been completely outrageous and completely unacceptable. She was caught out last Friday and she has doubled down ever since. What is clear is that the Premier and the Palaszczuk Labor government cannot work with Canberra to get things done for the benefit of Queensland. Demanding the federal government bail out the Queensland government once again because Labor cannot manage the state budget or the Queensland economy clearly demonstrates that. It shows that Labor is incapable of managing the Queensland economy for the benefit of everyday Queenslanders. All other governments and agencies are working together, as they should be. It is only Queensland throwing their toys out of the cot.

I do want to thank the health minister, his office, the health department and the Chief Health Officer for the briefing we received on Tuesday that was also afforded to all members of parliament. We are also in regular contact with the federal health minister and the federal government. Given these circumstances, and the limited and very technical nature of the amendments, it seems that the urgent need for these new laws is justified.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.42 am), in reply: As I speak today there are 24,478 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus globally. Of these, 24,266 are from China. Four hundred and ninety deaths have occurred in mainland China, one in Hong Kong and one in the Philippines. Outside of China there are 212 confirmed cases in 26 countries. Of course, these numbers change daily, moment by moment, as the situation evolves.

Our own situation here in Queensland is also rapidly evolving. In Queensland an eight-year-old boy, a Chinese national from Wuhan in Hubei province, was confirmed yesterday as the third person to have the virus. The boy was a member of the tour group travelling with a 44-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman already confirmed with coronavirus on 29 and 30 January. Last night a fourth member of that tour group was confirmed by our labs to have the novel coronavirus. They all remain in isolation at the Gold Coast University Hospital where they are stable and receiving the best care and treatment available from our fantastic Gold Coast University Hospital health staff.

Members of this House understand the gravity of this situation and the critical need to protect Queenslanders, particularly the most vulnerable in our community, from the spread of novel coronavirus. The Palaszczuk government has done everything it can to prevent the spread of this new disease. We have stood up Queensland's disaster management committee to ensure a quick, coordinated and comprehensive response.

We have screened more than 650 travellers for coronavirus at our airports and we have tested more than 458 people for the virus across the state. We have ramped up testing by expanding it to private pathology collection sites. We have set up fever clinics at Gold Coast University Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the PA Hospital with several other hospitals across the state also ready to open fever clinics at short notice if required. We have developed comprehensive information packs for hotels, cleaners, transport operators and other stakeholders. We have shared our experiences and learnings with our interstate colleagues to assist with their efforts. We have led calls for more to be done by the federal government, including providing states with Border Force intelligence on travellers' whereabouts and contacts and providing the states with disaster funding just as they would in a flood or bushfire.

On 29 January as the Minister for Health I declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act 2005. I did this to ensure emergency powers under the act could be used, if needed, and that our clinical staff have the authority they need to stop this new coronavirus in its tracks. It will allow emergency medical officers to require a person to remain at a particular place, such as in their homes, or stop a person from going to a particular place, like a school, or require a person to provide an emergency officer with help when requested and various other powers to manage public health risks. It also allows police and other agencies to enforce the directions of emergency medical officers.

Members understand that this bill's purpose is to allow for a regulation to be made which extends a declared public health emergency for a period of up to 90 days, giving greater certainty to the community and our health staff about the public emergency period. It will also allow the government to communicate clearly about the emergency arrangements that will apply in coming weeks as we manage this public health emergency. The alternative would be to make a regulation each and every week to extend the emergency declaration until the emergency ends.

The bill includes a sunset clause, as it has been progressed urgently and not subject to the usual scrutiny of a parliamentary committee process. Because of that it is appropriate that the effect of the amendments in the bill end after 12 months and that is what this bill provides for. If there is a clear need for the provisions to remain after that time, parliament will then have the opportunity to enact amendments following a full and proper committee process and with the benefit of all that it has learned during this emergency.

The initial seven-day period for the declaration I made on 29 January 2020 expired at midnight last night. The Governor in Council convened an extraordinary meeting to make an extension regulation to extend the declared public health emergency for a further seven days. If this bill is enacted, any further regulations will then be made under the arrangements contemplated in this bill, extending the emergency declaration for up to 90 days, and I foreshadow my intention to do just that.

I thank members for their support for this bill. It is a simple but necessary step to allow the most effective management of this emergency. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, our hardworking emergency officers, hospital staff and those involved in the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre who have worked around the clock to manage this health emergency, as well as senior officers and staff of many other government departments who are assisting us, who have officers based within the SHECC and who are working with the State Disaster Coordination Group.

In particular I would like to thank Minister Grace, her director-general and the staff of Education Queensland. Clearly the task of notifying returning school students and schools was probably the most urgent as this issue emerged in the first week of school as students were returning. The work Education undertook to provide that information was very important and has ensured that the coronavirus is not spreading within our childcare centres, our TAFEs and our schools—public or private—which could well have happened if we were not able to implement those quarantine arrangements in a timely way ensuring that students returning from mainland China were not in our schools. Of course, other agencies including sport, housing and public works, the police and others have all assisted Dr Jeannette Young in her work.

At this time it is vital that we provide support to the industries affected here in Queensland, which is why the Premier convened a round table at Parliament House yesterday. We invited stakeholders from the tourism, agriculture, transport and education sectors, as well as many others.

The Tourism Industry Council made it clear that they want our assistance to lobby the federal government for more assistance for tourism operators that have already been devastated by this disease. Daniel Gschwind, QTIC's CEO, estimated that his members would lose hundreds of millions of dollars. People in the sector are already feeling the sting of the downturn with services suspended, jobs laid off and bookings cancelled, particularly group bookings. Tourism Tropical North Queensland's Mark Olsen said that his industry was losing \$5.5 million each and every day. Given that 10 per cent of our tourism footprint is in regional Queensland that is a brutal blow for those towns that need that income. They see the answer in increased promotion to other international markets not currently affected by the virus. In the south of our state, the Gold Coast estimates the current loss to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, affecting 3,500 businesses that support 42,000 jobs.

Representatives from Brisbane said that the gateway to Queensland was set to lose between \$100 million and \$500 million, with hotels, cafes and other service industries most affected. The retail sector has been hit not only in patronage but also as many of their workforce are now in self-isolation. That has led to a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in trade. So far the Brisbane Airport has lost 100,000 domestic seats and 60,000 international seats, with that number expected to rise to 650,000 in the next six months. That is devastating for our economy.

The Port of Brisbane has seen an impact on our exports, including resources. The Queensland Resources Council calculates that one in three export dollars is related to resource exports, while supply chains and manufacturing have taken a hit in China. They are seeking a recovery package.

In education, the University of Queensland has the most exposure of the Queensland universities, but the Queensland University of Technology is also struggling with the impact. UQ is estimating a \$1 billion loss in just one year if the travel restrictions remain in place. International students generally contribute \$5 billion to the Queensland economy. The universities are doing all they can to support their communities and their students. There is a real risk that the UK or other markets could take our market share if we do not have a plan in place for international university students, to ensure that they feel welcome to return once the emergency is over. At our independent schools, 600 students are currently impacted. They have had 40 study tours cancelled already.

The outbreak has also wreaked havoc on our seafood industry. Forty-one coral trout boats have ceased operating. The live mud crab and lobster trades are struggling. They are desperate for assistance with energy costs so that they can refrigerate and store food that cannot be exported. I encourage everyone in this House and in Queensland to support our seafood industry this weekend, if you can.

I take this opportunity to thank the key people who have been keeping Queenslanders safe during this outbreak. It is their efforts that have limited the spread of the virus in Queensland. I have already thanked Dr Jeannette Young, our Chief Health Officer. As a voice and face that is trusted by Queenslanders, she is the perfect person to be conveying important, concise and accurate health information to Queenslanders. I also give my sincere thanks to Dr John Wakefield, Queensland Health's director-general, and his executive director, Jasmina Joldic. In the past week or so, the three of them have worked around the clock.

I acknowledge and thank Dr Sonya Bennett, the Executive Director of the Communicable Diseases Branch; Dr Heidi Carrol, the Medical Director of the Communicable Diseases Branch; and the entire communicable diseases team. I thank Victoria Chalmers, the Executive Director of the Health Contact Centre, and all of the staff at 13HEALTH who, so far, have taken 2,100 calls. I thank their dedicated nursing staff who have triaged those calls, identified the most urgent cases and provided people with advice about what treatment they should seek.

I thank Damian Green, the Chief Executive of eHealth Queensland and Phillip Hood, the Acting Chief Executive of Health Support Queensland, who have facilitated the distribution of over 1,700 text messages. I thank Mr John Doherty, the Executive Director of Forensic and Scientific Services, and his team who have been conducting the coronavirus testing. They acquired primers for the virus incredibly quickly. They were able to equip their labs incredibly quickly. They have been turning around test results 24/7. Sometimes those results have come through at midnight or at 3 am.

I thank Dr Mark Elcock, the Executive Director of the Aeromedical Retrieval and Disaster Management Branch, and Dr Peter Aitken and the SHECC team who have been working 24/7. On behalf of the House, I thank Dawn Schofield, Naomi Hebson, Jennifer Rossiter, Robyn Clark, Sandra Daniels, Jacqui Heywood and Kyle Fogarty who have performed the role of SHECC response liaison lead, covering the roster 24/7. I thank Dr Keith McNeil, the Acting Director-General of Clinical Excellence Queensland, and the entire Clinical Excellence Queensland team who have assisted.

I thank Ambulance Commissioner Russell Bowles, Acting Commissioner Craig Emery, Ambulance Medical Director Dr Stephen Rashford and Director of Media and Communication Michael Augustus. They have all assisted in ensuring that our frontline ambos know how to respond to suspected coronavirus cases. Paramedics have been evacuating suspected coronavirus patients and those who have been in contact with them, which is important.

I thank Barbara Phillips, the deputy director-general, and her key staff. I thank the team working behind the scenes to develop the bill before the House, including David Harmer, Tricia Matthias and Michael Coccetti. Other staff in the Office of the Director-General have worked around the clock to provide necessary support, including Loretta Carr, Laura Kanaris, Tammy Sovenyhazi, Sally Gannon, Emma Williams and Larin Bligh. I thank the ODG team working to assist the Chinese women's football team during their period of isolation: Karen Thompson, Nina Shen, Sunny Qiu and Brian McEvoy.

I thank the key responding HHSs that have screened over 1,100 arrivals at international airports—the Gold Coast, Metro North, Metro South and Cairns and Hinterland—as well as all HHSs for their preparedness. They have responded quickly to all requests, which has allowed us to respond.

I thank the amazing people in the strategic communications team who have been keeping Queenslanders up-to-date with the latest information at any time of the day or night, including Natalie Patch, the acting executive director; Jane Martin, the director of marketing and communications; and Elise Meakin, the acting director of media and digital.

I thanked some agencies earlier but other key agencies in this response are the QFES, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Housing and Public Works, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. They have all worked together. I would like to thank their ministers, their directors-general and all of their staff.

The Red Cross is assisting us to care for the welfare of people who are currently in isolation in Queensland. Some of them do not have support networks around them. The Red Cross is assisting us to make sure that they have food, they have supplies and they have all that they need so that that period of isolation is as accommodating as it possibly can be.

I want to thank all members, including the opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba, for working with me to get these laws introduced, considered and hopefully passed very quickly. I believe in her speech the member only asked me to address one question. I will attempt to answer that now. It is my understanding that orders like this under the current act have only been used once before. That is my advice from the Chief Health Officer. She tells me that she can only recall them being needed once before.

I understand that since I issued that order last week and while there have been events where it has been considered it may be necessary to use those powers, the people involved have all voluntarily accepted the direction of our health officers. The extent to which that agreement has been underpinned by a knowledge that we have powers to force them to do that, my suspicion is that having that there encourages people to comply. As to the question of what kind of scenarios they were, they relate to individuals who have been in mainland China and are not unwell but have been asked to remain in isolation and, for whatever reason, have been reported to us as not remaining in isolation. Sometimes they have been in an accommodation or hotel environment. The advice I have at this stage is that they have all complied with the request. I hope that addresses that question from the opposition health spokesperson.

In closing, I urge all Queenslanders to listen carefully to the advice of our Chief Health Officer. If you have visited China in the last 14 days and are sick please immediately see a doctor. Please call ahead so that they can prepare for your attendance. If you cannot call or see a doctor please contact the fantastic staff at 13HEALTH. They will be able to advise you whether you meet the criteria for concern for novel coronavirus. They will be able to triage you in terms of urgency. They will be able to tell you where to go and how to get there if you need assistance.

The amendments proposed in this bill will allow our hardworking officers to continue their outstanding work in managing and containing the threat of novel coronavirus without the need and uncertainty that would be caused by weekly extension regulations that would need to be progressed to the Governor in Council. I thank the Governor for his accommodation in attending that extraordinary Executive Council meeting yesterday to ensure that we were not left without an order in place.

This bill, if passed today—and I assume now it will be—will allow our health staff to plan and provide advice on the arrangements that we need to put in place to manage the spread of novel coronavirus over the next few months. Until the threat to public health reduces it will allow us to

communicate very clearly with the public that these powers exist and will remain in place for a period of time. It is critical that these amendments progress as a matter of urgency. I thank all members of the House for their indulgence and for supporting the passage of these urgent amendments so quickly this week and within the time frames we requested. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 5 February (see p. 197), on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.05 pm): Today is a dark day for agriculture. Being true to form, the Labor Party has again abandoned the bush by introducing amendments to the bill to repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005. What we have here is Minister Furner slipping in late amendments to allow him to wind up and dispose of the assets of the Emerald Agricultural College and the Longreach Pastoral College. He did not even have the courage to take it through the committee system. These amendments were not available to the committee. It is a disgrace.

The minister and the Labor government he represents are openly disdainful of the Queensland parliament. We see it in the way that these amendments have been brought in so late in the day. It shows that the Labor government has absolute contempt for agriculture. We are being treated to a demonstration of the contempt the Labor government feels for agriculture and regional Queensland.

Into an omnibus bill which is already amending some 18 acts, Minister Furner has inserted amendments to draw the curtain on over 50 years of agricultural training in the Central Highlands and Western Queensland. I am talking about the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College. The Longreach Pastoral College started in 1967 and the Emerald Agricultural College started in 1971. They are proud agricultural institutions in Central and Western Queensland. As the final slap on the way out the door, he is going to make sure the damage he has done can never be undone. He is going to ensure the assets are disposed of so Emerald and Longreach can never restore these campuses.

I should not feel so shocked or surprised. The Labor Party's handling of this issue has been brutal right from the jump. Minister Furner slammed the door shut just before Christmas 2019 in the middle of a devastating drought that was already oppressing people in Western Queensland. In fact, the minister

went up to the gates at the Longreach Pastoral College and got a photograph of the gates being locked. It appeared that he honestly did not comprehend the slap in the face he was dealing out. He did not seem to be able to tell us what would happen to the staff, students and their families. Instead he held up the Coaldrake review as if it were the holy writ conferring a divine blessing on his actions. Its suggestions for future uses outraged many of my constituents throughout the seat of Gregory and many right throughout regional Queensland.

The minister then appointed a project manager to start the community consultation on the future uses. It should be noted that this is after the decision to trash decades of training at these campuses. This community consultation is all about what to do with the college campuses now that they are empty. The consultation is not about how the agricultural training can be saved. It is essentially consultation about selling real estate.

As the minister said, his Project Management Office was told to set up local community stakeholder committees in both Emerald and Longreach, so we have been waiting. Christmas 2018 was the first kick in the teeth with the gift of the Coaldrake report. Then Christmas 2019 saw the closure of the gates. We thought surely history will repeat itself and the minister will announce his decision as to the fate of the all-too-tempting real estate. As the *Longreach Leader* wrote in its 20 December issue—

The latest conundrum for the government is when to announce this major decision—one that will devastate Longreach especially ... One suggestion is to announce it in the new year when the majority of Queenslanders are on holiday and let the steam dissipate before the election.

Well we made it through the holiday season and still we are waiting. It turns out that the minister does not have the legal power to dispose of those assets—hence these amendments which were thrown in at the last minute without going through the committee system. It makes a mockery of the entire process from the start. It means that the Coaldrake review was based on a false premise. There has been an omission of genuine community consultation with the good people of Emerald and Longreach.

Why? Because these communities were presented with a question about what to do with the college assets, but the true question was never around saleable assets. There were no legally saleable government assets. The true question was around educational assets that were set up to be permanent and were intended to be permanent. This question was never put to Longreach or Emerald, just as it appears it was never explained to Professor Coaldrake. The Labor Party's community engagement fits so perfectly with the dishonesty that has characterised the minister's actions throughout this whole shameful saga. Now it is delivered through the sly insertion of amendments into this bill.

Of course the minister has prepared spin to say agricultural training will reach new heights under the Palaszczuk government. Last week the Toowoomba *Chronicle* ran a picture of a visit to TAFE Queensland's new rural centre of excellence. The article was titled 'Peek at a new facility', which is due to open on 11 February. I wish that new centre all the best. I just want to make some comparisons.

The \$7 million project consists of a simulated vet nursing facility, three traditional classrooms, a large area where machinery can be brought in and demonstrated, and a grow pod which is a vertical hydroponic farm. Compare that to what is being lost and sold off to pay for the Labor government's incompetence. I will start with the simulated vet nursing facility—presumably for treating simulated animals. The Emerald Agricultural College hosted vet students from two different universities so they could learn how to handle large animals like horses and cattle safely. They also learnt skills such as pregnancy testing. The Emerald Agricultural College was the only facility in Queensland that had sufficient herd sizes where veterinary students could perfect their skills through repeated practices on large animals.

Compare the vertical grow pods and machinery demonstration bays at our new rural centre of excellence with the magnificent Berrigurra property. This outstanding property near Blackwater provided students with hands-on experience with farming machinery and hands-on experience with broadacre cropping. This is what employees need in order to be job ready, not having to watch a demonstration and not having vertical hydroponics—at least not for most types of farming.

What about the Longreach Pastoral College? The loss of this institution makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. It is the only institution that teaches the skills needed for our valuable sheep and wool industry. Labor likes to boast about re-establishing the sheep and wool industry in Western Queensland. In fairness, I thank the Premier and Minister Furner for their continued support for exclusion fencing, but it makes that funding a kind of city dwellers fantasy when they turn around and close down the only institution training workers needed to operate in this industry.

Where are we going to get our classers? Where are we going to get our shearers? Where are we going to get the people to build the cluster fences which are so valuable for Western Queensland? We need to have rural based training and skill based training for agriculture in Central Queensland. These colleges provided so much to agriculture for well over 50 years. They were institutions started way back. Some of the names of people involved in the set-up of these agricultural colleges are leaders in our agricultural community—people like Sir James Walker, people like Mr Chandler from Barcaldine, people who were involved in agriculture and who wanted to see an outback university teach future generations how to be involved in agriculture.

I would also like to pay tribute to some fantastic students and teachers at those colleges for over 50 years. One name synonymous with the Longreach Pastoral College is John Arnold. One of the best horsemen you will ever come across. He has taught so many students about horsemanship, caring for horses and how to ride, muster cattle and be a part of the local community. To you, John Arnold, I am so sorry this has happened. I know this devastated you. It is something that tears your heart apart. Mate, you did so well and I wish you all the best.

That leaves us with the final conundrum: how much money will the Labor Party grab for the sale of those magnificent properties and how will they ensure that their Labor Party mates get a crack at it? This amendment to the bill that the minister has put up is disgraceful, and he should be ashamed of himself.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Before I call the member for Logan, I will quickly read the list of those members who are still on warnings. The member for Glass House, Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba, Buderim, McConnel, Everton and Clayfield.

Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (12.16 pm): I rise to support the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do this partly because I come from a family steeped in the farm and forestry traditions of our country. I recognise the great work that so many in our agricultural sector do. I spent much time as a child on my grandfather's sheep farm with my cousins and extended family. They were extremely passionate about their sheep dogs. My second cousin Paul O'Kane and many of the family were great aficionados of sheep dogs, training them to the standard where they won many regional shows, showing their skills and care of their dogs. Many people in Queensland, indeed my own family, share that connection with their dogs whether as pets, as working dogs or dogs involved in the racing industry. That connection with them is very deep and powerful and we very much care for them.

I brought up this issue because in 2016 Mandy Petrie, a constituent of mine, came forward and spoke to me about the heat that builds up inside cars. She was talking about children being left in cars, but she was equally concerned about people who mistreat their dogs. This is an issue that all members of the House could highlight. I bought a large-scale thermometer with a probe, put it inside my Crewman ute on a very hot day and parked where there was a lot of sun exposure. We went to the car park at Grand Plaza, which has a lot of exposed area. We then invited the local papers to film the temperature in the car going up. There was a resulting story in the *Jimboomba Times*. It was 32 degrees outside that day—a common enough temperature in Queensland—but in less than 15 minutes the gauge read 53.3 degrees. It was actually so hot that the LCD screen began to fail. The entire screen went black and we had to put it back in the air conditioning in order to cool the screen down enough to read it.

That highlighted the fact that any person or animal trapped inside a car parked in the sun is in extreme danger. This is something that we can take forward as local members of parliament to our constituents. I urge you to get out the temperature gauge, contact your local newspapers and TV and talk about the dangers that animals in cars face. Get local people who are concerned about these issues to back you up. We know this is a serious problem. Despite years of campaigns, including my own, and public calls for change, we are still seeing an unacceptable number of dogs left in hot cars in this state. RSPCA Queensland still receives over 1,000 calls reporting this kind of incident each year. It must be very distressing for the person disturbed enough to make a call to the RSPCA while standing beside a car with a dog in distress because of the extreme heat I just mentioned. That is about three cases every day. Often we say that dogs are our best friends, but these best friends are left at risk of serious heat stroke and in some cases even death. It is just not acceptable, and I think everyone in this House agrees with that.

This bill makes it as clear as we possibly can that the Queensland government will not stand for it; furthermore, we can take this forward. We can do as I did and get out the temperature gauge on a hot day to advertise the fact that the laws have changed and we need to take this responsibility seriously. Dogs need shade, they need cool drinking water and they especially need air movement. Within minutes a dog left in a car can be seriously ill or even dead.

The bill's amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act clarify that the offence of breach of duty of care to an animal and animal cruelty may apply in situations where animals are confined in vehicles. We are making it explicitly clear that this is unacceptable. If you leave your dog in a situation where they are going to overheat and be in danger, then the Animal Care and Protection Act will apply and they have breached their duty of care. This applies when we know that the animal is going to be in stress rather than when we see the unfortunate side-effects of an animal that has been distressed or has died. Under these reforms, if you are in charge of an animal—and that is a great responsibility—and you inappropriately confine or transport it, you can be found guilty of breaching your duty of care to the animal. This is an important measure to keep our four-legged friends safe in this state. I urge all Queenslanders to be mindful of our animals and keep them safe. I certainly will get out my temperature gauge and my little puppy Malley to highlight to the local community that it is totally unacceptable that dogs are treated in this way.

I also wish to speak briefly on biosecurity. Queensland is a state that faces double the number of biosecurity threats than any other Australian state. This is a product of the geography of Queensland and it is not going to change anytime soon. To combat this we have great awareness, and we have built a robust and well-supported biosecurity defence system to prevent these threats whenever possible and tackle them when they do reach our state. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. Everyone coming into our state, crossing between zones, entering a farm or a national park needs to be aware that every Queenslanders can play a role in protecting our agricultural sector and our natural environment from introduced plants and animal pests. The federal government has a role to play in stopping threats imported from overseas at our nation's borders, ports and airports. Biosecurity Queensland staff work closely with them to ensure threats are stopped wherever possible. When pests are discovered in Queensland we need our protective systems to be nimble to give them the flexibility they need to rise to the occasion and meet the threat.

That is why this bill empowers the chief executive to amend the biozone security map and, just as importantly, ensure the notification of people likely to be directly affected when a biosecurity threat arises. This will eliminate potential delays for taking important containment action in the face of emerging threats. This is about ensuring the long-term safety and security of those who are affected by biosecurity threats. This government is about ensuring that people have safety and security when they invest in a workplace, and we will continue to do that.

Provisions allowing the keeping of electronic records of stock movements rather than full paper records will help move this important process into the 21st century, while amendments to the Biosecurity Act to enable the use of body worn cameras by inspectors and authorised officers will help in the gathering of evidence, providing records of verbal directions and orders, and assist with the investigation of complaints. Queensland is rightly recognised as the front line of Australia's fight against biosecurity threats, and the increase in trade and international travel—both of which are positives for Queensland—also bring with them threats over the coming years, and that is not going to change anytime soon.

In 2019 we saw a new threat to biosecurity on Queensland farms and animal processing and management businesses, and that was the threat of extremist animal activists. Some of those situations were really ugly, and I can only imagine what it would be like for my grandfather on his sheep farm to have to face that type of intimidating behaviour. We all recognise that it should not be lawful in Queensland to personally intimidate someone at their place of work, especially when that place of work so often includes their home. We have acted quickly to bring new on-the-spot penalties. I do not have the time to go through them all, but I endorse the bill to the House because it secures the future of Queensland's agricultural industry.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This is an omnibus bill that makes a number of very positive changes, most of which have been addressed by others, so I will focus my comments today on the deeply problematic elements of the bill, specifically the changes to clauses 131 to 133 of the Summary Offences Act. I do so, noting again that I am sure I will be the only member here who reflects in their contribution on the very real concerns raised by the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner and the Queensland Law Society, among others.

This is yet another kneejerk response and extreme overreach from a government that seems more inclined to fall in behind the LNP's 'tough on crime' rhetoric than it is to address legitimate community concerns. It is yet another example of a trend. When the government sees a kind of protest they do not like, even if it is already illegal, instead of addressing underlying issues they will just jack up the penalties.

Every member here will stand up and say they abhor animal cruelty and will not tolerate such flagrant disregard for the welfare of animals. Some of the obscene conditions and cruelty we have seen in animal agriculture and export would turn anyone's stomach and cannot be accepted, but it is also the case that this kind of cruelty has been overlooked by governments or simply not been picked up by under-resourced regulators. I understand that the investigation and enforcement of animal welfare laws generally relies on a complaint being made to trigger an investigation, and these complaints and the subsequent investigation and enforcement of animal rights protections is often a direct consequence of the kinds of conduct this bill attacks.

Not everyone will agree with the methods of every protest, including me, but there is no denying that animal advocacy organisations and activists have been instrumental in exposing animal cruelty and illegal behaviour. Consider the abhorrent treatment of greyhounds that was only exposed by covertly obtained footage, the treatment of battery hens, the use of sow stalls and various other practices that just do not stack up to community expectations. All of these breaches of animal welfare have been investigated or brought to the public's attention through the work and dedication of animal rights advocates, and some of the worst breaches of the law and community expectations have only been exposed by these people obtaining footage or exposing animal cruelty by unlawful means. This is the central point here, as it was when we considered the government's most recent crackdown on civil liberties. The conduct of animal activists that this bill targets is already illegal.

The amendment to the offence of unlawful assembly is particularly concerning. Right now the offence of unlawful assembly covers only situations in which someone in the vicinity would reasonably fear that unlawful violence will take place against people or property. That is already a fairly broad offence. This bill would add a swag of new circumstances where the gathering occurs on farmland or other areas. As the Queensland Human Rights Commission noted in their submission—

A question for the Committee to consider is whether extending the offence of unlawful assembly in the Summary Offences Act 2005 is necessary, when there are existing offences of trespass and unlawful entry of farmland. The Explanatory Notes do not provide any explanation as to why the existing trespass laws are unable to achieve the stated purpose of the proposed limitation on the right to peaceful assembly—

The commission concluded that even though the Human Rights Act does not yet apply—

Having balanced the considerations in section 13 of the Human Rights Act 2019, and noting the absence of a demonstrable justification for the limitation, the Commission does not support Clause 132—

The current section 13 of the Summary Offences Act is a very specific application of the law of trespass. What is proposed in the bill would significantly expand the kinds of facilities and conduct to which the penalties apply and simultaneously double the penalty for that offence from six months to 12 months in prison. There is no good reason given for the expansion of this offence or the doubling of the penalty. As the Queensland Law Society noted in their submission—

QLS advocates for laws which are evidenced-based ... QLS submits that there is no cogent or persuasive evidence that the current law is inadequate and that these penalties are necessary. Furthermore, there is no evidence that these provisions are appropriately adapted to achieve the desired effect.

When the minister got to his feet in here and tried to provide some justification in his second reading speech, he simply pointed to the fact that acts of protest in general had gone up. He did not put forward anything else. We can only assume that his long-term objective is zero protests—a society completely anaesthetised without any dissent. Is that the objective here? Is that what we are aiming for: the dream of the government?

What is absolutely plain for everyone to see is that this will not satisfy the LNP. They have separately proposed a preposterous and harshly repressive law that would lock people up for 10 years for organised trespass. Why is it so difficult for the government to see that they will use this thin end of the wedge to outlaw all kinds of conduct that their corporate backers find inconvenient or embarrassing? How long until they use this style of law to target construction workers walking out over safety concerns or aged-care workers pushing for better pay and safer conditions for their patients? This is not science fiction or fantasy either. The Liberals in New South Wales and Tasmania have already pulled a very similar manoeuvre and it is frankly puzzling that no-one else here seems to see it coming.

A potentially unforeseen consequence of this panicked law is that it may make it illegal for farm workers to meet together as a group when they are being exploited by their employer. Clause 132 of the bill makes it illegal for any group of three or more people to gather together on farmland where their conduct could cause a person in the vicinity to reasonably believe that they could cause economic loss to the farm business. That means any meeting of workers—who could be underpaid or subject to abuse or extortion—could be in the frame as an unlawful assembly and those workers could be liable to one

year in prison. For farm workers—many of whom are casualised and insecure and many of whom are on temporary work visas—that is an incredibly threatening and dangerous law. When someone's visa status depends on their job, they are almost never going to rock the boat, so exposing them to criminal sanction for gathering together is a very serious thing.

I note that the provisions in question do not apply to lawful industrial action under state laws and that federal protected industrial action would also remain legal. That may technically be correct, but the scope of protected and lawful strike and other industrial action is narrow and getting narrower all the time. For instance, at a federal level, workers cannot go on strike unless they are in a bargaining period—so every three years or even less frequently sometimes. The committee did not hear from any unions—certainly not from the National Union of Workers which is doing fantastic work organising migrant and casualised farm workers—and it apparently did not consider this possibility in its deliberations.

Similarly, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has advised that there was no consultation with animal welfare groups or animal industries groups on these provisions. It shows just how damaging it is when the *Courier-Mail*, Labor and the LNP drum up a pointless culture war against vegans or any other group of protesters. What ends up happening is workers lose out and Labor are too distracted fighting a culture war to notice.

The minister noted in his speech earlier that he would be moving an amendment to clause 132 of the bill to, in his words, ensure that it only applies to conduct which is already illegal. We have not seen those amendments but the existing clause 132 adds a very significant list of broad-ranging circumstances in which people might be exposed to a year in prison. The clause which criminalises economic loss in particular should be removed.

In summing up, as I said at the outset there are a number of changes proposed in this bill that I support and there appears to be no doubt that it will pass and that those useful, commendable changes will come into effect. While I do not oppose everything in the proposed bill, I have no option but to vote against it because of the draconian and dramatic overreach that these particular provisions represent.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.34 pm): I rise today to speak to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and I would like to address some key points in this important bill. Queensland's agriculture sector employs approximately 434,000 people in the food and agribusiness supply chain. This equates to approximately 18 per cent of the total number of jobs in this state. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of and thank the people who work in this sector. They feed Queenslanders, Australians and indeed the world with our exports, often in challenging circumstances. The Palaszczuk government values and respects our agriculture industries, and that is why we have introduced this bill to ensure their protection and to provide support to our hardworking farmers.

I grew up in the Redland district which in those days—and I am giving my age away here—was known as the salad bowl of Queensland. I saw firsthand the Kunde family, the Osbergers and the Dominkos family working their land. That is why I am proud to say that we will not stand aside as farmers are harassed in their workplace and their homes as they work diligently to provide food for the community, to create jobs and to provide trade opportunities to grow our great state of Queensland.

In April last year the Palaszczuk government took action to tackle on-farm trespassers and form the Animal Industry Security Taskforce. This task force comprises senior officers and industry leaders and is tasked to identify and analyse key issues relating to animal activism and farm trespass. It is imperative that everyone is confident of their safety in their place of work.

At the same time, we introduced the Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019 to directly address the biosecurity risks caused by unauthorised entry to places where animals are kept. This regulation introduced a new offence for not complying with a biosecurity management plan to prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter. It also enables police and biosecurity inspectors to issue an on-the-spot fine to protesters who go onto a farm without complying with the farm's biosecurity management plan. I can report that since the introduction of the regulation there have been fewer incidents in Queensland. This fine has proved to be a deterrent. Queensland is leading the way on this front, as New South Wales has copied the Queensland approach and made it an offence to not comply with the biosecurity plan.

The introduction of this Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will go the next step in providing even greater protection to farmers by providing a significantly higher penalty for not complying with a biosecurity management plan. The bill doubles the maximum penalty for an offence for unlawfully entering or remaining on farmland and other specified land.

We believe on this side of the House that everyone has the right to peaceful and lawful protest. I can recall the dark days of the Bjelke-Petersen era—again, showing my age. However, we will not abide bullying and the distress caused to the farming community—including the potential loss of income and danger to their animals—that unlawful trespassing and protesting can cause. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and those who do not obey the laws of this state will be held accountable for their actions. It is only unacceptable behaviours that put our agricultural industries at risk that will be affected by the amendments in this bill. These amendments do not target nor do they prevent peaceful protests in appropriate places by animal activists or any other groups. They will apply to protesters whose behaviour puts farmers, animals and agricultural industries at risk.

Recent protest incidents, particularly an incident at an abattoir, compromised food safety measures. The expanded unlawful assembly offence will now ensure that there is an offence to cover these circumstances. The biosecurity risks posed by an unauthorised entry to primary production facilities are very significant. The animals that these protesters are claiming to protect can be severely compromised by people inadvertently carrying disease into these facilities. Similarly, people who attend a place where animals are exhibited must comply with reasonable instructions, and a person who is not complying can be directed to leave. Often protest actions can cause animals to become stressed and in some cases there have even been injuries and deaths of the animals. It does not stop there, either. Should a disease be introduced to a farm, the result can be catastrophic for all animals on that farm and the farmer. The Palaszczuk government works with the community and the animal industry and continues to raise the welfare standards of all animals.

Another significant animal welfare issue and a very important piece of the bill is that which addresses animals left in vehicles, and my colleague the member for Logan spoke about that. RSPCA Queensland reports that they receive about a thousand calls each year reporting animals being left in hot vehicles. The RACQ reported that, on average, they rescue two animals a day from hot cars in Queensland. That is 859 animals rescued from boiling cars last year, with 260 of those in Brisbane alone. We are coming down hard on irresponsibility, and under the amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act a person may be guilty of animal cruelty if he or she confines an animal in or on a vehicle in a way that causes heat stress.

The abandonment of animals is another area of animal welfare that needed to be addressed. The RSPCA reports that they investigate approximately 15,000 cases of cruelty, neglect and abandonment annually. That is shocking; it is disgraceful! The bill amends the Animal Care and Protection Act to amend the inspectors' powers of entry to enable them to enter premises to investigate and render assistance to abandoned animals. I am sure like many others in the House, I have seen the horrific images on TV recently of abandoned and mistreated animals and have been horrified, so this is great news.

Additionally, the bill makes a number of minor amendments to biosecurity legislation to enable more efficient and effective delivery of biosecurity services. For example, it allows the chief executive to amend the biosecurity zone map as required, closes a loophole for movement of untagged goats, addresses the feeding of prohibited pigs for the purpose of pest control in addition to disease control and requires the production and retention of hard copy livestock movement records. The Biosecurity Capability Implementation Program provides Queenslanders with the tools and knowledge to deal with biosecurity threats. The bill also enables the use of body worn cameras by inspectors and authorised officers.

Last year the Palaszczuk government took the tough decision to close the outdated Queensland agricultural training college—the QATC—as a training entity and repurpose the facilities in Longreach and Emerald. We believe that students are entitled to the best possible training we can offer them to go forward into the agricultural industries of the future, and the Queensland agricultural training college was no longer offering this.

I commend this bill to the House because I believe that we need to ensure that the livelihood of our former farmers, like the Dominkos, the Kundes and the Osbergers, who worked tirelessly in the Redlands district, and those who have followed in their footsteps is respected and protected into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do wish to refer to what happened this morning in the business motion in this House. Speakers like myself—on both sides of the House—are effectively gagged from talking to

the foreshadowed amendments on the Paradise Dam. This House needs to know when—and they need to know now—the government will table the Paradise Dam amendments so members can speak to those amendments. I will move now to the agriculture bill.

This is another large, omnibus bill amending 18 acts. However, in the time available I will address the amendments relevant to the animal activists and also a matter that is very important to my electorate, the traceability of goats. The LNP will not be opposing this bill, but we will be moving two amendments.

At last we see legislation in this parliament that will double the maximum penalty for unlawful entry of farming land in the Summary Offences Act 2005 to 20 penalty units, or one year's imprisonment. This is extended to include areas used for agricultural purposes such as an abattoir, an animal holding facility or showgrounds. I think it is also very important that saleyards should be included as well because they are particularly important to our agricultural industries and particularly to my electorate, which has one of the largest saleyards and selling centres in the country.

Only after we have seen one of my constituents' property invaded multiple times—his piggery was invaded a number of times by illegal activists—a feedlot on the Darling Downs illegally trespassed on and an abattoir illegally invaded is there now some movement from the government, who have had to be dragged kicking and screaming to address the issue of illegal animal activists.

The bill extends existing provisions in the Summary Offences Act 2005 that relate to unlawful assembly. The provision deals with a range of purposes, including animal keeping and other agriculture, where there is a risk to the safety of a person or food, where there is a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity, or there is the risk of economic loss. The bill also clarifies the biosecurity obligations of a person entering and being present or leaving a place regulated under the Biosecurity Act.

The changes that deal with the illegal animal activists and extremists come on the back of a private member's bill introduced by the LNP in May 2019. The government with all their resources have had months to strengthen these laws. This could have happened sooner. They could have picked up the LNP's private member's bill and simply got on with the job. Perhaps the delay is because protecting the agricultural and mining industries from illegal activists is not high on this Labor government's priorities.

Labor's changes in May last year, which increased the fines to only \$652 for those who breach biosecurity while trespassing, were clearly an inadequate deterrent. It was one of the questions for the Dirranbandi showgirls; they unanimously agreed that a fine of \$652 was absolutely insufficient. Here we are with the Labor government trying again, but they are falling short of meeting the community expectation. I will keep calling on Annastacia Palaszczuk and her Labor government to support the LNP's commonsense criminal trespass laws, which are currently before the parliament.

The solution is really simple: pick up the LNP's bill. That would go a long way to resolving the problems when it comes to industrial sabotage and illegal animal activists. We are really serious in the LNP. When we receive phone calls from mothers who are absolutely terrified that activists might come on to their feedlot or their property we have to be serious. We have to be really serious about protecting these hardworking farming families from these radical animal extremists whose sole goal is to terrorise those people in our primary industries. Unfortunately, Labor's proposed laws do nothing to deal with those organisations and ringleaders who are central to these illegal extremist activities. Contrast that with the LNP laws that do deal with those organisations.

I make it very clear: it is okay to protest and have different opinions, but if people choose to trespass, if they choose to terrorise, if they choose to shout profanities at hardworking farmers, they can expect to be whacked with consequences under the LNP. It is only the LNP that is serious about protecting Queenslanders from unlawful extremists who do not represent the values of our great state. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Labor government they do not seem to have their heart in this.

The bill also deals with the traceability of goats, and rangeland goats are particularly valuable. I am proud to represent Queensland's only operating sheep and goat abattoir in Charleville in my electorate. The abattoir is the largest employer. It has been operating for over 20 years. It is a well-run facility and it processes approximately 95 per cent of Queensland's rangeland goats. This export industry supports a large region in northern New South Wales and also right across south-west Queensland. It is economically critical to this region.

Consequently, my constituents have a very keen interest in any changes to the traceability of goats. Currently, the Biosecurity Act 2014 exempts feral or rangeland goats from having approved identification devices or tags before being moved in certain situations. The bill removes that current

exemption. This removal is strongly opposed by AgForce, the Goat Industry Council of Australia and the Australian Meat Industry Council. It is concerning that this Labor government claims that peak industry stakeholders support this amendment when, clearly, they do not.

The Goat Industry Council and the Australian Meat Industry Council are members of the Safemeat Partnership. The explanatory notes on page 27 claim that the partnership supports the amendments relating to goats. It said—

The Safemeat Partnership ... includes the Goat Industry Council of Australia. The Safemeat Partnership supports the proposed amendments relating to goats.

This is going very close to misleading the parliamentary committee and also misleading the parliament.

A joint submission both from the Goat Industry Council and the Australian Meat Industry Council has outright refuted what was claimed in the explanatory notes. The submission said—

This statement is in fact untrue. The ... Bill has not presented to Safemeat partnerships for a position to be provided. Neither AMIC or GICA have had the opportunity to review the proposed legislation through the Safemeat partnerships, nor was either organisation consulted directly.

In its submission, AgForce also said that it was not consulted about this proposed amendment. I am extremely concerned that these stakeholders have been misrepresented by this Labor government. I am further concerned that this will impact on goat producers and processors in my electorate who process 95 per cent of the goats in this state. I have worked with goats and have a firsthand understanding of how difficult rangeland and feral goats are to work with. I do not think members opposite have had that opportunity. The government claims support for the amendment is based upon claims that an audit showed that exemptions were being misused. No-one is aware of any audit—not AgForce, Queensland's largest goat meat processing facility, the Goat Industry Council or the Australian Meat Industry Council.

If the minister has an audit or is aware of breaches regarding goats being sent direct to meatworks, then he should table this information in this House. I support the call by the LNP shadow minister for agriculture that the minister confirm in his summing up the DAF advice from Patrick Bell to the committee that—

Section 180E provides for what is known as an inspector's approval or a travel approval to be provided to industry participants to manage the movement of rangeland feral goats and other goats from farm through to depot—

it is important that it is not just from farm to depot but also other farm goats to depot—

holding depot and then through to the abattoir.

If the minister cannot confirm the advice in this parliament, the LNP suggests this amendment not be enacted until there is full and meaningful consultation with industry. This is absolutely, critically important. We cannot have a situation where the government gets this wrong. We can see that they have not worked this through properly with the stakeholders and have misrepresented the stakeholders—and that is extremely disappointing. It may not seem like a huge issue to some, but I can assure this House that it is a massive issue for jobs across my electorate, an area doing it really tough due to the drought. Quite often it is goats and the utilisation of those rangeland goats that is putting food on people's tables. We need to make sure that it is absolutely correct and that there is no room for error, because it is a huge industry. It would be disappointing to see it unfairly impacted.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to support the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Agriculture production is incredibly important to Rockhampton. Rockhampton, as the beef city, is reliant on the broader agricultural sector for certainty. Although outside my electorate, the employment provided by the two meatworks is essential for the city's economy, any biosecurity risks could shut down these plants where the impacts on jobs would be enormous. I know of concerns in my community about protesters targeting agriculture production sites and abattoirs. Rockhampton constituents support animal welfare but not illegal activities.

Sadly, the actions of some animal rights protesters have put the welfare of animals that they claim to care for at risk. People entering farmland to protest could knowingly or unknowingly introduce pests and diseases on to that farmland. Animals will suffer if a serious disease is introduced to a farm as a result of the action of these protesters. Often, their protest action causes animals to become stressed, and in some cases there are injuries and even deaths of animals.

These protesters are extremists whose aim is to close all animal industries. It is difficult for the industry to engage with them in a meaningful way to address their concerns, because they oppose all farming of animals. Nevertheless, industry and government are working hard to raise animal welfare

standards. Queensland has a robust system implemented through the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. It provides a high level of welfare protection for animals and ensures compliance with other animal welfare laws.

These protections extend not only to companion animals but also to animals used in agriculture. In part, the act provides that one of its purposes is to provide standards for the care and use of animals that achieve a reasonable balance between the welfare of animals and the interests of persons whose livelihood depends on the animals. The duty-of-care provisions in the act oblige people to provide for their animals' needs for food and water, accommodation, living conditions and the display of normal patterns of behaviour, the treatment of disease and injury, and appropriate handling.

In some instances, it may be appropriate for livestock production animals to undergo husbandry procedures that would not be appropriate for companion animals. Codes of practice for production animals help identify where such practices are appropriate.

Many in my community support and respect people's rights to lawful protest. However, the perception that the government does not have adequate oversight of animal welfare in this state is misinformed. Nothing can excuse the behaviour affecting farmers and others engaged in the agricultural production business that sometimes puts the welfare of the animals themselves at risk.

I also refer to fisheries. Through clause 95, this bill amends section 35 to clarify that 'waters' includes foreshores and non-tidal land. This clause is necessary to describe some regulated waters which encompass foreshores and non-tidal land, for example where the habitat of fish extends to these areas or activities in relation to the taking of fish from the foreshore. In Rockhampton, there is great pride in the success of the net-free zones—opposed by the LNP, I might add—and there is always great local interest in any changes to fisheries.

In terms of the closure of the Queensland agricultural training colleges, in 2018 there were some interesting comments from those opposite. The Queensland agricultural training colleges have been on a declining track for many years. Therefore, the Palaszczuk government was prepared to take the hard decision to close these colleges as training entities and repurpose their very substantial facilities in Longreach and Emerald. The government's approach to repurposing these facilities has been highly consultative. Local consultative stakeholder committees were created in both Longreach and Emerald. These committees received over 20 proposals in each centre to the repurposing of these college assets and drew up short lists of proposals in each centre based on a set of principles developed by the committees themselves. The aim of the repurposing is to strengthen the education and training system both for agricultural industry and more generally in the regions, on a more sustainable basis than were Queensland agriculture colleges.

The other distinguishing feature of the government's approach is the application of the Palaszczuk government's job security policy. An employee assistance program assisted staff with their reskilling and job search needs. A voluntary redundancy package of up to 64 weeks pay, depending on length of service, was made available to permanent staff. It should be noted that this was purely voluntary; there were no compulsory retrenchments. I thank the committee for its consideration of this important bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr O'Rourke, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

State Penalties Enforcement Registry, ICT Project



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Auditor-General has delivered a scathing assessment of Labor's SPER ICT project. This Labor government is the Commodore 64 of IT. It is a digital disaster zone. The total SPER reform program cost was \$76.8 million. That is \$76.8 million of Queensland taxpayers' money. This mess is of Labor's own making. Blame lies squarely at the feet of the Treasurer, Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad, the Treasurer, had the hide to come into this House this morning—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In his third term, the honourable member should know better and should refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I have been listening. I believe the member has been correct in saying 'the Treasurer' and then the name.

Mr MANDER: The blame for this blunder lies squarely at the feet of Treasurer Jackie Trad. The Treasurer had the hide to come into this place this morning and try to blame others for this mistake. She first tried to blame the LNP government of five years ago. Then she implied criticism of the previous treasurer. Let us be quite clear about this: it is Treasurer Jackie Trad's total responsibility. At the last two estimates hearings we were assured by the Treasurer and the then under treasurer, Jim Murphy, that this project was 'safe and sound', that it was under control. Now today we see the Auditor-General's report, which is absolutely scathing.

Queensland voters need to Ctrl+Alt+Del this wasteful Labor government. It is clear that Labor and IT just do not mix. It is no wonder we have trouble funding infrastructure across this state when this government continues to waste taxpayers' money—time and time again. Queensland's economy cannot grow if it has the wrong Treasurer overseeing it. This Treasurer cannot be trusted to manage a single IT project let alone the Queensland budget.

This report highlights everything that is wrong with Labor: wasting taxpayers' money, budget blow-outs and wrong priorities. Taxpayers deserve to have their money treated with respect. No wonder Queensland's debt is skyrocketing to \$91 billion. To summarise this, the Auditor-General said that the many failings of this project provide valuable lessons for the future. He lists failure after failure. The LNP will treat taxpayers' money with respect. The Queensland public simply cannot afford Labor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, just for future reference: use title followed by name, not name followed by title.

Lactalis; Olive Downs Mine

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise to pass on my condolences to the 47 Lactalis workers who were notified yesterday that as of the end of this month they will no longer have a job at the Rockhampton factory that they have worked at loyally for over 30 years. I understand from further intelligence provided to me that more than 47 workers will lose their jobs at that factory. In fact, a large number of labour hire workers have also been told that they will lose their jobs at that factory. Unfortunately, unlike the 47, they are not even given the benefit—if that is a benefit at all—of a couple of weeks notice. They have been told that they will no longer be working there, effective immediately.

I have written to the CEO of Lactalis to express my deep concern and disappointment in this decision. I have also called for Lactalis to communicate with me regularly about how they plan to support these workers at this very difficult time. I have spoken with a number of these workers. One family is expecting their first child in only a couple of weeks and they are very concerned about their future. Lactalis has a responsibility now to work closely with those workers to make sure they have the support they need to transition into employment and find good, secure jobs in our Rockhampton community.

I am also concerned about the 20 local dairy farmers that supply milk to Lactalis. I have said to the CEO that I want to ensure that those dairy farmers still have the benefit of supplying milk to Pauls and that there are no changes in their contracts that would perhaps change their price or logistical arrangements. I have told the CEO that I expect regular updates—the member for Rockhampton has too—with respect to how they plan to support those employees at this very difficult time.

The LNP has been dragging its heels on a very important \$1 billion coalmine proposed in the Central Queensland region—the Olive Downs mine, an important metallurgical coalmine that the Queensland Labor government approved last year. We have been waiting for seven months now for the LNP's environment minister to sign off on this important job-creating mine for our region. It will create a thousand operational jobs and 500 construction jobs. The Queensland government signed off on this project last year and the federal government has been sitting on its hands in relation to this project for over seven months now. I called on the then minister for resources and Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, to step in. Now, with his resignation, we have a new minister for Northern Australia and a new Assistant Minister for Northern Australia. I call on the member for Capricornia to ensure that the first thing she does when her feet get under the desk in her new role is to get these approvals underway for this important project for Central Queensland.

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): Putting politics ahead of the health care of Queenslanders is the ultimate act of betrayal. Last year, on 31 October, the health minister claimed that he knew nothing about new communications protocols relating to Labor's bungled rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record. RTI documents reveal that Queensland Health staff were told not

to perform important IT upgrades during parliamentary sitting weeks. This is a time when the Premier and minister might be asked questions and face scrutiny over the ongoing bungles. The next day he told media that the order did not come from his office. As revealed last night, further secret government documents obtained by the LNP through right to information show that 10 days before the story went to air in October last year the minister not only knew what was happening but also the new communication protocols came from him.

The ministerial briefing note signed off by the CEO of eHealth Queensland, Damian Green, on 21 October 2019 shows that 'as requested by the minister ... eHealth Queensland is leading a range of initiatives to improve communication' protocol changes that are 'not critical to maintain services are also being postponed to non-parliament sitting weeks'.

The minister's latest dog-ate-my-homework excuse—that the briefing note was only a draft and he never saw it—completely misses the point. It does not matter whether he saw it or not. The point is that it refers to the fact that the minister directed the new communication protocols—the complete opposite of what he told Queenslanders on 31 October and 1 November last year.

The subject line of an email from the acting chief technology officer that attached the briefing note to the CEO of eHealth Queensland says everything Queenslanders need to know: 'Brief for DG and Minister—Progress on stopping own goals in ICT'. It should also be revealed that the same briefing note says—

In the last six to twelve months there has been additional media scrutiny on ICT systems and events that have impacted Queensland Health. This level of scrutiny now requires additional controls to minimise the reputational impacts.

It is great to see that the minister and senior Queensland Health executives are more concerned about reputational risk than the clinical care provided to sick and injured Queenslanders. What is clear from yet another major bungle from the health minister is that he has misled Queenslanders. He is more interested in protecting his own political hide than putting patient care first. Once again, like we saw with the renaming of the Lady Cilento children's hospital, it is the wrong priority. Wasting the time of senior executives with cover-ups is the wrong priority. They should be focused on fixing Labor's broken health system and ensuring hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics get the support they need on the front line. The Premier needs to finally show leadership and sack the health minister. Her continual lack of action endorses his actions. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. It is time for the health minister to go. This is the ultimate act of betrayal.

Jordan Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.10 pm): A new year and an opportunity to continue to improve the lives of those we represent. Since our last sitting of parliament, the electorate of Jordan has seen major changes to our bus services—something that I have been advocating for strongly since my election in late 2017. 18 November was an exciting morning as the member for Logan and I jumped on the 535, the brand-new TransLink operated bus service from Flagstone to Browns Plains. As I have previously advised the House, delivering public transport to the suburbs of Flagstone, Greenbank and New Beith has been very important to me. Not having access to any public transport in the area has been a longstanding concern for local residents. Whilst the rural residential nature of these communities makes it slightly more difficult to deliver public transport, it should never be impossible. The new 535 service has been made possible through a \$19.6 million funding agreement over the next 10 years to deliver these services. The service connects residents with the key local transport and commercial hub at Grand Plaza in Browns Plains and then on to express services to Brisbane. As demand increases, further services will be added to provide greater opportunities to jobs, community and social services. I encourage those who live along the route to get on board and support these new services.

I do not underestimate how important having access to good and reliable public transport is for those we represent, whether they are students, young families or our elderly residents. Therefore, I was very happy that our government has been able to also deliver new and improved bus services for the Ipswich area of my electorate.

On 28 January we introduced a brand-new bus service which provides public transport for the first time to the growing Spring Mountain area. I was absolutely thrilled to greet some of the very first passengers on the new 533 Spring Mountain loop, which includes the unique 18-seater Poncho bus—which is very cute—and connects that community to the train station, as well as shopping facilities and services. On the same day we introduced two new services—route 527 and route 528 which split the very long and at times unreliable 522 bus service that used to run from Goodna to Springfield Central.

These two new bus services are now shorter and better connect locals with train services at both the Springfield and Springfield Central stations. This has included building a brand-new bus interchange right at Springfield station which has been great for locals who used to walk up a rather steep hill to reach the train station in the past. We have also introduced a new and more reliable timetable for route 526 which runs from Springfield Central to Redbank station via Redbank Plaza shopping centre. Only yesterday we heard the announcement of three new rail services on the Springfield line.

I want to thank the ministers who have supported my efforts and have listened to me when it comes to having better bus services for our region: Minister Dick, who has responsibility for the greater Flagstone priority development area, and Minister Bailey with TransLink. Of course, I want to see continuous improvements and TransLink has assured me that it will review the services after a period of time so we can continue to deliver great local bus services for the Jordan electorate.

Burnett Electorate, Paradise Dam

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.13 pm): This afternoon I take this opportunity to talk about the biggest infrastructure fail in Australia's history and its impacts on my region—the Paradise Dam. We cannot underestimate how much devastation taking five metres off the spillway is going to cause to our region. We have done the surveys and stakeholders have paid their own money to engage with the community. One in five jobs is predicted to go from the Bundaberg region. We are talking about a billion-dollar hit to the economy.

Government members interjected.

Mr BENNETT: It is important that members opposite take the opportunity to grasp the realisation. I am not being political; I am talking about the real impacts on my region.

A government member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the minister. If he does not realise what devastation this is going to cause and step up and do the consultation in my community, I say to all of those opposite: shame on you!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Burnett, I believe we are debating this in a bill at present.

Mr BENNETT: I do not believe that the amendments have been tabled yet, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, please.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is not a signal to start debating across the chamber. I am taking some counsel from the clerks at the table. The amendments have been circulated and I counsel you that you should not be debating this while it is under consideration.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that the amendments were circulated under a different bill and we have had members speaking to the House under that bill. The amendments have not been circulated to my knowledge under the bill that we are about to speak about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Burleigh. I will take counsel again, if that is okay. The rule of anticipation in this instance would mean that the speech that the member on his feet is giving relates directly to the bill being debated in the House at present. Member for Burnett, I suggest that you do not go down that road or otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat. Can you move on to—

Mr BENNETT: Mr Deputy Speaker, can I take some guidance from you before we start the clock?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, certainly.

Mr BENNETT: I am talking about Paradise Dam. The spillway reduction has been common knowledge and debated for a long time. I am not actually talking about the amendment. The amendment is about giving the minister unfettered access to do this work. With regard to the economic impacts of the lowering of the wall—I am just asking for your guidance—is that related to the amendment particularly?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Burnett. I think you answered your own question when you said that the amendment is about the repair and the maintenance of it, so I again counsel you to perhaps change—

Mr BENNETT: A further point of clarification, if I may. When we resume normal debate, is it fair then that members talking on the agriculture bill can then talk about the Paradise Dam amendments? Is that your understanding? If I am not allowed to talk about it now, are our members allowed to talk about it then, because we have been told that we are not allowed to talk about the amendment in the agriculture bill debate?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. I will get further counsel. I just want to make sure that we get this correct. Thank you, members; I appreciate you bearing with me on this. Member for Burnett, again it is anticipating debate. I have taken counsel. I have made a decision. I am now asking you to move on. I will not be entertaining any further debate around this.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, while I understand that the amendments have been circulated, they have not been moved yet and therefore debate would not be anticipated.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Burleigh. Again I will say that with regard to anticipating debate I have made my ruling. It is time to move on. Member for Burnett, can you move to another topic perhaps?

Mr BENNETT: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We all recall that last year we had to make a decision, as the government did, to start to release water from Paradise Dam and I want to talk about the economic impacts that that action has caused to my region. Economic surveys have gone around to the growers who are now faced with a 16 per cent water allocation in June/July and they are anticipating that one in five jobs will be lost in the region. We are talking about 55,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture that will now not necessarily be able to anticipate avocados, macadamias and mango trees for future viability and sustainability.

It is important to realise the anticipated hit to the economy of about a billion dollars to the bottom line with the lack of expansion. It is also important to note that before Christmas there were already \$3 billion worth of contracts that now have clouds over them that will not progress because of the issue around water security. It is a serious issue for our region about the future viability of water security. It is an important issue for Queenslanders as we continue down the path of being a dry state. We have had welcome rain, but I want to highlight that the issues around water security in my region cannot be underestimated. I urge those opposite: please do not try to cheapen and please do not scoff and laugh when introducing water security issues. It is a big issue and we want to continue to make sure that water security and the Paradise Dam issue continue to be front and centre for everyone.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burnett, I have actually taken some further advice. The amendments that have been circulated lie outside of the long title of the bill. You can resume back to what you were speaking on before. I apologise.

Mr BENNETT: Can I get my three minutes back?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you cannot, I have given you some latitude here, and I apologise, but I have now given you the opportunity to resume your discussion and again I do apologise.

Mr BENNETT: Does that mean we can talk about the amendments that have been circulated in the ag bill?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue with the speech that you were giving around Paradise Dam. That is outside of the long title of the bill. When we get to the bill we will address it in the bill. My apologies again.

Mr BENNETT: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In wrapping up, I want to highlight and thank those stakeholders in my community who invested their own money to bring an international expert to Bundaberg, and thank Sunwater for talking to the expert, who has fixed up Missouri dams with anchoring and who is indicating we can repair the dam. It is important to recognise those stakeholders who had to pay their own money to undertake consultation that identified one in five jobs are now at risk—\$1 billion to the bottom line of the Bundaberg community. We must take the biggest infrastructure fail in Queensland seriously. We must put Queensland first but, more importantly, do not underestimate how serious this is to my community. We need to do everything we can to maintain the dam's integrity. There are other regions that need water, such as Biggenden, Maryborough and Hervey Bay. We have a real opportunity to access water in this state, but we cannot do if we start to chop the wall down.

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is only week 2 back at school but my school communities in Mount Ommaney have been hard at work rolling out the air-conditioning program that the Palaszczuk government committed to late last year when the Premier, the Minister for Education and I visited the fantastic Centenary State High School.

At the outset, I acknowledge the absolutely amazing work of my local P&Cs in funding air-conditioning units over many years in our state schools. They have collectively raised hundreds of thousands of dollars with sausage sizzles, school fetes, free dress days and discos. They are absolutely amazing and they deserve our unwavering thanks. Together my school community and I have been vocal advocates for air conditioning schools. They have provided me with the facts, figures and data around the unbearable heat our Mount Ommaney schools can frequently endure. These hardworking parents have spurred me on to lobby for valuable funds and I am really excited that we will be delivering aircon for Queensland schools as quickly as we can.

I will never forget the little Corinda preppie who approached me at a community barbecue last April and told me that he needed air conditioning to cool down and learn after hot lunch breaks in summer. This week we are two weeks in and, although it is raining today, many days it is touching 40 degrees and that is going to continue throughout term 1. I am very excited to update the House that over the school holidays air conditioning has been delivered in the following schools in Mount Ommaney: Corinda State School where the P&C secretary Nat told me the preppies were thrilled with their newly air-conditioned classrooms; Darra State School under the leadership of Principal Gayle and Lisa McAully; Oxley State School, this year celebrating 150 years of being great; Middle Park State School where I am the proud mum of a grade 3-er and grade 5-er; Corinda State High has just had its contract awarded for the delivery; and let us not forget Centenary State High School, where the contract will be awarded shortly; along with Jindalee. I am also excited to announce that Jamboree Heights will now be receiving two air-conditioned spaces after their audit was updated. I thank their principal, Cam Wallace, for raising this with me.

In the time I have left, I want to wish our retiring councillor for Jamboree, Matthew Bourke, all the best for the future. His retirement has come as a shock to many of us. I know I speak on behalf of my community when I say we appreciate his years of dedicated service to our community. Thanks, Matt, I hope you enjoy putting your feet up. This means our community is without a sitting councillor in next month's election. We need someone who is ready to step up and start tomorrow. Enter Rachel Hoppe, 4074 local and community champion. Rach is already well known in our community as a board member of the local ambulance committee and a former foster carer for the RSPCA. Rach and I have doorknocked thousands of homes in the community together. I met her when she was a senior retail manager at the local Jeans West store. I recruited her to my team and then to my office because her local knowledge is second to none. She is one of the most dedicated and tenacious people I have ever met. She never stops fighting. I hope she is the next councillor for Jamboree.

Burleigh Electorate, Crime

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.24 pm): The cancer of crime has spread all through Townsville, it has spread through Logan and Beenleigh and now apparently it is spreading through my electorate of Burleigh. Last Sunday evening we had a spate of instances where youth were out of control, breaking into houses, taking cars and smashing into other cars. There appears to be no consequences for these young thieves.

On Sunday night a group of youths broke into a house on Mallawa Drive. They stole the keys to an Audi, they jumped in it and six of them tore around Palm Beach and smashed into cars. In one instance in particular they ran into someone's car who was not insured. One can imagine the impact on that person to have to repair their car when it was smashed into when it was just sitting on the side of the road. It was run into by a driver who does not have a licence, does not have any insurance and has stolen the car. Worse still, the driver was 12 years old.

The problem with youth crime in Queensland appears to be that the youth of Queensland think there are no consequences to them breaking the law. That is what is happening under this Labor government. There is absolutely no consequence for a 12-year-old breaking the law. They know it. We know it. We see it on TV every night. The government knows it and it is doing nothing about it. Its youth justice program is a complete and utter failure.

This is compounded by the lack of police on the southern Gold Coast. Palm Beach Police Station has been undermanned by about five officers for the last two or three years. They are sending them north where the problems are, into Coomera and places like that. They are robbing them from places like Palm Beach. Last week I had an instance where somebody knocked on the door of my house. One of this person's neighbours was assaulted by 12 individuals. He was punched in the face. He dialled triple 0 and it took two hours for the police to come. Do not get me wrong, I am certainly not blaming our police officers, they are doing the best they possibly can, but they are underresourced,

underequipped, the budget is down and there are fewer police than there ever were. What we need in this state is more police officers. That is what an LNP government will do in the future. We will provide more police officers to provide safety for the people of Palm Beach and the people of my electorate that they really need. The Labor Party will not.

Coronavirus, Response

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.27 pm): My electorate of Mansfield is home to many Chinese friends. The growing, vibrant suburb of Rochedale, where I call home and where I work, signifies all that is to be celebrated when people from diverse backgrounds come together as one. I rise in the House today to echo my sentiments on how resilient, humble and diligently compliant our Chinese community has been to address the global outbreak of coronavirus. Although this is not surprising, as this response is consistent with their soft, gentle and hardworking disposition.

I am proud of how the Palaszczuk Labor government has proactively led the charge to manage this challenging situation with its whole-of-government approach. Further, the Premier has led our nation with her decisive, sensible, practical and immediate call for the containment of the virus as the first layer of our defence. As we know, the federal government has lacked a unified approach to work closely with the states and territories and has been focused on spills and rorts rather than protecting the health of our Queensland population.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has held numerous briefings across all departments so that a whole-of-government response ensures the best possible strategies to manage the containment of this virus. Our Premier's leadership yet again has been symbolic of what Queenslanders have grown to expect and of what Queenslanders deserve. This is true public service. I would like to acknowledge the incredible stewardship of our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and Minister for Health, the Hon. Steven Miles, who have led this statewide response in such a professional and calm manner. Our frontline staff, doctors, nurses and allied health staff are selfless as they process individuals and tour groups that may be affected.

As the Premier has recently stated, we must all continue to remain calm as our frontline staff work through the process to manage cases detected in Queensland. It is also important to note that the risk to the Australian public remains extremely low and that it is important for people to go about their daily lives.

This outbreak has occurred at a very unfortunate time for our Chinese community. I extend my sympathy and admiration to my community for their tenacity and resilience in working through this issue. My thoughts are with my close friends: Lewis Lee; Sisi Bi; Stanley Hsu; Janet Ren, her husband, Jeff, and baby, Liam; Jimmy Tsai; Raymond Mak; David Wu; Jonathan Chen; and many others. Better days are ahead of us and we know that you will continue to stand strong.

State Schools, Independence

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.30 pm): I am really concerned that in the state of Queensland we have now entered a period in which principals are being politicised by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Given your former role, Mr Deputy Speaker, similar to the previous speaker, I do not have to remind you how important is the independence of our schools from the political system. It concerns me that we are seeing principals appearing in videos. Recently one principal appeared in a video with a Labor Party logo on it. The Premier advised that the Labor Party logo appeared by accident and has now been taken down. Last week, there was a video of a principal congratulating the Premier on a political campaign. Also last week I saw a video in which Patrick Condren, the Labor candidate for lord mayor of Brisbane, and a Labor candidate for council stood with a principal outside a local school. Patrick Condren, who was standing next to the principal, introduced the Labor candidate and proceeded to do a video about the school. The principal also spoke.

This is wrong. Principals should be independent, teachers should be independent and politicians should not be putting principals and teachers in that position, particularly not candidates for council who have nothing to do with the education system and state parliament. It is wrong. I am going to be writing to the director-general of Education Queensland, because if the rules have changed and Labor members of parliament are now allowed to make videos with principals, so too should every member of this parliament be allowed, even though I think it is wrong and they should not do it. However, you cannot have one rule for Labor members of parliament and another rule for non-government members of parliament

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member is squawking. It is a serious matter that principals remain independent. Teachers would respect that and students would expect nothing less. The Crime and Corruption Commission has been assessing the Deputy Premier because of her involvement in and meeting with prospective candidates. Last week I met with the acting principal of Meridan State College. The first thing I said to her was, 'Congratulations on your appointment and the acting arrangement.' That is right: you meet them after they have been appointed, not during the process. I know other members were asked by the media if they have ever involved themselves in the selection of a principal for a local school. No, they have not, because we all know that is wrong—all except the Deputy Premier, who thinks she sits above everyone else.

Now the minister for tourism is saying that the reason that Gold Coast schools are not getting air conditioning is because they get sea breezes. The Premier said that the Sunshine Coast will not get air conditioning because, 'Your humidity is not as high as Brisbane.' What a load of rubbish! Stop politicising our schools and principals.

(Time expired)

Burns, Mr JF

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise to pay tribute to an Ipswich true believer who sadly passed away in the final days of 2019. John Francis Burns was 85 years of age when he passed on Monday, 30 December 2019. He packed a lot into those 85 years. John became a member of the Electrical Trades Union during his time working at Swanbank Power Station. He protected workers' rights and fair working conditions because they were important to him. He was a proud fixture at Labour Day marches.

John had many different jobs throughout his life, including building and working as a milkman. In fact, during the 1974 floods John used his milk van to help stranded people by moving them and their belongings to safety. John was also a patriot. He was a proud serviceman and completed national service with the Army and Citizen Military Forces in 1953.

John joined the Australian Labor Party on 20 March 1964, spending almost 55 years as a party stalwart. He joined at a time when the Country Party had hit its stride. Guys such as John Burns joined the party during that time and helped to ensure the longevity and the strength of the Labor movement in the Ipswich region.

John spent his married life at Churchill, where he lived right to the end. He was a permanent fixture on the polling booth at Churchill State School and, along with Barry Wallace—another life member of the party, and friend and comrade—he had the best sign sites on Warwick Road. John was the kind of man who made places such as Ipswich what they are today.

John was born in Bundaberg and as a child moved to Ipswich with his family after his older brother, Tom, found work and love in Ipswich. Ninety-one-year-old Tom is a life member of the ALP and likewise lives in Churchill. Recently I learnt that, from a young age, John played Rugby League for Brothers, where he was honoured with life membership. He continued to coach the juniors as a volunteer when his sons were old enough to play. He was not one to sit quietly during the games. His son Michael told the story that, during one of his games, John was shouting instructions and encouraging the team from the sidelines when he was quite shocked to have a mother of an opposing player ram him with a pram.

John spent his youth drinking and fighting. He liked to reminisce that that was how he met the love of his life. A friend suggested that he take up boxing. It was through his boxing coach that he met his wife, Dell, who happened to be the coach's younger sister. John and Dell were married in 1962 and stayed together for over 50 years. He loved and supported Dell until she passed away from cancer about a year ago.

Together, John and Dell had seven children, 18 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One of their great joys was holidaying at Brunswick Heads. He and his wife fell in love with the river. Their extended family continue to spend their holidays at Brunswick Heads. John asked his children, who loved him so dearly, to scatter his and Dell's ashes on an incoming tide so that they could have one last trip up that river. On behalf of the Ipswich ALP members, I say thank you to John Burns. May you and Dell rest in peace together.

Mooloolaba Spit

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.36 pm): The Mooloolaba Spit is precious, particularly the end of the Spit which is publicly owned, fragile and well loved. I am calling on the state Labor government to rule out high-rises, to rule out overdevelopment and to rule out increasing the height above the town plan limits on the publicly owned land at the end of the Spit.

This government paid \$62,150 to consultants to investigate commercial options over the site. I have asked the transport minister, Mark Bailey, to give that guarantee in the parliament, but so far he has refused to do so, even though his department, under his watch, paid consultants to investigate commercial developments. I call on him to release the report by those consultants. Despite the government's weasel words trying to downplay concerns, the guarantee has not come. The report has not been released.

I will quote from the department's request for 'commercial advice' for Mooloolaba Spit, for which they paid over \$62,000. I will table that request in a moment. The document states—

An increased height limit and intensification of use has the potential to raise community concern and angst.

It also states—

TMR anticipates in order to attract private sector investment to activate the Site and implement the desired land use outcome, development will exceed the current height limits under the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014.

The document goes on to state—

Please note—Given the sensitive nature of the project TMR will not be facilitating site inspections.

Tabled paper: Department of Transport and Main Roads document, undated, titled 'Request for Quote: TMR04419 Commercial Advice for the Mooloolaba Spit Development Opportunity' [204].

This is not some leaked comment. It is an actual document of this government that shows that they were actively investigating the Spit and paying \$62,000 to a consultant to look at increased height limits and intensification of use in that precious area. They were looking at going over the current height limits in an area that is fragile. This is a government precinct. I fought successfully to have the water police relocated there. It is an area where you do need government services that are compatible with local industry and the opportunity to open up more public land. It is time that the redundant buildings were removed, but not overdevelopment and not changes that break the height limits in the area. The government must come clean with the people.

(Time expired)

Downer Maryborough, 150th Celebration

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.39 pm): It has been five years since the Palaszczuk government came to power and the great electorate of Maryborough has been moving forward since. Friday, 6 December was a fantastic day for the great city of Maryborough. It was the 150th celebration of Downer, which was formerly Walkers Ltd. There are not too many companies or manufacturing plants in this state or this country that have been around for 150 years.

It was a fantastic day. I would like to thank the Premier and the member for Miller, the transport minister, for coming up and mixing with the crew, the board, the general manager of Downer and the Queensland manager of Downer, Andrew Slawson. I thank Mayor George Seymour, Deputy Mayor Darren Everard and Councillors Truscott and Sanderson for being there. I also thank the AMWU that has played a major part in making sure this plant stays alive, in particular Rohan Webb and the head delegate at Downer Pete Kaleen.

It was a fantastic morning to celebrate a \$300 million contract that will keep this plant in work for the next 10 to 11 years. It will maintain in excess of 400 jobs in my community.

Ms Jones: Good jobs.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection. They are good jobs. They are hardworking people. This plant is the economic heartbeat of Maryborough city. The Palaszczuk Labor government has kept this Downer plant alive with contracts.

I thank the minister personally because a lot of work of his department and himself has gone into making sure this plant is kept alive. Downer in Maryborough is the world leader in rail manufacturing and maintenance. To see some of the work that they have turned out over the years makes me so proud to represent the men and women of Downer. When one walks through the Downer plant with the men and women there one sees their pride in the work that they are turning out. They turnout world-class work.

We only need to look at the tilt train. It travelled five million kilometres and they did not have to put a spanner on it. I wish I could get a car that would do five million kilometres without a spanner being put on it. One sees the pride of the men and women who are taking part in the NGR rectification work. That work was put together by the minister and the Premier and it is being done by a very proud Australian company at a Queensland manufacturing plant.

I thoroughly enjoyed mixing with the staff and walking around with the staff and the Premier and minister. We were talking to them and shared their optimism. Last week Downer put on a record number of apprentices. That is due to this Palaszczuk traditional Labor government.

Emu Swamp Dam

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise to speak about the Emu Swamp Dam project in my electorate of Southern Downs. It is a project that I have spoken about at length in this House. I wish I did not have to as we should have had it well under construction by now. We are talking about a project that will create 700 jobs on the Granite Belt—an area that has had a very tough time with the drought. We need the water security that comes from new water and not water pumped from someone else's supply. We need the jobs. We need prosperity and production on the Granite Belt.

Over 12 months ago the federal government put \$47 million on the table. The growers who are investing in this marvellous project put \$23.4 million on the table about 12 months ago. I was ashamed to hear the brazen falsehoods the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy uttered in the House this morning in saying that the state government is waiting for the federal government to stump up their funds.

That is untrue. The federal government has had its money on the table for over 12 months. The hold-up here is that the state government must sign the deed of grant. Without doing that there is no Emu Swamp Dam. I am ashamed of the politics that I have seen in association with this project. This project is vital for my community. It is vital for the interests of the local growers, the small businesses, the workers and the families in my electorate of Southern Downs. Without Emu Swamp Dam the Granite Belt cannot grow. The Granite Belt has been doing it very tough lately.

I urge the minister to stop the spin, stop the fibs and start getting on board with this major project. As I said, I was ashamed of the brazen falsehoods of the minister this morning in saying that the federal government has not stumped up its funds. It is the Queensland state government that is holding up this project. The state government owns the water resource. The state government owns the approvals. The state government has it within its power to grant or deny approval for this project.

I say to the minister who announced his \$13.6 million contribution six months ago: where are the state's approvals? Minister, where is the money for Emu Swamp Dam? My community are after it. They say to me every day, 'Where is Emu Swamp Dam? What is happening?' I have vowed to them that I would come down to parliament and raise a wind about this. Fighting for Southern Downs and fighting for Emu Swamp Dam is not a task for the faint of voice or faint of heart, but I am up to the task.

I am going to hold this government to account and make sure that Emu Swamp Dam is approved and make sure that the \$47 million that the federal government put on the table over 12 months ago is able to flow to the project. I will not allow this government to obfuscate and peddle falsehoods about the source of the funding from the federal government. The people in my community—the hardworking farmers, small businesses, workers and families—need this water. We need the water security. We need the jobs. The federal government has stumped up its \$47 million. The growers have put their \$23.4 million on the table. The state has not contributed anything.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Southern Downs, you actually used some unparliamentary language in your speech and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr LISTER: I withdraw.

Greenslopes Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.45 pm): Tomorrow is a really important day in the electorate of Greenslopes. We will be opening the new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. I can think of no two better people to have beside me at the moment than the former education minister, who was responsible for kicking this off, and the former principal of Cavendish Road State High School.

This hall is symbolic of the vast difference in the approach to education of the Palaszczuk Labor government to that of the rotten Newman government which we got rid of. They shut schools and they sacked teachers. What do we do? Last week we opened eight new schools and we have five more on the way next year. We have restored all those cut teachers. We have put a teacher aide into every prep classroom. We have increased the number of guidance officers. This hall symbolises all of that. The hall is important too because it symbolises the sort of person Campbell Newman was. This hall was promised to Greenslopes but the funding was taken away to build a hall in his own electorate. The previous member did not deserve that. The school community did not deserve that.

If this were the only piece of infrastructure that we were building and opening in my electorate, I would not be wasting the time of the House. The reality is that we have built infrastructure in so many government and non-government schools in my electorate. We have built new ovals at Coorparoo Secondary College and Nursery Road State Special School, which was particularly important for the former education minister. We have built new and refurbished classrooms at Coorparoo State School, Greenslopes State School, Holland Park State School and Nursery Road State Special School. We have built an outdoor learning centre at Seville Road State School and a new STEM centre of excellence at the great Whites Hill State School. Solar panels have been installed at Marshall Road State School and the Brisbane School of Distance Education. The list goes on and on. Trust me: I have a list that I am going to keep going on about with the Treasurer so we continue to invest in our schools.

If we want great schools, we have to invest in the people and then we have to invest in the infrastructure. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing. When I was elected I made a commitment to the people of Greenslopes that I would build community. The best way to start building community is to back one's local schools. They are the places where we turn out the leaders of tomorrow—the people who will build our community tomorrow. We have to make sure we have great and well-supported teachers and good, modern facilities for those people to work in.

I am pleased to be part of a government that recognises that and is backing local members like me to deliver things like this. The reality is that if we are going to build community then we have to back our local schools. What will happen is that life will be better for everybody who lives in my community. I back local schools and I build community, and I am glad to be part of a government that does it.

Drug Law Reform

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.48 pm): I, like many others, was excited and impressed last week to see the Queensland Productivity Commission recommend that cannabis and MDMA should be decriminalised and legalised within a health and regulatory framework. It was an incredibly courageous and trailblazing report for a government body. The commission joined Queensland's retired prison chief Keith Hamburger and retired AFP commissioner Mick Palmer in clearly acknowledging the fact that the war on drugs and locking people up for using drugs does not work. It does not make people safer, nor does it reduce drug use or supply.

Unfortunately both the LNP and the Premier immediately announced that they would not be listening to the experts and the countless families affected by drugs who want to see a new approach. Instead, they ruled out legalisation or any drug law reform. What is the point of commissioning a report if you are just going to ignore one of its key recommendations? I started to wonder whether the Premier even bothered reading this part of the report, so here are a few highlights.

The number of possession offences has quadrupled in Queensland since 2012. In 2018, we had 1,423 people locked up with drug charges as their most serious offence. That is more than 16 per cent of the total prison population in Queensland. For 313 of those people, possession or use was their most serious offence. In Queensland we imprison more than twice as many people for drug possession or use as the rest of Australia combined. We are responsible for 70 per cent of the national figure.

Even if you do not care about the undeniable and lasting harm that comes from contact with the prison system then maybe you should care about the wasted money. Queensland spends \$500 million a year just on drug law enforcement. The commission says the net benefits from decriminalisation of cannabis alone would be \$850 million. If we legalised and regulated cannabis and MDMA, we would take around \$4.3 billion out of the black market. In other words, we save money, we save lives and we put drug dealers out of business. Instead, they are wasting public money that could be invested in education, treatment, support and harm minimisation because they lack the political confidence to try something new.

Sixty-six per cent of Queensland's total drug spending goes on prohibition and enforcement compared to 21 per cent on treatment, 10 per cent on prevention and just three per cent on harm reduction. We are spending more money punishing people than helping them. It is past time that we began treating drugs as a health issue, not a criminal one.

I have spoken in the past about my personal experience, having seen loved ones of my own struggle with addiction. I am so sorry to anyone else who has been affected by this, and especially those who have lost a loved one, just because our lawmakers are stuck in a 1950s 'war on drugs' mentality. I am forever grateful to the people and organisations working to provide people with the help they need and the advocates who continue to fight for a sensible harm minimisation approach.

I will continue to support them including by calling for pill testing, safe injecting centres and legalisation, starting with cannabis. Once we achieve those aims, we will begin work to repair the damage, starting with expunging the criminal records of people previously convicted for possession or use of illegal drugs. I call on the Premier to listen to the experts, grow a spine and leave the war on drugs behind.

(Time expired)

Yarrabilba State Secondary College

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.51 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, it is great that you are in the chair today because as a former principal and teacher you know the value of education. As a former high school teacher myself, I have seen students transform through the process of education. I know that it makes a difference for families. I know that in my own family it has made an extraordinary difference. My father and mother were the first to see the extraordinary change that access to education makes. I know that because I am a product of this transformation.

Last week I was particularly proud of our community when we opened the brand-new Yarrabilba State Secondary College. It is fantastic to see this new institution and especially the new principal, Belinda Tregoe. It is an extraordinary place. Anyone in the brand-new growing suburb of Yarrabilba could take their children there and know that they have a world-class learning institution—something they can be extraordinarily proud of.

It has a fantastic new STEM centre and a new performing arts centre. It also has a great new double basketball court and hall and, of course, it is air conditioned. It is a fantastic new centre. It is everything that the Yarrabilba community deserves. It is also something that I fought for because we knew that Logan Village did not have a high school and that anyone in Logan Village or the nearby area of Stockleigh would have to travel 20 kilometres to get to a high school.

Southern Logan is a growth area and we have new communities. That is why I am really proud that the former education minister and the new education minister have built over 32 new classrooms and two new schools. We have also built the new STEM centre at Park Ridge State School. STEM should be a great focus for Queensland students as they prepare for the future. We built the SES centre at Flagstone. We have more to do at Park Ridge and Logan Reserve.

People may think that that is pretty standard for a growing area, but they would be disappointed to know that that area was growing just as fast during the three years of the LNP government, and how many classrooms were delivered during that period? The answer is zero new classrooms. Let us not forget that they axed 500 teaching positions, failing to meet growth. In growth areas that is what hits the hardest. That hurt the students in our growth area. It hurt those families who were looking forward to having their lives transformed through the power of education.

The choice is pretty clear. We need to keep the pressure on. We will not stop growing. We will not stop needing world-class services. We know that the Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to delivering those services. I am on the side of people who need those educational services. I will continue to fight for them. I will continue to deliver those services. I thank all of the fantastic students I met at Yarrabilba State Secondary College.

Sport

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.54 pm): Queensland has its own sports roorts happening under Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier, and Labor. It is the sporting clubs that operate in the electorates on this side of the House that are paying a hefty price. Under Labor it seems that

many of the clubs within non-Labor electorates have been destined for failure when it comes to securing grants and funding. An email addressed and sent to caucus members and EOs on 22 November 2019 reads—

In addition to the information previously supplied in the caucus pack on 24 October—

which obviously non-Labor MPs did not receive either—

please find below some further information to assist you in getting the best out of this program for your community. Organisations are being encouraged to work with you, as their local MP, to ensure projects are a priority for their community. With that in mind, if you have projects that are a priority for you that align with the objective of the Activate! Queensland and the ACI initiative, then please email the Sport and Recreation Partnerships Office at SR Infrastructure@npsr.qld.gov.au and you and your local club or organisation will receive a return unique EOI link.

I table a copy of the email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 November 2019, relating to expressions of interest for Round One of Active Community Infrastructure [205].

Compare this to the generic letter sent to MPs on this side of the House which failed to provide a unique EOI or failed to mention a unique EOI link. I table all the Activate! Queensland materials and a copy of the letter that all MPs received as well as the one only non-Labor MPs received.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding Activate! Queensland 2019-2029 [206].

None of the materials sent to our MPs has any mention of a unique link. LNP MPs had their requests to sport and recreation officials to progress club applications denied. They were not even afforded a unique link when they asked. The minister must provide a full breakdown of which projects received unique links to progress up the Activate! Queensland chain. The Premier must explain why she allowed this to take place since she would have been included in the email.

To add insult to injury, Minister de Brenni is grabbing the lion's share of sporting grants for his own electorate while the rest of us get a few handouts. I note that on the Queensland parliament website the minister proudly proclaims his associations with a number of clubs that have benefited from decisions in his own electorate such as the Rochedale Tigers Rugby League Football Club, Springwood Suns Cricket Club, Rochedale South Cricket Club, Slacks Creek Football Club and Logan Lightning Football Club, to name a few.

The minister must assure Queenslanders how he managed this conflict of interest. In the last financial year the minister's electorate received amongst the most funding in the state. Contrast this to sporting clubs in electorates like mine which received \$54,255 in the last financial year. Apart from Thuringowa, which benefits from the new Townsville stadium, the electorates with the least amount of cash being injected are Maroochydore, Glass House, Burleigh and Bonney. All are LNP held seats. I will be writing to the Auditor-General for investigation and potentially to the CCC as well. I table the minister's own newsletter which brags about what he has delivered for his own clubs.

Tabled paper: Newsletter from the member for Springwood, Hon. Mick de Brenni [207].

Pine Rivers Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.58 pm): School is back in session for 2020, and there is some fantastic news in the electorate of Pine Rivers. My community has seen such a significant investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government over the Christmas break into our learning spaces. I will update the House on that today. Bray Park State School has a refurbished block D. On the very first day of school I got to visit the preppies in block D. Upgrading that classroom was almost a \$400,000 investment. It is cool and it is a wonderful learning space for those preppies.

At Pine Rivers State High School work is ongoing to install a lift and equitable footpath spaces to make sure that that space is accessible to all in the community. A big project there is the refurbishing of the canteen which we are making a significant contribution to—over \$700,000.

I got to check out Strathpine State School just days before school commenced. I understand they finished the works there. There was over \$300,000 worth of works to refurbish block G which is fantastic for the grade 5s and 6s. The Pine Rivers Special School has seen a significant investment in upgrading, with work underway on a \$250,000 project to deliver the refurbishment and equitable assessment amenities to block D including new floor coverings, plumbing works, modifications to wall petitions, a new change table, a ceiling hoist and an internal repaint.

A contract has been awarded for a \$9.7 million build that will double the new school building we invested in a couple of years ago, delivering eight learning spaces and two specialist learning spaces. It is scheduled to be completed at the end of this year. At Bray Park State High School construction of

a new building will shortly be underway. It will include four general learning spaces and four specialist learning spaces. These are terrific outcomes that will provide purpose-built learning spaces for our students to achieve their best.

All of the schools in Pine Rivers will become 'cool schools'. We have already seen Dayboro State School finish their air-conditioning project. I am off to Mount Sampson State School tomorrow, but contracts have been awarded at Pine Rivers State High School, Bray Park State High School, Strathpine State School, Bray Park State School and Samford State School to install air conditioning in every learning space in the state schools in my community. We know that better concentration and better learning outcomes will come from these facilities in our classrooms. It is fantastic to deliver that.

I particularly want to acknowledge our wonderful P&Cs for the work they have done in tackling this and taking a big chunk out of the number of learning spaces that need to be done. Welcome back to the school year.

Police Station

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.01 pm): I rise this afternoon to share some good news for my electorate, particularly the communities of Cooloom, Peregrin Springs, Peregrin Breeze and surrounding suburbs, and of course our local police. In the late 2000s, about a dozen years ago when I was transferred to the Sunshine Coast as a police officer, the Cooloom police worked out of a demountable police station in the middle of Cooloom. At that time they were promised it was a temporary facility and that a new facility would eventually be constructed. In the subsequent 12 years the population of Cooloom and surrounding suburbs like Peregrin Springs and Peregrin Breeze have exploded and crime has risen too. Unfortunately, our police still work in a temporary demountable facility which has not really provided them with the resources and facilities they need to police our area.

When I transferred from policing to parliament, I pledged to my police colleagues and the community that I would continue to fight to see a proper police station for Cooloom eventually come to fruition. It is an issue that I have continued to rattle the cage for even before I got here and in the whole time since I have been here. Last year, after many years of waiting, I was happy to see \$2.8 million in the last budget allocated for the construction of a new police station at Cooloom. The good news I want to share with everyone here today and anyone else who may be listening is that construction on the new Cooloom Police Station is due to commence next week. Badge Constructions has won the tender to construct the complex and the \$2.8 million will begin to be spent. Hopefully, the new facility will be delivered by the end of this year just in time for the busy festive season, which is obviously peak time for police and emergency services.

I am looking forward to that. At the moment there are about 25 police officers working out of the demountable station and, as you could imagine, they have been hanging off the rafters. Our police require proper first-class facilities. They need holding cells for violent offenders. They obviously need gun safes and exhibit facilities as well which they have obviously struggled to have in their temporary facility. Hopefully, as of next week we will see soil turned, we will see excavators and we will see construction on the new police station commence. It is long overdue, and I would like to acknowledge all of our local hardworking police. As we have heard in this place before, the police budget is down, particularly per capita. Crime is up, particularly on the Sunshine Coast, but in other areas like the Gold Coast and Townsville crime is out of control. I want to acknowledge the hard work that our police do. I look forward to later this year when our new police station is finished and our police have the facilities they deserve.

Bancroft Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.04 pm): I am very pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government is about to start two road infrastructure projects in Deception Bay. We are about to commence an upgrade of the Morris Road intersection at one end of Deception Bay Road, and at the other end we are going to start initial works for the \$150 million Deception Bay Road overpass. The Morris Road intersection upgrade is a \$6 million project that will widen the intersection to three lanes either way and build a new bike link to the Rothwell station. That builds on the \$37.5 million Rothwell intersection project, of which we funded 60 per cent after the federal government reneged on their 60 per cent. We will soon see orange shirts and yellow machines down at the interchange next to the highway. This overpass over the highway is an 80-20 funded project with the federal government. I thank the member for Morayfield and the member for Kurwongbah for their help in getting this. It will be great for all of our areas.

This is in very stark contrast to what the LNP delivered last time they were in government. The LNP's record in Deception Bay was woeful. They promised to deliver the Deception Bay bus station over two budgets but they never did. When I got there, all there was were two pop-up pergolas on the road. In 12 months we delivered that project and we did it \$800,000 under budget. That is just the start of what Labor has delivered for Deception Bay roads. Since 2015 we have done \$11 million worth of projects on Deception Bay Road, including the Morris Road project, compared to just \$369,000 worth of projects done on Deception Bay Road by the LNP in their term.

We see that contrast all over the state. Across Queensland, the Palaszczuk government has delivered \$14.8 billion for road and transport projects. We are tackling congestion and supporting local jobs. What is the LNP's record on jobs? They cut \$600 million from road funding. They wasted more than \$30 million of road funding on preparing Queensland ports to be sold. They cut 1,000 jobs from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which was 22 per cent of the department. They cut 1,000 jobs from RoadTek and \$30 million in annual funding from the TIDS program.

Why is it that Labor can keep on delivering these projects in Deception Bay? Because we provide good economic management. I know that those opposite do not want to hear that. We are on track to deliver five budget surpluses. I wonder what the Prime Minister of Australia would like to do with that kind of record. Our debt is lower than the LNP left it, and we are keeping the economy bubbling along with a \$49.5 billion infrastructure pipeline.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 28 November 2019 (see p. 3980), on motion of Mr Russo—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 47, 56th Parliament, titled *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 2: 2017-18: Managing the mental health of Queensland police employees*, tabled on 20 September 2019.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.07 pm): Growing up I thought I was destined to become a PE teacher, but after a chance meeting with our local sergeant at a careers night my life followed a very different path. I applied to join the Queensland Police Service and was lucky enough to secure one of 100 cadet positions that year. As a 17-year-old, my days at the police academy were some of the best and worst days of my life. The instructors constantly challenged us and we often felt like we were at breaking point. We depended on one another to get through each day with words of encouragement. I made lifelong friends in the police academy and in my 23 years as a police officer that followed. Many of my mates are still out there protecting our state some 30 years on. Others, like me, have moved on to serve our communities in other ways.

In April 2002 I was appointed lead detective on the murder case of British backpacker Caroline Stuttle. After a long, intense 10-month investigation we finally identified the murderer. After working on Caroline's case every day for almost a year, the day the culprit was found guilty was one of the best in my 23-year career as a copper. It was also the moment I realised that life in the service was starting to take its toll. I had missed a lot of time not spent with my family, including my young daughter's first words and first steps. I stepped down from my role as detective and took on the position of branch manager at the Bundaberg PCYC, helping young people find their way and working with them to break down the barriers between kids and cops.

Life as a police officer was tough. Do not get me wrong: I loved it and thought I would be a copper until I retired, but there were times that were really challenging. As a police officer, you work long, irregular hours. You are confronted with situations etched in your minds forever and you miss out on a lot of your social and family life. It was after I began in the PCYC role that I began to realise just how important it is to look after your mental health. I should have seen the signs earlier. For most of my service in Bundaberg, I was the police union rep and a peer support officer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BATT: And I am proud to be wearing the police union tie today as well. I was trained to see the signs and to support my colleagues through tough moments in their lives, both through work and in their private lives. Mental health problems are the third biggest health problem in Australia behind heart disease and cancer. They can affect anyone and their effect on the sufferer and the people around them can be very serious. The World Health Organization defines mental health as 'a state of wellbeing in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can

work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to his or her community'. The stigma of mental health in the Police Service has most certainly evolved over the years to a culture where peer support officers, human service officers and your mates look out for you. It is a culture where officers from all ranks are starting to speak openly about their problems and support one another, which is fantastic news.

During its investigation, the Audit Office reported that first responders to emergencies and critical incidents—our police, paramedics and firefighters—are more susceptible to mental health illnesses than the general population because of the nature of their work. In the report, the Audit Office stated that, while police do have certain measures in place to monitor and manage the mental health of their employees and to prevent mental illness, they are not always effective. The Audit Office made six recommendations, all of which the QPS is working to implement or has already implemented.

Policing at its core is a people service. It is about people interacting with other people. As I mentioned earlier and from my own experience, I know that at times these interactions occur in emotive, tense, distressing and challenging circumstances and any one or an accumulation of these interactions can negatively affect the mental health and wellbeing of our police. We must look out for each other and ask one another 'R U OK?' and we must continue to work with entities like the Queensland Police Service to ensure we are doing everything we can to ensure good mental health for all Queenslanders regardless of their work.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.12 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak on the summary of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's examination of the Queensland Audit Office report titled *Managing the mental health of Queensland police employees*. Before I discuss the report, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a former colleague and friend who tragically took his own life the day before Christmas Eve back in 2015. Detective Senior Constable Russell Sheenan was not only a first-class detective but a first-class human. He had a long documented history and struggle with depression caused by his extensive work in the child abuse unit and he was also one of the first officers to attend the tragic Childers backpacker fire where 15 people lost their lives back in 2000. He had sought help numerous times and had tried hard to shake the black dog but eventually it got too much for him to bear. He left behind his loving wife, Kathryn, and his four kids Amy, Kaitlyn, Lara and Eden.

Tragically, Russell was not the first and, sadly, he will not be the last police officer to take their own life. There is not enough time here this afternoon for me to list all the former friends and colleagues I have lost over the years. I still remember the day when a former colleague Detective Sergeant Belinda Cush took her own life with her gun while at work.

The objective of the QAO was to determine whether the QPS is effective in preventing mental illness and monitoring and managing the mental health of its employees. The QAO determined that there were six crucial areas that needed improvement. The QAO recommended that the QPS better coordinates and enhances its staff wellbeing and mental health support services and information within a clear strategy and integrated framework; acts to understand and address the mistrust of some employees in its current mental health frameworks and support services; improves how it designs, coordinates, delivers and records its mental health training; assesses options for screening employees prior to them leaving the service, and for enhancing post-service support; develops processes and measures for analysing its data for trends and to assess the effectiveness of support services so they can be continuously improved; and improves the consistency and coverage of mental health screening and monitoring.

In response to the committee's most recent request for a progress report, then Police Commissioner Ian Stewart wrote—

The Queensland Police Service has worked on all six recommendations, with recommendations either finalised and implemented, or near finalisation with implementation subject to the availability of resourcing.

Therein lies the biggest challenge. The QPS have demonstrated their support for change. Now they just need the resourcing to make it actually happen. A metamorphosis is not going to happen by itself. This government is great at filling shelves with reports and strategies and placating the electorate with platitudes and promises. It will take a lot more than that for long-lasting cultural change to be achieved.

Beyond Blue conducted a national survey of the mental health and wellbeing of police and emergency services and published the results in a report titled *Answering the call* in 2018. The report reflects the voices and experience of 21,000 serving and former employees and volunteers from 33 police, fire, ambulance and state emergency services. *Answering the call* reports that respondents have higher rates of psychological distress, higher rates of diagnosis of mental health conditions and higher rates of suicidal thinking and planning than the general adult population.

In closing, I would like to quote former Labor prime minister the Hon. Julia Gillard AC, the current chair of Beyond Blue. She said—

Creating a mentally healthy workplace requires authentic commitment and sustained effort and resourcing. It requires valuing mental health equally with physical health and occupational and public safety.

Now we just need this Labor government to honour their former federal leader's words and put their money where their mouth is.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.16 pm): During my maiden speech to this House, I said that being a former police officer of 30 years I have a passion for the mental health of police officers. I noted at the time that policing is a job where you put your brain through much more than a human is designed to cope with. I also noted that a professional athlete puts their body through more than it was designed to withstand and as a result they undergo regular training, rehabilitation and specialised care for injury. Injury is expected and managed as a part of their profession, and so should it be with policing. Their mental health should be managed individually and carefully right throughout their career. I made a pledge to advocate for improvements in this parliament, and today's debate on this report affords me an opportunity to do that.

In 1989 I was sworn in to the Queensland Police Service, a few days after the Fitzgerald report was handed down. It was a tumultuous time and a time of sweeping changes right throughout the organisation. The service at that time had a culture of toughing it out against any mental health issues. It had a culture of shunning those who took sick leave for mental health issues, commonly known as 'going out on stress'. Those suffering were more often than not assumed to be gaming the system or going for a payout. It carried a stigma. As a result of that culture, people were reluctant to admit issues or seek help.

I recall being a part of that culture and I recall being a part of the problem. I had my own preconceived view of those who 'went out on stress' as somehow trying to dodge work or take an easy way out. That was until it happened to me—until I started having my own issues. I grew to learn very quickly that post-traumatic stress and anxiety were a very real and very debilitating mental illness. I started having daily anxiety at work, shaking, dizziness and what I can only describe as regular feelings of terror for no reason. I wondered what was wrong with me but there was no way that I was going to admit I had any issue to the human services officer or seek help because that would have tarred my reputation and been a career stopper.

I was a detective and we were supposed to be unperturbed by violent scenes but every day I dreaded what I might have to attend. Instead of seeking help I sought a way out. Thankfully for me, I found it with the PCYC. It allowed me to perform more community focused work which was an escape from what became the horrors of policing to me.

Eventually after many years I did finally speak to one of the great human services officers in the district who unpacked for me what was going on in my head and I realised it was all too common. That is why my interest in this report is focused on the regular monitoring of mental health of police officers that is suggested in the audit. I see we have now moved to the regular monitoring of some policing jobs considered to be high risk, but there is not yet regular, compulsory monitoring of general duties officers, who I would contend are probably at the highest risk. This is noted in the report as difficult 'due to resourcing'. I would suggest that we need to find the resources necessary or put systems in place to ensure that all frontline police officers are seen by a mental health professional at least annually.

I know some of my former colleagues disagree with my view on this, but if it were compulsory that would take the stigma out of seeking help as it would include everybody. The officers would then get the assistance they need to identify issues early and strategies to look after their mental health before things get too bad. I lost quite a few friends, as the member for Ninderry also mentioned, over the years who tragically took their own life. I will do whatever I can in this place to stop that happening, help people get the help they need and advocate for improvements in police mental health. I urge both sides of the House to take a bipartisan approach to ensuring the mental wellbeing of our police and all our emergency service workers right across Queensland. I look forward to continuing to monitor the progress that the Queensland Police Service is making in that regard.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.21 pm): I have spoken in this place many times about the struggles that I and many veterans have experienced in relation to PTSD, depression and other mental health conditions. I spoke in my maiden speech in this place of the mental health challenges that exist for our defence and emergency services personnel and of the need to spread awareness. Such issues are a well acknowledged problem, but sadly as a society we still too often see our veterans, police and other emergency service workers take their own life.

I commend my fellow parliamentary colleagues who have shown the courage to stand up and talk about their own mental health battles. In particular I would like to recognise the brave contribution of my friend the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt. It is human nature to try to shut out the memories of dark periods in our life. It takes courage to stand up here in the public eye and that is a testament to the member for Nicklin's character.

I often wrestle with how best to address mental health challenges across society as a whole. We know that things have improved. There is more community awareness of the issues, those affected are more inclined to seek help now than they ever have been and arguably employers are more understanding. Yet we still have so much room to improve. People are still taking their own life.

It is heartening to see the Queensland Audit Office taking an interest in the issue of managing the mental health of our Queensland Police Service personnel. The response from the Police Commissioner provides some comfort to me that there is a degree of attention on the issue of mental health for our police officers.

Arguably, the mental health challenges that many of our police face are even greater than those faced by our defence personnel. Our police live and work in the same community that they police. My own wife, Anna, served as a police officer in Cairns and on the Sunshine Coast. Many times at the end of a day I would know she was affected by the things that she had seen and then would have to go back out into the same community where she had witnessed those incidents during the day. We know from our fellow members' contributions that the job takes a toll on every single police officer.

The Queensland Police Service has much work to do to improve their support of officers and all employees who suffer from mental health challenges. The recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office report are a good start. I note that the Police Commissioner in his response indicated that the identified improvements will have been implemented by now. Much needs to be done and it is incumbent on all of us in this place to make sure that those improvements occur. I for one will be watching.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (3.24 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Report No. 48, 56th Parliament, titled *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 3: 2018-19: Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*, tabled on 20 September 2019.

The Queensland Audit Office conducted an independent audit into whether the Queensland government's shared service providers are delivering value for money now and also whether these shared service providers are positioned to successfully deliver into the future. The Auditor-General's report explained that shared service providers are those that—

... typically deliver processes that can be centralised, standardised, and automated. They aim to achieve efficiencies by simplifying processes or building expertise that means services can be delivered with less resources than its customers could do individually.

This expertise could be through sharing human resources, sharing procurement, sharing technology processes or even sharing financial applications. The shared service providers in this report were Queensland Shared Services, the Corporate Administrative Agency and the Business and Corporate Partnership. Customers of these service providers were also approached for feedback on their interactions.

The Queensland Audit Office looked at whether shared services are delivered effectively and efficiently. They found that when customers became aware of the benefits that arose—and these benefits either made their work easier or provided a reduction in costs—then customer satisfaction increased. Customers of these service providers also needed to be aware of the impact of their actions and how their own actions could contribute or even detract from effective and efficient service delivery.

The Queensland Audit Office determined that it was important for the providers of the shared services to have an in-depth and thorough knowledge of all components of the costs of delivery of services. The conclusions of the Queensland Audit Office revealed there are still benefits to be realised from the shared corporate services models. The service providers examined under this report demonstrated an ability to deliver improved services, especially when their services were consolidated, standardised and automated.

There were 11 recommendations in the Queensland Audit Office report. Recommendations by the Queensland Audit Office commenced with a recommendation that the Department of Housing and Public Works take a lead role in initiating and preparing a proposal for a cross-agency governance arrangement including monitoring performance, promoting collaboration and developing cultural change agenda of the Queensland government's shared corporate services. It was recommended that the Public Service Commission be engaged with all government agencies in the planning, support and management of corporate service employees affected by automation.

Recommendations for the shared corporate service providers focused on each service providing a clear strategy; an understanding of the full cost per service; establishment and monitoring of standards; clear definitions of standards to allow for transparent comparisons across agencies; transparent pricing strategy; formalised agreements with customers; and shared corporate strategies aligning business services, technologies and people management across government.

Common to all customers of these shared service providers were recommendations for the need for quality inputs into processes to support effectual processing; the need to apply a whole-of-government analysis when considering the effect—

(Time expired)

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.30 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report on Queensland Audit Office report No. 3 of 2018-19 titled *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*. I acknowledge my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: the members for Lockyer, Mirani, Toohey, Macalister and Mansfield. I also acknowledge the assistance of the Queensland Audit Office and its officers, the then acting auditor-general Ms Daniele Bird and her staff, for appearing before us in April last year to fill us in on the work they have been doing in this field.

In a world where the cost and size of government is rising, it is very important that we go down the pathway of minimising the costs of the administration of government. Every dollar invested in administration is a dollar not invested in the patient, the policeman or the teacher. That is something on which we all agree. It was interesting to see the Queensland Audit Office's findings looking into the success of shared corporate services in Queensland. The office found that customers became increasingly satisfied with their shared corporate service provider as technology makes their work easier or costs cheaper. The office also found that providers needed a better understanding of what are the costs of providing their services. In a way, the Audit Office is quite right, because if you want to embark on efficiencies and focus the dollars on the front line then you really need to be able to see where you are spending elsewhere.

The conclusions of the Auditor-General were that there is benefit in the shared corporate services model but that, over time, a vision for Queensland shared corporate services and customers' confidence in the benefits it can deliver have started to fade. Because of this, customers are making decisions in silos which will limit the benefits that can be achieved at the whole-of-government level. There needs to be constant awareness and vigilance of the shared corporate services in order to ensure the model remains a winner.

The Queensland Audit Office made a number of recommendations. The Department of Housing and Public Works, in consultation with central agencies, should prepare a vision, strategy, principles and a proposal for the government's agreement. The Department of Housing and Public Works, with Queensland Treasury, proposes options for a revenue and investment model for shared corporate service delivery in Queensland. Of course, that is a way that ensures the customers of those services appreciate them, because they must contribute to the cost of delivering them.

The Public Service Commission worked with agencies to ensure they can plan, support and manage the impact of automation on corporate services. The providers better define, measure and price services and formalise agreements with their customers. Customers should commit to shared service effectiveness through quality input, collaboration and communication, consideration of whole-of-government implications, and monitoring of provider performance. Lastly, agencies should work together to develop and align shared service technology and workforce strategies. That all seems very sensible to me.

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Toohey. We see eye to eye on that. I caution all members that, when we are spending money, we spend taxpayers' money. The role of government is to run hospitals, schools, police and so forth. It behoves us all to

monitor costs and always to seek the most efficient way to deliver services. In principle, shared corporate services has my support. The Audit Office's report was interesting in showing how the benefits can fade if we are not vigilant, but I am sure the minister and the department will take these things on board and look closely at how they perform in future.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak to the House as we consider Queensland Audit Office report No. 3 titled *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*. The Queensland Audit Office handed down its third report of the 2018-19 period, which examined the status of shared corporate services. This report was tabled on 27 September 2019. In examining the report, the committee held a meeting with the then acting auditor-general to discuss issues raised in the report.

To provide context to members, shared services are agencies that deliver centralised, standardised and automated services to a range of departments and organisations. These agencies achieve efficiencies by simplifying and centralising expertise so that customer organisations can reduce their administrative overheads. Examples of services that can be shared include finance, procurement and human resources.

A survey by Deloitte found that an organisation or organisations, both private and public, can achieve annual savings of up to eight per cent on these costs. Shared corporate service providers in Queensland include agencies like Queensland Shared Services, CITEC, the Public Safety Business Agency and even the Queensland Parliamentary Service. These are four agencies of which I now have the privilege of being an end user.

I make the point that the use of the term 'customers' throughout the document refers to the government departments or organisations that use the shared services framework—not the end users. That is not the employees who are administered by the agencies. This is very important when looking at the satisfaction levels from the audit.

What were the key takeaways of the audit? First, the Queensland Audit Office found that customer satisfaction with shared corporate service providers that implemented increasing technology that makes their work easier or costs cheaper was increasing. Conversely, customers who had not seen improvements in their processes or systems or lower costs over time were clearly less satisfied.

One aspect that the Audit Office encountered concerned shared service providers having very little capacity to place a dollar value on the services they provide. This would then impede the ability to drive further improvements and efficiencies, that is, the financial imperative could not be clearly identified. This was highlighted in the context that, when an upgrade to a service or a change of practice is proposed, there is no dollar value allocated to the current process, so it is then difficult to determine the savings to be achieved in further improvements. This means that those further potential cost cuts could not necessarily be passed on to the customer. This also makes it difficult for an organisation to compare shared corporate service agencies in terms of value for money.

From the audit there were 11 recommendations, of which the Department of Housing and Public Works was listed as the lead agency in most cases. The department was considered best placed to lead the government response to this audit because it hosts two of the largest shared corporate services in QSS and CITEC and hosts other cross-government service providers within its portfolio. It hosts the Government Shared Services Customer Board, is responsible for whole-of-government technology and is leading the digital agenda for the Queensland government.

Following its meeting with the Queensland Audit Office the committee wrote to the relevant government departments identified as having a role in implementing the audit recommendations, requesting an update on the implementation of those recommendations. The Department of Housing and Public Works, named in nine of the 11 recommendations, advised the committee that five of the recommendations had already been delivered and that the final four recommendations were on track to be completed by the agreed implementation date. I can report to the House that the last of those implementation dates was 31 December last year, although it is important to note that recommendations 5 and 11 are ongoing recommendations and involve multiple departments. I commend the Queensland Audit Office for its report and for its work in this area.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.38 pm): I stand today to speak on the committee report examining *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*. I take the opportunity to thank our committee: the members for Toohey, Mansfield, Macalister and Mirani and, of course, my colleague the member for Southern Downs and deputy chair. I also thank the committee secretariat for their invaluable work.

The committee held a private briefing on 1 April with Ms Daniele Bird, then acting auditor-general, to discuss the audit report in detail. The committee then wrote to 13 agencies to extend the depth and breadth of its examination—from Agriculture and Fisheries all the way through to the Premier's department. Whilst there was a broad examination, the general nature of the report is designed to give a high-level understanding of the effectiveness. I will go into some interpretation of that.

The audit assessed whether—this is key—the Queensland government's shared service providers are delivering value for money now and whether they are positioned to successfully deliver it into the future. The audit focused on Queensland Shared Services, the Corporate Administration Agency, and Business and Corporate Partnership. Across Queensland there are other shared service providers in CITEC, the Public Safety Business Agency, the Queensland Parliamentary Service and the Department of Health. The Audit Office also engaged with the customers—namely, the departments—of these shared corporate service providers to get a general understanding to determine effectiveness and address that question of value for money.

The report explains that shared service providers typically deliver processes that can be centralised, standardised and automated. Of course, they aim to achieve efficiencies by simplifying processes or building expertise that means services can be delivered with less resources than its customers could do individually. The audit report also noted that shared services generate economies of scale by delivering more and/or better outputs from less.

The audit report did outline some reservations and restrictions. It found that customers became increasingly satisfied with their shared corporate service provider as technology made their work easier and costs cheaper, but it relied on those customers being aware of that. When you are sitting beside or working in the same office as someone you get to see what they are doing, but when they are working in another office or building sometimes it becomes a little clunky. I think that is the interpretation we should make of a number of points made in the audit report.

The audit report found that providers need to improve their understanding of what it costs to deliver each different service. Again, when it is being done by a third party in a different office, sometimes that value proposition is lost. The audit report also found that customers need to understand how their actions can contribute to and detract from effective and efficient shared services. That makes common sense. A lot of the time, people's relationships in the workplace contribute to that efficiency or inefficiency, and a lot of work needs to happen in that place to get that shared ownership of their collective goal.

My observation is simply that a lot of work still needs to be done, particularly in the ownership and understanding of the valued work being done by the shared service provider. I am encouraged that there are 11 recommendations made in the report. That in itself says that there is a lot of work to be done to make shared service providers as efficient as they possibly can be. I commend the Auditor-General on the report. We look forward to further efficiencies so that Queenslanders get proper value for money from their Public Service.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (3.43 pm): The Queensland Audit Office forms a key part of the Palaszczuk government's integrity and accountability agenda. Report No. 48 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee captures the Queensland Audit Office report *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*. The report notes the dutiful work of the Queensland Audit Office.

The audit assessed whether the Queensland government's shared service providers are delivering value for money now and whether they are positioned to successfully deliver into the future. The QAO audited the following shared service providers: Queensland Shared Services, the Corporate Administration Agency, and Business and Corporate Partnership. The QAO also engaged with customers of these shared corporate service providers.

Shared service providers typically deliver processes that can be centralised, standardised and automated—very important for a big government. They aim to achieve efficiencies by simplifying processes or building expertise that means services can be delivered with less resources than its customers could do individually. Examples of services that are often shared are finance, procurement, human resources and technology processes. The QAO report also notes that shared services generate economies of scale by delivering more and/or better outputs from less or the same amount of resources. In addition to the three shared service providers audited by the QAO, other shared service providers in Queensland include CITEC, the Public Safety Business Agency, the Queensland Parliamentary Service and the Department of Health.

The QAO found that customers became increasingly satisfied with their shared corporate service provider as technology makes their work easier or costs cheaper. The QAO also found that providers need to improve their understanding of what it costs to deliver each service. This includes understanding all components and costs, including where public ownership supports or detracts from cost-effective service delivery.

The QAO made 11 recommendations in its report. The Auditor-General report concluded that there is still significant benefit to be realised from the shared corporate services model that exists within the Queensland government. Additionally, the Auditor-General report noted that shared service providers have demonstrated their ability to deliver improved services when they consolidate, standardise and automate offerings. This is typical for any large business and certainly delivers similar outcomes in the private sector. All of the relevant agencies agreed with the recommendations and by July 2019 most of the recommendations had been completed by the relevant agency or were ongoing. I congratulate these agencies on their commitment to this cultural change. I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.46 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak on the Queensland Audit Office report No. 3 titled *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*. I thank the members of the committee and acknowledge the ongoing support of the secretariat.

The outcomes recommended by the Queensland Audit Office are rather brief but have significant financial implications. The Auditor-General report concluded that there are still significant benefits to be realised from shared corporate services. The Auditor-General report noted that shared service providers have demonstrated their ability to deliver improved services when they consolidate, standardise and automate offerings. However, the Auditor-General report raised caution about customers making decisions within silos, which limits the benefits that can be achieved by government.

The Queensland Audit Office made 11 recommendations, with directions to the Department of Housing and Public Works, Queensland Treasury and the Public Service Commission to review agreements and improve planning. In summing up, the Queensland Audit Office recommended that agencies work together and share information. Ultimately, the taxpayer is on the hook for the cost of government. I have no doubt that all Queenslanders would be keen to see that every government agency seeks to be as efficient as possible with the resources taxpayers provide.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Report, Motion to Take Note

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

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 49, 56th Parliament, titled *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 5: 2018-19: Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*, tabled on 20 September 2019.

In speaking about a report on bushfires, I thought it would be important to note what recently happened in the summer of 2019-20. There were 33 people killed, including nine firefighters. There was an estimated 11 million hectares burnt and the destruction of over 3,000 homes. It is estimated that one billion wildlife have been killed. Thousands of people were forced to leave their homes and 3,000 Army Reservists were called out to assist. The environmental impacts of these bushfires include an estimated 350 million tonnes of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere; reduced air quality due to excess smoke for cities including Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra for various durations over the summer; and plumes of smoke have travelled up to 7,000 miles around the world, impacting New Zealand and South America.

In relation to the audit report, one of the things that has become obvious is that a lot has moved on since that report. Essentially there has been great progress made in relation to how the Queensland fire service deals with alerting people to impending danger, and I think a lot of that was played out up in Peregian. Whilst this report perhaps can be seen to be somewhat dated, what is important is that this has always been a moving feast, for want of a better analogy. For example, with regard to losses in Victoria in the Black Saturday bushfires—which were recorded as being the most devastating before the most recent events—173 people lost their lives during those bushfires. The human toll from bushfires in Australia has somewhat compounded each year since this first report was implemented.

There is no doubt that managing bushfires is a vital part of protecting our communities and maintaining our environmental habitats. Local governments in Queensland are primarily responsible for managing disaster events at the community level, and this responsibility comes from the Disaster

Management Act itself. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is the primary provider of fire and emergency services in Queensland as set out in the Fire and Emergency Services Act. In 2017 one disturbing factor reported by the Queensland police and Fire and Emergency Services was that up to 50 per cent of bushfires in Australia are deliberately lit or started under suspicious circumstances. The Climate Institute reported that the total insured loss from bushfires in 2012-13 was \$5.6 billion.

The Queensland Audit Office examined whether Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has effectively implemented the recommendations that were made back then. The *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness* report includes a detailed review and analysis of work undertaken by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services against the original audit recommendations. This examination assessed the actions taken by QFES since the original report addressed the underlying issues that led to the recommendations.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.54 pm): I also rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 5 of 2018-19 on the Queensland Audit Office report titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. This QAO audit is really a follow-up on an original audit that it had undertaken which was tabled in 2014 to see how we were going with bushfire preparedness, particularly in light of lessons learnt from the Victorian bushfire royal commission inquiry, the *Malone review into Rural Fire Services in Queensland* in 2013 and the police and community safety review of 2013.

The audit found that QFES needs to strengthen its role as the lead agency in mitigating bushfire risk in Queensland. When I look at the recommendations that stem from that original report, I note things such as there needs to be coordination of land managers' efforts to assess and mitigate bushfire risk; there needs to be formalisation of the role of fire management groups to manage Queensland's fuel loads, including reporting planned and conducted hazard reduction burns and the effectiveness of hazard reduction burns; and amending its bushfire mitigation planning to address prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to manage Queensland's residual bushfire risk. It goes on with other recommendations.

When I hear those things, I hear a warning voice in my ear saying, 'We've been here before.' When I go around as the member for Southern Downs there are a great number of my constituents who raise with me concerns about those very matters—the accumulation of bushfire fuel in crown lands, the difficulties of getting permits and the difficulties of managing their own properties when they are next to crown land, inevitably full of bushfire fuel and besieged with pigs, dogs, boxthorn and all sorts of things. In fact, I was induced by my constituents to run a parliamentary petition on this very matter last year and 700 of my fellow Southern Downs constituents agreed with me that more needed to be done by the state government, particularly in relation to its function as a neighbour. It is well known in the bush that the Queensland government is a poor neighbour to have in terms of fencing and cross-contamination of biohazards and bushfire fuel loads, so I am glad to see that we have revisited the report of 2014.

The difficulty I see is that there are two levels of understanding. There is the professional department that has the best of intentions and very good people, but there are also the firefighters and the community people on the ground. In my observations in many cases they are in fundamental disagreement about how some bushfires ought to be managed and how we ought to prepare for them. I would just caution the House that just because a lot of work has been done to mitigate bushfire risks it is always necessary to reflect to those on the ground—those who have fought bushfires for, in many cases, many years or generations who know their patch and understand how the fires behave and have a corporate memory of how bushfire fuel loads and so forth were in years gone by. I think that there is some of that missing.

I do hear angry complaints from constituents that their voices appear not to be heard in these matters. As a member of the Severnlea West Rural Fire Brigade, the guys in that brigade who go out and fight the fires tell me that they feel that more can be done. I commend the report to the House. I think it is good to be vigilant and to have constant oversight of these matters. I note that more can be done, and in particular I would highlight to the House the 10-point plan, which I completely support, by the LNP for bushfire risk management.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.58 pm): Bushfire management is a dynamic, fast-evolving and ever-changing area. With each disaster we learn; with every technological advancement we learn. It is for this reason that QFES considers the Queensland Audit Office report No. 10 closed. This report was based on the Black Friday bushfires that ravaged Victoria in 2009. That was 11 years ago in a different state. Much has changed in 11 years. In 2009 Nokia mobile phones were using 2G and they were the most popular on the market.

Only one in 10 people had an iPhone. I was working as a paramedic in Mareeba and the concept of a coordinated emergency services body was still four years away from becoming the QFES that we know today.

QFES's ability to prepare for and respond to bushfires has progressed well beyond what was recommended five years ago. We always strive for best practice, because the safety of all Queenslanders relies on it, but the reality is that a number of the QAO recommendations are no longer considered best practice. In terms of predictive intelligence and fire behaviour modelling tools, QFES has well exceeded the QAO report. Our fire behaviour analysts now use cutting-edge programs such as Phoenix and Sabre to simulate and analyse active blazes. If there is any question as to the effectiveness of these tools, one only needs to look at the firefighting efforts at Gracemere in 2018, efforts described by IGEM as exceptional.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crawford, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 9 of 2019-20 titled *Assessing mine dust lung disease* be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee; and Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 10 of 2019-20 titled *Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Co-operatives National Law Bill by 27 March 2020; the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 27 March 2020; and the Transport and Public Works Committee report on the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 20 March 2020.

AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 242, on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The fact that this bill covers important matters from agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fisheries and then at part 15, clauses 123 to 125, deals with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission shows that Labor is not interested in giving MPs adequate time to examine and speak about the content of this all-encompassing bill.

From the outset, as I know our shadow minister, the honourable member for Gympie, has said, we will not be opposing this bill, but we are moving amendments, including amendments in relation to animal welfare offences. Concerns have also been expressed around it conflicting with the Human Rights Act 2019.

With regard to my portfolio, racing, the bill provides legislative clarification of the commission's powers under the Rules of Racing now that the transitional regulation making power has expired. This can only occur through an act amendment. The bill clarifies QRIC's ability to appoint stewards and administer penalties to participants. The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, at \$30 million a year, has two jobs: animal welfare and integrity. On both fronts Labor and QRIC have failed. It is time to talk about the performance of Labor and QRIC when it comes to animal welfare and integrity.

Queensland racing is big business. We have 42,000 participants, 21,000 owners, 130 race clubs, 119 racecourses, 103,000 starters and an economic contribution of \$1.2 billion. QRIC was borne out of the need to ensure that animal welfare and integrity remain at the heart of racing, but when it came to the horse abattoir scandal at Caboolture we saw QRIC attempting to wipe its hands clean of the issue despite being tasked with caring for the welfare of animals before, during and after racing.

QRIC's powers and functions extend to equine welfare, confirmed by this bill, and QRIC's abuse of same has been kicked to the kerb under Labor's watch. QRIC's mandate is to safeguard the racing animal's welfare. The commission's Animal Welfare Strategy 2016-2020 specifically refers to key objectives. QRIC is empowered to collaborate with other agencies responsible for investigating and prosecuting animal welfare offences, to promote high standards of integrity and to respond to breaches of the Racing Integrity Act and the Racing Act. At a cost of \$100 million over four years, Labor's QRIC was unable to uncover what amateurs did at the Queensland abattoir. The Minister for Racing and member for Sandgate has said QRIC is delivering strong and effective oversight of Queensland's racing industry across the three codes. I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that everyone involved in racing knows that this statement is a joke.

Labor set an inquiry because of the 7.30 report and empowered QRIC to oversee it. In my view, and that of the opposition and many other observers, that is inappropriate. QRIC is the body under which the trouble started. QRIC cannot be the solution. QRIC is part of the problem. The investigation is Caesar judging Caesar. Caro Meldrum-Hanna, who broke the 7.30 story, said on 23 October 2019 on radio 612 4QR—

The idea that the racing industry and QRIC can wash their hands of these animals as soon as they walk off the track is a nonsense because on their website they have a policy about wastage. What is wastage? That's the animals at the end of their career off the track. It's absolutely in their permit here. I agree with the Shadow Minister (John-Paul Langbroek).

Ms Grace: The horses came from New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr LANGBROEK: I will interrupt the quote and take that interjection from the honourable Minister for Education. In New South Wales it is illegal to send a racehorse at any stage to a knackery or abattoir. If we had similar rules then these things would not have happened. I return to the quote of Caro Meldrum-Hanna—

It's very difficult to understand how QRIC, an organisation with 250 staff, \$30 million in funding annually has missed this ... we also had QRIC on last night with the ABC's 7.30 program admitting they had been alerted to this abattoir in Queensland up to four times. They say it was about transit issues, concerns about horses in transit.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

Mr LANGBROEK: Continuing the quote—

Was there any thought to go out to the abattoir to check the condition of the horses, to see what was happening. It appears that that wasn't done. Why wasn't it done?

I am still quoting from Caro Meldrum-Hanna—

There are so many questions. And for this exact organisation to head the inquiry, it's concerning and I do wonder what the community thinks about it ...

Racing Queensland declined an interview, they also failed to respond to our written questions. QRIC didn't answer our written questions in any meaningful way either, which was very disappointing.

We expected far more engagement with QRIC because this is exactly why they exist. In terms of Queensland there are a lot of questions there.

QRIC has never cared about animal welfare. In the last financial year not one of its 84 media releases dealt with it rehoming racehorses. The proof is in what happened at Caboolture having been advised of these issues. So much for QRIC's claim 'our animal welfare strategy sets out our aspirational goals in this important area'.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, the member is not taking interjections.

Mr LANGBROEK: Let us turn now to the disciplinary record at QRIC. These results are pathetic. In 2017-18 QRIC won only five cases from 21 taken to QCAT.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I will run the House. If you have a concern please write to the Speaker about it.

Mr LANGBROEK: QRIC's press conferences and media releases are about charges but most are discontinued before or at a prima facie level mainly for lack of evidence. David Gafa, a thoroughbred trainer from the Sunshine Coast, was found not guilty. It took two years to get to court. There were numerous mentions. There was a cost of \$50,000. Now Mr Gafa has waited more than a year to see if he will be re-licenced by QRIC with no apology. Like others, Mr Gafa has felt criticism on social media and in the press. His business is down the drain, his wife is ill from stress and his family has been treated like pariahs and he is not guilty.

Thoroughbred trainer Bradley Smith had three charges brought against him. All were discontinued. Stan and Krystle Johnston had charges brought against them which were withdrawn after a year, after being raided by numerous police and investigators from QRIC. Neale Scott, a former harness racing training course mentor, went 45 years without a charge and was then disqualified on the false testimony of a steward who was subsequently sacked. QRIC's commissioner failed to correct the public record, nor did he reinstate Mr Scott outed because of false evidence. The commissioner did not even offer a re-hearing after knowing of lies sworn into evidence and unethically accepted.

This commission's charter is integrity. Labor's QRIC commissioner came out guns blazing against harness racing in 2017—

The investigation (into harness race fixing) has revealed a level of sophistication and knowledge that is exhibited by organised crime.

Really? Not one recorded conviction came out of that. In a press conference, the commissioner said that race fixing was 'more frequent than it is rare' and that 'there is what I'll call a loose cartel of drivers and trainers who are involved in systemic race fixing'. However, in two years, there has not been one recorded conviction for race fixing. The Labor appointed QRIC commissioner said, 'We are talking about more than one race ... on the continuum of activity I'd have to say that it's more frequent than it is rare.' I repeat: no recorded convictions. In the annual report of 2016-17, the commissioner said that QRIC was 'fully embedded' with the Police Racing Crime Squad and in a 2017 Harnessbred.com interview he said that the Police Racing Crime Squad 'sit with us', yet at estimates he tells me that he has no control over charges made.

The 2017-18 QRIC annual report refers to 'our partnership with the Crime and Corruption Commission through the Racing Crime Squad'. On 19 November 2018, the commissioner said, 'We're very fortunate to have a very dedicated police unit seconded to the Commission.' In April 2017 he said, 'What we're talking about (with harness race fixing) is serious organised criminal activity.' It is now nearly three years later and still we are without a recorded conviction.

QRIC has decimated harness racing with the commissioner's shoot first and ask questions later bravado, backed at all times by Labor. The list of harness industry members whose charges failed to go anywhere is long and increasing: Vicki Rasmussen, case dismissed; Leonard Cain, case dismissed; Stuart Hunter, two charges discontinued; Dayl March, case dismissed; Peter Poulsen, case dismissed. The commissioner once sacked a chairman of stewards whose reinstatement was subsequently ordered by a tribunal. The commissioner said that when he took over QRIC he knew nothing about racing. Appointing him shows Labor's dismissal of the good working people of Queensland's racing codes and Labor's couldn't-care-less attitude towards racing.

In February 2018, Minister Hinchliffe said—

QRIC has proven to be a highly effective organisation ... QRIC has chalked up many successes in a strategic partnership with the Queensland Police Service Racing Crime Squad ... QRIC is the envy of the nation ... the organisation plays an important animal welfare role.

I have been to New South Wales and Victoria and met with the ministers. I can assure Labor that QRIC is not the envy of the nation, other than in terms of its funding which is up to double or triple that of the southern states. People have been stood down from plying their trade. They have been bullied with talk of 10 years in jail. Their relationships have been tested and livelihoods ended. The families of those involved need racing to flourish, but it cannot and it will not under Labor, because of the Palaszczuk government's lack of understanding and lack of empathy for racing.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.12 pm): The amendment to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to facilitate works on Paradise Dam is vital. While Paradise Dam is safe under normal circumstances, urgent work is required to protect the people of Bundaberg and the surrounding region from a dam failure in an extreme one-in-200-year weather event. This urgent amendment to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 means construction work to lower the spillway can commence without delay.

The chief executive of my department may apply safety conditions to Paradise Dam to require the lowering of a spillway. This amendment will mean that Sunwater will receive exemptions for the purposes of undertaking activities to comply with that condition. I cannot stress enough that this work is required and is required urgently. It is important to note that the Burnett River at this site is already significantly modified. Therefore, this amendment does not have the same environmental and land issues associated with constructing a new dam or raising the height of an existing structure. As discussed, this action reduces the time required to deliver the dam modification project by waiving the requirement for applications to be prepared and assessed.

Sunwater will exercise its best endeavours to understand and manage the impact of work as would otherwise have occurred. These approval exemptions are necessarily broad and include, for example, impacts on fisheries, traffic, air and noise. Sunwater will continue to consult and work actively with local stakeholders, as their work to make the dam safer advances. As mentioned in the House on Tuesday, the amendments will not apply to any other referable dam in Queensland. Sunwater is not exempted from their safety obligations when undertaking works, including under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

This amendment maximises the construction window prior to the 2020-21 wet season, enabling contractors to mobilise onsite in March. It is important to note that contractors cannot work onsite during Queensland's unpredictable wet season. Allowing them to mobilise onsite early in the year gives Sunwater's contractors additional time to undergo works before we enter our wet season again. Any delay that would stall work until later in the year could mean that urgent essential works might be postponed until the following dry season. That is another reason why Sunwater has no choice but to act now.

The independently peer reviewed technical investigation by GHD calculated the safety risk that informed Sunwater's decision to undertake essential works on Paradise Dam immediately. That work will mitigate the safety risk and, as I have said many times, the safety of Bundaberg is paramount. I understand an additional review is being undertaken by Rizzo International. I am informed that last Wednesday Sunwater facilitated a tour of the dam for Dr Paul Rizzo, from Rizzo International, to assist in his review. Again, I welcome the news of one additional independent international expert reviewing the reports. Sunwater has no choice but to act now on the solid advice received.

Sunwater's numerous investigations include 13 national and international experts and, I repeat for those opposite, those investigations include six independent experts on Sunwater's technical review panel; three independent Gutteridge Haskins & Davey experts; two international independent experts who reviewed the reports; and the dam safety regulator and the chief engineer. All of those experts agree with Sunwater that urgent action is required because of the potential risk to downstream communities.

Again, as stated in relation to current dam risk and stability assessment, the key third-party consultants retained by Sunwater are: Gutteridge Haskins & Davey for the preliminary and detailed business case and overall dam stability assessment; Hydrology and Risk Consulting for the hydrology component of the June 2019 Paradise Dam Failure Impact Assessment; and the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation for geotechnical investigations. Sunwater has no choice but to follow the advice of the 13 experts that have assessed the issues in detail and reviewed the reports, and all agree that urgent work is required immediately.

I know members in this House, as well as the people of Bundaberg and the wider community, need to understand what has occurred in the original construction of the dam. That is why I announced an independent commission of inquiry into Paradise Dam. The inquiry is focusing on the root cause of structural and stability issues. It will explore whether the governance, processes and systems involved in the design, construction or commissioning of Paradise Dam contributed to that root cause. The commission of inquiry will have all the resources necessary to conduct a thorough investigation, including public submissions, to determine the root cause of structural stability issues identified in the engineering and technical studies into this dam. Executive Council has empowered the commissioners to seek submissions, interview witnesses and call public hearings, with no limits other than to report back to us by 30 April 2020. This is a more timely process than that proposed by those opposite. The independent commission has scheduled public hearings in both Brisbane and Bundaberg.

It has been incorrectly reported that only issues past 2013 will be considered by the inquiry. I wish to take this opportunity to again clarify a deliberate misunderstanding of the terms of reference. The inquiry has no limitations regarding the issues it can examine, including all matters associated with the design, construction and commissioning of the dam. Any comments otherwise are a deliberate representation.

As mentioned, this government engaged the Inspector-General of Emergency Management to ensure that the community is ready in the event of extreme flooding. That preparedness review was handed down on 19 December 2019. The Palaszczuk government has accepted all of the report's recommendations and they are now being implemented. Ultimately, the review by the Inspector-General of Emergency Management increases the safety of Bundaberg residents while we undergo the improvement works.

The Queensland government is committed to ensuring water security in the Bundaberg region. Irrigators and businesses can have confidence in Building Queensland's accelerated assessment on options for the future of the dam. The assessment is exploring alternate water supply options to ensure future water security for the region. That includes the final revised spillway height and the final full supply level for the dam. The assessment will take into account the region's needs and demand for water, and is scheduled for completion by February 2020.

The need to take action is clear. The need to reduce the risk to the community of Bundaberg and surrounding areas before the 2020-21 wet season is clear. We cannot afford delays. This is a very complex issue. There have been multiple reports. There are multiple opinions going around the community. It is a highly debated topic in Bundaberg.

Our position is absolutely clear—that is, that safety is paramount. I understand fully that water security is important and it will be respected by this government, but safety must come first. We all remember Cyclone Oswald. There were 7,500 evacuations. Almost a thousand people were evacuated by helicopter. Hinkler Avenue was almost destroyed. We cannot guarantee the safety of that dam without these necessary works.

If the opposition were in government they could not ignore the overwhelming expert advice. They would have to respect the experts and put the community first.

Ms Grace interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: No, to be fair, Minister, it is only in opposition that they can make the speeches they have. It is different. Remember, they do not carry the burden of responsibility that government brings. This government is acting decisively to ensure that Bundaberg is as safe as it possibly can be in any circumstance. That is paramount.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Up-front, I am most disappointed that yet another piece of legislation has been presented as a bundled up, omnibus bill covering a range of often unrelated matters. Some of these legislative changes are being proposed solely in response to certain illegal actions taken by some of the more extremist elements of the animal rights crowd.

In general, I am in full agreement with and have sympathy for the mood and aims of this bill. Coming from a farming background myself, everyone knows that I am a strong supporter of farmers and agricultural workers and have been calling for the government to be more supportive of these industries for some time now. However, as the Queensland Law Society pointed out in their submission on the bill, I believe that all laws, particularly those criminal offences and penalties, should be evidence based and not purely reactionary.

This bill was given a very short consultation period and a number of interest groups were not consulted or given a chance to respond. There has in fact been very little publicity or public discussion on the bill at all. Many Queenslanders have therefore had no chance to understand the bill let alone have a say on the important changes being made in it.

Good laws are not rushed through under the guise of large and complex administrative bills with misleading monikers like this one—bad laws are. Hasty reactions or overreactions by governments, riding on the back of community outrage, can be a very dangerous thing in a people focused democracy. History shows that it leads to only one thing—more control and power centred in the state and a further erosion of civil liberties for the people. I think the government knows this. I also think the government is using the public's sympathy and support for farmers for its own ends.

Farmers have been exposed to dangers in their workplaces and even violence and abuse, and that is of concern. I know it is because I visited the member for Hinchinbrook's electorate and spoke with farmers over three days concerning a different branch of the tree—poaching and trespass. People go onto people's properties at night in a nefarious and insidious way. They run around those properties and take their dogs to hunt pigs or illegally poach deer. This gets farmers' backs up.

It presents another danger. Drug fuelled and alcohol fuelled people are going around telling farmers that if they are not allowed to keep poaching or hunting on their land that they will burn the farmer out. They have been held at gunpoint. They are also threatened when it comes to their cattle. They have found cattle gut shot and run over on country roads so people can hunt off them. There is a lot to do in relation to the issue of trespass.

I had a lady come to me last night and tell me about the environmental officers who will be running around with body worn cameras. She is a nurse. She said, 'What about nurses in rural and regional areas that have to lock themselves into rooms because people come in drunk or under the influence of

ice and threaten them?'. It is a very difficult environment to work in. Where are the laws being rushed in to protect nurses and people like that on the front line? Where are the calls for body worn cameras to help them? There are none because presently governments have nothing to gain from such laws. They ostensibly protect the farmers, but the government does not care about farmers, just as it does not care about nurses or any other honest, hardworking people who deal with hardship, risk and no reward on a daily basis. They only care when it suits them to care.

Clause 132 of the bill broadens criminal offences for unlawful assembly and unlawfully entering farming land. It greatly increases the penalty for such offences. The clause also expands considerably the criteria for what is deemed an offence under the act across a wide range of areas. Clause 132 states that an offence has been committed in the event that a person in the vicinity and not necessarily the owner of the land holds a fear or belief that an action is likely to cause economic loss to a business carried out on the land. This sets a precedent for the legal legitimacy of the economic harm principle which could open up a can of worms around the issues of free speech and the right to peaceful assembly in this state.

The increased penalties for an offence are also of concern to me. This bill does not distinguish between peaceful or violent activities which means the harsher penalties will apply across the board. In other words, peaceful protesters will be jailed for the same amount of time as those involved in violent protests. In terms of the provision in the bill relating to an action that causes economic loss which is to be determined by someone in the vicinity, not the farmer, the following example is given—

conduct that stops, or interferes with, the operation of equipment or machinery that is necessary for a business's production of a product

Exactly whose business are we talking about here? The wording specifically denotes a business carried out on the land. It does not specifically say that this business relates to farming or agriculture or circuses, just a business. In other words, any business operating on the land would be protected under this clause—a mining business, for example.

There are no limits on this provision. It is cleverly and loosely worded in such a way that there are a number of openings for misuse. Firstly, it sets a precedent for criminalising activities that cause economic loss. This is a very dangerous precedent indeed in a democratic country. Secondly, it uses ambiguous language and leaves the door open for an interpretation where mining companies could potentially seek legal redress and compensation from farmers and agricultural workers or even their own mine workers in the event that their actions interrupt the business taking place on the agricultural land which, peaceful or otherwise, causes them any level of economic loss.

I will turn to the issue of the poisoning of dogs. The member for Gympie will move some amendments in this regard. This is a very relevant issue to consider. I have had many dogs killed in my electorate. I found that it is easy to go and buy 100 1080 baits for \$273. These baits are needed in the community. There is no doubt about that. There still needs to be a lot more information and education provided to farmers and others who go out and disperse these baits. The actual animal one is trying to get should be identified. We have hunting cameras and cameras that we can put up prior to the baits being put out, especially when it is close to peri-urban areas and around the outskirts of towns. I have seen some terrible ways that dogs have died.

I have had a lot of people in my electorate try to console baited dogs and they have destroyed their whole house. It has taken hours in some cases. There is considerable emotional stress on the people who own these dogs and their children. There certainly needs to be increased penalties for people who are doing this to animals. They are part of the family. They are also working dogs. They are valued in the community because of what they provide. This issue is certainly worth looking at and the House should back the amendments to be moved by the member for Gympie.

This bill is being sold to us as legislation that will protect farmers. There is a good chance that it could end up disempowering them instead. I just wanted to make that quite clear.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.29 pm): I rise to provide my contribution to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to touch on a few aspects of the bill that relate to many issues in my electorate.

Most decent people would be against the poor treatment of animals and particularly farmers whose animals are like a second family to them. I certainly support strong penalties for leaving animals in hot vehicles particularly in my region when it can get up to over 40 degrees on many occasions. I also support the strengthening of laws for baiting animals. This is a low act which leaves families devastated.

Regarding the strengthening of penalties for unlawful entry by animal activists, I support this and I highlight the township of Tully in my electorate where this is relevant. We have cattle. We have pawpaws. We have bananas. We have sugar cane. More than 90 per cent of total banana production in Australia is produced in the Tully region. It is an industry worth \$600 million annually and is the lifeblood of that region. Currently we have three confirmed cases of TR4, or Panama disease, which is harmless to humans but devastating to banana crops. Another case has just been confirmed yesterday by the Minister for Agriculture. These farms are in lockdown with strict biosecurity measures to stop the spread of Panama.

The disease is transmitted through soil. Unauthorised entry to farms by activists could severely damage this vital industry. I fully support tougher penalties for unlawful entry by activists because of the serious risk posed to the agricultural industry, plus the threat to family members—children, mums and dads. It is a very scary thing to have over a hundred people walk onto your land and having to face this common threat.

I am against the amendment proposed by the Minister for Agriculture which repeals the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005 allowing for assets of agricultural colleges to be disposed of.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! There is a lot of audible chatter. The member for Hill is on his feet. Please listen to the speaker on their feet and take your conversations outside.

Mr KNUTH: Tragically, this sounds the death knell of agricultural colleges in Queensland. We are throwing away the right for the young to learn and understand working on the land in regional Queensland.

A young lady in my electorate sponsored a petition, which attracted over 1,400 signatures, which I tabled last February, opposed to the closure of the agricultural colleges in Emerald and Longreach. She had worked hard in school just to get to the agricultural college and was excited about learning all the skills she needed to work on the land and to stay in regional Queensland only to find out that she had that right taken away. Attending agricultural colleges was all she wanted to do. Now we are telling our youth that we do not want them to work on the land and we are giving them no hope for a future in rural Queensland.

I also do not support the use of body worn cameras by authorised officers and inspectors. Enforcement officers are already allowed entry on properties without authorisation from property owners. I have no doubt that when all of a sudden inspectors turn up this could result in initial anger from farmers who are going about their duties. Often this could be the result of a fraudulent claim by the department which again would anger the farmers. To me this is very similar to the term 'entrapment' whereby filming an entry could provoke a farmer into saying or doing the wrong thing. We already unfairly demonise farmers and filming them on their properties will further goad them.

This is an omnibus bill. It has some policies I support and some policies I do not. I believe that it is far too difficult to properly debate each policy objective individually when it is part of the overall omnibus bill put forward by the government, including the amendments regarding Paradise Dam. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.34 pm): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In the words of the bill title 'and Other Legislation Amendment Bill' we have an omnibus piece of legislation coming through the House today. It is like the Favourites box of chocolates that you got for Christmas. There are chocolates in there that you cannot wait to unwrap and sink your teeth into, but there are chocolates like the orange ones that you would not even touch.

Ms Boyd: Oh!

Mr DAMETTO: Everyone makes different choices. One of the policy objectives in this bill is to address the risks posed by trespassers on properties. I am happy to stand up and support that. I think it is imperative that we work hard with our agricultural sector to make sure that we can control biosecurity risks. It does not matter if you have trespassers, protesters or hunters that the member for Mirani was just talking about coming onto your property unwarranted. This causes a huge problem, especially with diseases—for example, Panama, TR4. We had another case detected in the Tully Valley just yesterday. That puts everyone on edge. I can understand farmers out there being very edgy about anybody coming onto their property uninvited. This bill goes a long way—but probably not far enough—to deterring activists and people from coming onto properties unwarranted.

I support the policy objective in the bill in relation to leaving animals in hot cars and increasing the fines and the penalties for people who do that to animals. As far as I am concerned, pets are like members of the family and they should be treated as such. The thought of anybody locking a dog or

any other animal in a vehicle on a hot day is absolutely disgusting and shocking. I think they should be dealt with by the full extent of the law. By increasing those penalties this bill will go a long way to make sure that those people are prosecuted and feel the brunt of the law.

Another policy objective that I just cannot stand up and support is the authorised use of body worn cameras for officers entering a property. You have to understand people who live in the bush before you can speak about this. You have to get out there and talk to people in the bush. This is not only their place of business but their home. Inspectors have the authority now through other legislation that was passed last year to enter a property without a warrant.

Inspectors have the power now to enter your property, your home, the place you love, without a warrant. People are already pretty edgy about that. Now those inspectors will be allowed to wear a body worn camera just like a police officer when they come out to ask questions and look around. Once again, that will put people on edge. People may find themselves in a situation where they get quite angry and say things and do things that may incriminate them later that they might not mean to say in the heat of the moment. I am very worried about that. I cannot support that.

I can support the extra fines and onus on people who go out there to try to bait animals.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Members, it is very loud here in the chamber. I can barely hear the member on his feet and he is projecting very well. If you want to have a conversation, please go outside so I can hear the member and their contribution.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I try to project myself quite well coming from half an Italian background. I will try to yell a bit more to get everyone's attention. Maybe I should wave my hands around.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep it relevant, member.

Mr DAMETTO: Getting back to the bill and people who go around baiting people's dogs for whatever reason, it is absolutely sickening to think people would do that to a family pet. Anything that we can do in this House to increase the penalties and decrease the likelihood of this happening would be so much better for everyone out there. I will be supporting that.

Once again, like I said, this legislation is like a box of chocolates. It is a little too mixed for me to want to enjoy and eat the whole lot. Another objective that worries me is about improving traceability of goats. What does that mean to most people out there? There is an industry and people are making a business out of capturing and getting rid of wild goats that are quite detrimental to the environment. To say that they cannot be used for a meat source goes a little bit too far.

For example, a butcher who does this kind of work every day knows the difference between a good animal and a bad animal. When it comes to processing, if you ask me it does not matter if it has a tag or not. I understand the idea behind this is to strengthen it up, but I do not think it goes in the right direction, especially in relation to the agricultural industry.

There are also some amendments coming through. We are just tacking anything onto the back of this bill—everything from Paradise Dam all the way through to the agricultural colleges. They are two amendments the KAP will not support, but other than that it is going to be very difficult to decide where we land on this.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.40 pm): I too rise to make a contribution on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I will first address a matter of great importance in my electorate of Southern Downs: the unlawful invasion of hardworking people's properties and businesses. We had the case of the Lemontree Feedlot, which is owned by the McNamee family. They live on-site and work very hard.

Mr McDonald: A good family.

Mr LISTER: They are a good family; I will take that interjection from the member from Lockyer. They are a great family who work very hard to feed us. They create employment and taxes to make our world a better place. They were subjected to an outrageous affront to their dignity and rights as landholders by a bunch of thugs who went onto their property, terrorised their family and rode roughshod over all of the biosecurity rules that they themselves are expected to uphold.

The Christensen family, who I know is a great dairy farming family at Freestone, was subjected to terrorism by vegan extremists who unlawfully wanted to impose their views on people who were going about their lawful business, and of course there was the miserable action taken against the Carey Bros Abattoir at Yangan. I have spoken to Greg Carey, I have met the McNamees and I have met the

owners of the dairy, the Christensens. I have been to their places and seen what has happened, and what has happened is a disgrace. This bill, which the minister has waxed lyrical about in terms of providing additional penalties to curtail that kind of activity, is absolutely not on the right track.

The complaint raised by constituents of my electorate is that the same offenders go and do the same thing. They go to the Magistrate's Court and get hit with a wet lettuce leaf or maybe a fine—which is inevitably paid for by their benefactors or their puppetmasters in the radical movement—and then they go and stand on the front steps and rejoice publically in the leniency of the punishment they have been given. They say they are going to go out and do it again. It is quite clear that a simple summary offence—where a magistrate can hit them on the wrist, give them a fine which is of no deterrent value whatsoever and let them go without a conviction—just is not good enough. We need these outrageous acts of trespass and biosecurity threats to be made serious indictable offences. It is an insult to the hardworking owners of properties and businesses involved in animal production and processing.

This matter of a \$652 fine is laughable. I remember very well the invasion of the Carey Bros Abattoir, where the extremists involved stole three lambs and prevented processing. They attempted to injure the hardworking staff of Carey Bros Abattoir by putting ammonia about the place. In fact, two members of their staff had to go to hospital because of that. Just before that particular occasion, the minister proudly said—and I believe the Premier was quoted in the paper as saying—that there were going to be on-the-spot fines for these protesters. That just was not true, was it, because the regulation had not been passed. It was all about getting ahead of the curve and trying to show ordinary Queenslanders, who expect something to be done about this problem, that they were really doing something. But they are really going soft on those people, whose preferences they depend upon to occupy the treasury benches. Everything this Labor government does about curtailing unlawful protest activity on farms is always half-hearted, and it is always manufactured in such a way as to enable the perpetrators to get away scot-free. I know that because I live in the electorate where these attacks have happened.

A committee went there to consider a bill and there was unanimous support for tougher penalties. We are talking about indictable offences, because that is where the true deterrent lies for people in these circumstances. If you want to have that dream job in the environment department or if you want to travel to Geneva and so forth, you cannot have a criminal record. These people rely on the fact that they are not going to be given a criminal record. They will be given a slap on the wrist so they can continue to do what they do. We need to see serious fines—not just for perpetrators on-site but for those who organise and encourage them. That is what the community expects. That is what the people of Southern Downs expect. I say that this bill is insultingly inadequate on that front.

This is yet another omnibus bill. An omnibus bill should be a rare occurrence, only used for efficiency purposes where it does not interrupt the scrutiny of the House. It is a great discourtesy to the elected members of this state to be confronted by omnibus bill after omnibus bill where we do not have an opportunity to thoroughly examine and criticise the contents of the bill.

While I am on the topic of the government's legislative program and the way they run things, in relation to the Paradise Dam amendments I heard the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy say, 'Our hands are tied. We can't do anything. We must act now.' Are we really to take the government's word on that?

Mr McDonald: A one-in-200-year flood.

Mr LISTER: A one-in-200-year flood. We in the LNP pushed for an open parliamentary inquiry into this. That is the proper forum for these matters, which are extremely important not just to those who depend on irrigation water from Paradise Dam in electorates like those of my honourable friends, the member for Burnett and the member for Bundaberg. This has statewide implications.

I was just perusing *Queensland Country Life* earlier on and I saw an excellent article by Mark Phelps about Paradise Dam. He said that the new laws come less than a week after an international dam engineering expert said there were good prospects for both making the dam safe and returning it to full capacity. Paul Rizzo said that not one dam of hundreds built in the same way around the world had ever been known to fail. The article continues—

Dr Rizzo also advised that no dam built the same way with any structural issues had been unable to be repaired and restored to full capacity.

You can take or leave what Dr Rizzo says, but I think when we have a divergent opinion to the one that is being advanced by the government it ought to be examined in an open, public fashion. We do not have all of the facts concerning the Paradise Dam debacle, and I can understand why: because

it has the Labor Party's fingerprints all over it. This is a disgraceful low point in infrastructure in our state, yet every effort has been made to shield the debacle from public scrutiny. There is only one reason why that would happen: because it would be politically disadvantageous to the Labor Party. Let's just face that.

I will now move on to address the issue of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. What has happened here is that the program has been cut by Labor, the students have been sacked by Labor, and they are selling out the communities where these agricultural colleges are. When I look at the explanatory notes I see they say things like, 'The Queensland government's investment in VET in the region is to ensure students can access quality VET and employment opportunities without having to leave the region,' and it talks about 'a transition to more modern cost-effective training'. What does that mean?

I will tell you what it means in an electorate like Southern Downs, where many of my constituents are proud graduates of those colleges. It is a whole lot of soft soap and weasel words from a government that has turned its back on the bush. That is what it means. What has happened is a disgrace. These amendments, which the government obviously wanted to push through like a thief in the night, are designed to put the final nail into the coffin of agricultural colleges in this state. I would say to the minister that he ought to walk down the streets of country towns and ask people, 'What do you think we should do? Do you think we should close down the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges?' I know what the answer would be: a big fat no.

Mr Weir interjected.

Mr LISTER: Yes, I take the interjection from the member for Condamine. He knows better than anyone how the lack of consultation by this government feeds into the decisions they want to make.

This bill is in so many ways a virtuoso demonstration of the contempt this Labor government has for the people of the bush. Particularly in my seat of Southern Downs, the closure of agricultural colleges has been met with a great deal of sadness and in fact anger and dismay. Most importantly, the question of protecting hardworking landowners and farmers from invasions by protesters intent on imposing their way of life on other people is a very big issue.

This bill is yet another demonstration of how the Labor Party want to go soft on these types. They have the option to bring in serious indictable offences to make sure that those who do these things get slapped with a penalty that will really hurt and will act as a deterrent. The fact that we constantly go back to penalties which enable a magistrate to slap them on the wrist and let them off with a fine that someone else will pay so that they can go on the steps of the courthouse and rejoice in the slightness of their fines just does not cut it. We need a much tougher government. This Labor government has no credibility at all when it comes to protecting farmers in this and so many other ways.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (4.50 pm), in reply: I am thankful for all the contributions made to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 debate. It is a very important omnibus bill. I would like to touch firstly on the amendments regarding Paradise Dam. Community safety is always this government's main priority. Sunwater acted after advice from a multitude of experts that recommended the immediate lowering of the Paradise Dam wall. Anyone living in that environment, anyone upstream or down the Burnett River, would have a complete understanding of the importance of their safety because of these amendments.

This is a government that will listen to expert advice. The government recognises the impact Sunwater's decision to lower the Paradise Dam wall will have on the local community. There is a fully independent inquiry headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice John Byrne. The technical reports into the dam are publicly available on Sunwater's website. Building Queensland is investigating future options for the dam and will report back this month. Safety is paramount and the works are required urgently. This government puts human life first and there are credible concerns. After 13 reports, I am advised that now is the time to act.

Most of the amendments I have tabled as part of the AOLA Bill address impediments to the efficient and effective regulation of agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fisheries. Again, I wish to thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its thorough consideration of the bill. I thank the members of that committee for their contributions. The committee tabled its report on 8 October 2019 with five recommendations, including that the bill be passed. I trust that the recommendation of the committee that the bill be passed is also undertaken by the members in the House this afternoon. The certainty that the bill delivers will be welcomed by industry also.

I note the submissions to this important bill. The input from industry and members of the public is always welcomed and should always be encouraged. As a former chair of committees in this parliament and the parliament in Canberra, I know the importance of consultation and engaging with industry and community on important bills like this.

The most notable amendments of this bill, as has been ventilated, are to address unacceptable behaviour affecting agricultural and related industries, such as we have seen in recent animal activist protests in South-East Queensland. This has been a topic of concern from industry over the past year and is being addressed in this bill today. The amendments enhance the potential to prosecute persons who trespass or protest in other inappropriate ways for offences under criminal law, as well as biosecurity or exhibited animal offences.

Amendments to the Summary Offences Act 2005 increase the maximum penalty for unlawfully entering farming land and expand the land uses where the offence applies. They also make a gathering of three or more people on such land unlawful if it is likely to cause economic loss or poses a risk to the safety of any person or food or a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity. Clarification of the general biosecurity obligation under the Biosecurity Act 2014 ensures that a person must minimise the biosecurity risk posed by his or her entry to such land, and related amendments increase the penalty for noncompliance with a biosecurity management plan.

Amendments to the Exhibited Animals Act 2015 require that a person not cause or increase a relevant risk and must comply with reasonable instructions from someone responsible for an exhibited animal to enable him or her to manage a relevant risk. They also allow an inspector to direct a non-compliant person to move from the place. These amendments carefully balance the rights of those who wish to protest and the rights of those involved in relevant industries. They do not target particular groups or particular views or prevent peaceful protests being held at appropriate places. They apply to all Queenslanders, including nonprotesters whose behaviour puts these industries at risk.

I note the issues as raised by the opposition regarding rangeland goats. This matter has had ongoing ventilation. I am advised that the Goat Industry Council were consulted on the national position. I am also advised that they continue to be consulted at a national level through the traceability joint task group. It is acknowledged that, unfortunately, AgForce and the Goat Industry Council of Australia were not originally consulted regarding the specific amendment in the bill. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has had consultation with the Goat Industry Council of Australia, AgForce, Western Meat Exporters and the Australian Meat Industry Council about the amendment. Consultation on this is continuing to ensure a workable system is implemented, and this amendment is not aimed at disadvantaging industry.

There has been some misunderstanding about the current arrangements for goat harvesting and a concern that movements of wild goats without a tag will no longer be possible if the bill is passed. That is simply not true. Biosecurity Queensland has already issued six new travel approvals so that when the act is amended the key goat depots will continue to move rangeland goats through the supply chain without having to tag for certain movement conditions. I am able to confirm with the opposition that ongoing discussion is happening to give certainty to the industry, while ensuring that the biosecurity of industry is protected, as goats are susceptible to a range of serious diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease, which also affects other livestock. This amendment is aimed at ensuring all of the sector is protected.

I want to refer to some of the other speeches during the debate. Again, I would like to express my thanks to the government members for their contributions throughout this debate. Omnibus bills, such as the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, are often diverse in their scope but they are important to the sector in many ways. I want to thank the member for Bancroft, the chair of the committee, for his insights, contribution and guidance through the committee process, in particular on this bill. As chair of the agriculture committee, he has always been strongly involved in the interests and concerns of industry, and he has always been willing to visit egg farms or Spyglass in Northern Queensland, along with all other committee members, to experience the concerns of the industry.

The member for Mount Ommaney's contribution highlighted the strong community concern regarding cosmetic testing on animals. Her eloquent contribution spelt out the concerns out there in the community over this particular aspect of the bill. The amendment will remove the restriction on the use of an animal for a scientific purpose involving a cosmetic product or ingredient of a cosmetic product from section 92 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. All other uses of an animal for a scientific purpose—for example, involving sunscreen products or medical research—will continue to be restricted under the Animal Care and Protection Act.

Animals will, however, still be protected from testing of cosmetic products and ingredients. A nationally consistent approach aimed at balancing and banning the use of animals in testing of cosmetic products and ingredients will be adopted. Legislation introduced by the Commonwealth government, the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019, will create a national ban on new animal test data being used to support the introduction of chemicals used exclusively as cosmetic ingredients. State and territory governments are then expected to work together to incorporate a testing ban on cosmetic products through changes to the Australian code for the care and the use of animals for scientific purposes. The scientific use code, a compulsory code of practice under the ACPA, promotes the ethical, humane and responsible care and use of animals used for scientific purposes.

The Industrial Chemicals Act and the amendments to section 92 of the ACPA will commence on 1 July 2020. The Industrial Chemicals Act 2019 will only allow for animal test data to be considered in limited circumstances such as for environmental hazards where there are no available alternative means for assessing the risk.

The Queensland government is committed to ensuring that all animals in Queensland have appropriate standards of welfare. There is strong public support to maintain a prohibition on cosmetic testing on animals. A national ban on cosmetic testing on animals will bring Australia into line with the European Union and other countries introducing a ban on animal test data of new cosmetic ingredients. Queensland will continue to uphold its strong commitment to ensuring animal welfare by working with the Australian government to ensure the scientific use code will be amended to incorporate a cosmetic testing ban as proposed.

The member for Ipswich West has always been a strong advocate for agriculture, and his past performance and knowledge in this sector is well rewarded by his involvement in this House. I also thank the member for Greenslopes for his contribution. As a former chair of the agriculture committee, his interests, his ongoing support and also his knowledge has never wavered and should never be tested. I also note his specific interest in forestry.

I would like to address the concerns raised by the member for Gympie and his proposed amendments. The member for Gympie should have appreciated that when Queensland introduced the on-the-spot fines, it was done via regulation. It was done quickly with industry engagement through the AIST task force. The Palaszczuk government acted swiftly and spontaneously in making sure we had adequate regulations in place to curtail the activities of these animal activists. In fact, with New South Wales now duplicating the aim of our regulations, this demonstrates that Queensland is leading the way.

The fine will always be limited by regulation but—and I need to make this clear—there are higher penalties, significant penalties, in legislation and in this bill. Ultimately, it is the courts that will decide on that punishment. I still do not understand why those opposite do not understand the separation of powers. It seems to stem from the days of Bjelke-Petersen, and that lack of understanding still prevails today.

In terms of the member for Gympie's proposed amendments, I need to correct the member's understanding. The bill inserts an example in the cruelty offence to ensure that if an animal is left in a hot car and it causes the dog heat stress or pain, then the person could be prosecuted for animal cruelty. The bill also inserts an example in the duty of care offence, and it is this example that the member for Gympie proposes should be omitted. The member clearly does not realise that this would weaken the potential to prosecute someone who leaves a dog in a hot car. Our bill ensures that a person will be able to be prosecuted for a breach of this duty of care even if, for example, the animal was rescued before the animal actually suffered heat stress or pain. I know there are many in this chamber who like myself are strong dog lovers and realise the importance of the amendments to this bill to ensure our four-legged friends have protection at times like this.

The baiting amendment proposes very substantial increases to the penalties for breaching the prohibition on substances that are harmful or poisonous to an animal from 300 penalty units, or one year's imprisonment, to 2,000 penalty units, or three years imprisonment. The government is not prepared to support this amendment because it could have serious unintended consequences. I will give one example.

Say a person baiting wild dogs accidentally baits a domestic dog. Animal welfare is a priority for this government, but there are circumstances where this particular offence could apply to farmers who lay baits for feral dogs. This is because the only protection for someone using 1080 appropriately on their land to control wild dogs is section 42 of the Animal Care and Protection Act, which provides that it is an offence exemption if an act is done to control a feral animal or pest animal including, for example,

by killing it if it is done in a way that causes as little pain as possible. A problem arises where the farmer's neighbour has not properly contained their dog and it strays onto the farmer's land, takes the bait and dies. The LNP should not be trying to find new ways to jail farmers. Therefore this amendment should not be supported by the House.

The member for Bundaberg's concerns have been mostly addressed by my previous comments. The member for Buderim seems surprised at the government's action regarding QATC. The release of a disclosed report, an announcement of the closure in 2018—it closed in 2019—and it now being finalised is considered by those opposite as us 'rushing in here today with no notice, outside the committee process, to introduce these amendments. This announcement has been well and truly flagged.

The member for Burdekin will probably never be happy with any penalty drafted, but I remind the member once again that it is the courts that will decide the actual penalty imposed. I note the member for Gregory tried to get the jump last night—but he could not jump—and could not table the LNP's own shutdown report into the QATC. Those opposite have had the report on the QATC for five years, but have not tabled it. It is all talk by the opposition on the QATC, but they have not tabled their report on the QATC's future.

In conclusion, I want to address some of the comments from the crossbenches, in particular the Katter's Australian Party. The member for Hill, quite rightly, pointed out the concerns about biosecurity in the northern parts of our state, up around the Tully area. He quite rightly pointed out that there are three recognised cases of Panama TR4 disease in our banana industry, an industry worth close to \$600 million supporting 95 per cent of this country's bananas. That is why we need to make sure we have tough penalties and tough enforcement powers under the bill that we are debating this evening. In that way we can ensure that, in the example that the member for Hill provided, people entering those properties do not transmit Panama TR4 onto those properties that are currently free from it. I know the disease has its challenges, but it is important that we put safeguards around it.

I want to commend the Australian Banana Growers' Council for the work they have done over many years and their support of the Palaszczuk government in the containment of that particular disease. The department's containment practices and procedures are world renowned now. In fact, we are exporting that knowledge and that capability to the likes of Central America to make sure they have the same processes in place that apply here in Queensland.

Both the member for Hill and the member for Hinchinbrook touched on body worn cameras. It never ceases to amaze me that people would have any concern about body worn cameras. There are many former police officers sitting in this parliament, both on our side and on the opposition, who know for a fact that in their duties in the Queensland Police Service the evidence captured on their body worn cameras has led to the prosecution and conviction of those who were doing the wrong thing. Those who were out there committing criminal offences were able to be convicted as a result of body worn camera evidence.

That capability has also extended to other officers in the fisheries department. Since we increased the officers' ability to partake in engaging with illegal fishers, we know of the increase in prosecutions and convictions. We have seen major convictions. Courts have prosecuted those cases and charged those involved in those illegal activities. I will never take a backwards step in ensuring that enforcement officers have the appropriate tools to achieve successful prosecution of those doing the wrong thing, be it on the water or the land. In conclusion, I commend the bill to the House and seek its support.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I note that the minister's amendment No. 1 proposes to amend clause 2 and relates to proposed new provisions contained in later amendments. Therefore, consideration of clause 2 and the minister's amendment is postponed until after all other clauses, schedules and amendments have been considered.

Clause 2 postponed.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Amendment to heading—



Mr FURNER (5.12 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Part 2, division 2, heading (Amendments commencing on assent)

Page 10, line 17, after 'assent'—

insert—

or 1 March 2020

I also table the explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights to my amendments and the explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights in my additional amendment, version C20.

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner's amendments [\[208\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner's amendments [\[209\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner's version C20 amendments [\[210\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner's version C20 amendments [\[211\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mr PERRETT (5.13 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 17 (Breach of duty of care prohibited))

Page 10, line 18 to page 11, line 3—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Mr Tony Perrett's amendments [\[212\]](#).

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Tony Perrett's amendments [\[213\]](#).

Amendment No. 1 to clause 4 is a consequential amendment to omit the introduction of section 17, breach of duty of care. This removes a new section that will have its penalties bolstered under the second amendment to clause 6A which I will speak on in a moment.

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

AYES, 40:

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

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

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

Pair: Pegg, Crandon.

Non-government amendment (Mr Perrett) negatived.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr PERRETT (5.20 pm): I move the following amendment—

2

After clause 6

Page 11, after line 12—

insert—

6A Amendment of s 36 (Prohibitions)

(1) Section 36(1), penalty—

omit, insert—

Maximum penalty—2,000 penalty units or 3 years imprisonment.

(2) Section 36(3), penalty—

omit, insert—

Maximum penalty—2,000 penalty units or 3 years imprisonment.

Amendment 2 seeks to insert clause 6A to amend section 36, 'Prohibitions', to increase penalties. The policy objective of amending section 36(1) is to ensure that confining an animal, for example a dog, in a vehicle, causing heat stress or other pain to an animal, is treated as a cruelty offence, not a duty-of-care offence, which has significantly higher penalties; and to increase the penalty for baiting an animal with the intention of injuring or killing the animal using a substance the person knows is harmful or poisonous to the animal in line with the penalties for a cruelty offence. It increases the penalties from 300 penalty units, or one year's imprisonment, to a maximum penalty of 2,000 penalty units, or \$266,900 or three years imprisonment.

The LNP led the way on animals in hot vehicles and cracking down on criminal baiting of pet dogs when we announced these policies in April 2018. We welcome the government finally adopting our plan to increase penalties for people who leave animals locked in hot vehicles, but it makes more sense if the penalties align. Illegal dog baiting is already prohibited as a specific offence. This amendment will simply increase the penalties.

Animal baiting offences currently incur a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment or \$40,035. It does not compare with the offence of animal cruelty, which has a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or \$266,900. Penalties for illegal dog baiting should be the same as for animal cruelty. Offenders should not get off with a slap on the wrist. No pet should have to endure a deliberate, long and painful death because of criminal activity. The punishment should fit the crime.

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

AYES, 41:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

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

Pair: Pegg, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Perrett) negated.

Clauses 7 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Amendment to heading—



Mr FURNER (5.27 pm): I move the following amendment—

3

Part 3, division 2, heading (Amendments commencing on assent)

Page 18, line 17, after 'assent'—

insert—

or 1 March 2020

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 35, as read, agreed to.

Clause 36—



Mr FURNER (5.28 pm): I move the following amendment—

4 Clause 36 (Amendment of s 198 (Movement record for receiving designated animal))

Page 26, line 12, *'insert'*—

omit, insert—

omit, insert

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 36, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 37 to 128, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr FURNER (5.29 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr FURNER: I move the following amendment—

5 After clause 128

Page 69, after line 27—

insert—

128A Amendment of pt 8, hdg (Other transitional provisions)

Part 8, heading, after 'Other'—

insert—

repeal, savings and

128B Insertion of new pt 8, div 3

Part 8—

insert—

Division 3 Repeal, savings and transitional provisions for repeal of Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005

Subdivision 1 Repeal

57 Repeal

The Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005, No. 20 is repealed.

Subdivision 2 Savings and transitional provisions

58 Definitions for subdivision

In this subdivision—

QATC means the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges in existence under the repealed Act before the commencement.

repealed Act means the repealed *Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005*.

59 Words have meanings given by repealed Act

Words defined under the repealed Act immediately before its repeal and used in this subdivision have the same meanings as they had under the repealed Act.

60 QATC and other entities

(1) On the commencement—

(a) QATC and its board are dissolved; and

(b) QATC's principal executive officer and each member of its board go out of office; and

(c) each board committee, if any, is dissolved and each member of the board committee goes out of office; and

(d) each college board, if any, is dissolved and each member of the college board goes out of office; and

(e) a college director goes out of office.

(2) No compensation is payable to a person because of subsection (1).

(3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that subsection (2) does not limit or otherwise affect a person's right to a benefit or entitlement that had accrued before the commencement.

61 State is successor in law of QATC

(1) The State is the successor in law of QATC.

(2) Subsection (1) is not limited by another provision of this subdivision.

62 Assets and liabilities

On the commencement, the assets and liabilities of QATC immediately before the commencement become assets and liabilities of the State held in the department.

63 Records and other documents

On the commencement, QATC's records and other documents held by QATC immediately before the commencement become records and other documents of the State held in the department.

64 Current instruments

- (1) This section applies to a contract or other instrument to which QATC was a party, or that otherwise applied to QATC, immediately before the commencement (a **current instrument**).
- (2) The State is a party to the current instrument, or the current instrument otherwise applies to the State, in place of QATC.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2)—
 - (a) any right, title, interest or liability of QATC arising under or relating to a current instrument is a right, title, interest or liability of the State; and
 - (b) a current instrument, including a benefit or right provided by a current instrument, given to, by or in favour of QATC before the commencement is taken to have been given to, by or in favour of the State; and
 - (c) an application relating to a current instrument made in the name of QATC before the commencement is taken to have been made in the name of the State; and
 - (d) a current instrument under which an amount is, or may become, payable to or by QATC is taken to be an instrument under which the amount is, or may become, payable to or by the State in the way the amount was, or might have become, payable to or by QATC; and
 - (e) a current instrument under which property, other than money, is or may become liable to be transferred, conveyed or assigned to or by QATC is taken to be an instrument under which property is, or may become liable to be, transferred, conveyed or assigned to or by the State in the way the property was, or might have become, liable to be transferred, conveyed or assigned to or by QATC.
- (4) This section applies subject to section 69.

65 References to QATC

In an Act or document, a reference to QATC is, if the context permits, taken to be a reference to the State.

66 Current proceedings

- (1) This section applies to a proceeding that, immediately before the commencement, had not ended and to which QATC was a party.
- (2) On the commencement, the State becomes a party to the proceeding in place of QATC.

67 Proceedings not yet started

- (1) This section applies if, immediately before the commencement, a proceeding could have been started by or against QATC within a particular period.
- (2) The proceeding may be started by or against the State within the period.

68 Registering authority to note transfer or other dealing

- (1) A registering authority must, on written application by the chief executive and without charge, register or record in the appropriate way a transfer of, or other dealing affecting, an asset, liability or instrument under this subdivision.
- (2) The chief executive must comply with any relevant procedures required by the registering authority for the purpose of registering or recording the transfer or other dealing.
- (3) In this section—

registering authority means the registrar of titles or another entity required or authorised by law to register or record transactions affecting assets, liabilities or instruments.

69 Matters relating to employment

- (1) On the commencement—
 - (a) a person who, immediately before the commencement, is employed by QATC on a permanent full-time or permanent part-time basis, other than the principal executive officer or a college director, becomes a public service employee of the department; and
 - (b) a work performance arrangement, under section 15 of the repealed Act, between QATC and another government entity ends; and

- (c) despite the provisions of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, the following instruments stop having effect—
 - (i) the instrument called the 'Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Certified Agreement 2016';
 - (ii) the instrument called the 'Queensland Agricultural Colleges Award—State 2015'.
- (2) The change of employer under subsection (1)(a) does not—
 - (a) interrupt a person's continuity of service; or
 - (b) prejudice an employee's existing or accruing right to long service leave; or
 - (c) constitute a termination of employment by QATC, retrenchment or redundancy; or
 - (d) entitle a person to a payment or other benefit merely because the person is no longer employed by QATC.

70 Effect on legal relationships

- (1) A thing done under this subdivision—
 - (a) does not make the State liable for a civil wrong or a contravention of a law or for a breach of a contract or confidence; and
 - (b) does not make the State in breach of any instrument, including an instrument prohibiting, restricting or regulating the assignment, novation or transfer of a right or liability or the disclosure of information; and
 - (c) does not fulfil a condition that—
 - (i) terminates, or allows a person to terminate, an instrument or obligation; or
 - (ii) modifies, or allows a person to modify, the operation or effect of an instrument or obligation; or
 - (iii) allows a person to avoid or enforce an obligation or liability contained in an instrument or requires a person to perform an obligation contained in an instrument; or
 - (iv) requires any money to be paid before its stated maturity; and
 - (d) does not release a surety or other obligee, wholly or partly, from an obligation.
- (2) If, apart from this subsection, the advice, consent or approval of a person would be necessary to do something under this subdivision, the advice is taken to have been obtained or the consent or approval is taken to have been given unconditionally.
- (3) If giving notice to a person would be necessary to do something under this subdivision, the notice is taken to have been given.
- (4) A reference in this section to the State includes an employee or agent of the State.

Mr PERRETT: I rise to speak against the agricultural minister's amendments to repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005. In the parliament today the government is hammering the final nail in the coffin for Queensland's agricultural colleges. This amendment has been cynically snuck through without any community consultation or parliamentary committee scrutiny. It is contemptible and gives further proof that Labor does not care about the regions. The Premier and Labor have always planned to close the colleges. For the last five years under their watch they have allowed the colleges to deteriorate. Claims by the government that they are outdated, irrelevant and being repurposed are a disguise for the government's real purpose—an asset sale.

It has been two months since the agricultural colleges in Emerald and Longreach closed their doors. Since then, regional communities and the agricultural industry have been left completely in the dark about what happens next. It treats them with contempt. Labor has serious questions to answer about the closure of these colleges. Last year during estimates it was revealed that the person Labor chose to decide the future of the colleges is a Labor donor. Professor Peter Coaldrake donated \$1,760 to Labor in June 2018—just two weeks before he handed his controversial report to the government. He was also paid \$61,600—

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order about relevance to the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the relevance of this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, Minister. There is no point of order.

Mr PERRETT: Professor Peter Coaldrake donated \$1,760 to Labor in June 2018—just two weeks before he handed his controversial report to the government. He was also paid \$61,600 for putting together the politically motivated report to justify their closure. The decision to close these colleges has

been a hammer blow for rural Queenslanders who deserve to be told the truth about how this shameful decision was reached. Even though education is a key issue in rural and regional Queensland, the government has turned its back on agricultural education. The government should come clean about its plan for agricultural education now that it has shut the colleges. Labor's legacy is that it has cut agricultural education, removed agricultural educators, repurposed agricultural assets to be ready for sale, and destroyed training for the next generation of graziers and farmers. Anyone who cares about the future of Queensland agriculture and our rural and regional communities must vote against this outrageous amendment.

Mr MILLAR: I, too, was appalled with this amendment coming into the House yesterday under the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We have known for a long time Labor's plans to shut down agricultural education in Queensland. In December 2018 the minister flew up to Longreach to announce, 'We're shutting agricultural colleges down—the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College.' Why did the minister not insert this repeal into this legislation earlier last year? He would have known that he had to do something to repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005. Why do you sneak it in at the last minute with no opportunity—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: Why does the minister sneak it in with no opportunity for the committee system to be able to analyse what the minister is doing? What are you afraid of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: What is the minister afraid of with regard to putting this repeal through the committee system? Committees have three Labor and LNP members each. Those members need to be able to analyse what the minister is doing. This is just sneaky, this is deceitful and this just shows how Labor has complete contempt for the bush and agricultural education in Queensland, and those opposite should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr KNUTH: This is very disappointing. Both the Emerald and the Longreach ag colleges have been a great asset. We have a \$14 billion industry, and that has built up on the back of those colleges providing support, knowledge and information to our younger generation to help get them back to work on the land. It is disappointing that this has been snuck in like this. In the past certain schools and colleges have been doing it tough at particular moments, but the government has held on, stayed strong and supported those schools. Thornburgh college was one of those. It was down to 100 students and now it is up to 300 and something students.

The agricultural industry is trying to encourage the younger generations to get back on the land because it is money, it is income and it is wealth that comes right back here and even supports the parliament of Queensland. It is very disappointing that we could not get behind those colleges and give them departmental support. We did not see any support from departments to assist those colleges when things were tough. I definitely oppose this amendment.

Division: Question put—That the amendment 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, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

NOES, 41:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Pegg, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 129 to 131, as read, agreed to.

Clause 132—



Mr FURNER (5.41 pm): I move the following amendments—

- 6 Clause 132 (Amendment of s 10A (Unlawful assembly))**
Page 71, lines 8 to 16—
omit, insert—
- (b) the conduct of them taken together—
 - (i) would cause a person in the vicinity to reasonably fear that unlawful violence will be used to a person or property; or
 - (ii) if the conduct unlawfully happens on, or unlawfully affects, land mentioned in section 13(1)—
- 7 Clause 132 (Amendment of s 10A (Unlawful assembly))**
Page 71, line 23, 'cause economic loss to'—
omit, insert—
- directly disrupt the operation of
- 8 Clause 132 (Amendment of s 10A (Unlawful assembly))**
Page 72, lines 4 to 10—
omit, insert—
- (2) Section 10A(2)(c), '(1)(b)'—
omit, insert—
 - (1)(b)(i)
- 9 Clause 132 (Amendment of s 10A (Unlawful assembly))**
Page 72, line 13, 'Subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (2)(c)(ii) apply'—
omit, insert—
- Subsection (1)(b)(ii) applies

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 132, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 133 to 135, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr FURNER (5.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr FURNER: I move the following amendment—

- 1 After clause 135**
Page 75, after line 26—
insert—
- Part 19A Amendment of Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008**
- 135A Act amended**
This part amends the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.
- 135B Insertion of new ch 4, pt 5**
Chapter 4—
insert—
- Part 5 Particular works for Paradise Dam**
- 399D Application of part**
This part applies if—
- (a) the chief executive, under section 356(2), changes the safety conditions applying to the Paradise Dam; and
 - (b) the changed safety conditions are in relation to the carrying out of spillway works.
- 399E Definitions for part**
In this part—
- associated works*** means works associated with spillway works, including, for example—
- (a) works necessary to ensure water can continue to be released from the Paradise Dam following the carrying out of spillway works; or
 - (b) works necessary to ensure fish can continue to move through the Paradise Dam following the carrying out of spillway works; or
 - (c) works to remediate land affected by spillway works.
- spillway works*** means works to lower a spillway for the Paradise Dam in order to reduce the risk of the dam failing.

399F Application of other Acts to spillway works and associated works

- (1) The following Acts do not apply in relation to the carrying out of spillway works or associated works—
- (a) the *Biosecurity Act 2014*;
 - (b) the *Building Act 1975*;
 - (c) the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*;
 - (d) the *Fisheries Act 1994*;
 - (e) the *Forestry Act 1959*;
 - (f) the *Land Act 1994*;
 - (g) the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
 - (h) the *Pest Management Act 2001*;
 - (i) the *Planning Act 2016*;
 - (j) the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*;
 - (k) the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*;
 - (l) the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*;
 - (m) the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*;
 - (n) the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*;
 - (o) the *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994*;
 - (p) the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*;
 - (q) the *Water Act 2000*.
- (2) Also, the following provisions do not apply in relation to the carrying out of spillway works or associated works—
- (a) the *Local Government Act 2009*, chapter 3, part 3, division 1;
 - (b) the applied provisions under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Act 2016*;
 - (c) a provision of a local law;
 - (d) a provision of an Act, other than an Act mentioned in subsection (1), prescribed by regulation.
- (3) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (2)(d) only if satisfied—
- (a) the application of the provision to the carrying out of spillway works or associated works would significantly delay the carrying out of the works; and
 - (b) the making of the regulation will not adversely affect public health or safety.
- (4) A regulation made under subsection (2)(d) expires on 31 December 2023.

399G Owner must give notice of spillway works and associated works

The owner of the Paradise Dam must, before starting any spillway works or associated works, give the chief executive notice of the works.

399H Amendment of resource operations licence for Paradise Dam

- (1) This section applies in relation to a resource operations licence applying to the Paradise Dam.
- (2) The chief executive (water) may amend the resource operations licence to the extent necessary to ensure consistency with the changed safety conditions applying to the Paradise Dam.
- (3) The chief executive (water) must, within 30 business days of making the amendment, give the holder of the resource operations licence notice of the amendment and a copy of the amended licence.
- (4) The *Water Act 2000* applies in relation to the amended resource operations licence as if the amendment were made under that Act.
- (5) In this section—

chief executive (water) means the chief executive of the department responsible for administering the *Water Act 2000*.

399I Expiry

This part expires on 31 December 2023.

135C Amendment of sch 3 (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule 3, definition *works*—
omit.
- (2) Schedule 3—
insert—

associated works, for chapter 4, part 5, see section 399E.

spillway works, for chapter 4, part 5, see section 399E.

works—

- (a) means—
- (i) operations of any kind and all things constructed, erected or installed for the purposes of this Act or the *Water Act 2000*; and
 - (ii) any land used for the operations; and
- (b) for chapter 4, part 5—includes building work, and operational work, within the meaning of the *Planning Act 2016*.

Mr BENNETT: It is with some regret that we have to talk to this amendment tonight considering that I am still convinced that Sunwater is ignoring its own experts' advice. This is a serious issue. We have articulated many times in this House just how serious the decommissioning of the spillway at Paradise Dam will be. I am still not convinced that we have done the work.

I have evidence that I want to table of reports that have been withheld from stakeholders who are trying to get to the bottom of this and are trying to work with Sunwater to do the right thing. I ask members to think about building a dam in Queensland and then our first call is to chop the top off it. We should do everything we can to repair this dam. We must do all we can to get to the bottom of this. To state safety and urgency reasons misrepresents the situation as six international experts still do not have all their information. Sunwater continues to decline Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers' RTI requests for these documents. I table the nine documents that have been purposefully withheld from these stakeholders.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Documents referred to in Paradise Dam Preparedness Review Report 2019-2020—Required for expert assessment of safety and rehabilitation options' [214].

Yesterday the Premier said all technical reports have been released in the spirit of full disclosure. This is incorrect. Sunwater have declined these requests and continue to decline these requests. If we have an international expert who has been paid for by stakeholders and who is already stating that repairs are possible with no limiting of water in the dam, I think we at least should progress that before we even consider chopping the top off it.

This is the biggest infrastructure fail in Queensland. The first act of this Queensland parliament in 2020 was to introduce these draconian, destructive amendments about what the future of Paradise looks like. I understand the safety concerns. I have had briefings from the minister. There are still reports that have not been given to us. I apologise to the minister who now has carriage of this. He has been thrown under the bus. Not all the technical reports are on Sunwater's website. There are only five reports to read. Time and time again in this House it has been quoted that there are 11 reports.

Tonight we should take a deep breath, be calm and consider the future and the economic drivers in Queensland. This is the driest nation in the world. We must get on with the job of providing water security. Let us take the time to give these stakeholders their due diligence; work with them, Building Queensland and Sunwater to get to bottom of what the repairs could look like. On behalf of my community I urge the stakeholder ministers who are withholding these nine documents to provide them and let us get back to the drawing board. The first act of this Queensland parliament was to introduce these amendments and not one of the stakeholders in my region was consulted. It is insulting. This continues to be an insult to the region. We must provide water security to Queensland and the Paradise Dam region.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The LNP cannot support these amendments to tear down Paradise Dam without a plan to repair it. It simply cannot happen. The community of Bundaberg, the community of Wide Bay and the community of Queensland have not been consulted by this Labor government. I plead with the minister to understand the community and the importance of water security for regional Queensland—in fact, the importance of water security for all of Queensland. There is no greater issue than water security for Queensland right now.

The Labor government in Queensland has torn down the economic security of the people of Wide Bay with this terrible decision. We know Labor is anti dams, we know Labor is anti regions and with this decision it is anti jobs. This is not about the safety of the people of Bundaberg. It is very clear that the community has not been consulted. I have a letter addressed to the minister from Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers which I will table because it outlines the sheer desperation of the people of Bundaberg who have not been consulted.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 February 2020, from the Managing Director, Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Ms Bree Grima, to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, regarding Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers [215].

They are having their livelihoods torn down. This is not about safety; this is about a misguided government that does not appreciate and understand the economic detriment that it is putting that community under. If it was about safety, then why has the Palaszczuk government sat on its hands since 2015? If it is about safety, then why is it not waiting for the experts' report that it commissioned? The report has not been completed. I urge the minister and the Palaszczuk government to listen to the Bundaberg community, listen to the people of Queensland and have a think about what tearing down Paradise Dam will do to the security of that region.

We have heard this week the desperation of the agricultural industry because of the coronavirus. We have agriculturalists who are trying to export their produce from the Bundaberg region to the rest of the world. When we need them more, what does the Palaszczuk government do? It takes water security off them. Shame on those opposite. The LNP will not be supporting this amendment.

Mr BATT: This Paradise Dam debacle has brought Bundaberg residents, growers and irrigators to tears. Our community is devastated, confused, and rightly so. Right across from where I am standing is a government and a minister who have absolutely no idea: no idea of the uncertainty, anxiety, angst and engulfing stress this ongoing catastrophe is causing the people of the Bundaberg region. I am honestly struggling to find the right words to express my utter disbelief, anger and confusion at Labor's destruction of our region's water security and economy.

Labor's decision to ram through legislation to allow them to immediately start tearing down the Paradise Dam wall without any of the usual permits or environmental approvals tears down our parliamentary process with it: refusing a committee review, community consultation and common sense. The minister claims this legislation needs to be moved urgently to ensure community safety, but what about the safety of everybody impacted by his decision?

The odds of someone taking their own life because this disaster has put their entire livelihood on the line is much more likely than the loss of life from the remote possibility of the catastrophic failure of a dam wall in an unlikely scenario of another one-in-200-year flood event in the next 12 months.

Bundaberg is an amazing region. We have incredible produce, incredible soil and, up until recently, we had incredible water security. That was until Labor decided to reduce the Paradise Dam to 42 per cent capacity, with no real plan to reinstate the lost volume in the future. The Paradise Dam is now at less than 35 per cent and if we do not get any serious rain our farmers and irrigators will be forced to work with just 16 per cent. That will make many farms unviable.

Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers, our local canegrower organisations and their members have been at the forefront of our community's fight for answers. Together they have funded Dr Paul Rizzo, a world renowned engineering expert who specialises in RCC dams, to investigate the issue and potential fixes. After just a glance at the report so far, Dr Rizzo said that it was very possible that the height of the wall did not need to be reduced, instead indicating that there could be a much simpler and cheaper fix.

I ask those opposite, what is the rush? Labor has known about the issue since 2015, but suddenly the wall needs to come down right now. Why not wait until the commission of inquiry and the Building Queensland reports are finalised in the next two months? Is there something those opposite are not telling us? Already our region has lost hundreds of millions of dollars of investment because of the Paradise Dam debacle. We are suffering because Labor refuses to listen.

Tonight I stand here on behalf of my Bundaberg community to condemn those opposite and strongly oppose the amendments relating to the Paradise Dam. This scandal is the worst of its kind and I will not stop fighting for answers until we know the truth.

Hon. AJ LYNHAM: We have just heard from representatives of the community of Bundaberg and the Leader of the Opposition, but they are simply not fit to represent their communities. What we have heard is scaremongering in the worst degree. My priority is the safety of the people of Bundaberg and the Burnett. Their first priority is just politics. Their second priority is water security. I have not heard anyone stating that safety is their first priority. Can we imagine if they were in charge? With all the

reports telling a minister who is being advised by Sunwater that this dam is unsafe, they would just sit there. They have acknowledged it. They would sit there and do nothing. We have heard it: they would sit there and do nothing.

In 2013, 7,500 people were evacuated. Almost 1,000 people were evacuated by helicopter. North Bundaberg was flooded and Hinkler Avenue was destroyed, and that was when the dam was declared safe. We have no guarantee that, in an equivalent event, that dam would be safe and they want it left alone. They want to put the population of Bundaberg at risk. I will not stand here as minister and have the population of Bundaberg and Burnett at risk. They would! If the Leader of the Opposition was premier, she would put the population at risk. As minister, I will not. I have received advice from Sunwater. I have received advice from experts. They tell me that we have to act immediately. When I was advised in September 2019, I acted immediately.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, if you want to talk on this, get on your feet. They next time you will be warned under the standing orders. Member for Buderim, the same goes for you. If you want to talk, get on your feet.

Dr LYNHAM: There is an argument of confabulation and confusion. We heard them say that we should wait for Justice Byrne's report. Justice Byrne is reporting on the history of the dam. The structural integrity issues have been examined at length. They have advised me. You cannot even get your reports right. You cannot even work out who is doing what reports. You demand an investigation—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Dr LYNHAM:—and you cannot even work out who is doing the investigation or when it finishes. The structural issues are there. Experts have advised the minister that the dam is unsafe in circumstances such as Cyclone Oswald. I will not put the population of Bundaberg at risk.

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 41:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: Pegg, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, in accordance with sessional order 2B the House must now consider clause 136, postponed clause 2, schedule 1 and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 and 10 to 13, as circulated, be agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 10, after line 6—

insert—

(1AA) The following provisions commence on 29 February 2020 at the end of the day—

- (a) sections 128A and 128B;
- (b) schedule 1, to the extent it amends the following—
 - (i) the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*;
 - (ii) the *Education (Work Experience) Act 1996*;
 - (iii) the *Industrial Relations Regulation 2018*;

- (iv) the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*;
- (v) the *Public Sector Ethics Act 1994*;
- (vi) the *Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010*;
- (vii) the *Public Service Regulation 2018*;
- (viii) the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019*;
- (ix) the *Superannuation (State Public Sector) Notice 2010*.

(1AB) The following provisions commence on 1 March 2020—

- (a) sections 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 40, 46, 49, 66, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 76, 78, 79 and 83;
- (b) parts 17 and 18.

10 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 78, after line 19—

insert—

Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986

1 Section 9A, table, item 8—

omit.

Education (Work Experience) Act 1996

1 Section 5(1)(e)—

omit.

11 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 79, after line 16—

insert—

Industrial Relations Regulation 2018

1 Schedule 5, part 3, item 4—

omit.

12 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 80, after line 5—

insert—

Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010

1 Section 6(1)(i)—

omit.

Public Sector Ethics Act 1994

1 Schedule, definition *agricultural college*—

omit.

2 Schedule, definition *public sector entity*, paragraph (c), 'or an agricultural college'—

omit.

Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010

1 Schedule, entry for Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges—

omit.

Public Service Regulation 2018

1 Schedule 5—

omit.

13 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 80, after line 15—

insert—

Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019

1 Schedule 2, entry for *Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005*—

omit.

2 Schedule 3, entry for *Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005*—

omit.

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Notice 2010

1 Schedule 2, entries for Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges and Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Employing Office—

omit.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 136 and schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 2 of version C20 and amendment No. 14 be agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

2 Long title

Long title, after '*Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936*'—
insert—

, the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*

14 Long title

Long title, after 'purposes'—
insert—

, and to also amend the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* by inserting provisions that repeal the *Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005* and provide for transitional matters

Amendments agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received a notification and supporting certification regarding the member for Pumicestone's absence from the House on 27 and 28 November 2019. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

ADJOURNMENT

Bonney Electorate, Schools



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (6.03 pm): There are not many things we can fight for in this parliament more important than having the best facilities for our local schools. I have some great state schools in my area with dedicated principals leading them and teachers who work hard and sacrifice much of their time to give our local young people the best start in life.

For some of them that can often be a struggle in rundown buildings. Arundel State School is a proud independent public school that achieves fantastic results. Sadly, almost half of their classrooms are in demountable buildings—22 of 47, including three specialist classes and a rundown toilet block. These were brought in on the back of trucks decades ago, meaning there are very few permanent buildings at a school that has consistently over 1,100 students enrolled. Some of these demountable classrooms are not even level. Things will roll down the desks if people do not hold onto them. Our Arundel kids deserve better learning spaces.

Labrador State School, closer to the sea breeze, celebrates 100 years next year. Whilst the buildings at this site might not be that old, it needs upgrades. The hall is not fit for purpose and it needs some serious work. At Labrador and Coombabah high there is also limited air conditioning. Their P&C associations cannot and should not continue to carry that burden. Teachers admit that they often do not get anything done in the afternoon sessions because students cannot concentrate. That lost time adds up. Our kids should not have to sit through that heat. It is an insult to hear Labor say it is not an issue because apparently we have sea breezes in that area.

Finally, I will touch on the serious traffic and footpath issues around Musgrave Hill State School, Southport Special School, Southport Flexible Learning Centre and the Musgrave Hill Community Children's Centre. All these facilities are within a few hundred metres of each other and they are all

around the busy local road Kumbari Avenue and next to the Smith Street Motorway. I met with local engineer Gerard, a parent of Musgrave Hill State School and whose wife, Alison, sits on the P&C. He was so sick of the chaos and safety risks that he took it upon himself to undertake a general review of the area with his expertise. I table his detailed notes to place these serious issues on the public record.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Notes on the state of road and footpath network surrounding Musgrave Hill State School' [216].

I wrote to Mayor Tate about these issues and was told that detailed traffic surveys will be undertaken in response early in this term. I am happy to say that repairs to some of the more serious trip hazards and edge drops on footpaths will be undertaken. They will also be replacing damaged kerb and channel and refreshing the line markings around these major schools.

More needs to be done and I urge council and the Department of Education and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to get on to it swiftly, especially around Southport Special School, which is one of the largest in the state and has some serious issues at the entry. It is particularly an issue for the state departments because they are the ones who put these major learning facilities within a few hundred metres of each other on busy roads. It should be up to them to make those upgrades that are needed.

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.06 pm): It may be more than two months since this parliament last met, but the Labor government has not stopped working for the people of Queensland. Our government understands that to get the best out of this state we have to invest in the things that matter—health care, infrastructure, transport and education. That is why we took the opportunity over the Christmas school holidays to push ahead with delivering on our air conditioning and solar school commitments. In the electorate of Woodridge significant progress has been made in setting our students up for a fantastic year of learning in 2020 and beyond.

I am happy to report that contracts have been awarded for air-conditioning works to soon begin at nine schools in the Woodridge electorate. These schools include: Berrinba East State School, Browns Plains State High School, Browns Plains State School, Burrowes State School, Kingston State College, Kingston State School, Woodridge North State School, Woodridge State High School and Woodridge State School. In total, 285 learning spaces will be air conditioned at these nine schools—an enormous effort that is creating plenty of work for our small businesses and tradies. Installations at all these schools are expected to be completed within two months, weather permitting.

Meanwhile an additional three schools are currently at the design and tender phase: Harris Fields State School, Marsden State School and Yugumbir State School. Work has been completed at Crestmead State School, with every learning space at that facility now fully air conditioned.

Plenty of progress has also been made with the Advancing Clean Energy Schools installations at a number of schools in the Woodridge electorate. The ACES program is our government's \$97 million investment in renewable energy generation for our schools, designed to drive down energy costs at these facilities and to get more green energy back into the grid. Six schools in the Woodridge electorate are part of the phase 1 rollout, with work already completed at Berrinba East State School, Harris Fields State School, Logan City Special School and Marsden State School. Between these schools an incredible 470 solar panels have been installed on building rooftops. By the time Crestmead State School and Woodridge State High School are complete in the next month or so, a further 556 panels will be capturing renewable energy from the sun.

There is also good news for local workers relying on the early commute into the city, with Queensland Rail introducing 32 new weekly services in the south-east. This includes a new 4.33 am train from Beenleigh that will pull through Woodridge Railway Station at 4.51 am each day and reach Central Railway Station by 5.51 am. These new services begin on Monday, 2 March and brings the total number of weekly trains on the Beenleigh and Gold Coast lines to 1,484—the most there has ever been. These services will take more cars off our roads, easing congestion and helping workers get home sooner.

Our government will continue to invest in the projects that make a positive difference to the lives of Queenslanders. I will continue working and fighting hard to ensure the people of Woodridge benefit from those projects.

Animal Cruelty; New Acland Coalmine

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.09 pm): In early January my office was contacted regarding the deaths of 32 horses and another eight horses that were in an advanced state of malnutrition and severe neglect at a property near Charlton. These horses had been left to die by the owner, who had previously been convicted in 2005 of animal cruelty. He was reported and investigated in 2017 in a similar set of circumstances on the same property and he claimed the drought as his only excuse on this occasion. This act of extreme animal cruelty was reported to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the RSPCA by the neighbouring property owners and several concerned citizens. Without their intervention all 40 horses would have perished under the most dreadful of conditions.

The Condamine electorate office has been kept updated on the condition of the eight remaining horses since mid-January after making several requests to both the department and the minister's office to be provided with regular reports. The horses are making a slow recovery and an active investigation is being undertaken by the department. I look forward to receiving a copy of the outcome of the investigation in the near future.

My question is: why was Terry Oberle, a person convicted of prior animal cruelty, allowed to own horses, and why do the eight surviving horses remain under his care? These horses had infected bites and fly strike, were emaciated and too weak to stand when first found. That is not something that happens overnight. This neglect had been ongoing for months. If a dog or a cat had been found in these conditions they would have been removed from their owner immediately.

The bodies of all 32 horses remain on the property as it is legally the responsibility of the property owner to remove the carcasses, not that of the lessee of the land. The neighbours have had to endure the stench of rotting bodies during extremely hot and now humid and wet conditions.

Lastly, I would ask the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy: when will you grant the required mining leases for stage 3 of the New Acland mine? After 12 years of seeking approval it is time, especially when the highest court in Queensland has ruled definitively in favour of stage 3. How many stalling tactics can the minister employ to shore up inner-city green votes? It is blatantly obvious now that these tactics are not about winning court cases; they are about stalling decisions. The minister has the power to intervene and make that decision. I call on the minister to do so.

QEII Hospital

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.12 pm): On 13 January this year I was pleased to visit the QEII Hospital in my electorate to meet with 10 new and enthusiastic medical interns who had started their internship at the QEII Hospital. I also got to meet Bert, the labradoodle and his handler, Megan. This is an initiative at the QEII Hospital to introduce Bert as a companion to the people who have to go to hospital for treatment. Bert also interacts with the staff and has a positive effect on both staff and patients. I understand he is not allowed to be let loose on patients yet; he has one more certificate to gain. I must say that Bert is a lot better behaved than my two labradoodles, Cookie and Oreo.

These interns are the next generation of medical professionals and they are among 150 interns who started their careers across Metro South Health in January. Metro South Health is the major provider of public health services, and health education and research on Brisbane's south side. Metro South serves an estimated population of one million people, which is 23 per cent of Queensland's population, and they employ more than 14,000 staff. The interns I met have all worked extremely hard to be offered this opportunity at QEII where they will be able to grow and develop their skills and expertise within QEII's supportive environment.

This is the first year QEII Hospital has trained interns as a primary allocation centre and these interns will be able to complete all call and elective rotations at the facility. Throughout 2020 all of these interns will complete rotations in general medicine, general surgery and emergency medicine along with electives in specialised areas including orthopaedics, urology and gynaecology. The QEII Hospital environment provides the support these interns will need with a strong network of senior staff ready and willing to guide them over the next years.

I was also excited to hear about some of the other innovative projects that QEII is trialling. It has introduced what would seem like small initiatives that make a real difference to patients' lives. I am confident that the new interns who have started at QEII—and their patients—are in safe hands and the experiences they have will develop their skills and expertise and will make them great doctors for Queensland's future.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): As a former staff member of QEII, I can see that Bert the labradoodle has raised the standards of staffing since I left.

Sale of Public Assets

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.15 pm): This morning the Deputy Premier stood in this House and uttered the phrase ‘asset sales’. Let’s be very clear: the only party in this chamber who has sold assets without the consent of the people of Queensland is the ALP. The LNP were upright and honest. We went to the population in 2015 with a plan and asked for consent. The ALP never, ever took that step. They went behind the backs of the people of Queensland and sold asset after asset.

In 2006 they sold Sun Retail for \$1.2 billion. In 2007 asset sales included Sun Gas, \$75 million; Golden Casket, \$530 million; PowerDirect, \$102 billion. In 2008 the asset sales included Brisbane Airport for \$289 million and Cairns and Mackay airports for \$738 million. In 2009 the current Premier became part of the cabinet of this state. In 2010 Forestry Plantations was sold for \$600 million; the Port of Brisbane, \$2.1 billion; QR National, \$4 billion. In 2011 Abbot Point port was sold for \$1.8 billion and Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion.

Between 2006 and 2011 the Labor government, without the consent of the population, sold \$16.26 billion worth of assets, and they have the gall to attack this side of the chamber. We had the honest approach; they did not. More importantly, there are four current ministers in this House who sat around the cabinet table at different times—not across the whole spectrum—and consented to assets being sold. Not one word was breathed by them by way of protest. The Hon. Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge; the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, the member for Sandgate; the Hon. Kate Jones, the member for Cooper; the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier, sat around that cabinet table and ticked off. ‘What do you think, fellows?’ ‘Sell it.’ ‘You beauty! We will sell it. Tell the people of Queensland?’ ‘We won’t tell them what’s going on.’

Mr Lister: Where’s all the money gone?

Mr McARDLE: I take the point raised; where did the money go?

We did the right thing; Labor did the wrong thing, and they did not tell the people of Queensland. We were honest and up-front.

Sandgate Electorate, Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.19 pm): Five years ago last week, the residents of Sandgate did me the great honour of electing me as their representative in this House. In that time, I have been pleased to support dozens and dozens of our schools, organisations and community groups to apply for grants from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Over the last five years, our community has received \$2 million worth of successful funding applications for a range of purposes, including sheds and shade shelters, playgrounds and pitch rollers, ovens and outboard motors, marquees and mini trains, kitchens and kilns, and furniture and fences.

My team has set me the Jacinda Ardern challenge to see if I can list all the organisations in the Sandgate electorate that have benefited from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in under two minutes. Here goes: All About Living, Artrageous Sandgate, Autism Queensland, Bayside Divas, Bracken Ridge Little Athletics, Bracken Ridge Cricket Club, Bracken Ridge Kindergarten, Bracken Ridge Sports Association, Bracken Ridge State High School P&C, Bracken Ridge State School P&C, Bracken Ridge Swimming Club, Bramble Bay Pony Club, Brighton Bowls Club, Brighton Bulldogs Soccer Club, Brighton Roosters Rugby League Club, Brighton State School P&C, Brownsea Scouts, Eventide Social Lawn Bowls, Guides Queensland Sandgate, Jabiru Community Youth & Children’s Service, Koobara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Kindy, Lions Club of Bracken Ridge Central, Masonic Aged Care Sandgate, Norris Road State School P&C, Polynesian Va’a-alo Outrigger Canoe Club, Queensland Cruising Yacht Club, Queensland Omnibus & Coach Society, Ridgettes Netball Club, RSL Sandgate sub-branch, Sacred Heart Primary School, Sailability Sandgate, SANDBAG, Sandgate & District Aquatics, Sandgate & District Historical Society, Sandgate & District Youth Tennis, Sandgate Bowls Club, Sandgate Chamber of Commerce, Sandgate District Men’s Shed, Sandgate Golf Club, Sandgate Hawks AFL Club, Sandgate Kids Early Education, Sandgate Meals on Wheels, Sandgate Paddling Club, Sandgate PCYC, Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club, Sandgate Squash Social Club, Sandgate State School P&C, Sandgate Theatre, Sandgate Yacht Club, Sandgate Youth Orchestra, SEQ Wind Ensemble, Share the Dignity, Shelterbox Australia, Singh Sabha Brisbane, St John Fisher College P&F, St John’s Community Care, St Kieran’s Primary School P&F, St Paraskevi

Childcare Centre Taigum, St Paraskevi Orthodox Church, TS Paluma Naval Cadets, Taigum State School P&C, Volunteer Marine Rescue Brisbane, YMCA Norris Road State School OSHC and YMCA Sandgate State School OSHC. As I said, that is \$2 million for communities in our local area.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Well done, and next we will hear your rendition of *I've been everywhere, man*.

Water Infrastructure

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.22 pm): I rise today to express my abject horror at the extent of the government's decision-making that has been going on in this state in recent times. What is most galling about many of these decisions is the resultant losses across regional Queensland. In one week, the Palaszczuk Labor administration has seriously damaged the future security and development in two major whole river systems that support two very significant agricultural regions. Indeed, by not repairing the defective Paradise Dam, Labor has denied water security to the Burnett River valley, a major food bowl that generates \$1 billion in economic benefits and a huge number of local jobs each and every year. As of today, the state government has placed the Burdekin Falls Dam hydro project on hold also, which effectively puts a delay on increasing the long-term water holding capacity for downstream agriculture as well as communities and mining.

Water is the lifeblood of Queensland whether you live in the city or you live in the country. Within my electorate of Mirani, the Rookwood Weir has also been downsized and stalled again, whilst the Upper Connors Dam, which started construction in 2012 and is a very important piece of infrastructure, remains on the backburner of so-called priority projects. I am at a loss to understand the thought processes of government members who keep ignoring or cancel outright shovel-ready water projects in the midst of the worst drought period in living memory. It should be seen as non-negotiable to have reliable and sensibly priced water. Building water storages should be priority one, and to heck with any misguided claptrap spewing from the greens. Without water, it leaves all of Queensland damned and powerless. Without a state income from exports, where are we going to source money from?

Queensland has a debt problem and we all know it. The Palaszczuk government has controlled state Treasury for the past five years. Our public debt is continuing to rise to \$91 billion in the next few years. It must surely register as gratuitous vote buying in the faint hope of saving the deckchairs of our fast-sinking economy for anyone to be contemplating the bid for the 2032 Olympics as a glorious saviour. Straight up, the Olympics are going to cost \$6 billion to \$10 billion, and it has also been noted that any of the summer Olympics have run over 170 per cent on their budget or maybe beyond. If indeed we have to spend more money, it could go a long way to building all of these water projects that would underpin a permanent economic benefit that will kick in well before, and last for many decades beyond, the two weeks of giant sports carnivals in 12 years time.

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*; Springwood Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (6.25 pm): Before I begin my adjournment speech, I would like to quickly correct the record. In my response to a question without notice this morning on QBuild, I indicated that six of the new QBuild apprentices from this intake are Australian Defence Force veterans. What I should have said is that four of the new QBuild tradespeople are Australian Defence Force veterans and two are apprentices.

State schools are great schools. I know a lot of members have made contributions about them today. I am also going to make a contribution about Springwood schools because they are getting even better. I saw last week, as many of us did, many proud mums and dads walking their kids to school for the first time, with freshly ironed uniforms, brand-new pencil cases and beaming smiles, mostly. Let me tell the House what else is new at Springwood schools this term. We have invested in the prep students at Chatswood Hills State School with a newly refurbished prep area. The 270 students at the 147-year-old Daisy Hill State School are going to be more focused on their studies thanks to the brand-new refurbished blocks B and C. By the end of this year, there will be a brand-new performing arts centre for Rochedale South State School, which is a fantastic initiative.

Over at Mount Cotton State School, the 580 students started the 2020 school year with newly refurbished block C. A big thanks goes to the tradies I met with over the summer who delivered that on time. Caring for our environment is important in my community. That means acting sustainably but also teaching our next generation of Queenslanders to act sustainably. That is why I am proud that we have installed the 90 solar panels at Mount Cotton State School to reduce the school's ecological footprint

as part of the Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program. We also have stage 1 of the Mount Cotton Master Plan kicking off already, with the prep and admin blocks first to come. I want to thank the Minister for Education, who met with the local community, the Mount Cotton P&C and me to design and commence the delivery of the master plan to meet the needs of our community.

Queensland children of all abilities deserve the best opportunities in our schools. Over the summer, I visited Springwood Central State School to inspect the works to make it more accessible for children of all abilities by upgrading the equitable access ramps to block A's junior covered area and accessibility to administration block D. This will be completed any day now.

At Springwood State High School, we are cultivating the next generation of film stars. We have a brand-new performing arts hall refurbishment coming there as part of our signature Renewing Our Schools initiative. I am very pleased to see Queensland tradies and apprentices from QBuild making that project a reality. Finally, I can confidently say that our state is blessed with incredibly talented teachers. This year Queensland students will be supported with 1,000 more of them and a shout out to all of them for 2020.

Theodore Electorate; Evans, Mr B

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise tonight to talk on some topics that are causing concerns for residents on the northern Gold Coast. On 11 January this year, the northern Gold Coast road network went into meltdown due to an incident on the M1 motorway shortly before noon involving a fuel tanker and vehicles. This forced the police to declare an emergency situation. A week later on 18 January, a rain event caused extensive flooding on the M1 motorway at Oxenford and it was not until just before noon that both directions of traffic were open for motorists. Motorists were forced to use local roads that are not designed to hold vast amounts of traffic. Reserve Road at Upper Coomera became the alternative M1 motorway as motorists were forced to use this road and the two other smaller connection roads which are to the side of the M1 motorway. Therefore, what normally would be a 15-minute trip was blown out by two hours.

The problem is that the Coomera River is a natural barrier and has limited options for motorists to traverse it—two service roads beside the M1 motorway and the John Muntz Bridge. As I stated, the majority of motorists were forced to use Reserve Road. Reserve Road leads into Tamborine Oxenford Road and crosses the Coomera River at the John Muntz Bridge. In 2017 the connection road that leads up to the John Muntz Bridge was washed away. Whilst this road has been repaired, the riverbank is still vulnerable to further erosion events as no stabilising reinforcement works have been carried out apart from the small section near the bridge. One could imagine the total traffic chaos if the John Muntz Bridge was washed out of action and the M1 was closed. We need to reinforce the riverbank and start construction of the second M1 for the northern Gold Coast to give motorists an alternative. These two events show how vulnerable the road network is on the northern Gold Coast, especially as you traverse the Coomera River.

Another concern residents have expressed to me is the recent knife attacks and crime. They are frustrated at what they perceive as a revolving door legal system. In a recent newspaper article, the police highlighted their frustrations with the catch and release strategy of the courts. Only recently, a shop attendant in a local convenience store feared for her life after two thugs threatened her with harm while they robbed the store. It was a truly terrifying experience for the young lady who worked there at the store to help pay off her university fees. Residents feel the system gives perpetrators more rights than victims, and they are demanding that the legal system be overhauled as the current system is certainly not working.

I would like to wrap up my adjournment speech by making mention of Boyd Evans after his sad passing last night. Boyd Evans was a great member of the Ormeau Lions club. He was a district president. He was a person who would go out of his way to help every single human being he could.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.31 pm): I am very pleased to be able to stand up and talk about the wonderful schools in my community and how the Palaszczuk government is investing in the infrastructure in these schools to provide quality learning for all of their students. I could not be more thrilled that Woody Point Special School has a couple of projects currently ongoing. There is a \$350,000 project which will deliver the refurbishment of four learning spaces in block H with new floor coverings, joinery, new layout to cater for equitable access, modifications of windows and ceiling and an internal repaint as well as a \$400,000 project which will

deliver the refurbishment of three learning spaces in block E, including new floor coverings, new joinery, new layout to cater for equitable access, replacement hoists, modification of windows and ceiling and an internal repaint. Both of these works are due for completion in March 2020.

In addition, Clontarf Beach State High School is getting refurbishments and an equitable lift. Students at Clontarf Beach State High School will notice work underway at block D. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$400,000 to deliver refurbishments including new floor coverings, new walls, windows, sinks and doors and an equitable access lift to block A has been installed with a project budget of \$250,000. Students spend many hours in these school buildings gaining knowledge and skills that they will need in the future and it is essential to ensure that their facilities are comfortable and suitable for the modern learning environment. At Humpybong State School returning students will now notice the recent installation of an equitable access lift. The \$233,000 project at block A will now allow increased accessibility for students. A \$420,000 project will deliver the refurbishment of three learning spaces in block F as well, and this is due for completion in March 2020.

Like the member for Sandgate, although I do not have my complete list with me today, I want to acknowledge the recipients of the most recent round in Redcliffe. I congratulate Moreton Bay Film Creators' Network which received over \$9,000 to purchase film equipment and host a workshop; congratulations to the Redcliffe branch of Little Athletics for \$10,000 to purchase new hurdles and a trolley; the Redcliffe Environmental Forum received \$4,741 to purchase new cameras and a water meter; the Redcliffe Leagues Netball Association received over \$22,000 to upgrade facilities and purchase new equipment; the Redcliffe Peninsula Lapidary Club received over \$21,000 to purchase faceting and cylindrical lapping machines; and the Redcliffe Tennis Association received \$12,000 to install LED lighting to the courts. I congratulate all of these organisations and encourage organisations to put in applications for the next round.

The House adjourned at 6.34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson