



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2020

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 7 February 2020

A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health (Declared Public Health Emergencies) Amendment Bill 2020 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

7 February 2020

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 7 February 2020, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a bill on 7 February 2020 [\[252\]](#).

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The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 13 February 2020

A Bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection Act 1999, the Director of Child Protection Litigation Act 2016 and the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Biosecurity Regulation 2016, the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, the Forestry Act 1959, the Forestry Regulation 2015, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Racing Act 2002, the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936, the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, 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

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

13 February 2020

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 13 February 2020, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 13 February 2020 [253].

## ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CURRUMBIN

### By-Election, Issue of Writ



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Clerk and I have both received official notifications about the Currumbin by-election caused by the resignation of the member on 1 February 2020 and the related correspondence, which I tabled on 3 February 2020. I table the relevant correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 February 2020, from the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Dave Stewart, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the writ for a by-election to be held on 28 March 2020 for the electorate of Currumbin [254].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 February 2020, from the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, enclosing a copy of the writ for a by-election to be held on 28 March 2020 for the electorate of Currumbin [272].

I also seek leave to incorporate the key dates in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

Currumbin by-election key dates—

- Thursday, 6 February 2020—the day of the issue of the writ
- Wednesday, 12 February 2020—the cut-off day for electoral rolls for the election
- Thursday, 13 February 2020—the cut-off day for the nomination of candidates for the election
- Saturday, 28 March 2020—the polling day
- Wednesday, 29 April 2020—the return of the writ

## REPORT

### Auditor-General



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 12: 2019-20—Managing coal seam gas activities*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General of Queensland: Report 12: 2019-20—Managing coal seam gas activities [255].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Eight Mile Plains State School in the electorate of Toohey, Mater Dei Primary School in the electorate of Toowoomba North and Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee.

## PETITIONS

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

### Local Government, Flood Mapping

**Mr Weir**, from 808 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Planning Act 2016 to ensure landholders are reasonably compensated if adversely affected from local government changes to flood mapping [256].

### Ridgeway TAFE Campus, Redevelopment

**Mr Molhoek**, from 422 petitioners, requesting the House to gift the site of the former Ridgeway TAFE Campus at Southport to the City of Gold Coast for redevelopment of community service facilities and recreational reserve [257].

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

**Rural Fire Brigade, Volunteers**

From 1,964 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure our rural fire brigade volunteers have the equipment and resources necessary to perform their firefighting duties and to remain safe while doing so [\[258\]](#).

**Home Warranty Insurance Scheme**

From 831 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018 and remove painting and decorating of residential properties from the Queensland Home Warranty Insurance Scheme [\[259\]](#).

**Companion Animals**

From 466 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the unrestricted breeding and selling of companion animals [\[260\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

7 February 2020—

[217](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 September 2019 and 15 October 2019

[218](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 33, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019

[219](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 34, 56th Parliament February 2020—Transport Legislation (Disability Parking Permit Scheme) Amendment Bill 2019

[220](#) 2018-19 Report on State Finances of the Queensland Government—30 June 2019

[221](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 45, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019

[222](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Master Plan—Priority Port of Townsville, 2019

[223](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2019

[224](#) Education and Care Services National Law: Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2019, human rights certificate

[225](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 59, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

[226](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 37, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019

10 February 2020—

[227](#) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner—Annual Report 2018-19

[228](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2018-19

11 February 2020—

[229](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament 11: 2019-20—Queensland Government state finances: 2018-19: results of financial audit

13 February 2020—

[230](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3251-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,862 petitioners, requesting the House to appeal the sentence for recently convicted child sex offender Rogelio Acosta Ruiz

14 February 2020—

[231](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 28, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019

17 February 2020—

[232](#) Board of Examiners—Annual Report 2018-19

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Public Health Act 2005:

[233](#) Public Health (Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 7

[234](#) Public Health (Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 7, explanatory notes

[235](#) Public Health (Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 7, human rights certificate

Public Health Act 2005:

- [236](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 8
- [237](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 8, explanatory notes
- [238](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation 2020, No. 8, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Planning Act 2016, Vegetation Management Act 1999:

- [239](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Koala Protection) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 9
- [240](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Koala Protection) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 9, explanatory notes
- [241](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Koala Protection) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 9, human rights certificate

Electoral Act 1992, Referendums Act 1997, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [242](#) Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 10
- [243](#) Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 10, explanatory notes
- [244](#) Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 10, human rights certificate

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

- [245](#) Proclamation remaining provisions, No. 11
- [246](#) Proclamation remaining provisions, No. 11, explanatory notes
- [247](#) Proclamation remaining provisions, No. 11, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [248](#) Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) (Low Impact Activities) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 12
- [249](#) Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) (Low Impact Activities) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 12, explanatory notes
- [250](#) Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) (Low Impact Activities) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 12, human rights certificate

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

- [251](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

##### **Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

###### **Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*

‘Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’

*Insert—*

‘Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2020’

##### **Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

###### **Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*


‘Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’

*Insert—*

‘Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020’

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Assistance Package

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Queensland businesses have been hit hard by the coronavirus. Today I announce a \$27.25 million assistance package to help everyone. This is the largest, most comprehensive coronavirus response by any government anywhere in Australia. Our tourism, fishing and international education industries and small business are hurting. I called them together. Together we formulated a plan. Today I deliver.

To help our fishing industry we are waiving licensing and quota fees, worth \$660,000. We are extending the catch area for tropical rock lobster. We are providing grants for boat upgrades and onshore facilities like freezers, worth half a million dollars. We are also providing a half a million dollar campaign on Eat Queensland. I know the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development loves that campaign.

For tourism, we have launched a \$7 million international marketing campaign, a \$2.3 million marketing Tropical North Queensland campaign and \$2.5 million for the Gold Coast. We are lowering fees associated with liquor licences. We are waiving quota fees for rock lobster and coral trout and inbound tourism operator fees. We have introduced a 100 per cent fee rebate for operators at the Cairns marina and the Green Island jetty as well as a full rebate on rent for Ports North commercial tenants, a saving of \$3 million. I say thank you to the member for Cairns, a strong advocate for the north. He talked to both me and the Deputy Premier about that. Well done. I thank other Cairns members—we have four of them including yourself, Mr Speaker.


For small business, there is \$3.7 million in financial counselling, marketing and support. All up, that is \$27 million, which is needed now and it is being delivered now. In addition to new tourism funding, the package includes \$2 million to market Queensland's international education and training and a further \$1 million for international student counselling and support.

This government has never treated this virus lightly. We began preparing our defences whilst the first patients were still 7,000 kilometres away. Special measures in our hospitals were activated 15 days after the virus was first identified. Our response to affected industries began within 14 days of that. In terms of the economic impact, the novel coronavirus is a disaster like any other cyclone, fire or flood. My government is leading the nation on the response to this crisis.

National governments around the world are also acting, including Japan, where the country is starting to see a large impact on the tourist industry and regional small and medium size enterprises. The Japanese national government has announced a \$96 million package of emergency funds that will be used in part to help businesses struggling because of the outbreak. Just as we would in the wake of a natural disaster, we are urging the federal government to come to the table and make a meaningful contribution to aid recovery efforts. We are not asking too much.

Today, again, I have written to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, asking for his government to match our contribution and activate the disaster recovery allowance. Federal support will not only double the value of tourism marketing; it would allow us to provide a \$2,000 resilience grant for up to 8,700 small businesses across impacted areas and it would trigger \$700,000 in export grants for small to medium enterprises, allowing them to travel to China and reconnect with key partners once the borders reopen. Queenslanders are relying on state and federal governments to work together to see us through this period of uncertainty. Here in Queensland we will not let people down.

### Defence Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): My government is working hard to establish and grow new industries in this state including defence, which offers billions of dollars of potential value. Queensland's defence industries support around 6,500 jobs and the Queensland government aims to add an additional 3,500 jobs in this sector by 2028. We already have a track record of success in growing defence industries, attracting major defence projects and increasing participation of Queensland businesses in the defence supply chain. Queensland recently secured the major \$5.2 billion Land 400 phase 2 project, awarded to Rheinmetall Defence Australia. This will see a new fleet of combat reconnaissance vehicles built here, creating 450 jobs and pumping a billion dollars into the state's economy.


Construction of the \$170 million Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at the Redbank Motorway Estate commenced in late 2018 and has reached a milestone, with completion of the production warehouse building and early handover to Rheinmetall where I attended a commemorative signing yesterday in relation to TAFE. The 30,000 square metre production facility will be the engine room of military vehicle manufacture for Rheinmetall and is now ready for fit-out. No-one should ever underestimate how important this is for defence, manufacturing, jobs, skills and training in the whole Ipswich region. In fact, people will get jobs in Logan, Toowoomba and right around the south-east because we have worked very hard with Rheinmetall to secure it for Queensland. We also signed a partnership with TAFE where we are well placed to meet the training and skills needs of our future defence industries. Some 100 welders will be trained to the international standards demanded by



defence following the recent acquisition of 15 reality welding simulators. This means more opportunities for our young people in Ipswich coming out of school and into TAFE to secure high-value, long-term, secure jobs.

Speaking of jobs, there is nothing more important to me and my government than supporting even more jobs in more industries for Queenslanders. It is at the centre of everything we do. The current budget delivered almost \$52 billion in infrastructure investment over the next four years which is supporting more than 41,000 jobs across Queensland this year alone. More than 25,000 of those jobs are outside the greater Brisbane region in places like Townsville, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. There are jobs for road workers right along the Bruce Highway, making your commute and travel around the state easier. There are jobs for builders constructing new schools, TAFE centres and hospital wards to deliver vital community services. We want young people to be able to take advantage of the enormous opportunities coming our way and we will continue to support jobs right across the state.

### Jacaranda Place

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): When I was in opposition, I watched as the Newman government shut down the Barrett Adolescent Centre. The tragic events that unfolded due to that callous and cold decision were unthinkable. I remember sitting down with the families and the young people and, in tears, heard their heartbreaking stories.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is offensive, and I ask the shadow minister to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has found that offensive.


**Mr LANGBROEK:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I personally met with the young people, especially one young person in particular who tragically lost her life afterwards. They begged the government at the time not to close the centre. They had nowhere to go. I made a promise and a commitment to those families that we would build a new centre following the commission of inquiry into the closure of the Barrett centre. I wanted there to be a place where our most vulnerable young people with complex mental health issues could go to get the very best care possible. It is what a Labor government does. A Labor government listens and cares about the most vulnerable in our community.

The opening of Jacaranda Place last Friday was one of my proudest moments as Premier and of this government. That is what Labor governments stand for—people and making sure they can get the care they need. Jacaranda Place was co-designed by former residents of the Barrett centre and families of former patients who, along with clinicians, educators and traditional owners, also helped in the process to decide its new name, Jacaranda Place.

To mark the occasion, Minister Miles and Dr Lynham were with me as well as representatives of consumer groups and we planted a jacaranda tree out the front. It will grow and blossom with those unmistakable, beautiful purple flowers, a symbol of renewal and growth. It is a new beginning bringing hope and healing. I am incredibly proud of this achievement. It does not matter what postcode you live in; mental health issues can happen to anyone at any time and to any family. This is about protecting young people's lives. It is about saving lives and giving them hope and opportunity. Finally, I wish my nanna a happy 95th birthday today.

### Coronavirus, Assistance Package

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): Queensland's economic strength is built upon our status as an outward-looking, export focused state. As the Premier says each and every month, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports outstrips the value of those from New South Wales and Victoria combined. We also rely on our relationships with the rest of the world, and Asia in particular, in industries like tourism and international education. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has reacted quickly and decisively to the challenges posed to our economy by the outbreak of coronavirus, now known as COVID-19. In the meantime, we are resolutely focused on supporting the industries that are bearing the greatest economic impact from that travel ban. On Friday, I attended a meeting of Far North Queensland tourism industry representatives in Cairns, hosted by Tropical Tourism North Queensland, and I thank TTNQ chair Wendy Morris for the invitation. I also thank the member for Cairns, Michael Healy, who also asked me to come along.


I heard firsthand about the challenges being faced by people like Mark Evans from Paronella Park who discussed the uncertain future now faced by Chinese-language speakers employed there to ensure Chinese visitors could fully appreciate its unique beauty. The fall in demand extends beyond China. Craig Pocock from Skyrail Rainforest Cableway said operators in the region were no longer able to rely on the typical seasonal boost they receive from January to March from visitors from South-East Asia. North Queensland business managers came to the forum with ideas and policy suggestions and expressed their gratitude for the payroll tax package that our government delivered in last year's budget.

The Premier has already spoken about initiatives underway to attract more tourists to regions like Far North Queensland and the Gold Coast from other markets like North America. We know those tourists will come from these markets and that tourists from China will come back to the Queensland they love.

In the meantime, we are doing what we can to reduce the burden on the businesses bearing the brunt of the travel ban. That is why on Friday I announced the government, through Ports North, will waive berthing fees and passenger fees for commercial operators using the Cairns Marina and Green Island for six months from 1 February when the travel ban was implemented. I thank the minister for ports and the chair of Ports North, Russell Beer, for playing such a big role in that. Ports North will also waive basic rent charges for the many businesses that hold leases for premises throughout Cairns, businesses like Salt House Restaurant, GBR Helicopters and Quicksilver Connections, again for six months.

As a government, we can take these decisive, swift actions because Ports North is owned by all Queenslanders. We know the Lunar New Year is normally a huge export market for Queensland's seafood industry. This year it was very badly affected by coronavirus. For the first six months of 2020, we have waived quota fees for fishers of rock lobster and coral trout. We have also waived fishing boat fees for those fisheries, as well as others including mud crabs which have borne the brunt of the downturn in demand. I know that there are many other businesses in Cairns, the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast doing it tough due to the downturn and uncertainty around coronavirus. I want them all to know the Queensland government stands ready to assist them as this downturn continues.

### Tourism Industry


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (9.48 am): From Coolangatta to the cape, tourism is the lifeblood of many communities right throughout Queensland. This industry supports one in 10 Queensland jobs. Queenslanders depend on tourism to stay in work. That is why I am so proud to be a part of a government that understands how critical the tourism and international education sectors are for Queenslanders.

The Premier's announcement today is proof of her government's commitment to these people and their jobs. This \$27 million package announced today is a further investment by the state government on top of the support we have already actioned. Today, there is a further \$7 million funding boost for the tourism industry to reach key international growth markets for our state like Japan, the US and New Zealand. This will provide Tourism and Events Queensland with funding to support statewide campaigns that support not only tourism hubs like Cairns, the Gold Coast and the Whitsundays but also operators here in Brisbane and across the state. Importantly, today the Premier has confirmed that the government will deliver a \$5 million fee relief package for Queensland tourism operators.

Mr Speaker, I had the pleasure of being with the member for Cairns, the member for Barron River and yourself when we heard renowned demographer Bernard Salt tell us how important international education is to our economy, but the LNP had no plans to grow this industry when it was in government. Since we have been elected, we have developed a \$25 million growth strategy for international education and this sector has almost doubled in value from \$2.8 billion to \$5.4 billion, supporting thousands more jobs in Queensland. It is important that we support this industry during this tough time.

Today we are also delivering a \$3 million relief package for the international education sector. This includes \$2 million in funding for Study Queensland to boost marketing in markets like India, Japan, South Korea, Latin America, Indonesia, Germany and Vietnam. Further, there is \$1 million to support students throughout the state, particularly those students in China who thought that they would be studying here in Queensland right now. Some of their stories are absolutely heartbreaking. The Premier has shown great leadership on this issue. She is the only politician in this country to take significant action to support Queensland's economic recovery from the damage caused by the coronavirus outbreak. We will continue to work with tourism operators and the education sector throughout Queensland during this tough time.


## Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.50 am): Thanks to the good work of our health professionals and the rapid response of the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland is managing to contain COVID-19 coronavirus to prevent further infection. While most Queenslanders are safe from this disease, we cannot say the same for our economy. Thousands of jobs across our state are under threat as the response to COVID-19 hits supply chains in manufacturing, in commercial fishing and in global tourism, amongst others.

For many industries, the impact is comparable to a natural disaster, yet for those thousands of Queenslanders who are worried about their jobs and for those thousands of small business owners whose life savings are at risk, the Prime Minister—the person who claims to stand up for small business—has a message: you are on your own. He will not activate disaster assistance and bring in federal funding to support Queensland businesses. He will not invest in the marketing campaigns that our critical destinations like Cairns and the Gold Coast need. He claims that he has not been asked for help when industry figures are pleading for assistance and his Treasurer says, ‘Well, maybe we can talk about the impacts of coronavirus at a meeting of treasurers in April.’

The federal LNP is rolling out excuse after delay after excuse. While the federal government closes its ears and shuts its doors to Queensland businesses and workers, the Palaszczuk Labor government is taking strong action. That is why the Premier stood up the Economic Functional Recovery Group and met with more than 30 stakeholders across government, business and industry. It is why the Minister for Tourism Industry Development announced support for Cairns and the Gold Coast. It is why the Deputy Premier and Treasurer announced fee waivers to support affected businesses, and that is why the Premier has committed a total of \$27¼ million to back Queensland business and back Queensland jobs. We have acted quickly and now we are imploring the federal LNP government to do its fair share for Queensland and we would urge all members of the parliament to do the same, including those members opposite. All members of this House have a responsibility here, including the Leader of the Opposition. If the Leader of the Opposition will not stand up to Scott Morrison at this time on this of all issues, then the Leader of the Opposition does not deserve her job.

## Coronavirus, Response

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): The health and wellbeing of Queenslanders is our top priority. As I speak this morning, the total number of coronavirus cases is now 71,902 worldwide and the death toll has climbed to 1,775. I want to once again thank every single member of our dedicated frontline staff who has been involved in the health response to the novel coronavirus outbreak. The streamlined response from our doctors, nurses, GPs, ED staff and public health units is a testament to the dedication our frontline health staff have to Queenslanders and to keeping them safe.

A total of 38 Queenslanders who were evacuated from Wuhan and have been in quarantine on Christmas Island are due to arrive home in Queensland by tomorrow. Some began arriving yesterday. The Chief Health Officer has sent them a message on behalf of the government to welcome them home to Queensland and thank them for their cooperation. I am sure everyone in this House shares those sentiments. The letter also confirms that they can return to usual activities and provides contact details for support should it be required.

The Palaszczuk government is making sure that our frontline workers are supported and have what they need to continue their great work. We are continuing to work with all levels of government, industry and the community to respond to the threat of coronavirus. Last month the novel coronavirus was declared a public health event of statewide significance which gave Queensland’s Chief Health Officer extra powers to manage the situation. The government has amended the Public Health Act to extend that declaration from seven days to 90 days to ensure that this health event continues to be managed effectively.


As of yesterday, we have screened around 3,000 people at Queensland’s three international airports and 1,425 people are self-isolating in the state right now. Fewer than 10 people have been taken to hospital for testing after being screened at the airport. I am pleased to report that none of those have tested positive. We are grateful for the cooperation we have received from travellers and we have had no issues with people not complying with the notices.

To ensure our home isolators are feeling well and have the support they need, Queensland Health has teamed up with the Australian Red Cross and the Queensland Police Service to check in on them during their 14-day isolation period. Both the Red Cross and 13HEALTH are regularly

contacting them by phone and QPS is assisting with home visits, which Queensland Health is also conducting. So far, 13HEALTH and the Red Cross have made nearly 3,800 calls and our scientists have tested over 1,200 samples.

Our hospitals are well prepared should the impact of coronavirus in Queensland increase in the future. Our hospitals have sufficient levels of stockpiled PPE available to hospital and health services, with more available to be ordered should the need arise.


### Coronavirus, Fishing Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.56 am): The coronavirus health emergency is having a significant impact on Queensland's export fishing industries. Seeing this virus strike during the usual peak export period of 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. As has been widely reported, we are seeing a knock-on effect on other parts of the seafood supply chain with pressure on local market prices that also reverberate throughout the industry. The Palaszczuk government has listened carefully to industry and acted quickly to meet its immediate needs because we care deeply about the jobs that are at stake here.

As announced by the Deputy Premier on Friday, we will waive quota fees for rock lobster and coral trout for the first six months of 2020 as well as boat licence fees for these and other fisheries affected by coronavirus such as the mud crab industry. Today I am pleased to announce a series of further measures to support this vital industry. These measures include expansion of the fishery area for tropical rock lobster fisheries for three months to reduce operating costs to allow fishers to sell product into other markets and maintain crew and jobs in the short term; a local seafood promotion campaign to encourage Queenslanders to support our local fishers by buying locally; rural financial counselling services being provided to commercial fishers, fishery supply chains and tourism businesses impacted by the coronavirus; and market diversification and resilience grants of up to \$50,000 to help develop alternative markets. These grants will be made available to support agriculture, food and fishing exporters as well as supply chain partners and industry organisations. The grants could support things like new processing equipment, refrigeration, cryovac machines, boat modifications, market research or training.

This comprehensive range of industry supports represents a \$3.66 million investment in protecting Queensland jobs related to the seafood industry. We have listened to industry, we have been working diligently with other states and we are putting our energy into protecting the jobs of hardworking Queenslanders. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does. It has always been about protecting people's jobs and growing more jobs for the future. We fight day and night for Queensland jobs, and we always will.

### North Queensland, Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): Our record police budget is helping deliver significant developments for the Queensland Police Service. The delivery of 53 extra police for Townsville has been accelerated to be in place by June, and today I can announce that 24 of those extra officers have already been deployed—four months early. There is a lot happening with policing in the north of our state.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, you may not agree with the minister's statement, but he is not being provocative in the statement that he is making. I ask you to cease your interjections.

**Mr RYAN:** In recent days the Police Commissioner has spoken about her vision for the future of policing, and it is clear that regional Queensland is a big winner. Historic changes are afoot. For the first time a deputy police commissioner will be permanently based in North Queensland. As well, the far north will be divided into two smaller regions, each with its own dedicated assistant commissioner. The two new North Queensland regions will be administered from Cairns and Townsville respectively and the new deputy commissioner position will be based in Townsville. I take this opportunity to congratulate Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor on his appointment to this role.

**Mr Mander:** More bureaucrats!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton!

**Mr RYAN:** The newly established deputy commissioner role will be responsible for policing across all of regional Queensland. I do take that interjection from the member for Everton. I note that the member for Everton called our police officers bureaucrats—all of them bureaucrats, career bureaucrats. How insulting!

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

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for order before I hear the point of order.

**Mr MANDER:** I found those comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Woodridge will direct his comments through the chair. Minister, will you withdraw?

**Mr RYAN:** I will withdraw. I note that I also took the member's interjection, so I will be reviewing the *Hansard* later.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, you are warned under the standing orders. It is always in the timing, members. Minister, can I ask that your withdrawal is not qualified.

**Mr RYAN:** It is unqualified.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please continue.


**Mr RYAN:** I congratulate Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor, a fine public servant and community servant. He will do very well in that role. The newly established deputy commissioner role will be responsible for policing right across regional Queensland. In effect, Townsville becomes police headquarters for regional Queensland.

I note that the commissioner will also announce today the appointment of three new assistant commissioners. Detective Chief Superintendent Cheryl Scanlon has been promoted to the rank of assistant commissioner after more than 30 years with the Queensland Police Service. Cheryl has spent the last few years with the Crime and Corruption Commission and I must say she is a very fine officer. Chief Superintendent Kev Guteridge has also been promoted to assistant commissioner. Kev is well known for his expertise helping communities deal with floods and cyclones and has been a strong advocate in his appointments across the north, including Mount Isa and Townsville. Finally, Chief Superintendent Ben Marcus has been appointed to the rank of assistant commissioner. Like Cheryl and Kev, Ben has devoted more than 30 years to protecting the community and has been stationed in remote, rural and island communities over his distinguished career. I note that he is currently the district officer for the Logan district and has been leading some outstanding police work in that area.

I note that the commissioner will also announce that Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius will take up the assistant commissioner role in Townsville. Assistant Commissioner Schafferius is well known in the north and I know his very fine service to the community will be appreciated by North Queenslanders. I applaud the commissioner's emphasis on regional Queensland.

I also note the Queensland Police Union's support for the changes the commissioner has introduced. Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers said the commissioner's decision to have standalone police regions in both the north and the Far North was very welcome. Mr Leavers said it is very long overdue and corrects a very disastrous decision which was caused by a previous LNP government. With Commissioner Carroll at the helm, clearly the Queensland Police Service is in good hands.

### **Water Supply; Coronavirus**

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.04 am): The heavens have opened and Queensland's water storages are once again filling. As of this morning South-East Queensland's combined water grid levels are at 67.4 per cent. That is an increase of 11.5 per cent, or 252,000 megalitres, or five to six months supply of additional water since it started coming down. However, it is worth noting that our grid levels today are almost five per cent lower than February last year. Despite receiving its best inflows in recent years, our biggest single water storage, Wivenhoe Dam, remains at its lowest level in more than a decade.

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook for autumn is for below average rainfall and drier and warmer than normal conditions. Drinking water is being sent north from the Gold Coast to the rest of South-East Queensland. Thanks to the foresight of previous Labor governments we have one of the most reliable

water supplies in Australia, but it is important we do not take that for granted. In regional Queensland SunWater advise that Burdekin Falls Dam near Townsville, Lake Julius at Mount Isa and EJ Beardmore at St George are spilling, as are many of its 64 weirs and barrages. SunWater has been able to increase water allocations for irrigators in the Dawson, Eton and Emerald regions, as well as Chinchilla, Bundaberg and St George. In the drought affected south-west, Leslie Dam near Warwick is now at its highest capacity since September 2017. Only a couple of weeks ago Coolmunda Dam east of Goondiwindi was under two per cent capacity; now it is over 30 per cent. One of Queensland's biggest water storages, Fairbairn Dam near Emerald, has received almost 100,000 megalitres of water in the past month. Town water supplies are now secure for Emerald, Blackwater, Duaringa, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Inglewood, St George and Cecil Plains.

The Palaszczuk government is the only government building dams and other water infrastructure in Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

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

**Dr LYNHAM:** In this year alone, we have committed \$848 million to water infrastructure, delivering more than 1,600 jobs. In Central Queensland construction is underway on the \$352 million Rookwood Weir project, which has still only been funded by this government alone.

While I am on my feet, I would like to expand on the package of assistance to tourism operators affected by the current coronavirus situation. In short, the government will defer rents on leases and licences for tourist operators on state land. There are about 70 leases and licences across the state, mostly associated with islands but also mainland tourist attractions, including Sea World on the Gold Coast. Rents range from a few hundred dollars per annum through to almost \$1.95 million per annum. Rents due between 1 February 2020 and 31 July 2020 can be deferred until January 2021 with no interest. I would encourage leaseholders to contact my department either online or at their nearest Natural Resources business centre.

### School Infrastructure



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government has an ironclad commitment to education in this state. We know that new schools, improved facilities and more teachers mean better learning outcomes for Queensland students. I congratulate all the 2019 graduates on their excellent results.

The Palaszczuk government has built new schools, expanded and upgraded existing schools and hired an additional 5,800 teachers to meet the demands of student growth and to deliver a world-class education. The 2019-20 budget included a record \$1.5 billion infrastructure spend to improve our schools from Cape York to Coolangatta, representing a massive 56 per cent increase on last year's budget, and I am pleased to report that my department's spend is on track to fully deliver our infrastructure program.

The benefit of investing a record amount in school infrastructure is that it supports thousands of jobs right across the state. Eight new schools were delivered for the start of the 2020 school year—the most on one day in more than 30 years—which supported more than 1,400 jobs this financial year alone in high-growth areas of the state. Next year we will open another five schools, supporting 400 extra jobs, including a new primary school at Pimpama, where last week I turned the sod signalling the beginning of construction.

Our \$430 million 2020 Ready program of more than 70 projects across 61 schools has supported 420 jobs in the past year alone, all delivered on time for school day 1, 2020. Just last week I was at Pacific Pines State High School with the member for Gaven opening their fantastic 2020 Ready new building that has 12 new air-conditioned classrooms and three design studios. The two-storey learning centre is state of the art and, to quote the proud students I met, it really feels like walking onto a university campus.

On the way back from the coast, I could not resist popping into the Foxwell State Secondary College for a quick visit. I was blown away by the design and quality of that school in Coomera. It is a fantastic facility.


Recently I was also pleased to join the Premier and members for Greenslopes and Mansfield at the opening of the Cavendish Road State High School 2020 Ready project, an \$11 million build that includes a new performing arts complex. All of the students, as well as the Premier and the members who were there, were so proud. It was wonderful.

The \$235 million Renewing Our Schools program, which is being delivered as we speak, is expected to support around 200 jobs this year alone. It will deliver new and improved assets at 26 schools across the state. In total, this huge education infrastructure program is expected to support nearly 4,200 jobs in the building and construction industry across our state. I commend their efforts in delivering those projects on time and on budget. There is no doubt that Queensland students are getting a great start under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

#### Cognate Debate

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

That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with—


- (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
- (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
- (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE


### Report

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.12 am): I table Ethics Committee report No. 197 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 26 March 2019 relating to alleged contempt by a member*. I advise the House that the Ethics Committee has attached to this report the submissions received in respect of, and an extract of minutes relevant to, the inquiry to comply with standing order 211B. I commend the report and the committee's recommendations to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 197, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 26 March 2019 relating to alleged contempt by a member [\[261\]](#).

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.13 am): I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report of the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*—one of the more excitingly named reports that gets tabled in this House—dated December 2019, and, pleasingly, a certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2019 and related correspondence. The committee is required to table the report and register within 14 sitting days of receipt. The report and register were received on 20 December 2019 and 29 January 2020, respectively.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, December 2019 [\[262\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Police Minister, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2019 and related material, pursuant to section 4.7 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [\[263\]](#).

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

### Premier and Minister for Trade

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question is to the Premier. Given that the Premier has failed to deal with the integrity scandals that she now admits have damaged her government, will the Premier now step up or step out?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question. No.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, when I call the House to order, I expect it to come to order. This morning I will cease issuing cautions and start warning members directly.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My next question is also to the Premier. Last week a Labor insider discussed with the media disciplining the Deputy Premier, saying, 'The Premier could have acted last year, but didn't.' Will the Premier take responsibility for not acting last year and now step up or step out the Deputy Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am more than happy to talk about this government, this government's achievements and what this government is delivering for the people of this state. Every single minister steps up. They perform, because they are taking the people of Queensland seriously and they are delivering for the people of Queensland. I contrast that, very easily, with those opposite and the destruction that was caused by the Newman government over three years. Campbell Newman—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The second highest unemployment rate in the nation; a waiting list for the waiting list; crimes out of control.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am sorry: is that another question? Considering the first two questions, I could write the Leader of the Opposition better questions. When we were in opposition, we actually asked questions that the people of Queensland cared about. We asked about the things that mattered to the people of Queensland.

The Leader of the Opposition might look at her own backbench and notice that a backbencher has left. The member for Currumbin had had enough of the LNP and she left, which is why we are facing a Currumbin by-election. We have a local running in the Currumbin by-election. Kaylee is a great local member. The Leader of the Opposition could not even remember when they endorsed her candidate: 'It was a couple of months ago; oh, no, it was a couple of weeks ago.' She cannot even get her facts right. Was it weeks or months?

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments were not being directed through the chair and there was gesturing to other members. I take a very dim view of such occurrences.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is only one government that is delivering for the Gold Coast, and that is this Labor government. We are building the light rail, we built the hospital, we are fixing the roads, we delivered the Commonwealth Games and we have spent billions of dollars on the M1 to ensure that commuting is—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I hear the member for Mudgeeraba mumbling away over there. She never stands up for the Gold Coast. She never delivers for the Gold Coast. She just whinges. All they do is whinge. The Leader of the Opposition just whinges all of the time and the people of Queensland are sick of it. There is no vision and there is no plan from those opposite. We will stand up for the people in this state. We will listen and we will deliver, as we have done with the coronavirus package that we have announced today.

*(Time expired)*

### Skills and Training

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on what the government is doing to ensure young Queenslanders are able to obtain the skills and training they require to enter new and growing industries?



**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. When we are talking about skills and training, there is no greater contrast than our government with those opposite. When it comes to backing young people getting work and getting access to the training and skills that they need for more industries and more jobs, my government is delivering.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I hear the member for Everton whinging over there again. Let me make it very clear: when the member for Everton sat around the cabinet table, they axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They abolished a program that is now giving hope to thousands of young people across the state.

I was in Ipswich yesterday talking about Rheinmetall. Rheinmetall is about jobs in new industries. It is about giving young people the opportunity and the skills that they need. This is about the future. This is about my plan for the future in terms of making sure that we are giving those young people the hope, opportunity, skills and the jobs that they need. Yesterday at Rheinmetall I met with two young people who were starting work that day. They were starting that day because my government worked with Rheinmetall to help secure Rheinmetall for Ipswich. This is about advanced manufacturing jobs. It is about welding jobs. It is about mechanical jobs. It is about engineering jobs.

I say very clearly to the House that hundreds of people—up to 400 people—will be able to get the skills and training that they need in this new industry. This contract could have been lost to Victoria. We were up against it with Victoria, but through the hard work of Minister Lynham, Minister Dick and our government, we fought tooth and nail to secure those jobs here for Queensland. About 10 per cent of people in Ipswich work in the defence industry. Those jobs will grow in the future because we are bringing advanced manufacturing back to Ipswich, just as we have advanced manufacturing—making sure our trains are made in Maryborough and not overseas. We are making sure that we are building the best vehicles in the nation for our fleet.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Last week the Premier blamed the Deputy Premier's integrity scandal for damaging the Palaszczuk government. Does the Deputy Premier agree with the Premier? Will the Deputy Premier now step up or step out?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for the question. I endorse the comments that the Premier made. As the Premier also said in relation to the comments around stepping out, the answer is no.

### Public Assets

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline the benefits to Queensland in retaining publicly owned assets and are there any other views?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Simpson:** Queensland Rail, not for sale!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, the Premier had not risen to her feet. Just like in ministerial statements, you may not agree with what the member on their feet is saying, but a difference of opinion is not warranting the level of interjection that we are hearing this morning.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Maroochydore because it appears David Hutchinson is for sale; she agrees with that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Keep it coming! Keep it coming! All LNP members should listen to this. I will give them a bit of a lesson today. We went to the election very clearly last time talking about keeping our public assets in public hands. I thank the member for Gladstone because we stood there with the people of Gladstone and we fought not to have the Gladstone port sold. We kept it in public hands. We did the same with Townsville, the Mount Isa railway line—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They are a bit naughty today.

**Ms Bates:** Where is Rachel Nolan?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Where is Jann Stuckey?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I will take all morning, members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is a very serious issue. We know that those opposite went to the campaign talking about selling our assets. They spent \$100 million—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Ninderry is warned under the standing orders. The member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders. The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders. The member for Southport is warned under the standing orders. Do you have an issue with that, member?

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Speaker, I did not say anything. I was quiet at that point.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is a cumulative effect over the morning. I believe you will accept that you should be warned this morning. Thank you, member.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Last week Campbell Newman had some things to say. On the issue of asset recycling he said—

That is quite an interesting one. I often ponder this. My Treasurer Tim Nicholls was a big proponent of asset recycling. I was very concerned about it. One particular partyroom meeting I really had to personally head off a decision by the party room by all those LNP MPs to back the Treasurer and sell the whole damn lot.

Those MPs are still here—the former treasurer and half the front bench. Does Campbell Newman—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Wait, it gets better. Campbell Newman had something to say.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You can all watch it. It is there in black and white.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It continues—

The LNP in Queensland today have given up talking about the issue. They don't want to put it on the table and they are also adopting a stance where they are saying, 'Look, we are not going to sell the assets.'

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Please be quiet and listen.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He continues—

Good luck to them if they can sustain that argument in an election campaign because I don't know that people will necessarily believe them.

*(Time expired)*

### **State School Principals, Appointment Process**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Has the Deputy Premier exchanged any electronic messages, including text messages, with either the director-general, the deputy director-general, the regional director or anyone in the Department of Education about the selection of school principals?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on whether this is relevant to the Deputy Premier's portfolio responsibilities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I was listening to the question very carefully. I do not think it is possible to know whether the question relates to a local matter in the electorate or if the question relates to other things that are perhaps related to the budget. I will provide the Deputy Premier with significant latitude in terms of how she responds to the question. I rule the question in order.

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Kawana for the question. I wonder whether or not he has been exchanging text messages with David Hutchinson or Clive Palmer about their policies for the future—or Campbell Newman.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection. I recall in opposition that the member for Kawana was so enamoured of then premier Campbell Newman that I am sure he is still taking messages of support and advice on dressing for the chamber from him. I am sure that Campbell Newman and the member for Kawana remain very tight-knit. In relation to the member for Kawana's question, I can only assume it refers to the matter which he has personally written to the CCC about, so I will leave it at that.

### Coronavirus, Economy

**Mr HEALY:** 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 what actions the Palaszczuk government is taking to support our economy given the global impact of the coronavirus and if she is aware of any alternatives?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Cairns for the question. The Premier outlined in great detail the scope of our \$27 million recovery package for industries suffering from the closure of China's borders, particularly the tourism, international education, agriculture and aquaculture industries. These are industries that we know are reeling from the impact of the coronavirus and the containment management program that China has put in place.

As I said in my ministerial statement, I was very happy to go up to Cairns and listen firsthand to tourism and small business operators about the impact coronavirus is having on their businesses, their livelihoods and their workers. I am very proud that the Premier has announced this package and that we were able to go up and announce the levers that we could pull to alleviate some of the financial strain on the fishery and tourism operators. We know that Queensland cannot go it alone, particularly if the coronavirus management strategy continues to go on and on for months. We know that China is our biggest trading partner. It is critically important to our economy. That is why we need the Commonwealth to come to the table.

I was incredibly disappointed that the Prime Minister wrote to the Premier and said that essentially Queensland and Queensland industries were on their own in relation to the impact of coronavirus. He said that the Treasurer would be writing to his counterparts to discuss what next. What next was a wait and see letter: 'Let us get together in April and have a conversation about what we should do in relation to the coronavirus.' I wrote back to the federal Treasurer—I table a copy of both letters—to say that that was unacceptable from Queensland's perspective.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 5 January 2020, from the Federal Treasurer and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Hon. Josh Frydenberg, to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, regarding the economic impacts of coronavirus [\[264\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 11 February 2020, from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Federal Treasurer and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Hon. Josh Frydenberg, regarding the economic impacts of coronavirus [\[265\]](#).

I am very happy to inform the House that at a meeting of treasurers, excluding the Commonwealth Treasurer, at the end of this week the impact of the coronavirus will be discussed. Where the Commonwealth lags other jurisdictions will pick up the slack and respond, just as Queensland has done by leading the way today.

I know that those opposite are not all on the same page when it comes to standing up for Queensland, particularly when it comes to Canberra. We know that the member for Broadwater likes to talk a big game. We know that he has said in Cairns that he is not about to stay quiet on this issue. He goes up to Cairns and says, 'I will take on the federal government. They should come to the party. I will not stay silent on this.' We know that the member for Nanango will, but the member for Broadwater will not.

*(Time expired)*

### State School Principals, Appointment Process

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The education department DG has said that whilst the recruitment panel had made a merit based decision for the inner-city south principal, new enrolment data led him to cancel the independent process and reject their decision. However, RTI documents now show that the new enrolment data was actually received in January

2019, months before the independent process was aborted. Does the Premier stand by her director-general's statement or was it the Deputy Premier's intervention that caused the independent process to be terminated?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Some of these matters are before the CCC, so I think I need to be very circumspect about what I say. I am advised from—

**Mr Bleijie:** There is no standing order that requires you not to speak about that.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not need your help, member for Kawana.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I understand that the final footprint was locked in in late March 2019. It showed that the school could accommodate more students than originally anticipated. In addition to the increased footprint, new demographic modelling provided to the department in January 2019 showed that the inner-south area was forecast to have a higher than predicted number of secondary students. The study identified the potential demand for an additional 6,000 school places over the next two decades. With the school now being designed to accommodate more students than originally anticipated, the school became eligible for an executive principal. In May 2019, the director-general approved the position to be readvertised as an executive principal position. That is my advice from the education minister.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Glass House will cease his interjections.

### **Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence**

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister please update the House on how the government is supporting industry through the construction of the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Ipswich and is the minister aware of any other approaches to developing industry and jobs?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and for her strong support for defence industry jobs in her region. Yesterday, I was proud to join the Premier, the member for Ipswich, the member for Bundamba and the member for Ipswich West to welcome a key construction milestone for the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Redbank, known as Milvehcoe. The completion of the production facility that we celebrated means we are a step closer to 450 Queensland jobs and a billion dollars being added to the Queensland economy. The member for Ipswich refers to Ipswich and that is so important. This facility will be built in Ipswich and deliver not just for the south-east but for all of Queensland.

Who could forget when the Leader of the Opposition tried to cash in on the Rheinmetall announcement that we won and showed up at the wrong facility in the wrong city. I wish I could say that the Leader of the Opposition had lost her way, but she has never known where she is going from the start. She did absolutely nothing to secure this contract for Queensland. That is because the LNP does not support industry. They do not support Australian manufacturing jobs. Just look at the news today. The great symbol of Australian car manufacturing, Holden, has been sent to the wreckers. There is one thing we will never forget. We will never forget that the Australian car manufacturing industry is dead because the LNP killed it. That is exactly what they do.

Why do we know that? It all started with Tony Abbott. The first Holden off the production line was under Labor prime minister Ben Chifley. What did Tony Abbott do? He got in the European limo. He crashed the Caprice and got in the European limo. There was Joe Hockey screaming out the ultimatum in parliament: 'You're either here or you're not.' Holden got the message and now 600 Holden workers have the message.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Glass House is warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** Some 600 Holden workers are on the scrap heap thanks to the LNP's industry policy. They do not get it. They do not get manufacturing. There is one manufacturing industry they get. That is the beer industry because they are offering beer to young LNP members to go and bail out the LNP candidate in Currumbin because she cannot get one local person to support her campaign.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Is it craft beer?

**Mr DICK:** I bet you it is not craft beer. When people look at Labor they see manufacturing jobs in Ipswich and around Queensland in defence industries. If we look at the LNP we see the end of manufacturing. Only Labor will stand up for manufacturing jobs in this state. Only this government will stand up for Queensland because the Leader of the Opposition sure as heck will not.

### **Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services**

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. The health minister recently attacked a journalist reporting on his decision to block urgent IT upgrades during sitting weeks, saying he was 'low enough to run it' and 'someone whose ethics were so low'. Does the Premier endorse Minister Miles's comments or should the minister step up or step out?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right!

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 115, I ask for a ruling on whether this is an expression of opinion. Members on the other side keep asking questions relating to comments made by other ministers and asking other ministers to respond and comment on those views. I believe that they are seeking an opinion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In responding to the point of order by the Leader of the House, the Premier is responsible for the government of which the ministers are answerable to the Premier. It has been the practice forever in this House to ask the Premier questions about what her ministers have said or not said or about policy positions of the government. I cannot now understand how the Leader of the House is trying to say that a minister has said something but the Premier responsible for the minister cannot answer a question about what the minister has said. It does not make any sense.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, this is an extremely long explanation of a point of order. It is not the time to make a statement. What is your point of order?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, the point of order is that it has been long-established practice that the Premier answers on behalf of her ministers and government policies.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Having listened to both points of order, I heard the component of the question and, whilst there was pretext or preamble to the question, the question itself asked whether the Premier endorsed the comments. That is not seeking an opinion.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say, first of all, that the health minister is doing a fantastic job in leading our response to the coronavirus and responding to a number of sensitive issues that were raised on the weekend, especially to do with women who were seeking breast reconstruction after breast surgery. The minister acted very quickly and sensitively to what is a deeply personal issue to women who have gone through breast cancer and then breast cancer recovery. The minister was recently in Logan announcing the expansion of extra beds at Logan Hospital, delivering what we need for the growing communities of Logan. He continues to monitor the coronavirus with Dr Young every single day. I know he does that because he keeps me updated. As we have seen today, we have absolutely responded as any government should. We have stepped up, but the federal government has refused. Under intense questioning sometimes people may not use the correct words. I am quite sure—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am giving the House direction and instruction. You are warned under the standing orders. The Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, thank you. Whilst I do not endorse the choice of words the minister used, I would encourage all members to treat everyone respectfully—and that goes for both sides of the House frankly. It is also about the way in which you deal with the community and the way in which you deal with each other.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Everton will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** A lot has been said lately about the way in which—and I will say it here—everyone needs to be a little more respectful. In this parliament there are times of robust debate. Sometimes there are funny interjections that members on both sides of the House take—

**Mr Mander:** It was not funny; it was personal.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. I am not talking about that.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, let me make it very clear. What you have not seen on this side of the House is what happened during the Newman years when there were constant attacks and fights with community groups, with the doctors, with the member for Kawana interjecting—the member for Kawana seems to forget the fights he had with the judges, the lawyers, the judiciary. Do I go on? That is what the people of Queensland said no to. It is everybody's responsibility—

*(Time expired)*

### Queen's Wharf

**Ms PUGH:** My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the minister please update the House on the progress of Queensland's largest ever tourism project?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that, as the member for Mount Ommaney, she is absolutely focused on creating jobs here in Queensland. Indeed, every single person in the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to creating jobs whether it is in the private sector or on the front line of the public sector. We heard the education minister talking about the additional teachers. We have also delivered on frontline services and nurses in our hospitals.

This project, the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf project, absolutely is a down payment on the future growth of the tourism industry and the jobs that come with that. Today I can announce that we now have 300 workers working on site today. By the end of the year we will be adding 300 more. That is 300 jobs for chippies, sparkies and labourers working together on Queensland's largest tourism project.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater!

**Ms JONES:** We know that right now the tourism industry is doing it tough. That is why it is so critical that not only do we provide the additional support that the Premier has announced today but also we make an investment in new tourism products and experiences that means that when the Chinese visitors can come back to Queensland we will have put our best foot forward.

It is to this end that I was in Cairns last week with the member for Barron River, the honourable Speaker, as well as the member for Cairns. We were talking about the future of jobs in Queensland, particularly in the tourism industry. It was also an opportunity for the shadow minister for tourism, the member who wants to step up and who is not hiding that fact—if there is one person in the House who wants to step up it is the member for Broadwater. Isn't he waiting! We know he is still taking notes from his good mate. We know he is the protege of Campbell Newman. As members all know, Campbell Newman and I also have a unique relationship.

Campbell Newman said last week, and it is on the public record, 'I made a statement about the Public Service and people not having to be concerned about us prior to getting in the chair, and I was dead wrong.' I am glad that the former member for Ashgrove has come to that conclusion. He obviously did not check that there are more public servants in the seat of Ashgrove than in any other seat in Queensland. The shadow Leader of the Opposition—the one who wants to step up, which is the theme of the day—the honourable member for Broadwater said, 'My view is that Queensland as a whole—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Can't even find \$10 million for Cairns!

**Ms JONES:** I do not know what on earth he is talking about. What we do know is that he absolutely dog whistled on Public Service cuts. When you think we are spending extra on the Public Service than we did five years ago, the 'cut' is out of the bag. The alternate leader of the LNP is up in Cairns talking about job cuts for the public sector.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater!

**Ms JONES:** I say to the teachers and the nurses and the doctors out there: they are coming for you.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, I believe there was provocation but I have asked you to cease your interjections.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Just before the Deputy Premier jetted off to go skiing with millionaires in the luxury resort town of Whistler in Canada, 355 Indigenous Queenslanders fled their homes in terror following violence and rioting in Cape York. Why did the Deputy Premier not immediately cancel her leave after she was advised of the plight of these hundreds of Indigenous Queenslanders whose welfare is the primary responsibility of the Deputy Premier?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That question definitely had imputations in it in the way it was framed. I ask that it be ruled out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, the preamble to that question, I believe, contained a direct inference. I ask you to rephrase that question.

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Given the recent events in Cape York, where hundreds of Indigenous Queenslanders were displaced from their home, why did the Deputy Premier not immediately cancel her leave after she was advised of the plight of these hundreds of Indigenous Queenslanders whose welfare is the responsibility of the Deputy Premier?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for the question. Just so the member understands, this event took place on 1 January and, as I have said in this place before, there were tragic circumstances surrounding it. To have those opposite use this event as a political pointscore exercise is disgraceful and disrespectful. That is the low, bottom-of-the-barrel level at which those opposite generally operate. This event occurred on 1 January, and late that night whilst I was on leave I was informed by my director-general. I put arrangements in place, and the acting minister at the time was incredibly able to ensure that my responsibilities as the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships were acquitted. There was a very comprehensive cross-agency response to this event. It was led by the director-general of Premier and Cabinet because there were so many agencies involved in responding to this event.

I want to put on record my deep appreciation for the Queensland Police Service, who offered very sympathetic support and turned around additional resources to assist in the relocation of local Aurukun peoples who wanted to leave the community for a period of time. Because of the comprehensive cross-agency response and support that has been put in place since that event on 1 January, the funeral of the deceased individual—which took place on 14 February—passed without incident. That is a testament to our hardworking public servants who, each and every day, get up and do their job and support the people of Queensland. I want to publicly announce and put on the record my appreciation for their hard work.

I met a number of individuals personally when I was up in Cairns for the TTNQ event. I took some time out and met with an Aurukun elder in order to have a conversation about additional support services for those displaced Aurukun residents. The Queensland government is responding. I know the member for Moggill had a briefing, but those opposite should be falling in line and supporting rather than political muckraking.

*(Time expired)*

### **TAFE Queensland, Investment**

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is investing in TAFE campuses and if she is aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Mansfield, who has been a strong advocate for TAFE in her role as a local principal and in this House, because on this side of the House we are unashamedly pro-TAFE. We absolutely believe in the power of Queenslanders receiving vocational education and training, getting the hands-on skills and training they need for more jobs in more industries. Not only do we believe in assisting Queenslanders to get a TAFE qualification through free TAFE and free apprenticeships and traineeships but we also believe in making sure they have world-class training facilities. That is why we are investing over \$105 million to revitalise our TAFE training campuses at Pimlico in Townsville, the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Mount Gravatt, Cairns and Alexandra Hills, just to name a few. There is work happening right across this state to make sure that young Queenslanders receive state-of-the-art training.

Since we were elected in 2015 we have done so much to rescue and revitalise TAFE. We should never forget the record of those opposite when it came to TAFE. They slashed \$170 million from TAFE, sacked teachers and, of course, got ready to sell off all of the TAFE campuses. The LNP's 2012 Skills and Training Taskforce report spelled out all of the TAFE campuses they wanted to sell. I am happy to table that report.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce, Final Report, November 2012 [266].

Mr Speaker, 38 TAFE campuses across Queensland were slated to be sold. Every region had a target on its back: 11 campuses were slashed in Far North Queensland; five in Fraser and the Sunshine Coast; 10 in Brisbane; five across Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Darling Downs; three on the Gold Coast; and four from SkillsTech. It talks about rationalisation—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory!

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—consolidation and a strategic disposal of TAFE campuses. That all means asset sales! Imagine the skills shortages we would be facing now if they sold off our SkillsTech trade training campuses.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** There would be nowhere to train apprentices. Selling assets is in their DNA. Even if they say they will not sell assets we cannot believe them. Just ask Campbell Newman. Mr Speaker, even if they tell you they are not going to sell TAFE campuses you cannot believe them, because cutting, sacking and selling is all they know how to do. We believe in TAFE. We support our apprentices. Those opposite will cut, sack and sell our TAFEs.

### Calen District State College

**Mr COSTIGAN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister explain why young students at the Calen District State College have been forced to use a storeroom for classes this year? I table images of this for the benefit of members.

*Tabled paper:* Photographs of school facilities [267].

Is this approach symbolic of the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to education in the north?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Whitsunday for the question. The amount of money going into his electorate, with new classrooms being built by this government, has been unprecedented. He gets up here representing his community and does not mention the excellent facilities which, I might say, he complained about not being invited to when I turned the sod. 'The minister never invited me.' Boohoo! He was not invited because I do not invite people to schools; principals and school communities do. The manner in which you stand in this House and say that we are not delivering for the schools in your area is a disgrace. No wonder you are not being invited—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms GRACE:** No wonder the member for Whitsunday is not being invited to the schools and buildings we are opening in his electorate. The amount of money we are putting in is unprecedented. I have seen the building at Proserpine State High School. I have been to other schools in his area which have had millions upon millions of dollars spent on new classrooms, 2020 Ready facilities and new performing arts complexes.

It is outstanding, yet the member for Whitsunday stands here and brings up a bogus situation of a room that may have been a classroom which may have been used for storage because they had enough classrooms to house all of the students. Maybe the school decided that with all the new buildings we built they would clear the storeroom out and use it as a classroom again. The member provides no background and no context, but he comes in here and bags the schools in his area. He is a disgrace. He should be ashamed. No wonder you are not being invited—

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I have given the minister plenty of time to answer the question. There is a minute and eight seconds remaining. I specifically asked about Calen District State College. I ask you to bring the minister back to the essence of the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have been listening to the minister's response and I believe she is addressing the question asked.



**Ms GRACE:** In case the member for Whitsunday was not listening earlier during my ministerial statement, we have invested record amounts of money to improve schools in this state. I say to the students in the gallery that you and your teachers should be proud of the facilities we are delivering. They are state of the art, they are world class and we are delivering the best education. The 2019 graduates did an amazing job with their results, and that is because of the facilities we have right around this state and the wonderful teachers, even in the member for Whitsunday's area, and the manner in which they teach you in your classrooms—I say to the students in the gallery—every single day.

The member for Whitsunday raises a specific point. I would be more than happy to find out the exact circumstances because there is always a context around this. Schools do not just do these things to make students uncomfortable. To suggest that the teachers and the principals are doing this on purpose misses the point. I say to the member for Whitsunday that he should be proud of what is being built in his area. It is fantastic and unprecedented.

### Health System

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government has done to keep up with growing demand for public health care in Queensland?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Redlands for her question. She is indeed a fantastic advocate for health care in her region, particularly at Redland Hospital. It has been good to spend quite a bit of time there with her and the members for Capalaba and Springwood as we announced and opened expanded facilities at Redland Hospital. I thank them for their advocacy for Redland Hospital. None of those expansions would have happened if it were not for this government and those local members. They would certainly never have happened under the LNP. The only plan those opposite have for health care in Queensland is to privatise health services. The only plan they have is to take valuable dollars out of our public hospitals and give it to their mates in the private sector. The only policy they have is to privatise more health care in Queensland.

We on this side know that if you want to deliver high-quality health care you have to invest in fantastic public hospitals. Not only that; you have to invest in the doctors, nurses, health professionals and support staff who deliver services in those hospitals, and that is what we on this side of the House do and have done. We have more than reversed the cruel cuts of those opposite—when they sacked doctors and they sacked nurses. You cannot deliver better health care by sacking doctors and sacking nurses. We have employed 2,012 more doctors, 6,252 more nurses and midwives, 511 new ambos and 1,800 more health professionals. This year alone we will employ 800 more nurses, 200 more doctors, 250 more health professionals and 200 more ambos. We have opened 888 more beds and we will open 756 more. Those opposite did not plan for a single major hospital project—not a single new hospital or hospital expansion.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** Now under us we have hospital expansions underway at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Caboolture Hospital, Redcliffe Hospital, Logan Hospital, Ipswich Hospital, Roma Hospital, a personal favourite Kingaroy Hospital, Redland Hospital as the member for Redlands well knows, Cairns Hospital and in the Torres Strait. Right across this state, we have repaired the damage of those opposite and we are delivering better health care for Queenslanders.

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

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Tourism Industry Development. Last week the minister called for all Queenslanders to holiday at home to support our tourism industry. Given the Deputy Premier has recently returned from her second overseas holiday to Whistler, what advice does the minister have for the Deputy Premier when she steps out for her holiday this year?

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 11.04 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members on warnings, there are to be no interjections. Otherwise it defeats the purpose of the warning.

**Ms JONES:** That is pretty depressing for all of us, particularly for the 500 people who were in the room with the shadow minister and me last week in Cairns where we were very serious about the impacts of the coronavirus on the tourism industry. For him to sit through those tales, those real stories where operators are releasing people from work—that is, sacking people from their jobs—and sit in that room for three hours and listen to the plight of those Cairns businesses and then to come in here one week later and try to score cheap political points like this just shows that he will do anything for the top job. He does not believe in anything.

The Premier and I were just remembering the interview he gave after the shock election win in 2015 when he said, 'I will never, ever leave North Queensland.' The escapee from Townsville ended up on the Gold Coast. This just shows the calibre of the man who wants to step up to be the leader of the LNP. This question says so much more about him than it says about anybody else. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: you had better watch your back.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you will put your comments through the chair, and I ask you to come back to the question as asked.

**Ms JONES:** Let me be very clear. There is only one side of politics that has got a package to support the tourism industry here in Queensland. A week later, we have the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer announcing a \$27 million package to support the tourism industry. All we have from the shadow minister and his leader is cheap, hollow tricks.

Today is your chance. Today you can support us in calling on the federal government to come to the party to support the thousands of jobs—the thousands of Queenslanders—who rely on the tourism industry. We have a very clear message to every single member of this House and indeed to every single Queenslander out there: right now we need you. We need you to stay home, holiday at home and support your fellow Queenslanders during this tough time. If it is too hard for the shadow minister to comprehend then God help me. We will stand shoulder to shoulder with the tourism industry. We have listened to their concerns, we have taken them seriously and we have responded accordingly. I will be making sure that every single tourism operator sees what your contribution was to parliament, as I am sure the members for Cairns and Barron River will do as well.

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

**Ms JONES:** The member for Broadwater could have asked me a serious question about funding support and helping the tourism industry, and you have been shown for the emperor with no clothes that you are.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To all ministers today, your comments must come through the chair. It is my final warning.

### Wage Theft

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister advise the House of further developments in the government's response to the scourge of wage theft and are there any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** When it comes to wage theft, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has stepped up and done all that we possibly can. We instituted a parliamentary inquiry into wage theft, and that was opposed by those opposite. We have had a report where most of the recommendations, and rightly so, fall into the federal jurisdiction. What we have at the moment is a federal government that has been sitting on its hands. Six of the recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry were for state government action, and we have done a number of issues like implementing the labour hire licensing laws to combat wage theft. I might add that they were not supported by those opposite. In particular, we are pushing ahead with our commitment to criminalise wage theft and to make it easier for workers to get back money in this state, even though it is largely covered by the federal jurisdiction.

It is no surprise that once again today we have a situation where another large company has entered wage theft, with Coles having a \$20 million underpayment. This has been going on and on under the watch of the Morrison-Turnbull government. For all the years they have been in, they have done absolutely nothing in relation to this issue.

We are getting on with the job of implementing this. I can say that in the four years I have been industrial relations minister, I have attended one meeting of all industrial relations ministers in this country—only one. A number of industrial relations ministers have sat on their hands in relation to this.

The next meeting will be on 17 April—finally. What do we have? On the back of Coles now being exposed for wage theft, the federal government is going to introduce legislation within weeks to solve the problem of wage theft in this country. We are meeting on 17 April. I ask them out of respect to at

least wait until that date to brief us on exactly what it is they will be introducing. In that way all the states and territories can be convinced that whatever action they take is actually going to work and we are all able to operate underneath this.

It is absolutely imperative that we get this right. Workers are not being paid their correct wages, not by small or medium size businesses but by large multinationals. It is nothing but negligence. The federal government has sat on their hands. We will move. Out of decency I ask them to wait until 17 April to inform us about what they are going to do.

### **Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Minister for Youth. Last year the Palaszczuk government set up a war room in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to handle the government's response to youth offending. With crime being waged by the northside gang and the southside gang in Brisbane, and home invasions, carjackings and wilful damage in Townsville and across North Queensland continuing to worsen, will the minister now step up or step out?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that question had imputations in it. I ask that you rule that question out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Can I ask you to identify where the imputations were? I do not believe they were directed at a particular member. I seek clarification from you, Leader of the House.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Certainly. They were in relation to statements made around a 'war room' and other allegations in the question that are not factually based.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South, questioners must always be able to back up the information that is included in the question. I believe the Leader of the House may be questioning the authenticity of some of the language used in the question. I ask that you rephrase that question, or I will rule it out of order.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Last year the Palaszczuk government set up a separate part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to handle the government's response to youth offending. With crime being waged by the northside gang and the southside gang in Brisbane, and home invasions, carjackings and wilful damage in Townsville and across North Queensland continuing to worsen, will the minister now step up or step out?

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

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for his question. Yes, last year the Premier announced that there would be a new and dedicated Department of Youth Justice. At the same time we committed over half a billion dollars to taking youth crime out of the too-hard basket and actually dealing with it once and for all.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. You will cease your interjections.

**Ms FARMER:** The community expects young people to be accountable for their offences and so do we. That is why we are addressing this issue full on. We are the ones who are tackling the pipeline of offending and reoffending—

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Scenic Rim, you have had a good go today as well. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FARMER:** We are getting results. We are already seeing a drop in reoffending from our reforms. We are building; we are making sure through our Youth Justice Act that if young people are a threat to reoffending, if they are a risk to the community, they must be detained. We are building those detention centres for those young people.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South.

**Ms FARMER:** If we are going to talk about stepping up, let's talk about the LNP.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Mermaid Beach will cease his interjections.

**Ms FARMER:** This is the party who took \$150 million out of the youth justice budget going to the last election. This is the party that built no infrastructure for detention centres when they were in government. This is the party who cannot make up its mind what it thinks from one day to the next in terms of what it is going to do on youth justice. What the community needs is a government that can address this head on and that knows exactly what it is that it is going to do about youth justice. We are clear. One day they want to lock them all up; another day they want to buy helicopters. One day they want boot camps; another day they want to surround them all with love and warmth—

*(Time expired)*

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

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am): I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
  - (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), a maximum of three hours to complete all stages;
  - (b) the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill, a maximum of 3.5 hours to complete all stages;
  - (c) Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3.5 hours to complete all stages; and
  - (d) the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill, a maximum of two hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1 apply:
  - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
    - (i) for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) cognate debate by 20 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
    - (ii) for the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
    - (iii) for the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
  - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
  - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
  - (d) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 20 February 2020, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

This week the House will get on with debating bills on behalf of the people of Queensland. Members will note that there are five bills which are the subject of this business program motion—that is, the two appropriation bills that we will be debating cognately this week and also the Spit Master Plan bill, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill. I appreciate that these bills might not be the ones that normally get the headlines in the media, but they are important pieces of legislation that allow us to continue to serve the people of Queensland and to keep this state operating as it needs to. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to these debates.

With this business program motion this week we have also ensured that the majority of the bills do have time allotted for the minister to reply to issues raised in debate and that there is time for consideration in detail. I was hoping that as time goes on we could have more flexibility in relation to the business program motion. In fact, Victoria does not even allocate individual times for their bills; they just say, 'These are the bills we are going to debate this week,' and whatever is not finished by the end

of the week will be put. I hope that we can get to that level of maturity in terms of the way we conduct ourselves in this chamber. However, the reason I am putting into this motion time allotted for the minister to reply and consideration in detail is that, unfortunately, we are still seeing those on the other side filling up the speaking list for the sake of making a point but not necessarily contributing anything new to the debate. We do see from time to time members on the other side struggling to put a speech together. They simply pick up the parliamentary committee report and have a quick read of the second reading speech and do nothing but regurgitate what is in those two documents.

I do hope that we have genuine debate of these bills that are before the parliament this week. I want to acknowledge all of the members who contribute to the Business Committee meeting on a Monday evening and thank them for their contributions. I will acknowledge also that the Manager of Opposition Business did request two other bills be brought on for debate this week. I can advise the House that the government indicated that we are still working on the views of stakeholders in respect of those important bills and may be bringing further amendments forward to those bills. That is what good governments do: they take on board what is put to the parliamentary committees on those bills; they look at submissions made to those committees on those bills; they take that on board and consider whether there should be further changes. Unlike some other governments of the past, the Palaszczuk government is one that will consult and will listen to the community when we do put these bills forward.

**Mr Batt:** Two bills last sitting did not go to committee.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Bundaberg.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am sure that member could put himself on the speaking list for this debate if he wants. However, he might want to talk about the bills set down for debate this week as opposed to what we did last week. We are a government that actually looks forwards and not backwards, as those on the other side often do. Those opposite should look back in history a little bit more. If they need a bit of reminding, Campbell Newman will tell them exactly what they did in government and what he thinks they will do again even if they try to con the people of Queensland that they will not do that.

I commend the motion to the House. I ask members to support this motion and show that we can work together in the best interests of Queenslanders to get these bills debated.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! The following members have already been warned—the members for Whitsunday, Caloundra, Burleigh, Maroochydore, Southern Downs, Southport, Ninderry, Coomera, Oodgeroo, Kawana, Glass House, Nanango, Everton, Gregory, Nicklin and Scenic Rim.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is just a reminder.

**Ms Frecklington:** Just say 'the opposition'!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): First, I acknowledge the member for Bundamba's 20 years of distinguished service in this House in the last sitting. It did not get the attention it ought from government members last sitting, but I want the member for Bundamba to know that 20 years is an amazing effort in this House. Congratulations on your efforts.

**Mr Mander:** Never seen so many guillotines in that time.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. The member for Bundamba would have seen more guillotines on debates in the last 2½ years than in 20 years of sitting in this place.

The Business Committee met yesterday and the opposition put forward two bills that we wanted debated this week, one being the electoral integrity and accountability legislation. We think those issues are of the utmost importance to Queenslanders right now. To see the internal chaos and dysfunction in the Labor government is why we put forward yesterday that we should debate those laws to bring back accountability and integrity to ministerial offices—but, no, the government does not want to debate those bills this week. Members of the government said that they still are working on them. The bills have been to committee and the committee said the bills should be passed, so bring on the debate.

This week of all weeks—with issues of integrity, accountability and dysfunction in the Labor Party—we should have the chance to debate those bills, but members opposite do not want to debate those bills. I do not take or accept that they are working on amendments. I take it that they do not want to debate those bills because of one person who is the subject of those bills. The only reason we will not debate those bills in the future is the Deputy Premier. That is the reason why they do not want to talk about integrity and accountability this week.

They do not want the Deputy Premier under any more pressure than she is, because the Deputy Premier is on the verge of resigning as the Treasurer and Deputy Premier in this state. They do not want to give any more emphasis to the scandals, integrity and accountability issues surrounding her office. Fortunately for the opposition and unfortunately for the government, ministers will let the government fall because of the power of one individual who holds so much power and is bringing so much dysfunction to the state.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you need to come back to the motion, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Last week, we saw the agriculture bill cut off. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Agriculture Bill' [268].

Four members did not get to speak. We had the child death bill. We were cut off on that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Child Death Bill' [269].


Who can forget the chaos last week where we were debating the resources bill and, all of a sudden, we stopped? That is not even being debated this week! That has been kicked into the long grass for whenever. Last sitting it was so important for the resources sector but now we are not even debating it this sitting. Then we saw the coronavirus legislation declared an urgent bill and that was debated this week. Then all the talk of the town was the electoral and accountability integrity bill, but now we are not debating that. Is that not important? I think it is very important. Yesterday we put forward a submission to the committee that we should debate those bills this week. If there is any week that we should be debating them it is this week because those issues need to be addressed but, of course, we are not given the opportunity.

Now we see the four bills to be debated this week but they have time limitations. We have members who want to speak on them. The Leader of the House says that the members should not get the opportunity to speak because others are speaking to this bill. When I get up as the paid member for Kawana and I talk about Kawana, I do it for a reason. I will not sit in here and then send a copy of the Attorney-General's speech to my constituents that says, 'This is how the Attorney described the bill,' without having input into it. That is an absurd situation and begs the question: what on earth are they here for? What on earth do they sit in this place for?


The reality is that at end of this year Queenslanders will decide what on earth the Labor Party is here for. The chaos, dysfunction and disharmony that Labor members have brought amongst and upon themselves will be shown. The integrity scandals will be shown for what they are. In October, Queenslanders will have an opportunity to vote out the Labor government and judge members opposite on their integrity scandals that now have plagued the Palaszczuk administration for five years. Every time they talk about themselves they are not talking about Queenslanders. If you cannot govern yourselves, you cannot govern Queenslanders—and they do not.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Toowoomba North that, if you are going to interject, you need to be in your correct seat.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.25 am): I rise to support the business program motion moved by the Leader of the House. The motion itself is very straightforward. It allows for the House to properly consider four important government bills that will be debated this week. It ensures that a substantial amount of time is provided to each of them. It accounts for ensuring that ministers have an opportunity to reply to issues that might be raised during the second reading debates as well as for proper consideration in detail of any amendments that might need to be considered by the House. These four bills will be dealt with this week as is appropriate.

In his contribution, the member for Kawana advised the House that he had asked at the business program committee meeting yesterday that some other bills be considered but, of course, this is a discussion of what matters will be dealt with during government business. It is the government's intention that these four bills be dealt with this week. The time allocated for them is sufficient for them to be considered in appropriate detail. I commend the business program motion to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.26 am): Once again, I rise to speak to the business program motion. First, I refer to the meeting last night at which were the Manager of Opposition Business, the Leader of the House, the health minister and the Independent

member for Noosa. This meeting is a complete and utter waste of time. The meeting before the last sitting week was a classic example where they went through the program for the week and then, during the week, the program chopped and changed. They changed their mind on a whim. Some bills were deferred and others were added. It is a total waste of time.

It is simply going through the motions to make it look like there is some sort of democratic process taking place. Of course, yesterday the Manager of Opposition Business suggested that other bills of more urgency and more importance—and I agree with that sentiment—should be discussed this week but, of course, they were railroaded because the government is just going through the motions. Again, it is a stab at the heart of democracy when these meetings are a complete and utter waste of time.

Secondly—and I touched on this during the last sitting of parliament—one thing I take great umbrage at is not just the fact that we have limited time to speak on bills but that the hours of parliament are limited in terms of the amount of time that we can discuss bills. If we had more time in parliament, we could consider and look at more bills. We would make more efficient use of parliamentary time than what occurs at the moment. These issues are very important. It seems to me that one of the main reasons we have shortened the parliamentary sitting week is so that the Premier and her ministers can splash millions of taxpayers' money on receptions here every night of the parliamentary week. Most of these receptions the opposition is not invited to. Again, the guise of the parliament inviting stakeholder groups to this precinct is a total misnomer.

The reason we want longer hours is so we can scrutinise ministers and their policies far more intently. That would be the democratic process, and there are so many things that we want to ask questions about. Over the last two weeks we heard about the public housing waiting list blowing out, we heard about the hospital surgery waiting list getting longer and longer, and of course there is the Labor Party waiting list to see who wants to take over the Deputy Premier's role. That list is getting longer and longer as well. These are the reasons we should have longer hours in parliament—only what has been practised by every other parliament before this one—so that we can, from an opposition's point of view, ask more questions to keep this government accountable—and, man, does it need to be kept accountable!

Just in the last fortnight a number of issues have emerged that deserve public examination, and already the police minister came in here today and talked about solving the North Queensland crime issue by simply rearranging top level police on the organisational chart. That will not make one ounce of difference whatsoever, but those questions need to be asked. The people of the Gold Coast, the people of North Queensland and the people of the northern suburbs of Brisbane want real answers, not these superficial solutions that those opposite continue to put up and crow about—changes which will make absolutely no difference whatsoever.

Earlier the Leader of the House said that the bills that are being debated this week will not have much media attention. They deserve to have media attention, and I refer to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) because it shows the economic incompetence of this government. We should have more than three hours to discuss what is the most important issue in this parliament at the moment—that is, the state of the Queensland economy. It is a basket case. It should be an economic powerhouse, but that will not happen under this government.

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

**AYES, 47:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**NOES, 39:**

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


**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**NQF, 1**—Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## SPEAKER'S RULINGS

### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have circulated statements to members relating to the application of the same question rule to the following bills: the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill and the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill; the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill; the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Ministerial Accountability) Amendment Bill; the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking Permit Scheme) Amendment Bill and the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill; and the Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill and the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Act. I seek leave to incorporate my rulings in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO POLITICAL DONATIONS AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY BILLS

Honourable members, I refer to my ruling on 27 March 2019 with respect to the application of the same question rule to the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, passed by the House on 17 May 2018, and the member for Maiwar's Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018.

I also refer to my ruling on 4 February 2020 with respect to the application of the same question rule to the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 passed by the House on 19 October 2019 and the member for Maiwar's Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018.

In both instances I was satisfied that the same question rule was not enlivened by the government's bills and the member for Maiwar's bill.

On 28 November 2019 the Attorney-General introduced the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 which has now been reported on by the Economics and Governance Committee. The bill is very wide ranging and amends a number of acts and a regulation including the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Electoral Act 1992, the Electoral Regulation 2013, the Integrity Act 2009, the Local Government Act 2009, the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and a range of other legislation detailed in schedule 1 in relation to electoral funding and expenditure.

Chapter 2 of the bill seeks to improve the integrity and public accountability of state elections by, amongst other things: capping political donations to registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties; capping electoral expenditure for registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning; requiring registered political parties, candidates and registered third parties to maintain dedicated State campaign accounts; increasing public funding for parties; and introducing other arrangements to support the election funding and disclosure reforms.

The member for Maiwar's bill, the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018 is much narrower and seeks to prohibit corporate donations to candidates and political parties. It only seeks to amend two acts, the Electoral Act 1992 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011.

The government's bill seeks to amend the Electoral Act 1992 by capping donations and expenditure whereas the member for Maiwar's bill seeks to amend the Electoral Act 1992 by prohibiting donations from corporate entities. The objectives of the government's bill and the objectives of the member for Maiwar's bill could be viewed as alternative approaches. On another view, they could be seen as complementary approaches—that is, it is possible to place caps on donations and at the same time prohibit a class of entities from making donations.

The difficulty is that clauses 3 and 13 of the government's bill and clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the member for Maiwar's bill seek to insert alternative definitions of political donations and new sections at the same point in the Electoral Act 1992 and, as drafted, these clauses cannot stand together.

The member for Maiwar's bill also seeks to amend the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 by prohibiting donations from corporate entities. The government's bill also seeks to amend the Local Government Electoral Act 2011, but the government's proposed amendments have no relationship to those proposed by the member for Maiwar.

Speakers have refrained from exercising the same question rule in relation to bills that deal with substantially the same subject matter but are genuinely alternative propositions seeking to obtain similar outcomes by different mechanisms, particularly where there are provisions in each bill not dealt with in the other (Speaker Wellington, Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2016, pp. 4223-24).

Speakers have also declined to rule a bill out of order before its second reading where only some clauses of the bill may offend the same question rule, leaving the rule to be applied in relation to particular clauses in consideration in detail (Speaker Wellington, Record of Proceedings, 9 August 2017, p. 2067).

Accordingly, I rule that neither bill will offend the same question rule for the purpose of their second reading. However, in accordance with previous rulings, should both bills pass their second reading stage, in consideration in detail when these clauses are considered the same question rule will be enlivened to the clauses in the second bill considered (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).



**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO ELECTORAL BILL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IMPLEMENTING STAGE 2 OF BELCARRA) ACT**

Honourable members, on 16 October 2019, the House passed the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, with amendment. The bill received royal assent on 30 October 2019.

During consideration in detail on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill the House agreed to amendments to omit clauses.

On 28 November 2019, the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (the Electoral Bill) was introduced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. The bill is set down for its second reading stage.

A detailed clause-by-clause analysis has been undertaken. The Electoral Bill includes substantially the same clauses that were omitted from the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Electoral Bill also includes a range of other matters.

Standing Order 150 provides that no amendment, new clause or schedule to a Bill shall be at any time moved which is substantially the same as one already negatived by the House, or which is inconsistent with one that has already been agreed to by the House, unless there has been an order of the House to reconsider the Bill.

Whilst the same question rule is not enlivened with respect to the Electoral Bill's second reading, the same question rule is enlivened with respect to clauses.

Accordingly, I rule clauses 81, 89, 91, 100, 103, 104, 113, 119, 123 to 125, 128 and 129 out of order.

**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO ELECTORAL INTEGRITY AND CRIMINAL CODE BILLS**

On 28 November 2019, the Attorney-General introduced the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, which has now been reported on by the Economics and Governance Committee.

Chapter 4 of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 seeks to give effect to recommendations of the Crime and Corruption Commission relating to ministerial accountability. The bill seeks to amend the Integrity Act 2009 to create a criminal offence for a minister who knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit to themselves or another person, or cause detriment to another person. The bill also seeks to amend the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to create a new offence where a minister intentionally fails to register their interests with the Clerk of Parliament with dishonest intent to obtain a benefit for themselves or another person, or cause detriment to another.

On 23 October 2019, the Leader of the Opposition introduced the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 which also seeks to give effect to recommendations of the Crime and Corruption Commission relating to ministerial accountability. The Leader of the Opposition's bill seeks to achieve this outcome by different mechanisms.

The bill seeks to amend the Criminal Code by creating a criminal offence for occasions when a member of Cabinet is aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, the minister has a declarable conflict of interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting of Cabinet or a Cabinet committee but fails to declare the conflict. The bill also seeks to amend the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 by creating a criminal offence to apply to a member of Cabinet who fails to comply with the requirements of the statement of interests by not informing the Clerk of Parliament of the particulars of an interest or the change to an interest within one month after the interest arises or the change happens.

In relation to both bills' amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, they appear to me to be more appropriately classified as alternative, rather than complementary and the same question rule would apply. Clause 73 of the government's bill and clause 6 of the Leader of the Opposition's bill both seek to insert a new offence within section 69. One offence is grounded in the key element of dishonest intention; the other imposes a strict criminal liability. If the House makes a decision to accept one, it cannot accept the other.

In relation to the Leader of the Opposition's amendment to the Criminal Code and the Government's amendment to the Integrity Act 2009, the situation is more complex. It is not uncommon for offences dealing with the same or similar subject matter to be found in different acts, especially if the elements and penalties are different. It is entirely possible to classify these amendments as complementary, rather than alternative, and the same question rule would not apply.

Previous Speakers have noted that the matters do not have to be identical, merely the same in substance, as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559; Speaker Simpson, Record of Proceedings, 31 October 2013, p. 3777). However, Speakers have also allowed matters that deal with the subject matter in a different way to progress without application of the rule, such as where the subject matter was dealt with in another manner and/or in a different act (Speaker Simpson, Record of Proceedings, 6 August 2014, p. 2496; Speaker Wellington, Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017, pp. 556-7).

Therefore, I rule that the same question rule does not apply with respect to the Leader of the Opposition's amendments to the Criminal Code and the government's amendment to the Integrity Act 2009.

In accordance with previous rulings, should both bills pass their second reading stage, in consideration in detail when these clauses are considered the same question rule will be enlivened to the second bill considered (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

**SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (DISABILITY PARKING) BILLS**

Honourable members, on 16 October 2019 the member for Hinchinbrook introduced the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking Permit Scheme) Amendment Bill 2019. The bill seeks to amend the Traffic Regulation 1962 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to expand the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include vision impaired people.

On 26 November 2019, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads introduced the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 which also seeks to amend the Traffic Regulation 1962 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to expand the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include vision impaired people who are legally blind, amongst other matters.

Both the government amendments and the member for Hinchinbrook's amendments to the Traffic Regulation 1962 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 are similar in nature and the same question rule applies. If the House makes a decision to accept one, it cannot accept the other.

Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Therefore, I rule that the same question rule applies to the member for Hinchinbrook's bill. Should the government's bill pass its second reading stage, the member for Hinchinbrook's bill cannot proceed and will be discharged from the Notice Paper.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO INSTITUTIONALISED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BILLS

Honourable members, on 12 June 2018, the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Farmer, introduced the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018.

The bill was passed on 19 September 2018. The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018 (the Act) received Royal Assent on 28 September 2018.

On 31 October 2018, the Member for Maiwar introduced the Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 (the private member's bill).

On 15 November 2018, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice introduced the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (the government bill). The bill was passed on 23 October 2019 and received Royal Assent on 30 October 2019.

Standing Order 87(1) provides that, unless the Standing Orders otherwise provide, a question or amendment shall not be proposed which is the same as any question which, during the same session, has been resolved in the affirmative or negative.

The issue arises as to whether the same question rule is enlivened in respect of the act, government bill and the private member's bill, as they all deal with the issue of redress or damages for persons who have experienced institutional child abuse.

As previous Speakers and I have noted, in order to be out of order under Standing Order 87 a bill does not have to be identical to another bill, merely the same in substance as the previous bill. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form.

The act implements a key recommendation of the Royal Commission Report by enabling the Commonwealth's National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the National Scheme) to operate in Queensland.

Under the National Redress Scheme, redress may consist of three components: a monetary payment (up to \$150,000); a counselling and psychological component; and a direct response from the responsible institution.

The government bill seeks to implement the Royal Commission Report's recommendations by amending the Civil Liability Act 2003 to:

- place a duty of care, and associated civil liability, on institutions to take all reasonable steps to prevent not only child sexual abuse but also serious child physical abuse and psychological abuse connected with child abuse and serious child physical abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution;
- introduce a reverse onus (applied prospectively) under which an institution must prove it took reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of a child to avoid legal liability for the abuse; and
- establish a statutory framework for the nomination of a proper defendant by an unincorporated institution to meet any liability incurred by the institution.

The government bill also amends the Civil Proceedings Act 2011 to ensure a person under a legal incapacity may recover the cost of trustee management fees in the award of damages for wrongful death of a member of the person's family.

The private member's bill, similar to the government bill, seeks to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003 to implement the Royal Commission Report's recommendations to place a duty of care, and associated civil liability, on institutions to protect children from child abuse.

The bill also amends the Limitations of Actions Act 1974 and Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 to broaden the exemption on time limits for civil action for damages from sexual abuse to child abuse.

The term child abuse is defined as sexual abuse, serious physical abuse and any other abuse perpetrated in connection with sexual abuse or serious physical abuse.


I also note that both bills seek to insert very similar definitions for child abuse in the Civil Liability Act 2003; to amend the Limitation of Actions Act 1974 to remove the word 'sexual' from the heading of section 11A and insert alternative definitions of child abuse; and to insert transitional provisions in a new section 49—all decisions on which the House has already made in amendments in consideration in detail to the government bill.

The Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 contains provisions which are substantially the same as those contained in the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, which the House has passed.

Therefore, under Standing Order 87, the Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 cannot proceed and is discharged from the Notice Paper.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Palaszcuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Response


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.37 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) that the Queensland government has committed \$27.25 million for a recovery package for the novel coronavirus outbreak;
  - (b) that this follows the Queensland government listening directly to the business community and industry at both the Roundtable Industry Forum on Coronavirus on 5 February and the Economic Functional Recovery Group meeting on 6 February;
  - (c) that this package includes \$500,000 for an #EatQLD promotion to support our agriculture sector, \$660,000 to waive fisheries licencing and \$500,000 for fisheries market diversification grants;
  - (d) that the package provides \$7 million for an international tourism marketing campaign, \$4.8 million for tourism marketing for Tropical North Queensland and the Gold Coast and \$5.77 million in fee relief for tourism operators;
  - (e) that the Queensland government is supporting small business including \$2 million for business counselling;
  - (f) that \$1 million will be provided for student counselling and \$2 million for an international student marketing campaign;
  - (g) that other national governments including Japan have acted to provide support packages for businesses impacted by coronavirus; and
2. Calls on the Morrison government to match the Queensland government's package including:
  - (a) matching the \$7 million commitment for a Tourism Australia campaign on a 50 per cent basis;
  - (b) providing \$17.55 million in \$2,000 grants for small businesses that would provide support to more than 8,700 small businesses;
  - (c) providing China export support grants, once borders are reopened; and
  - (d) matching international student marketing funding of \$2 million on a 50 per cent basis.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier and Minister for Trade be permitted to immediately move the motion of which the Premier and Minister for Trade has given notice of earlier today, with the following time limits to apply: three minutes for all members; total number of speakers before question put—10 members.

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

**AYES, 48:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 39:**

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

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**NQF, 1**—Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## Palaszczuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Response



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.44 am): I move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) that the Queensland government has committed \$27.25 million for a recovery package for the novel coronavirus outbreak;
  - (b) that this follows the Queensland government listening directly to the business community and industry at both the Roundtable Industry Forum on Coronavirus on 5 February and the Economic Functional Recovery Group meeting on 6 February;
  - (c) that this package includes \$500,000 for an #EatQLD promotion to support our agriculture sector, \$660,000 to waive fisheries licencing and \$500,000 for fisheries market diversification grants;
  - (d) that the package provides \$7 million for an international tourism marketing campaign, \$4.8 million for tourism marketing for Tropical North Queensland and the Gold Coast and \$5.77 million in fee relief for tourism operators;
  - (e) that the Queensland government is supporting small business including \$2 million for business counselling;
  - (f) that \$1 million will be provided for student counselling and \$2 million for an international student marketing campaign;
  - (g) that other national governments including Japan have acted to provide support packages for businesses impacted by coronavirus; and
2. Calls on the Morrison government to match the Queensland government's package including:
  - (a) matching the \$7 million commitment for a Tourism Australia campaign on a 50 per cent basis;
  - (b) providing \$17.55 million in \$2,000 grants for small businesses that would provide support to more than 8,700 small businesses;
  - (c) providing China export support grants, once borders are reopened; and
  - (d) matching international student marketing funding of \$2 million on a 50 per cent basis.

As members know, this is a really important issue. During the last sitting of parliament on 5 February, when we heard that this was a big issue and heard the cries from the different industries, my government acted swiftly and promptly and invited all industry representatives into a room and, with a number of my ministers sitting there, we decided up-front that we would respond quickly and swiftly.

The following day a meeting was held with more industry representatives who came in and presented their options to government. My government is about listening and delivering. Today we have listened and today we have delivered: over \$27 million is on the table responding directly to the concerns raised by industry representatives in that room. Within two weeks my government has acted. In two weeks the federal government under Scott Morrison has done very little. Today, this House is calling on the Morrison government to step up and make sure that it is delivering funding as well. I have written a letter to the Prime Minister, which I table today.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 18 February 2020, from the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Scott Morrison, regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak [\[270\]](#).

This letter is very clearly about the federal government coming to the party and making sure that it is delivering for Queenslanders. We have listened and delivered a package to the tourism industry. I thank members for raising those issues with the government. We also understand that there are issues when it comes to rock lobsters. We have been able to extend their catch area. We have listened to small business. We have listened in relation to fisheries in terms of freezing and making sure they have different avenues. We have also listened to small business. We know that international education is important to Queensland and we have listened to the international education sector as well. Most of the heads of the universities were at the meeting and they raised issues directly with me. We are asking for the federal government to treat this issue seriously, just as national governments in other places have, because the coronavirus is having an impact and we do not know how long it will last.

This is a real test for the Leader of the Opposition. Will she step up or will the member for Broadwater step up? Who will step up? When I sat in that chair I was the person who stood up on behalf of the opposition and responded to the debates of the day. I stood up every single time. Will she step up today or will the member for Broadwater lead the charge? Will those opposite support this motion and call for action from the federal government?



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.48 am): Here we have it: the Palaszczuk government following the LNP's lead! It was 16 days ago, on 2 February, when I went down to the Gold Coast and stood with the LNP's candidate for Currumbin, the fabulous Laura Gerber—the local Laura Gerber.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order, members!

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection because Laura Gerber is a fabulous local candidate. One of her children goes to Elanora State School. She was born in the private hospital in Currumbin. She got married at Elephant Rock. Her husband works for Neumanns. She was baptised at Palm Beach. That is someone who would be a good local member. Laura Gerber is a fabulous candidate for Currumbin. I look forward to continuing to campaign with the fabulous LNP candidate, Laura Gerber, in Currumbin.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you have had a pretty good go this morning. You are now warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, before you resume the debate I ask you to come back to the motion.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am pleased to do that because it was 16 days ago that Laura Gerber and I stood in Currumbin and announced the LNP's plan to save local tourism jobs because the Palaszczuk government was doing nothing. It was the LNP that had to stand up and force the government to do something—force the government to make an announcement. It was on that day that Laura Gerber said that one in seven local jobs depend on tourism and the LNP will fight to save each and every one. That is why I announced the LNP's plan to save tourism jobs lost because of the coronavirus. Where was the Premier in those 16 days? Was she standing up for those local jobs? She was completely and utterly silent! She was too busy trying to work out whether the Deputy Premier was going to remain the Deputy Premier or whether the member for Cooper was going to step up and become the Deputy Premier or maybe it was going to be the member for Woodridge.

Coming back to the motion, I announced on that day that the package would have interest-free loans for affected businesses and local economic development plans. It would involve working with regional tourism organisations and attracting more visitors by ramping up marketing in international tourism destinations. The LNP was leading the way in relation to this issue.

**Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (11.52 am): I too would like to go back to 2 February, because when the Leader of the Opposition was standing with her candidate—she had to rip off her New South Wales jersey to get to the press conference—I was there with our local candidate, born and bred in Currumbin, announcing the first of our package for the tourism industry. That is real money to support the industry in our state. What did they announce? Zero! How many letters or calls has the Leader of the Opposition made to the Prime Minister of our country—her buddy ScoMo? Zero, I imagine. She can correct the record if I am wrong.

We have seen a total absence from the Prime Minister of this nation. As I said two weeks ago in this very House, 'Scotty from Marketing' was the CEO of Tourism Australia. You would think, of all the prime ministers Australia has ever had, he is the one who would understand the impacts on the tourism industry. On 13 February, during an address to the National Press Gallery he was asked about support for the industry. A journalist asked—

Prime Minister, you said you're considering sensible measures to mitigate the impact. Could that include financial assistance to the university, tourism, or hospitality sectors?

What did the Prime Minister say? He said—

No, they're not measures currently before us and nor are they measures that are currently being sought.

That is what the Prime Minister said on 13 February. He said that no-one had approached him, not even Simon Birmingham, with whom I have had meetings, to lobby him, so I do not know what Simon has been doing with his time. On 13 February, the Prime Minister told the National Press Gallery that no-one had sought assistance from the tourism industry.

Today I table a letter from the Australian Tourism Industry Council, dated 7 February, in which they absolutely call on the Prime Minister to support the tourism industry in our time of need. In fact, they state—

Without being dramatic on the basis that annual Chinese visitor expenditure is greater than \$12 billion, for each month that there is no ability for Chinese nationals to visit or re-return to Australia, it delivers a \$1 billion blow to the Australian visitor economy.

He has not listened to the tourism industry. In fact, the letter goes on to state—

The well-known 'resilience' and 'get-on-with-it' nature of many tourism businesses in Australia is now under direct and serious challenge. This is now an extreme situation and this week's detailed surveying of our members from all corners of the country portrays this concern.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 7 February 2020, from Executive Director, Australian Tourism Industry Council, Mr Simon Westaway, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Scott Morrison, regarding investing in the future of Australian tourism [271].

Today, all the Premier is asking is for the LNP to put politics aside and stand united with us in Queensland to get the funding out of the federal government that the tourism operators are crying out for. Why won't you do your job?

*(Time expired)*

**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.55 am): I rise to speak on the motion. In mid-May last year, just before the federal election, every minister opposite stood and waxed lyrical about Bill Shorten, how they could not wait for him to be the prime minister and the fact that he would be prime minister. That was their tip. Guess what? They were insincere! They never wanted Bill Shorten to win that election—no way in the world—because if Bill Shorten won the election they would have nobody to blame.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. He has only three minutes on this motion. You would think he could be relevant for that long.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member of Everton, I was giving you a little bit of latitude. I need you to speak to the motion at hand.

**Mr MANDER:** Queenslanders are sick and tired of this government blaming everybody else for their woes and their inadequacies. If it is not the federal government, it is the Brisbane City Council. If it is not the Brisbane City Council, it is Campbell Newman. If it is not Campbell Newman, it is the previous LNP government of five years ago. The people of Queensland are sick of it and they want this government to take responsibility for what they are actually responsible for.

They were dragged, kicking and screaming, to bring this package about because 16 days ago the opposition leader called for the measures that they have finally announced. The reason they have to continue to go cap in hand to the federal government is because they are broke. The Queensland government is broke under Premier Palaszczuk and Treasurer Trad. They have no idea. They have run this economy into the ground and we have no spare cash. We have no money stored away for a rainy day. In fact, it is exactly the opposite: we are hurtling towards \$91 billion worth of debt. If the people of Queensland want to know what impact that debt has, this is it here today. We have nothing up our sleeve for when an emergency situation takes place. Unfortunately, in this state emergencies happen all the time, whether it is drought, bushfire, flood or a virus that comes in from overseas. These things happen, but we have no contingency plans. We have absolutely nothing. What this government does is whinge, whine and blame the federal government for their economic incompetence.

One of the ways that we can solve these problems, especially in our tourism areas, is to make sure that we have great local representatives. In Currumbin we have a great local representative in Laura Gerber. We will also win back the seat of Gaven and we will have a blue wash on the Gold Coast, which is the best result for tourism in this state and on the Gold Coast.

**Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.58 am): As a lot of people would be aware, tourism is absolutely fundamental to the Cairns economy. In my community, tourism supports one in five jobs and generates \$3 billion for the Far North economy annually. That means more than 25,000 jobs—that is, 25,000 people who rely on those jobs. The way some people here are allocating their three minutes is impressively disturbing.

We need everything possible to support and safeguard those jobs from the impacts of the coronavirus. What we have seen from this Palaszczuk Labor government has been immediate action. You have only to talk to the tourism operators in Far North Queensland to know that. That immediate action looks like this: \$7 million for statewide marketing campaigns; \$2.4 million directly into the coffers of Tourism Tropical North Queensland so that they can begin to work with Tourism and Events Queensland and Tourism Australia on existing campaigns in the marketplace; and \$3 million for the international education sector, which is a rapidly growing sector in our economy. It is important not only to recognise that sector but also to listen to them. They recognise how fundamental it is that the government has acknowledged what dire straits they are in.

Critically, there is a \$5 million fee relief package that will put money into the pockets of tourism operators in Cairns. We can only charge and make changes on the assets that we own. Far North Queensland tour operators have been doing it tough. They have been impacted by the floods, the fires and now the coronavirus. Today's announcement of the Palaszczuk government's coronavirus relief package of more than \$27 million is hugely recognised and I cannot be more proud to be part of a government that makes that contribution.


What have the federal government contributed? From Warren Entsch we have heard nothing. From Phillip Thompson in Herbert we have heard nothing. From George Christensen in Dawson we have heard nothing. The Prime Minister's comments last week were a slap in the face to the people of

Cairns. When asked about possible funding for the tourism industry he said, 'No, there are no measures currently before us.' The federal government introduced the necessary regulations to not allow people from China to come into this country; we get that. For them not to be able to acknowledge that it is essential as it will have an impact on businesses, particularly tourism businesses, and then deny that the industry has come to them—we are talking about the Australian tourism—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you have had a pretty good crack. Next time you will be warned under the standing orders for yelling across the chamber.

**Mr HEALY:** When the federal government makes changes, they must support it with a package. They have not done that. This Labor government has done that in Queensland. It is recognised by the industry. Today I am calling on the Prime Minister and the federal government to follow the leadership of our Premier and urgently deliver funding for Far North Queensland and our industry.


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.01 pm): The coronavirus emergency is an extremely serious matter. It is very disappointing, though, that this Labor government is treating it as an opportunity for a political stunt. We witnessed a few minutes ago, in regards to the business of the parliament, this Labor government put forward a motion to gag four bills before the House and then, surprise, they threw that program out and introduced this motion with about five minutes notice. Not so surprisingly, already we have written speeches from Labor backbenchers. This is too important an issue to be treated like a play thing of this Labor government.

We outlined, through our Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, two weeks ago some of the things that needed to be in this state government's response to this. There has been too much of this posturing where the Labor state government blames everybody else because of its own crises but does not take responsibility for acting in a decisive way. The Leader of the Opposition outlined interest-free loans for affected businesses, local economic development plans, plans to work with regional tourism organisations and plans to attract more visitors through marketing. This state Labor government had to get up and say, 'No, we cannot do anything unless we get the federal government first to sign off on our preferred package.'

I remind this Labor government that there may be a crisis also in regard to the economic mismanagement with state debt heading towards \$90 billion, but there are opportunities to get their priorities right. As I have outlined in this House before, this state Labor government spent more than \$33 million on state advertising in one financial year alone. Only a small percentage of that amount was needed to work cooperatively in a timely way to make a difference in regard to helping small businesses, to helping the tourism industry operators who are bleeding and also, we acknowledge, to helping the many other industries and small businesses that are impacted by this.

I want to remind the House in the midst of this that not only are businesses doing it tough but also our friends in the Chinese community, along with their loved ones, who do not know whether they will be even more impacted personally by the health crises. This is why cooperation is important here. The Labor government came in here and pulled its stunt when they had every opportunity to put this matter forward in a sensible and statesman-like way. No, they gag debate in parliament, they put this motion with five minutes notice and then make out they are trying to get cooperation with the federal government. It is poor form. Queensland deserves better. Australia deserves better. Those people who are impacted deserve better. That is why we put forward an alternative program two weeks ago.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.05 pm): I rise to support the motion. Later on this week I will hopefully be travelling to Tasmania for the AGMIN meeting. For the benefit of the House, AGMIN is about discussing various matters associated with biosecurity and other effects of drought, not only by all the ministers and departments of the Commonwealth and the states and territories, but also those of New Zealand. To facilitate that, I hope the member for Kawana will grant me a pair so I am able to represent Queensland on matters such as this urgent motion that has been put before the House today.

It is critical that a representative of Queensland be in attendance at the AGMIN meeting. It certainly will allow us to brief other states, territories, and the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, David Littleproud, to give them an understanding of the support that is required for jobs and small businesses that are affected by this virus. It is quite common and quite relative when you look at other matters that the Commonwealth and other states support in terms of—

**Mr HART:** I rise to a point of order on relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker. You have already pulled up other members about speaking to the motion. The member is not speaking to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Burleigh. I have been listening quite intently to all debate today. I believe the member on his feet is addressing the motion.

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I certainly will not be going to the Rockies to discuss matters that are not associated with this important motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now you need to come back to the motion, member for Ferny Grove.


**Mr FURNER:** I will come back to the motion. The adjunct of what is required to assist the industry is supporting the rock lobster industry and the coral trout industry in terms of explaining how we will be able to assist in the relaxation of fees, quotas and so on. The local seafood promotion campaign will encourage Queenslanders to support our local fishers by buying local. That will be supported by a range of other stakeholders, whether it be Clubs Queensland or other stakeholders who have signed up to #eatqueensland, encouraging people to eat locally. The federal government supporting the Queensland government's action is crucial. It cannot be a Holden moment for the Prime Minister in this case. The Prime Minister must act. Action is required to ensure that our agriculture and fisheries industries are protected.

I note the media comments by Eric Perez from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association. He is calling on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to help. He said—

Newstart or Farm Household Allowance style payments for commercial fishers, skippers and crew, or low-to-no interest loans for commercial operations to adapt vessels to catch a broader array of seafood, have all been raised potential avenues for assistance.

When I met with Eric last sitting week, his first comment was around the need for assistance through Newstart. Not only is this government acting, but also industry is calling on the Commonwealth to give support. No doubt this is the opportunity for the Commonwealth to step up to support the tourism industry and to back in Queensland jobs and Queensland small businesses that rely upon this industry for support for those jobs. I was up there only last week with the member for Cook representing Queenslanders—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.08 pm): It has been almost three weeks since we first heard about coronavirus and the impact it is having. It has been 16 days since the Leader of the Opposition called for an assistance package. Yet what we have seen today misses the mark both in its timing and its quantum. If you do not wish to take the words of a politician, take the words of somebody whose life is about tourism. The CEO of Destination Gold Coast, Annaliese Battista, described the package the government is putting forward as a slap in the face. She described that paltry first contribution as a slap in the face, which were ironically the words used by the member for Cairns.

Tourism in this state is already hurting. It was hurting before coronavirus. It was hurting when we continued to see our market share slide year on year. When the tourism minister hopped up in Cairns and said that the Global Tourism Hub was all but a dead duck because of a disease which had impacted in the last fortnight, there was a collective groan in the room. They knew full well it had been a sick and twisted game of kicking the can down the road and of pretending there was life in something when there was not.


We hear the government stand up and talk about ecotourism being the panacea to fix our ills. Tasmania has continued on and delivered things and we are still talking about the same projects that the now tourism minister was talking about as environment minister a decade ago. We continue to talk about Wangetti Trail and the completion date that keeps getting pushed down the road. During the time that an upgrade to the Cairns Convention Centre has been discussed, we have seen things like the Museum of Old and New Art built and the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore get up and running and yet we continue to talk.

When I spoke about the levy in Cairns I saw the collective grief in that room. The people of Cairns feel so helpless that a government that has expenses that continue to go through the roof, that has implemented more than a dozen new taxes, that has a bill for our Public Service that is over \$5 billion per annum more than it was half a decade ago cannot find them \$10 million. The local member has to come in here and squeal for a levy because he cannot find \$10 million for his city in its hour of need.



Why is it that the intent of this motion is to condemn Canberra when both Victoria and New South Wales are getting on with helping their industries? All this mob can do is blame others because they are out of ideas, they are out of money and they are running out of time.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.11 pm): The bloke who goes to Cairns and talks up a big game and says, 'I am not staying quiet on this. I want Canberra to come forth and assist us,' comes into this chamber and is as quiet as a mouse. It is all about the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Palaszczuk Labor government's package and not what his conservative colleagues at a federal level are prepared to do in Queensland's time of need. The bloke who likes to talk a big game in front of the punters comes in here in front of his colleagues and toes the line. Out there he talks a big game, feathering his leadership ambitions, and he comes in here—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, you have been interjecting all day. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** He comes in here and toes the line. The contributions from those opposite have been disgraceful, and none more so than the member for Everton's contribution. The member for Everton, who wants to hold the position of Treasurer of this state, did not mention the coronavirus or any element of the package or any impact on any industry in Queensland because of the coronavirus. He talked a big game, he talked in hubris tones about the federal election and what they were going to do on the Gold Coast, he talked about debt and a whole range of other things, but he did not talk about the coronavirus and its impact on the Queensland economy.

Let me educate the member for Everton on the effects of the coronavirus because, quite frankly, it is going to be devastating if we cannot respond. China now accounts for 33 per cent of all of our exports. Its value to the Queensland economy is almost \$29 billion. If China's borders remain closed then we will continue to see a decline in many of our critical and important industries. What is more, if the work bans continue in China that means a lot of the commodities that we export are going to be in less demand and that will have an impact.

Instead of those opposite coming into this parliament last parliamentary sitting week or this parliamentary sitting week and asking a question about the coronavirus, moving a motion about the coronavirus or talking about how they would support the Queensland economy during this time, they have come in and said nothing on the issue. They should hang their heads in shame. Their economic literacy around this particular issue is a disgrace.

The federal government cannot remain on the benches on this issue because it is hurting our industries and it is hurting our economy, not just in Queensland but right across the nation. Those opposite just prove how dedicated they are to Queenslanders by remaining silent on this issue.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.15 pm): I rise to address the motion moved by the Premier. I will not be lectured on economic literacy by this Premier, by this party or by this Treasurer in particular. This Treasurer has presided over a collapse in the state's finances and a collapse in the state's economy. Every indicator—whether it be unemployment or business confidence—has collapsed long before we heard of coronavirus. Why? It is because of the Labor government here in Queensland.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer used the word disgraceful. What is disgraceful is that yet again, minutes after we have debated the business program motion which outlines what we will be debating this week and guillotining and gagging debate on important legislation, we have another politically charged motion that is wasting 30 minutes of this House's time. What we have, as the member for Broadwater pointed out—largely because of the economic illiteracy of the Treasurer—is a government that is broke and has no solution to the situation it has found itself in other than to come in here and constantly beg, borrow and steal what it can from the federal Morrison government. It is beyond excusable. It is beyond a joke. Enough is enough.

This government cannot continue to blame everyone else for its own mismanagement of this state. As others have said in this debate, we believe there needs to be assistance. We called for it weeks ago.

As the member for Broadwater also pointed out, members of the government's own benches have been calling for it for a long time too. The state is primarily responsible. I have no doubt that the Morrison government will step up and assist in ensuring that Queensland, along with New South Wales, Victoria and the rest of Australia, gets through this crisis as it did with the bushfire crisis and as it has with every other crisis it has faced since coming to government.


The government that has not done enough is the government of those opposite. The government that has not done enough is the Palaszczuk Labor government. It screams and squeals every time there is another impact on its budget. It has no facility for any type of crisis such as this, none whatsoever. If it did, we would not be having these ridiculous debates every time this chamber sits. It is inexcusable. Enough is enough. Get on and do the job you were elected to do and govern this state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, Calen District State College

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.18 pm): In response to the member for Whitsunday's question with regard to Calen District State College, I can update the House with additional information. The enrolment numbers for 2020 so far for Calen District State College are about 196. The built capacity of that school is 529. It has a utilisation rate of 37 per cent. For the benefit of the member for Whitsunday, obviously principals decide, as I am sure you did, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, during your days as a principal, how to utilise classrooms and school spaces, particularly where there is spare capacity of around 60 per cent.


The situation the MP has referred to relates to a composite class. I am advised that the space was used as a group breakout for 30 minutes at a time and that the space has not been used since the first week of school. The member for Whitsunday obviously has no idea about the school in his electorate. He is making accusations about a lack of space at a school that has a built capacity of 529, enrolments of around 200 students and a utilisation rate of 37 per cent. I would rather he say 'thank you' for the tens of millions of dollars that are being spent in his electorate on school facilities.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) resumed from 19 September 2019 (see p. 3017) and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) resumed from 19 September 2019 (see p. 3019).

### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.20 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Queensland's economy under the Palaszczuk Labor government has grown by \$40 billion. That is almost twice as much as it did under the Liberal National Party. Our government has helped to create more than 235,000 jobs—eight times more than the LNP. More than half of the jobs created under the Palaszczuk government—125,000 of them—have been full-time positions. Under the LNP, more than 8,000 full-time jobs were lost in our economy. Over just the past year, around after half of the jobs our government has helped to create have been in regions outside Greater Brisbane. Under the LNP, 11,000 regional jobs were lost.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered five budgets—and five budget surpluses. We have more than offset the deficit left to us by the LNP. We have kept taxes low. The average Victorian will pay \$700 more in taxes this year than the average Queenslanders. Residents in New South Wales will pay \$1,000 more in tax than their low-tax neighbours here in Queensland.

Debt is lower under the Palaszczuk government. Total borrowings with QTC are \$2.4 billion less than we inherited from the LNP and general government borrowings are nearly \$10 billion less. Our responsible management of the state's finances means that the Palaszczuk government can deliver record infrastructure investment of \$51.8 billion over the next four years, supporting tens of thousands more Queensland jobs and building the schools, the hospitals, the roads and the future that Queenslanders deserve.

The appropriation bills before the House today provide for supplementary appropriation for the 2018-19 financial year. The bills complement the 2018-19 report on state finances, tabled earlier this month, which revised the government's surplus upwards to nearly \$1 billion over the financial year. Our

increased surplus was driven by tighter control over our expenses, which came in \$384 million under budget. Employee growth was also more modest than forecast—down from an estimated 2.5 per cent to just two per cent. General government borrowings were close to half a billion dollars lower than anticipated, as cash flows covered 106 per cent of infrastructure investment for the financial year.

The bill seeks \$1.4 billion in supplementary appropriation, as detailed in the Consolidated Fund financial report. The financial report also notes that our government returned \$1.46 billion in savings to the Consolidated Fund in 2018-19. Overall, and contrary to the claims we might hear from those opposite, this means that our government spent less than we budgeted for and we returned that money to Queenslanders.

Total appropriation was \$65 million less than we budgeted for. This is a more efficient result than the LNP could achieve in three years, during which they handed back nearly \$10 billion in lapsed appropriations that they did not know how to spend. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government is agile, not fragile. We do not mindlessly cut services, sack hardworking public servants or sell the public assets that belong to all Queenslanders. We adapt to changing conditions and we allocate resources where they are needed most. This gives our government the flexibility to accelerate and prioritise programs, and that is reflected in these bills.

Almost 90 per cent of the supplementary appropriations in these bills comes from three departments. The Palaszczuk government is helping Queenslanders to get around our state safer and quicker. That is why the Department of Transport and Main Roads accelerated close to \$700 million in capital programs over the financial year, including widening the Gateway Motorway between Nudgee and Deagon from four to six lanes; completing the Toowoomba bypass to ease pressure on Toowoomba's roads and help regional exports get to the Port of Brisbane faster; and upgrading the Bruce Highway, the Pacific Motorway, the Toowoomba bypass and other crucial state roads.


The Palaszczuk government is giving all of our children a great start. Last financial year our government fast-tracked almost \$263 million to build and fit out new schools. On the first school day of 2020 we opened eight new state schools—the most new schools opened on one day in more than 30 years.

Our government welcomes the opportunity to flow through federal funds to local councils. In fact, we would welcome this opportunity far more often. In the lead-up to the federal election, the Morrison government paid local councils more than \$250 million in financial assistance grants that were not due until this financial year. While the Palaszczuk government was happy to flow these funds through, they represent another supplementary appropriation. Unfortunately the Morrison government has given no indication that it will top up the grants that local councils were due to receive this year.

While Transport, Education and Local Government account for most of the accelerated investment in 2018-19, our government also fast-tracked funding for primary producers following the floods; local councils for waste management; water security programs in Townsville; and police, fire and emergency services communications programs. The Palaszczuk government has the right priorities for Queenslanders, and we are on the side of all Queenslanders. We have grown the economy, backed more than 235,000 jobs, delivered five budget surpluses and we are investing a record \$51.8 billion in the schools, hospitals and roads that Queenslanders deserve.

The appropriation bills show that the Palaszczuk government is managing the state's finances prudently and efficiently in tough economic conditions, which have only been amplified by the Morrison government. Despite droughts, floods, bushfires and other external shocks like the coronavirus, our government will continue to deliver for all Queenslanders regardless of where they live.

I would like to thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report on these bills. I would like to thank those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's deliberations. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019. There is no greater example of the economic incompetence of this government and of this Treasurer than the details of these appropriation bills. It is also very relevant that the Treasurer has just taken seven minutes to speak about a \$1.397 billion blow-out in her budget which was delivered only seven or eight months ago.

Since the Palaszczuk government was elected, well over \$4 billion has had to be appropriated to cover unforeseen expenditure due to Labor's consistent fiscal management failures. In comparison—they like to make comparisons all the time, so let me do so—to the equivalent period of time during the past LNP government, the average unforeseen expenditure under the Palaszczuk Labor government is almost eight times larger.

After two budgets the Deputy Premier and Treasurer is quickly taking the mantle of Queensland's worst treasurer in history. It is not just me who is saying this but also stakeholder groups. The ANZ-Property Council Survey has already declared the Palaszczuk Labor government—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you are on a warning already. If there is another interjection, you will be asked to go outside. I notice that you are on the speaking list.

**Mr MANDER:** I was talking about stakeholder groups. The ANZ-Property Council Survey has already declared the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst state government in the country for planning and managing growth. The CCIQ Suncorp Pulse Survey has revealed that the Treasurer has pushed Queensland business confidence down to levels not seen since the global financial crisis.

Queensland has the highest average unemployment rate in the nation since the Deputy Premier took control of Treasury. What is very relevant here is the game of comparisons that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer likes to play in terms of making comparisons with other periods of time.

When you are looking at unemployment rates, what you need to compare is the relative unemployment rate of every other state in this country. We are being left well behind, particularly on the eastern seaboard. Our greatest competitors, Victoria and South Australia, have unemployment rates that hover around 4.6 per cent to 4.8 per cent. The national unemployment rate is around 5.1 per cent. We have just gone under six per cent for the first time in a long time, and it will not be long until we pop back up again. In fact, the Treasurer's own forecast hovers in the low sixth percentile as we go forward into next year and the year after. They are the relevant statistics. How are we competing with the rest of the country? We are well behind the eight ball and they are killing us in the area of employment.

With the most debt in the nation, the state's balance sheet has never been worse. We will be nearly \$92 billion in debt over the next few years with no plan whatsoever to repay that debt. Let's look at the 2018-19 budget. It is staggering that, after the 2018-19 budget where the Deputy Premier introduced another five new taxes taking in \$2.2 billion from Queenslanders, she has still blown out the budget by \$1.397 billion. In total Labor has now introduced nine new or increased taxes, ripping \$3.5 billion out of the Queensland economy.

In response to the Deputy Premier's disastrous 2018-19 budget, international credit rating agency Moody's warned that increased debt and projected falling revenues towards the end of the forward estimates could lead to a further downgrade in Queensland's credit rating. It was a Labor administration that led to the last drop in our credit rating, and Moody's is warning this could happen again. Moody's publicly stated—

Additionally, at 1.7 per cent, average revenue growth is expected to fall below the average expenditure growth of 2.1 per cent noted above. This imbalance would lead to growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile.

Quite simply, we are spending more money than we are receiving and that is why our debt is continuing to increase.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's previously declared plan to regain a AAA credit rating is pure fantasy and was well and truly abandoned when the Deputy Premier took hold of Treasury. The Deputy Premier's complete financial incompetence was further highlighted in the 2018-19 fiscal year when, just four months after her midyear economic statement, the Treasurer was forced to admit that Queensland's projected stamp duty revenue would be a massive \$1.32 billion less than she forecast. It was not \$100 million; it was not \$500 million; it was \$1.32 billion out despite a forecast made just four months previously. The Treasurer was forced to own up to this billion dollar blunder, yet again the Treasurer is seeking passage of an appropriation bill for the same fiscal years with another almost \$1.4 billion blowout. It appears there is no budget or forecast the Deputy Premier can keep to.

Who can forget the Deputy Premier and Treasurer's other Treasury failures from the 2018-19 budget onwards. In addition to the billion dollar stamp duty blunder there has been a long list of Treasury failures, including when the Deputy Premier went to the resources industry and threatened them with increased royalties if they did not contribute to a \$100 million slush fund. Thankfully for the Queensland resources industry, the Deputy Premier was forced to make a humiliating retreat. The Deputy Premier was forced to make significant exemptions in the foreign land tax surcharge because of the monumental impact it would have had on Queensland investment, something which was not thought of in the first place or done without proper consultation.

Just before Christmas we heard about the Deputy Premier outsourcing her job to former South Australian premier and mate Jay Weatherill to review gas royalties. Unfortunately for Queensland, all we have so far is no clear outcome and a \$100,000 bill. I heard via the grapevine that it may be a little bit more than \$100,000. Let's see what comes out of that. Much to the industry's surprise, after no consultation the Treasurer announced a 25 per cent gas tax hike; furthermore, the industry said they were assured a fortnight before the budget that no such increase would take place. We heard about the \$10 million that was spent on consultants to work out how to reduce the number of consultants hired by the government—a very logical thing to do. Recently in the midyear economic report we heard about the Deputy Premier's plan to raise \$5 billion from the superannuation of thousands of Queensland government employees for a scheme that, even on the Deputy Premier's own figures, would take 230 years to pay off Labor's massive debt.

This is simply shuffling the credit cards and makes absolutely no difference to the bottom line whatsoever. Gene Tunny, the respected economist, said—

They haven't really had a plan but they have had some gimmicks.

They do not have economic solutions. They have political solutions, but even those are very transparent and they will not fool Queenslanders.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Wait for it, member for Thuringowa. We are going to come to my plan in a moment, just wait. I know you are excited about it. It will not take me long.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Order! Member for Thuringowa, put yourself on the list if you want to speak.

**Mr MANDER:** It is an extremely poor reflection on the Premier's judgement that she continues to keep the Deputy Premier in her role. Why? Because she contributes and because she is busy putting together the 2020 budget. Given her past performance, Queenslanders will be forced to endure one more job-destroying budget in April this year. I congratulate the Deputy Premier for surviving yesterday's caucus meeting. You may have heard the cheer from our party room when the news came that the Deputy Premier survived because we were very happy to hear that.

The Auditor-General tabled a scathing report into the state finances for the financial year this appropriation bill is seeking authorisation for. The independent Auditor-General's investigation revealed that in the 2018-19 financial year Queensland's total state sector will have a net operating deficit of \$1.1 billion. The total state sector's net financial worth was found to have decreased by 12 per cent, as the \$11.4 billion increase in liabilities was significantly greater than the \$2.6 billion increase—that is three per cent—in the state's financial assets. In his report the Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall, gave the dire warning—

Unless the Queensland government can increase its revenue or constrain the recent growth in its expenses, it risks not being able to meet the cost of its activities from the revenue it earns going forward.

Is it any wonder that this state Labor government continues to go to the federal government cap in hand because they cannot manage their own finances? Gene Tunny said, 'They just don't have the capacity to stimulate the economy.' The *Australian* labelled the report—

**Ms TRAD:** Gene Tunny wants us to sell assets. That is what Gene Tunny wants.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. Let's put it on the record now. The only side of politics in this parliament that sold assets is the Labor government. I can sit here now and list them all.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** There are no assets to sell because of what the Labor government did. Those opposite come here and think that Queenslanders will forget, but they do not forget about that. That is why the Bligh government lost the last time and that is why they will lose again. Continuing with the interjection from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer: in 2011 Queensland Motorways was sold by Labor for \$3 billion; in 2011 the Abbot Point coal terminal was sold by Labor for \$1.8 billion; in 2010 QR National was sold by Labor for \$4 billion. Who was around the cabinet table at that time?

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the chair of the committee, I ask you to sit him down if he cannot be relevant to the bills. He is not relevant.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to return to the substance of the appropriation bills rather than moving to other areas.

**Mr MANDER:** I will do that because it would take me another 10 minutes to go through all of those asset sales. I will go back and talk about other independent sources that are assessing the Auditor-General's report. The *Australian* labelled the report into the state's finances as 'a grim assessment of the state's finances'. The *Brisbane Times* labelled the report as 'Queensland cannot make enough money to keep up with expenses'. Even though debt has ballooned out of control, Labor has cut infrastructure spending with an average of \$2 billion less being spent each year compared to the previous LNP government.

The member for Thuringowa has been waiting with bated breath to hear our plan for the future. Let me tell him what our plan for the future is. We will build the infrastructure that will stimulate the economy. The opposition leader has outlined one of the grandest visions that has ever been undertaken in this parliament. We will build the New Bradfield Scheme. We will create thousands of jobs with the New Bradfield Scheme.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members on my right, the member for Everton has the call. I have called the House to order. The next member will be warned.

**Mr MANDER:** Where was I? We will build the New Bradfield Scheme. The New Bradfield Scheme will create—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned.

**Mr MANDER:** Let me say that again. We will build the New Bradfield Scheme, a scheme that will create thousands of jobs, a scheme that will create water security for millions of Queenslanders, a scheme that will produce clean power through hydro-electricity, a scheme that will protect the Great Barrier Reef by stopping the run-off into the reef. This is one of the boldest plans that has ever been introduced into the Queensland parliament and the Queensland public are responding to it. They want vision. They want somebody who is thinking beyond one term of government. They want somebody who is thinking about 20, 30, 40 and 50 years into the future. The New Bradfield Scheme fits that bill, and we are excited about it and we know that the people of Queensland are excited about it.

We have the potential to irrigate land on the western side of the Great Dividing Range the size of Tasmania. Imagine the boost to agriculture that is going to bring to our regions that are desperately in need of it. We have also already announced that we will establish the Queensland Dam Company, a dedicated body—

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like the member for Everton to return to the appropriation bills if he could please.


**Mr MANDER:** I will talk in response to the underspend in infrastructure by the Deputy Premier, whose only project is the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail—or is it \$12 billion now? What is it going to be? This will leave the health payroll debacle for dead. It will be in the tens of billions of dollars before this project is finished.

When you are talking about finances, you need to talk about alternative plans. This government will not build the infrastructure that is required. They definitely will not go into dams, despite the water minister's claims. They will not do that because the Deputy Premier is very worried about Greens preferences in her own area. These are the things that this government will not do and the alternative government will do. We will build the second M1 to stimulate the economy. We will have rail duplication to the Sunshine Coast to stimulate the economy. These things will build jobs and create better business opportunities for small and large businesses.

This appropriation bill is a great indicator of how incompetent this Treasurer and this government are. Seven or eight months after the budget was brought down, she has come in here seeking \$1.4 billion because she cannot manage the budget. She thinks it is just an incidental thing. She came in here and spoke quickly for seven minutes because she thinks this is nothing: 'It's only \$1.4 billion. It's only taxpayers' money.' Well, the taxpayers have had enough of this. They have had enough of this waste and they have had enough of this government's incompetence.

It is only LNP governments that manage the economy strongly. It is only LNP governments that give confidence back to the business community. It is only LNP governments that stimulate the economy. It is only LNP governments that can keep control of expenses. It is quite simple. The government cannot continue to spend more than it is receiving. Anybody doing any household budget understands that because debt gets to a situation where it cannot be serviced any longer.

A Deb Frecklington LNP government will manage the economy for everyday Queenslanders. We have a plan to back business and to create jobs—unlike Labor that is anti jobs, anti regions, anti development, basically anti anything that is associated with stimulating the economy, and unlike Labor that has no plan whatsoever. We wait with bated breath to see if it is the Treasurer who brings down the next budget and to see what mess will be served up this time, because all we have received so far is total economic rubbish.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.46 pm): ‘Rubbish’ certainly is a word to use about that speech by the shadow Treasurer and it was the last word he used. It was a speech that was filled with insults and fact-free assertions. It had little to do with an insight into the economy and certainly very little to reveal about what the opposition would do with the economy. I would ask the shadow Treasurer to take the time to read the reports he is supposed to be commenting on. This is not a long report but he could have got as far as page 5 because that actually shows what this Appropriation Bill (No. 2) has investments in. I notice that the transport minister is on the speaking list and I know he will talk a lot about the Pacific Highway and Bruce Highway investments. They are ones that the shadow Treasurer could have spoken to because this is what we should be talking about with the Appropriation Bill (No. 2).

I want to remind the House that the committee dealt with this bill and heard from the department about this process. It is a standard process that we go through every year where we bring forward investments that often have been planned for a long time. They are cases where the federal government have made obligations to bring them into a certain financial year and do not. These are standard things. They are so standard that they are all revealed on page 5 of this document, but obviously page 5 was a little too long for some opposition members to get through.

The shadow Treasurer has not read it so I will summarise it. If he had read it, he would have seen that almost 90 per cent of the supplementary appropriations are for three departments. The Department of Transport and Main Roads had the Gateway Upgrade North project—which is obviously something the opposition is saying it would cut—and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. They are obviously things that are not important to the opposition. There is also the Bruce Highway upgrade. I think the transport minister will be speaking in a lot more detail about some of these things that the opposition obviously do not value and would want to cut.

The Department of Education’s funding was about additional funding for new schools and the acceleration of school infrastructure funding. These are things that are valued by everybody on this side of the House—and I think by some over there as well—but they are things that the shadow Treasurer says are terrible and should not be accelerated or given any additional funding. The last amount was funding for additional grants for councils, and this is something that obviously the shadow Treasurer does not value. The grants were due in 2019-20 but were paid before the federal election—and presumably this is what they were sitting on; they have been sat on by Treasury—and they were passed on.

Of course, page 5 of the bill is too difficult for the opposition to speak to in terms of the details of what 90 per cent of the additional revenues are about. Since these things are too complex for the opposition, I will make them simpler for the entire House. I really hope that the member for McConnel and the transport minister go into a lot more detail about the valuable spending that has gone on.

In general, there is investment in some of the core things that the state does. This is about additional investment, accelerated investment and investment in Queenslanders. That is in stark contrast with the opposition, and we know what they are about. They are about cuts, sackings and sell-offs. When the opposition Treasury spokesperson was asked what were their plans for cuts, sackings and sell-offs, he said, ‘You’d be crazy to put forward a plan.’ This is what they want to hide from the people of Queensland. We have already seen that they do not value the additional spending on the Bruce Highway, the Pacific Highway or the gateway upgrades that were brought forward. That is additional and accelerated investment. We have already seen that they do not value the education funding for new schools like the Yarrabilba State High School. They do not value those things. They do not value bringing forward accelerated, additional investment in air conditioning our schools; they want to delay that until 2028. That is their plan: delays in those things. They are all about cuts, sackings and sell-offs.

The member for Thuringowa interjected—and it was on the record. He said, ‘How many are you going to sack?’ The opposition Treasury spokesperson said, ‘I’ll tell you that later.’ Apparently we have to be told later—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Logan, there is a point of order from the member for Everton.

**Mr MANDER:** That is totally taken out of context. I take personal offence to those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, withdraw please.

**Mr POWER:** I withdraw in accordance with the standing orders. It was not taken out of context. We know that they are all about cuts, sackings and sell-offs and that they refuse to put forward a plan. They are against additional, accelerated investment.

**Mr Hart:** What did we sell? Name one thing.

**Mr POWER:** You are against additional, accelerated investment in our schools.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you will address your comments through the chair and not use 'you're' across the chamber.

**Mr POWER:** I want to relate this point to my local area. When it comes to investment in roads in the Logan area the biggest one is the Mount Lindesay Highway, although Waterford Tamborine Road is also important. When it came to the Mount Lindesay Highway we knew there was forward spending in the 2011 budget; there was \$160 million in the out years. There was zero investment by the LNP north of Jimboomba and \$140 million in cuts for the Mount Lindesay Highway. This is a government that sacks, cuts and wants to do sell-offs but will not invest in the Mount Lindesay Highway.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** This was a government—the Newman government—that cut, sacked and sold. That is right, the Newman government sold off \$10 billion worth of—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members on my left.

**Mr POWER:** During their term of government, they had \$10 billion in sell-offs. We should never forget that. They also had Strong Choices under which they were going to sell more.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are on a warning. The next time you will be out.


**Mr POWER:** We saw massive cuts for the Mount Lindesay Highway. We know the Logan electorate—

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has just deliberately misled the House, and I will be writing to you on the subject.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

**Mr POWER:** Good luck with that! We know that they actually cut funding to the Mount Lindesay Highway. Logan is a growing area with many young families moving into it. We know they need investment in schools. My question to them would be: in their budgets how many new classrooms did they build in the Logan area? The answer is none. We have built over 32, including two new schools including the fantastic state-of-the-art Yarrabilba State High School.

Honourable members can see that the investment of this additional funding was all about additional, accelerated investment. It is about investment in our schools and our roads. These are the very things that the LNP would cut. I want to tell this House and also the people of Logan that these cuts would hurt growing areas the most. That is why I am proud to back a Treasurer who is prepared to make these types of investments in roads and in education, because that is what the growing area of Logan needs. That is why I back these additional appropriations, and I actually understand them.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) as a member of the Economics and Governance Committee. We have bills before us that approve expenditure blowouts of this government on top of the 2018-19 state budget of almost \$1.4 billion. That is certainly not what I would describe as standard, as the member for Logan just said. It is a staggering amount of money, but this sort of unforeseen expenditure is nothing new for a Labor government.

Last week they marked five years in office and in that time over \$4.1 billion has been appropriated on top of the budget for unforeseen expenditure. This shows they cannot control spending and they have consistently shown they cannot manage money. As we have heard from the shadow Treasurer, this is eight times higher than the previous LNP government and it is leading our economy into an ever worsening debt. That is a debt that is now predicted to hit almost \$92 billion in 2023, another billion dollars higher than the Treasurer predicted only mid last year.



Almost 90 per cent of the unforeseen expenditure was by three departments: the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, and the Department of Education. If we look at the Department of Transport and Main Roads alone, we see that the overspend seems to be due to underbudgeting on their part. Only \$37.6 million was for disaster recovery. That is just over 10 per cent of the total unforeseen expenditure. An extra \$84 million was needed to supply eight next generation rolling stock trains. Not only does that seem like an extraordinary amount of money; we also have to wonder why it was unforeseen. People are starting to notice Labor's mismanagement.

The *Courier-Mail* marked five years of this government with their excellent 'State of dismay' reporting last week showing that only 16 per cent of people thought the government's handling of the economy was good or excellent and a huge 43 per cent saying it was weak or poor. An article in the *Brisbane Times* last week stated—

In the past two years, expenses have increased by 11 per cent to \$7.3 billion, while the government has only been able to grow its revenue by \$4 billion (6 per cent).

That is despite all the new taxes they are bringing in. That was based on a recent Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 11 titled *Queensland government state finances: 2018-19 results of financial audits*. In that report the Auditor-General said—

The financial performance of the Queensland Government has reduced over the last two financial years, with expenses incurred increasing at a greater rate than revenue.

It further stated—


This year, the Queensland Government reported a net operating deficit of \$1.1 billion for the total state sector. While the Queensland Government has continued to grow its revenue, this has not kept pace with the growth in expenses over the last two years.

All of this is happening in the context of unemployment being out of control. In my electorate of Bonney in particular we now have over 1,000 more unemployed people than when I spoke to the budget in 2018. We are now up to 9.6 per cent unemployment in my electorate. Whatever jobs the government say they are creating, they are not helping our part of the Gold Coast. People are crying out for work and in many cases it is out of their control. They are suffering because of the mismanagement of our economy under this government.

At the committee hearings on this bill we heard Treasury officials explain that, while these bills are about unforeseen expenditure, this occurs within the context of a number of agencies that spent less than what was approved in their original appropriation bills. This is detailed in the Consolidated Fund financial report, which outlines how each department spent their appropriation from the Consolidated Fund for the financial year and outlines why any differences might have occurred, including lapsed appropriation in 2018-19. The problem I have with this is that much of the budgeted money was underspent in areas that need it the most.

The Department of Housing and Public Works, for example, underspent by \$224 million. When I am looking at the rising homelessness in my area where every park and every bit of the bushland is full of people doing it tough, it is incredibly frustrating to know the Gold Coast Youth Foyer was funded in the budget two years ago but work has still not begun. The government had plans ready to go and a block of land on the corner of Smith Street and High Street in Southport slated to have 40 units for young people at risk of homelessness. It was supposed to be open in December last year, but still nothing has happened. Why are projects that are desperately needed delayed and yet this overspend is so drastic?

Queenslanders need a government that can manage their money. We have rising debt, rising cost of living, unemployment figures in desperate need of reduction and a government that has unforeseen expenditure of \$1.4 billion. It is not good enough, we deserve better and we can make that happen on 31 October this year.


 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.59 pm): It is a real pleasure to rise this afternoon and support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). As a committee member who examined these bills through the process, I want to take some time to acknowledge the work of our outstanding chair, the member for Logan, and all of the committee members who put some hard work, some fine work, into preparing this bill. Of course, I acknowledge the fantastic work of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in handing down a fine Labor budget this year. The purpose of these bills is to play a little catch-up, which is very common, in terms of the budget cycle to ensure we have formal authorisation to be covering off the unforeseen expenditure—

Debate, on motion of Ms Boyd, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.


## DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Cameras in Chamber

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members, I advise that there will be cameras on throughout the entire proceedings of Matters of Public Interest and vision will be taken of the gallery from these positions. That has already been approved by Mr Speaker.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### New Bradfield Scheme; Public Hospital Waiting Times

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.01 pm): This month's weather has been wet and wonderful. Towns like Warwick and Roma have received more rain than they did in the whole of 2019. Two weeks ago, the Darling Downs was bone dry and brown but today it is a glorious green. There has been some flooding. I applaud the work of our swift water rescue teams. The smiles on the faces at Ironpot Reef 'n' Beef on the weekend said it all. Anyone who has spent any time in regional Queensland and in those areas that have had that much needed rain can just feel it. The pressure valve has come off and has been released. But no-one should think that the drought is over. Western Queensland has not had a fraction of the rain it needs. More than 60 per cent of the state remains drought declared. Whenever this drought ends, inevitably another will follow sooner or later. Queenslanders have always known that. As this state grew, every generation of Queenslanders built dams, weirs and pipelines. We captured water because water is precious but, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland stopped building dams.

This Labor government, like the last Labor government, is anti dams and Labor has stopped building for our future. If we do not build for the future, we will not have a future. The dividing line between the LNP and Labor could not be clearer. The LNP will build the New Bradfield Scheme. The LNP will build new dams, but what will Labor do? Nothing. That is why towns like Stanthorpe have run out of water. That is not leadership. Queensland needs a government that will build for our future, create jobs and deliver a stronger economy. Queensland needs an LNP government.

The New Bradfield Scheme is a game changer for Queensland. It will create tens of thousands of jobs, give farmers the water that they need and generate enough power for 800,000 homes. The project will create a new food bowl that will be bigger than Tasmania. The potential of the New Bradfield Scheme is immense, and I want to make that potential a reality. But already the Palaszczuk Labor government is planning to stop the New Bradfield Scheme dead in its tracks. We know Labor is secretly developing proposals that will prevent any new irrigation proposals and projects west of the Great Dividing Range. The promise of new jobs and prosperity will be destroyed if this Palaszczuk Labor government gets its way.

Queenslanders do back the New Bradfield Scheme. They want a government that looks over the horizon and builds for the future, and that is what an LNP government will do. The LNP will unlock this state's potential and make Queensland an economic powerhouse once again. Instead of building new dams and backing the New Bradfield Scheme, the Palaszczuk Labor government is pulling dams down. Across the Bundaberg region, tens of thousands of people are confused and concerned about the fate of Paradise Dam. They are worried about their jobs, farms and livelihoods. All they know is that the Palaszczuk Labor government will stop at nothing to lower that dam. Labor gave no notice of its plan to start pulling down that dam. There was no public consultation and no parliamentary scrutiny.

The people of Wide Bay and Queensland deserve to know what is happening. They want to see the Building Queensland report before the spillway is demolished. They just want to know the truth. Listen to what local farmers are saying. Growcom CEO David Thomson said—

Any good faith the Minister may have built in the local community ... has now been lost. Decisions that affect the future of an entire region ... its economy and its jobs, are coming out from the State Government without consultation or explanation.

Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan said—

We ... urge the State Government to have a transparent conversation with the community.

They both are right, and it is time the government started listening to the people of Bundaberg and Wide Bay. They deserve to be treated with respect. They deserve to know if their jobs and livelihoods are safe.

Queensland has world-class doctors, nurses and surgeons but, unfortunately, not a world-class health system under the Palaszczuk Labor government, because the Palaszczuk Labor government has the wrong priorities for the health system. Members opposite are more focussed on changing hospital names than improving patient care. Last week, the member for Mudgeeraba and I visited Ralph Jones at his Mudgeeraba home. Ralph lives in constant pain because he needs a double hip replacement. He has waited 234 days to see an orthopaedic specialist, and he is still waiting for that appointment. When he got notice from the hospital just recently, he pleaded with them just for an appointment. He has been told that he will have to wait another 500 days before he even gets to see a specialist. That is 734 days on the waiting list just so he can get to the waiting list!

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for McConnel.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member for McConnel has been here long enough to know that interjections need to be made from the seat you are sitting in.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I will look after it. Thank you, member for Clayfield. I believe that she is the Acting Leader of the House.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for McConnel, we do not need any interjections while I am making a ruling.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is very poor acting, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You want to play games? I can play games.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Through the chair.

**Ms GRACE:** I take offence at those remarks and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. Let us get back to matters of public interest.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I can understand why those two ministers opposite are interjecting, because the truth hurts. Some 734 days on the waiting list to get to the waiting list is completely unacceptable. Unfortunately, Ralph's story is not unique.

More than 56,000 Queenslanders now are waiting for surgery in Queensland. Those patients are being failed by those opposite. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system, and that is what the LNP will give them. The LNP will fix Queensland Health and we will put patient care first. That is the LNP's patient guarantee.

Queensland is facing major challenges. Our economy is broken. Our teachers, doctors, nurses and police desperately need more help on the front line. Queensland needs strong leadership more than ever, but instead of stepping up the Palaszczuk Labor government is tearing itself apart. Labor is now gripped by infighting and the Palaszczuk Labor government's infighting has real consequences for Queenslanders, because when Labor MPs are attacking each other they are doing nothing to tackle the fact that we have Australia's second highest unemployment rate in the nation, longer waiting times in our hospitals, failing NAPLAN results in our schools, the devastating drought in our regions and a surge in youth crime. We need a government that is focused on all of Queensland and Queenslanders, not focused on fighting each other.

Queensland needs an LNP government. On 28 March the people of Currumbin can send a powerful message to the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is their chance to say that Labor has the wrong priorities for the Gold Coast. The LNP and our outstanding candidate Laura Gerber have a plan to build a stronger economy for Currumbin. We will create higher paid jobs by fixing the M1 and guaranteeing there will be no new taxes under the LNP and we have a plan to create a stronger economy, which Queensland needs to cut the hospital waiting times and to improve our education results. A vote for Labor will only reward Labor's failures on the Gold Coast. More than 20,000 Gold Coasters are unemployed, youth crime is out of control, 7,000 people are waiting for an operation and our roads are grinding to a halt. Labor cannot solve those problems because the Palaszczuk Labor government caused those problems. The people of Currumbin need to send a strong message to this failing Palaszczuk government.

### Jacaranda Place; Liberal National Party Opposition

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.12 pm): Sometimes politics involves the search for common ground and sometimes it unveils an ideological chasm that cannot be bridged, and no issue—no single issue—is more demonstrative of the division between the government and the opposition than the LNP’s decision to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre without a replacement. Of all the reckless, destructive and pernicious actions of that reckless, destructive and pernicious government, that decision was arguably the most incomprehensible and almost certainly the most catastrophic, and they were all there—the member for Kawana, the member for Everton, the Leader of the Opposition—proudly sitting around the CBRC table cutting and cutting and cutting again, and not once has the Leader of the Opposition apologised—not once. I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition to stay in the House to listen to her legacy—the legacy that she left those families who had children at the Barrett Adolescent Centre—but not one of them had the temerity or had the fortitude to say sorry. The only one who ever said anything was the member for Surfers Paradise when he said that the commission of inquiry was a witch-hunt. We saw what Queensland Labor can do, and we did that last Friday. We stood at Jacaranda Place and we saw that new facility open.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.


**Mr DICK:** I would not say anything if I was the member for Kawana. I would not say anything if I had sat around the table and closed an adolescent centre with catastrophic consequences. It just shows that they are entirely unfit. It is the low road all of the time from the LNP, and never will it ever deliver for Queensland. What we saw last Friday was real leadership—real leadership from the Premier of Queensland, which of course begs the question: since the member for Nanango only has to look across the table and across the chamber at leadership, why is she so utterly appalling when it comes to leadership? Leadership is about judgement. When it comes to matters of judgement, the Leader of the Opposition looks more lost than Matt Canavan at a Michael McCormack fundraiser. Look at the debacle in Currumbin—Australia’s worst driver chosen by Australia’s worst leader, and the local branch members found out about it when they read it in the paper. And what about the campaign launch?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I hear the members from the Gold Coast calling out. At the campaign launch there was just the Leader of the Opposition and the candidate—no member for Broadwater, no member for Surfers Paradise, no member for Burleigh, no member for Mudgeeraba, no member for Bonney. There was no member from the Gold Coast, just the leader and her lonely candidate. What about the LNP president? Where was the LNP president, Dave Hutchinson? He was too busy licking the boots of his lord and master Clive Palmer—the bloke who sold the Leader of the Opposition’s own mother-in-law out when he shut down Coolum and cut off the electricity to time share. That is the sort of person the president of the LNP now aligns himself with. At least the member for Maroochydore called out the appalling behaviour of her party’s president. To align himself with Clive Palmer, what a complete disgrace! At least the backbench is listening. They know there is no leadership on the front bench here—no-one standing up to Dave Hutchinson.

We saw the whole picture painted by the member for Currumbin. We saw the whole picture. She attacked her own party because of the bullying she had been subjected to by the LNP. Jann Stuckey said that she had been told that her replacement was selected because ‘they needed a skirt’ and ‘that any skirt would do’, presumably only if it was purchased at Target or Cue. The whole process was charitably described by Keith Woods in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as a complete omnishambles—a chaotic, ramshackle, disorganised lesson in how not to launch a campaign—and it just goes to the LNP’s position on women from top to bottom. The challengers are circling—the member for Everton, the member for Broadwater. Even Matt Canavan’s name has been suggested. Who knows? Perhaps the LNP could consider appointing a leader from outside the parliament. I mean, what could possibly go wrong? What an omnishambles—will not stand up to Canberra, will not support natural disaster recovery funding arrangements, will not hear anything from the Leader of the Opposition, will not stand up for Queensland, puts the rest of Australia—kowtowing to Canberra—first and Queensland last. That is what we always get from the LNP.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.17 pm): Last week was the fifth-year anniversary of the Palaszczuk government. If we were to deliver a report card on that government, it would be fail, fail, fail and fail. Let us look at the different subjects. First we have the

economy. As the opposition leader has already said, over the term of this Palaszczuk government we have had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Disgracefully, we have the highest number of people on the long-term unemployment list, not per capita but the highest number. In the last year we have had the highest number of bankruptcies in the country, not per capita but on pure numbers. When it comes to the economy, those opposite have failed.

When it comes to health, our surgical waiting lists have blown out by 86 per cent under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Ambulance ramping has become rampant under the Palaszczuk government, increasing by 73 per cent. The number of Queenslanders on a dental waiting list has increased by 26.6 per cent in the past 12 months. When it comes to health, it is a fail once again.

Let us turn to education. Over the last five years almost half of all Queensland schools have slipped backwards. If we look at the NAPLAN results in year 5, comparing 2015 to 2019 shows that 531 of the 1,120 schools have slipped backwards—the biggest decline being 16.8 per cent. When it comes to education, it is a fail.

When it comes to law and order, it is mayhem in North Queensland, in particular in Townsville. It is mayhem on the Gold Coast. The crime situation in the north of Brisbane is also out of control. The solution of those opposite is to change some police administrative positions at the top. What needs to be changed is not policing, because our police do a great job; what needs to be changed is the law. It is only when the law is changed that we will have some sort of consequences for these youth offenders. When it comes to crime and law and order it is fail once again.

When it comes to public housing, when I was minister we reduced the public housing waiting list from 32,000 to 16,500. That has now slipped out to 24,000 under this minister who claims he cares for those who are disadvantaged, but he has made it harder for them and put more on the homeless list. When it comes to public housing it is fail.

We are in this situation because this government is fixated on itself. It has many troubles. It is totally focused on working out its internal divisions rather than focusing on Queensland people. That has been no more apparent than these last couple of weeks wherein the Deputy Premier has dismissed their internal division as gossip, despite reporters telling everybody that backbenchers are ringing them directly. Allegedly the member for Maryborough has said he has had enough. The minister for tourism was asked for comment about the Deputy Premier. She was suddenly unavailable. She would not come out and endorse her. Those opposite denied that they were having a leadership powwow between the senior members of the ministry and union heads. The heads of unions are involved in their strategic meetings because the unions run the Labor Party. Those opposite said that it was not going to happen but, of course, it happened and pictures of that meeting were leaked.

There is one member of the Labor Party who has stood up to this bullying and that is the member for Bundamba. She stood up to the corruption claims in relation to the Ipswich Labor council. Year after year after year she told the government that council was corrupt and they ignored her. She has had the courage to come out once again because she has nothing to lose. Every member opposite has not been preselected so that they can be kept in tow, but the member for Bundamba has the courage because she has nothing to lose. She has called this government out for what it is. Those opposite are bullies and they use strong-arm tactics to keep people in order. They are in disarray. They are out of control. Nobody has seen this disunity in a government, particularly the Labor government, ever and now they are unfit to govern.

### Liberal National Party Opposition



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.22 pm): The member for Everton likes to talk about what happens in our caucus room, but let us talk about what happens in their party room—like a very heated conversation about David Hutchinson. This is an issue that is unresolved. It is absolutely unethical. The member for Maroochydore is right when she says there is a clear conflict in the president of the LNP working for Clive Palmer. Those opposite refuse to deal with it because the member for Nanango—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, I have already chipped you since we have come back from lunch. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Nanango refuses to act. How can a person who is the president of the Liberal National Party in Queensland work for Clive Palmer? This is quite clearly unethical, as the member for Maroochydore has said. Those opposite have ignored her plea. Just the same as they

ignored what Jann Stuckey, the former member for Currumbin, has said about bullying inside the LNP. The member for Everton likes to talk about members on this side of the House, but he remains resolutely silent about the former member for Currumbin and what she has said about bullying from those opposite when she decided to use her conscience and vote in this chamber according to what her constituents wanted. Those opposite have a very poor track record when it comes to supporting their own MPs.

Let me talk about the contribution of the member for Everton in relation to the economic debate in this state. The member for Everton wants to talk about jobs growth. Well, he has not said that the Palaszczuk Labor government has facilitated more than 235,000 jobs in this state: in mining, in tourism, in agriculture, in health and in education. Let us be clear: our \$51.8 billion infrastructure program is delivering. It is delivering for people in the regions. It is delivering a ring-road in Cairns, a ring-road in Rockhampton, a ring-road in Townsville.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** And in Mackay! I will take that interjection. We are delivering what those opposite refuse to. They only said to Queenslanders, 'You can have the infrastructure you want, but first of all we have to sell your assets.' We found a different way. A recent contribution from the former aspiring LNP candidate and respected economist Nick Behrens recently concurred with our plan when he said on ABC radio—

We've been in disagreement as to how we find the money to be able to invest in infrastructure. Look, we've really been limited to three options. One was to increase taxes, the second was to reduce frontline services and the third was to sell assets.

Those opposite did all of them! He went on to say—

Well the state government's actually came up with a fourth solution.

Out of those four things ... debt is seen by the broader community as the lesser of the evils.

It perhaps has some merit because historically we are at a low point in terms of the cost of borrowing, so it makes sense to go into debt at the moment.

What the audit office has clearly said is that we are at a sustainable level at this point.


It is clear that New South Wales, Victoria and other states throughout the nation, including the Commonwealth government, have agreed. In fact, the New South Wales debt level, at \$82.6 billion, far eclipses our debt level, at \$78 billion, and is projected to keep growing even though they sold assets. They sold their electricity network and got a bonus payment out of the Tony Abbott government and then the Morrison government—\$1 billion. They got a bonus payment, they sold their assets and they have more debt than we have. Another recent contributor to the economic debate has been Campbell Newman, the much loved former leader of those opposite, when he said the LNP in Queensland has given up talking about this issue of debt and how we fund the things that we need. He said—

They don't want to put it on the table and they're also adopting a stance where they're saying, 'look, we're not going to sell assets.'

Good luck to them if they can sustain that argument in an election campaign because I don't know that people will necessarily believe them.

He has belled the cat there because he knows that those opposite have no other alternative but to sell assets. It is in their DNA: cut, sack, sell.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.27 pm): How funny! Five minutes ago we had the member for Woodridge putting his leadership pitch to the backbench. The member for Woodridge was in here saying, 'Pick me! Pick me!' Now the Deputy Premier comes in here and says, 'Keep me! Keep me!' Are we picking or keeping? The only one who is not on the list is the tourism minister to see where she sits in all of this. We all know the Deputy Premier and Treasurer is goneski. She is absolute goneski because she has failed the people of Queensland, she has failed the government and she has failed the Labor Party. Not only has she had all those failures, she has intervened in the selection process of school principals.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find personal offence at that and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, the member for South Brisbane has found those comments offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. I have referred a matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission because there are allegations that the Deputy Premier undermined the independent selection process of the Inner City South Secondary College. Despite the fact it is at the CCC it gets worse. I put on record the timeline here.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He is making the same assertions that he did before. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Nanango, you do not need to add any comment. Member for Kawana, the Deputy Premier takes—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Should you continue down that road, I will ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In January 2019, the Inner City Enrolment Study Final Report was completed—thanks to an RTI from the ABC. In January 2019, the role of foundation principal was advertised. A five-person selection panel was then established, which included the Department of Education. The recruitment process proceeded. The panel signed off on the highest ranked candidate, Ms Tracey Cook. The Deputy Premier then met with the successful candidate. Following that meeting with the Deputy Premier, the process for appointment of the principal was changed. In May 2019, the job was readvertised. Ms Tracey Cook, having been successful in the first round, was asked to reapply for the role. The Deputy Premier then spoke to the new candidate on the telephone. Following that phone call, an offer of appointment was made to that new candidate.

In November 2019, the opposition raised questions about the appointment process. In November 2019, the director-general issued a media release advising that, while the panel had signed off on the appointment, new demographic modelling indicated the school will exceed forecast student numbers and be eligible for an executive principal position, therefore reclassifying the role.

*Tabled paper:* Media statement, dated 28 November 2019, from the Director-General, Department of Education titled 'Executive Principal appointment: Inner City South State Secondary College (ICSSSC)' [277].

In November 2019, I lodged a complaint with the CCC, asking for an investigation. I table a copy of the letter that I sent to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 12 February 2020, from the member from Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Chairman, Crime and Corruption Commission, Mr Alan MacSporran QC, regarding complaint against the Deputy Premier [278].

I now table a copy of the Inner City Enrolment Study, given to the department in January 2019.

*Tabled paper:* SGS Economics & Planning final report, dated January 2019, titled 'Inner City Enrolment Study' [273].

There was no additional modelling undertaken by the department. There was no additional study undertaken by the department since the original advertisement was put in the paper and the original candidate was selected. They are using that as an excuse to reclassify the role after the successful candidate had a meeting with the Deputy Premier. It gets worse.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that inference and I ask him to withdraw.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** It is not a fact. You are inferring—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We will not debate this across the chamber. Member for Kawana, it is irrelevant whether or not you think it is a fact. If the Deputy Premier finds it offensive and asks you to withdraw, I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. The director-general of Education put out a statement, which I have tabled, in which he referred to new demographic modelling. It is now clear from the RTI request that that information was not correct.

I can now say that the opposition has been contacted by a whistleblower. This is very serious. The opposition has been contacted by a whistleblower who advised us to ask questions and put in an RTI document request, because there exists allegedly text messages between Mr Jeff Hunt, the Deputy Director-General of Education Queensland, and the Deputy Premier with respect to the appointment of principals in the state of Queensland. I will be writing to the Crime and Corruption Commission for a third time on this matter, giving the information that the opposition has been contacted by a whistleblower. If the allegation is that a member of parliament is text messaging deputy

directors-general of departments about selection processes, that seriously undermines the independent process of the selection of school principals across the state and all members should rightfully be concerned about that.

As I indicated, I have also written to the director-general of Education with respect to the many instances of politicisation of school principals by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I table a copy of that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 13 February 2020, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Director-General, Department of Education, Mr Tony Cook, regarding politicisation of state schools [274].


*Tabled paper:* Extract of Facebook video, undated, depicting the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, and the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Grace Grace, and the Queensland Labor Party's logo [275].

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 28 January, from the Twitter account of Mr Patrick Condren of photographs depicting Mr Patrick Condren with Labor candidate for Bracken Ridge Ward and the principal of Taigum State School [276].

These are serious matters. What concerns me is the allegation that I asked the Deputy Premier about this morning, that is, whether any text messages were sent. I now ask the Deputy Premier, as this morning she did not deny that text messages exist, to table them and clear the air. I ask her to table any text messages—if any—that the Deputy Premier may have sent to Jeff Hunt, the deputy director-general, because if there are text messages it is concerning.

*(Time expired)*

### Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.34 pm): Today it is a pleasure to stand in the chamber as the member for Redcliffe. This Saturday, 22 February 2020 marks six years since not only my election to this House but also the day that the Redcliffe community had their say and turned their back on an LNP government and the dodgy and corrupt former member. Just over five years ago, on 31 January 2015, my community did me the great honour of electing me again, this time as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. While those on the other side want to throw mud and talk about this government, rather than talking about what they have to offer the people of Queensland, we will talk about what this government is doing and what we have delivered for our communities.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has been righting the wrongs of the former LNP government since we came back into office in 2015, working on behalf of all Queenslanders. I am very proud to be a member of the government and the then minister who brought back Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That program helps so many, including many in my community, get the skills and training that they need to get into the workforce. Not only did the LNP scrap that program in 2012; in 2017, it took to the most recent election a policy of scrapping it again.

As the Premier says, there is dignity in work and I completely agree. While time does not permit me to list all of the wonderful investments in my community in the past five years, I will endeavour to highlight some. First and foremost is the Redcliffe rail line. It was a federal Labor government and a state Labor government that committed to that project, along with the Moreton Bay Regional Council at the time. I am very proud that we were back in government to see the rail line opened. One hundred and thirty-one years since the idea was first mooted, the Redcliffe peninsula line opened and Kippa-Ring was finally connected to Petrie and the broader Queensland Rail network.

I have been advised that over the past five years we have had about \$28 million of investment in our local schools, funding a number of support and capital works programs at a number of schools across the peninsula. The member for Kawana says we are politicising our schools. If that means visiting them and talking to the staff, the teachers, the principals and the students, then I am happy to do that each and every day. It is what gets me out of bed every day.

Over \$35 million has been invested in the Redcliffe Hospital on multiple projects, including the new Day Procedure Unit, additional acute bed capacity, an additional operating theatre and an MRI machine and, of course, we are building the car park that is well and truly overdue. It is a Labor government that is making that happen.

Nearly \$30 million has been invested in community housing, which is very important. I was disgusted when the federal LNP government cut funding for Indigenous housing because that meant the states had to stretch their housing budgets even further to assist. The federal member in my area is the assistant minister for homelessness who says that we should put a positive spin on homelessness



because the good thing is that most of us are not homeless. You know what? There are people living under the bridge and sleeping rough in my community who want more than that from the federal government, and the state is stepping up to help people who are homeless.

Around \$5 million has been invested in local sporting clubs through sporting grants and Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants, supporting over 85 community and not-for-profit organisations. All of that has been achieved by a Labor government without cutting, without sacking, without selling. Even Campbell Newman has said that he does not think the LNP can go to the next election and convince the voters that they will not do exactly the same thing.


On a very personal and a very serious note, I have to talk about the LNP candidate for Redcliffe. I would not normally talk about that person, but they are running for a fifth time and they should know better. Recently, that person made a statement about someone who is running for council, saying that they have never had a real job because they have worked in an office—I will be very up-front: an electorate office. I ask all the members in the LNP leadership, do you believe that your electorate officers do not have real jobs; that what they do each and every day is not real; that it is not a real job?

**An opposition member:** What does that have to do with us?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. Your LNP candidate says that this person has not had a real job for six years because they worked in an office serving the community. How disgusting! What does that say to the thousands of people who get up every day to work in an office, to pay their bills? It is disgusting and atrocious, and the LNP should call it out for what it is: their LNP candidate is attacking office workers.

*(Time expired)*

### North Queensland, Energy Projects

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.39 pm): Mr Speaker, I bring to your attention the disappointing comments from Senator Canavan displaying his ignorance towards clean energy projects and green power. The sugarcane industry, which stretches from Port Douglas to the Sunshine Coast, is very disappointed because it has been trying to get the cogeneration clean energy projects up and running for years, yet it has been totally ignored by both state and federal governments. I do not discriminate against coal, hydro or cogeneration industries. I was born and raised in Tully. My father worked at the Kareeya Hydro Power Station. We lived on the bank of the Tully River. We then transferred to Collinsville where my father worked at the power station.

At the present time, the federal government is pushing for a feasibility study just for Collinsville while at the same time ignoring all the other projects. I am not discriminating against any because I understand the need for job creation in all areas. I give the example of the Tully Millstream Hydroelectric Scheme which was an approved project in 1998. A tunnel was already in place. It had the capacity to generate up to 600 megawatts of power. It would also efficiently generate power for over 100,000 homes and would save \$200 million in electricity losses, with that electricity coming from the south to the north. At the same time the federal member for Leichhardt, along with the former member for Hinchinbrook, made a wonderful announcement that they were coming up to spend some money on a feasibility study, hoping to rekick this scheme. There was a lot of excitement building up in the media as we thought this 600 megawatt project would be back up and running. They did not turn up, they disappeared and we have not seen them since.

Senator Canavan's comments are particularly annoying, given the many opportunities available to us. There are cogeneration projects that we are trying to get up and running, such as the North Queensland Bio-Energy project. Some 60 per cent of growers have invested into cogeneration biofuels in the Hinchinbrook region which is putting power back in the grids. There are plans and concepts in place, but no support from government whatsoever.

The MSF South Johnstone Mill project has expanded into cogeneration right now. It is green, reliable, baseload power. After the sugar cane has been crushed, the waste by-product bagasse is left, waiting to be burnt. Surely we can use that for baseload generation. It is baseload power. There is absolutely no government support whatsoever.

As you provide support to the sugar industry for cogeneration, that becomes a strength for cane supplier agreements. It also provides money to flow back to the community and also provides security in the sugarcane industry. That is why they are strongly trying to lobby the government and say, 'Hey, we need support here. This is about clean power going back to the grid, this is about burning waste and this is about opportunities particularly in the hydro-electric sphere.'

To give you an understanding of the frustration, I will read the article from ABC reporter Amy Phillips on *Queensland Country Hour* interviewing the CEO of MSF Sugar, Mike Barry. The interviewer says—


I understand uncertainty around government policy is putting question marks around building other cogeneration plants. Can you explain that?

Mike Barry, the CEO, says—

Sure. We would like to actually build another three of these cogeneration projects with each of our sugar mills and the one we have done a lot of work on and invested millions in is the one at the South Johnstone Mill. That one is roughly 30 megawatts and it is a project that will cost around \$165 million and the bulk of that investment is coming from the local community and it is going to be putting power into an area that is short on power. At the moment a lot of energy in North Queensland is dragged up from southern Queensland and so it's something the region in terms of the market operators really desires as it reduces transmission losses.

I wanted to bring this very important issue to the attention of the House. I have a lot more to talk about here.

### Olive Downs Mine, Approval; Central Queensland, Health Services

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.44 pm): I rise to draw to the attention of the House today that the approval from the federal LNP government for the Olive Downs Coking Coal Project, a billion-dollar investment that will bring 500 construction jobs and 1,000 operational jobs to Central Queensland, is now 239 days overdue. The people of Central Queensland are desperate for jobs. It is a real shame that the federal government has been sitting on the approval for this metallurgical coalmine that is proposed by an Australian miner. Metallurgical coal is in such high demand for steel production in markets around the world. The federal Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, and her federal counterparts have been sitting on this approval for 239 days now, despite the fact that the Queensland Coordinator-General approved this project last year. As a direct result of the federal government dragging its feet on this project, these jobs are now in limbo.

The people of Central Queensland are sick and tired of the infighting happening at a federal level. It is very clear that the government is completely forgetting about their role, their responsibility to govern and to provide jobs for people in Central Queensland. It is clear that the LNP at a federal level are just too busy fighting against each other. They are stabbing each other in the back and talking about themselves. What they really need to do is concentrate on their job which is to get on with it and to sort these approvals that are now 239 days overdue. I am calling on the federal member for Capricornia to pick up the phone to talk to her federal counterpart, the Minister for the Environment, and ask to get these approvals sorted as soon as possible.


While I am on my feet, I would also like to draw to the attention of the House an ongoing problem for people in my community which is the exorbitant out-of-pocket costs that they are paying to visit the GP. People in Central Queensland are not going to the doctor when they are sick because they cannot afford to. The average person in Central Queensland is paying \$40 out of their own pocket to see a GP now. We are seeing declining numbers of fully bulk-billing GPs. Most GPs in Central Queensland only bulk-bill for pensioners; everyone else is paying the full fee to see a GP. In some cases we are hearing of fees in excess of \$70 and the patient receives back only \$38.

This problem exists not only with GPs but also with psychiatrists, psychologists and other medical professionals who provide support and treatment to people in the community when they are sick. I have been speaking with people such as Amanda who tells me it is costing in excess of \$500 per visit to see her psychiatrist. The Medicare rebate is only \$160. The amount of \$160 is not much in comparison to the \$500 that she has to spend to see the psychiatrist.

Kylie is seeing her psychologist at a cost of over \$200 per visit. She qualified for a federal government mental health care plan, yet receives a rebate of only \$120. I am really concerned about this. I particularly worry for the people who do not have \$200 in their bank account to see their psychologist and what that spiralling impact has on those people's health care. If they need to see a psychologist or a GP because they are unwell and then they do not and their condition worsens, it can possibly end up in a hospital visit. When we are talking about a \$38 Medicare rebate at the moment, in comparison to the \$600 cost that is imposed on the taxpayer for a hospital visit, it makes good economic sense to support people to see their GP first and foremost.

We know through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners that less than one in four GPs in Australia are bulk-billing all patients. It is not the doctors' fault. They have costs; they have to pay their staff and their overheads. They are merely charging what they need to in order to cover their costs. The federal government has, after many years, frozen the Medicare rebate. It is having a huge impact on people in my community, as well as on our hospitals and emergency departments.

### Sleba, Ms L

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise today to speak on a matter of grave importance. It is not just important for the people involved but for the integrity of our justice system in Queensland. Let me start by making it clear that there is no attempt to determine innocence or guilt in any of these matters. My only objective is to pursue the truth and justice.

Any matter that deals with such a serious consequence as a person losing their life must have all unanswered questions investigated. For some years now retired coroner John Hutton has investigated the circumstances of the death of Leanne Sleba. Leanne was shot in the back at close range by her husband on 24 April 2008 while searching for a snake in the garage of their rural property at Kingsthorpe. I will return to John Hutton shortly.

This is not the occasion to lay out all of the evidence of this matter, except to say that police investigated them closely and ultimately determined no charges ought to be laid. A coronial inquiry was held and finished approximately three years later. An open finding was recorded. At the time, then coroner Tina Previrera said—

In light of the exhaustive police investigation, confirmed by the examination of Sergeant David Briese, in which information gathered in connection with the personal and financial relationships between Geoff and Leanne showed no evidence as to a motive for murder, and Geoff Sleba provided substantially consistent versions of events (collaborated to some small extent by his son Rodney) I make no referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to such a charge.

The coroner added—

I am unable to determine the cause of the sequence of events by which the firearm held by Geoffrey Sleba was discharged into Leanne Sleba's back and whether or not the events occurred by accident.


The coroner went on to say—

There is evidence, however, critical of Geoffrey Sleba's choice and handling of the Boito firearm in the circumstances existing at the time, such as to give rise to a consideration of S.289 of the Criminal Code Act 1899 (QLD).

John Hutton is a retired coroner who has spent his career seeking the truth. He has examined the evidence and the coroner's findings in forensic detail. He spoke with me about these matters and what might be able to be done to seek out the truth in this matter and to answer the questions that remain and, once and for all, resolve it. Resolve it for the sake of Mr Sleba and Leanne's family and so that all Queenslanders may have confidence in the investigations undertaken and the prosecution or otherwise of any matters.

I call on the police minister to review this matter and avail himself of the particular circumstances surrounding it. Once he has reviewed it closely, if he believes it appropriate for further investigation I ask him to speak with the police commission and ask for a referral to the Queensland Police cold case unit. I thank John Hutton for his tireless pursuit of truth. I personally believe that all Queenslanders have a right to natural justice. The rule of law and the delivery of justice is a cornerstone right for all in our Queensland community. Without it, we all stand to suffer the consequences.

### Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.53 pm): I start by acknowledging and thanking our hardworking Gold Coast HHS staff who have been working tirelessly to contain the coronavirus on the Gold Coast and ensure Queenslanders are kept safe and healthy. As the Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development and a born and bred Gold Coaster, it would be remiss of me not to use this opportunity to place on public record the challenges that our tourism sector is facing at the moment as a result of the virus.

On the Gold Coast last week I attended Sand Safari in Surfers Paradise and a women in tourism breakfast with our hardworking local candidate Kaylee Campradt at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and heard directly from the tourism operators who have seen a drop in their numbers as a result of the federal government's travel ban. This is also having an impact on our international education sector. I had the opportunity to speak briefly with Griffith University Vice Chancellor Carolyn Evans at the Gold Coast Suns women's first home game on the weekend. I should mention that they won their first home game—congratulations to all the players.

China is the Gold Coast's biggest source of international visitors. The concern many of us have had is that a reduction in these numbers may force traders in the tourism industry to reduce staff hours which we know will have a wider impact on the Gold Coast economy. The less money people have in their pockets, the less money they have to spend at our local businesses.

Last week the Palaszczuk government listened to the industry and announced a \$2.4 million package to Destination Gold Coast to safeguard tourism jobs in our community. That came off the back of a \$2 million marketing investment announced on the Gold Coast by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Kaylee Campradt. We acknowledge that there is still more to be done. That is why the Premier announced today a \$27 million package that assists small businesses and provides additional marketing money to the tune of an extra \$7 million for interstate and international tourism marketing and \$3 million for international education.

Queensland has still not seen any funding from the federal government. We are asking the Morrison government to join the Queensland government and support our small businesses and tourism and international student marketing campaigns as well as provide China with export support grants once our borders reopen. The federal government receives over 80 per cent of the taxation revenue in this country and yet it is the Queensland government that is once again doing the heavy lifting in response to this virus.

The member for Moncrief was happy to take credit for our booming tourism industry and events that this government has invested in in her first speech but is absent when people are in need of help. I will not accept those opposite holding our Queensland government to a higher standard than their federal LNP colleagues. If the Leader of the Opposition were genuinely concerned about tourism operators on the Gold Coast then she would pick up the phone to Scott Morrison and ask him to open the chequebook.

I will not hold my breath because at a time of unprecedented growth of the Asian middle class those opposite under the Newman government took their eye off tourism and conceded market share to southern states. They ripped \$188 million from the tourism budget. This severely limited TEQ's ability to plan for the long term. They had no funding certainty to enter into multiyear partnerships or to secure long-term marketing contracts and their short-sighted vision for tourism put thousands of Queensland jobs at risk. As a direct result of their policy, tourism growth flatlined.

In stark contrast, international and domestic overnight visitation and GRP have gone up under our government and we are continuing to invest in projects like a new world-class dive site with the city of the Gold Coast, an ecotourism Scenic Rim trail for long-range, six-day, five-night experiences with Spicers Retreat, a \$1.2 million partnership with the O'Reilly family to deliver a major redevelopment of Green Mountains Campground at Lamington National Park and more than \$1.4 million to partner with Binna Burra Lodge to build Australia's first permanent cliff-climbing course.

Our government has listened and we are acting. Today I am calling on the Prime Minister to urgently help the Gold Coast and the industry that supports one in seven jobs in our community.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! I would like to acknowledge a former member and minister of this House Mr Pat Comben who was with us in the gallery but has unfortunately just left. We welcome him back to the House. Old habits die hard because as he left the gallery he turned and acknowledged the Speaker. Look out for that as you get older and return to this House, members.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 342, on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.59 pm), continuing: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) shows that the majority of the allocations for unforeseen expenditure is in the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Education. In terms of the projects in the Transport and Main Roads space, I particularly want to acknowledge the money brought forward for the extra lanes on the Deagon Deviation which has absolutely reduced the bottleneck for northsiders when using the Gateway, as well as the money brought forward for the upgraded Nudgee interchange. While some may observe that this is a fair way from my electorate of Pine Rivers, it is a critical artery for my community. My community and I as commuters often utilise this space. It has well and truly opened up this section. The traffic is free flowing in nature. It is an absolute breath of fresh air.

It would be fair to say that for many years we have looked longingly at the south side in terms of the road infrastructure they have with the Gateway Motorway. It is so nice as a northsider to see that replicated at the Deagon Deviation and the interchange at Nudgee. It is money very well spent. I know that it will increase safety, increase productivity and decrease motorists' frustration as they are travelling about.

The other key point I wanted to pick up on which I think is important is the additional funding in the transport space that has gone into bus driver wage parity. It is something that we did not spend too much time exploring in the committee process. In terms of fairness, the professionalism of bus drivers is worthwhile putting on the record here today.

The Education portfolio has seen unforeseen expenditure come forward in terms of the urgency in which we have needed to build new state schools in our communities. I know that the member for Logan is particularly excited about the school in Yarrabilba. The new schools are scattered across our great state. They are essential pieces of infrastructure. I watched with great excitement the first day of school this year, as the Palaszczuk Labor government opened eight new state schools. I have been talking with MPs from electorates where they have had significant growth who were opening schools in their communities. There is an absolute sense of excitement. I know that that excitement will continue throughout the year for all of those school learners.

The drought assistance package was another component in the Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio. I also wanted to give a shout-out to my husband, Reece, who worked on the fire ant eradication program and on securing funding for that. I do not think a lot of the population really appreciate how dangerous these little critters are. I know that he does. He worked tirelessly in lobbying the Invasive Species Council to ensure that funding got to where it was needed—funding that was cut under Campbell Newman.

**Mr Krause:** It was not.

**Ms BOYD:** Yes, it was. I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. It was absolutely cut under the Newman government, and we saw the spread of fire ants in that time. It is good to see that funding reinstated and particularly the federal government's intervention in identifying that fire ants are an issue. A lot of states are also coming to the table to ensure that they are investing in the process of eradicating fire ants.

There has also been infrastructure investment in energy. We were recently in Townsville at the regional parliament. The Townsville water security enhancement project was one of those projects where we saw some funding brought forward. That was offset by the reallocation of some of the solar thermal plant contributions to Treasury. I know in terms of the locals I talk to in Townsville how important that water security is to them. It is great to see the project go ahead. It is also great to see some of the much needed funding going forward to the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

What we have seen through this process is a lot of myths put out there by the opposition. We saw them in the statement of reservation on the bills where they say that the 2018-19 budget was 'one of increased debt and taxes'. That is certainly not right. In Queensland we pay \$686 per person less than the rest of Australia—\$700 less than Victorians and \$1,000 less than New South Wales residents. Our debt-to-revenue ratio, which the rating agencies pay particular attention to, is actually lower than it was under the LNP administration.

The LNP in their statement of reservation go on to say that there is 'less infrastructure and jobs' in this budget. That again is a myth. We are supporting over 41,500 jobs this year alone in this budget. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government has come to office, we have 235,000 jobs—more than half of which have been full-time. I think that is a tremendous legacy of this Labor government here in Queensland.


The LNP claim that five new taxes were introduced 'which are ripping \$2.2 billion out of Queensland's economy'. That is not true. The Palaszczuk government has delivered tax cuts in the latest budget including our \$885 million payroll package.

The LNP state that Queensland is the 'jobless capital of Australia with the most bankruptcies'. The unemployment rate under Labor is less than it was under the LNP. The Palaszczuk Labor government has also reduced the unemployment rate by 0.5 per cent. Under the LNP, unemployment increased more than one percentage point.

In terms of the contribution from the member for Bonney earlier, there was quite an exchange in the *Hansard* when we were talking to Treasury officials about the trains being built in Maryborough which is one of Labor's key election commitments. It surprised me to hear those comments from the

member for Bonney today because they are not reflective of the transcript and the conversation that was had. It was clear then in the committee process that that money was being brought forward so we could build trains here in Queensland, here in Maryborough, rather than having them built in Mumbai, India.

In terms of the supplementary appropriations, the statement of reservation states that they are 'eight times higher than the unforeseen expenditure under the previous LNP government'. The LNP handed back \$10 billion in lapsed appropriations—money it did not know how to spend when it was in government. When they were sacking 14,000 public servants, I am sure it would have been difficult to find those investments when their ideology was so warped and twisted. As I said, these are fine bills—money spent in all of the right places. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to speak on Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019 being dealt with cognately. Firstly, I will deal with the parliamentary expenditure under the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2). This bill was introduced to the parliament on 19 September last year. Here we are debating this bill two months out from the next state budget. That is typical of the Labor Party's responsibility and organisation in bringing bills before the House and being accountable to the taxpayers of Queensland for their financial misappropriation.

In relation to the Parliamentary Service, we note that there is unforeseen expenditure of \$639,000. Before we castigate the Clerk on the blowout in his budget, we should recognise that there were increased IT costs and also unforeseen rising costs in terms of the Queensland Remuneration Tribunal. That is what the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill has always been about.

We understand and recognise that that unforeseen expenditure was reasonable and acceptable in terms of the appropriation bills delivered in September shortly after last year's 2018-19 budget for the 2019-20 period. I will take this opportunity to raise a matter that has concerned me in relation to the Parliamentary Service; that is, an expenditure for the relocation of offices of around \$600,000 per annum that was, in the main, caused by the redistribution of seats around the state. In my opinion, to save Queensland taxpayers there should be a directive that, in terms of the consideration of boundary relocations, the Electoral Commission should take into account the location of offices before they draw up their boundaries. Sometimes an office can move 100 metres, which causes a lot of expenditure for no good reason. That is my contribution for the future in terms of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2).

However, what I would like to comment on in particular is the blowout of almost \$1.4 billion—\$1,400 million—in terms of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) by this particular government. Mr Deputy Speaker, I refer you to the admittedly brief time the LNP was in government, when the unforeseen expenditure in the 2012-13 budget—and this appropriation bill is all about unforeseen expenditure—was \$63,445,000, which is a very reasonable amount in terms of unforeseen expenditure in the budgetary process, so well done to the treasurer in 2012-13. In 2013-14 under the LNP there was a significant amount of \$447,569,000, the most significant of which, unfortunately, was \$265 million for increases in superannuation benefit payments and long service leave scheme payments which could not be foreseen. In other words, in 2013-14 there was a genuine reason for that almost half a billion dollars being unforeseen in proper budgetary processes.

In the last LNP budget of 2014-15 the unforeseen expenditure was \$12 million, which is a minor figure in terms of proper budgetary processes. Yet when we look forward to 2019-20 for these 2018-19 appropriation bills you will find that this government has blown another \$1,397,441,000. You just cannot comprehend how this government can be that far out in their budgetary processes in terms of expenditure. We find the Department of Education, for example, with \$262,545,000, which tells you that this Labor government has failed to implement proper planning processes to adequately allow for proper education department expenditure. If we look to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with \$699,762 million—which is a major part of the overspend—you can understand why there is probably \$50 million worth of rolling stock up in Maryborough. I hate to use the word pork-barrelling in the Maryborough electorate, but we see that sort of expenditure in Maryborough to try and save the hide of the local member.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Maryborough, I advise you to put your name on the speaking list if you would like to contribute.

**Mr STEVENS:** The member for Maryborough needs all the help he can get up there. I understand why they put a fair bit of money into the budget, but it should be budgeted for rather than coming in as unforeseen expenditure. That is the problem. If they need to spend a billion dollars to get the local member elected in Maryborough, they have to budget that in their pork-barrelling and not put these items into the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) at the last minute. You can clearly see—


**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, you will be warned at the next outburst. I put you on notice.

**Mr STEVENS:** While I am on the member for Maryborough—no, I will leave him alone. These appropriation bills are absolutely typical of the bad financial planning of this government. We see it today; they are jumping up and down. There is no money left. With their \$90 billion debt and \$3.5 billion in interest payments, how many schools could you build for that? How many trains could you build in Maryborough for \$3.5 billion, which is the interest rate they are paying on the record borrowings they have incurred on behalf of Queensland taxpayers.

It beggars belief that the people of Queensland will not recognise this government is a sham in terms of its financial planning, which is what this bill is all about. They have led Queensland into the highest level of unemployment nationally we could possibly have. At the time of the committee's report there were 178,000 unemployed Queenslanders because of this particular government. Unfortunately, no amount of writing cheques, unforeseen expenditure, pork-barrelling or coming up with money they have not spent before will hide the fact that those opposite are the worst fiscal managers Queensland has ever seen. It is a tragedy that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who has overseen the total demise of proper fiscal planning in Queensland, has the hide to stand up and say what a wonderful Treasurer she is by her own admission.

This appropriation of \$1,397,441,000—small change in relation to the total overspend on the bank card, which this government routinely does—is just another indictment on a government leading Queensland up the bankrupt trail. With the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) being this large, unfortunately in two months time we will see a budget that will again rob the people of Queensland through higher taxes, more grabs at every level and higher charges every which way possible. You can see it coming now. Public servants will have their financial benefits through the superannuation scheme robbed, and that is only a paper figure anyway. If the markets go down, I warn you now that the taxpayers of Queensland will have to top up the superannuation defined benefits scheme. That is coming. What is also coming on the back of this Appropriation Bill (No. 2) is a financial downgrade for Queensland so that again we will pay a higher interest rate in Queensland. It is a shame, and it will not be fixed until we get Labor out of government in Queensland.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise in the House today to support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) in relation to unforeseen expenditure by the parliament and government departments. I have had since lunchtime to reflect on the contributions of those on the other side, and you just have to go 'wow!' In the three short years they had, the destruction they caused left over a decade's worth of damage to attempt to claw back. When you listen to the shadow Treasurer's contribution to this debate, their track record is everything. When you look at their infrastructure legacy, by and large most of this appropriation money is going into accelerating infrastructure for all Queenslanders. You only have to look out the window: the only thing they left behind is 1 William Street.

**Mr Powell:** Which is allowing Queen's Wharf to be developed, which the minister crowed all about this morning.

**Ms RICHARDS:** 1 William Street. That is all you have left.

**Mr Powell:** Built by the construction industry superannuation.

**Mr Whiting:** That's a pretty long bow you're drawing.

**Ms RICHARDS:** No, it's not actually. We have heard a lot about what the opposition think about fiscal literature and fiscal planning. We do not hear much about their game and their story in terms of fiscal plans. We know they are sitting on a very big multibillion dollar black hole of unfunded promises. They do not talk about their fiscal plan because they know it is the same old LNP playbook. It is that cut, sack and sell. Campbell Newman said it himself this week. We cannot trust the LNP when it comes to financial management.

With regard to the appropriation bills for the unforeseen expenditure, it was good to be part of the committee that reviewed that. I thank the secretariat and Queensland Treasury that gave us the briefings. With regards to the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service, funding was there

for technology improvements for our electorate offices and for the relocation of new offices and also for determinations made by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal. The bills also relate to the accelerated expenditure on programs that are absolutely about improving Queensland—from congestion busting on roads to delivering world-class education.

We know that Queensland is all too familiar with disasters—from droughts to floods, cyclones and bushfires. We have seen them all frequently occurring. Our government has been here to support people. When these disasters have occurred, we have tried to get things back to normal as quickly as possible in the rebuild process. There is funding within there that supports our community in that rebuild process. The bills further seek approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by eight departments. The Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Education and the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs take the lion's share of that unforeseen expenditure.

Our Palaszczuk government is focused on congestion busting and delivering on a record infrastructure investment for Queensland. We are focused on getting Queenslanders to work quicker and home sooner and we are focused on Queenslanders being safer on their journeys on our roads. The majority of this expenditure was the result of the accelerated delivery of capital programs, including Commonwealth funding for the Gateway Upgrade North project and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, as well as Bruce Highway upgrades, Pacific Motorway upgrades and the state funded contribution to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. It has been really surprising to hear the contributions from the other side considering that significant amounts of this money actually go to making the lives of their constituents better through improving access to better roads. It is astounding.

**Mr Hunt:** Not in Nicklin.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Read them. I had a rough look at the numbers, and it is about 70 per cent of your side, my friend.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Nicklin!

**Ms RICHARDS:** Have a look at the numbers.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, that is enough.

**Ms RICHARDS:** Our government is committed to tackling congestion on the Gold Coast by accelerating our \$2.3 billion program of M1 upgrades, including the M1 merge and Varsity Lakes. The completion of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing means that our world-class exports can get to their destinations faster. This is great for truckies on those roads too.

The acceleration of these projects brings \$441 million of Palaszczuk government investment ahead of schedule. This is not a budget blowout. When you can do more, you should do more. If we can bring projects forward and create jobs faster, that is exactly what we should be doing and that is exactly what these funds are being used for. Our government has also delivered \$58 million in the maintenance of roads ahead of schedule and added \$27 million in new maintenance on Queensland roads.

I am passionate about education and our Palaszczuk government is passionate about education. We are committed to ensuring every Queensland child gets the best start through a world-class education, and that includes the infrastructure and the environments that our students learn in. We are delivering more new schools than ever right across the state, including North Shore State School in Townsville, Picnic Creek State School in Coomera East, Yarrabilba State School in Logan, the Cairns State Special School and Bellmere State School. We have opened eight new schools this year—that is unprecedented—and we have another five coming. Education is the cornerstone of creating brighter futures, and we are certainly focused on that. Building on the acceleration, the Palaszczuk government's 2019-20 budget includes a massive \$1.5 billion worth of school infrastructure investment. This includes the completion of the eight new schools.


While I am on my feet, I would like to thank Minister Grace for her acknowledgement of my region. I know that in terms of my two predecessors their eyes were not on education and giving the best to students in our community. In two short years, through our hard work and through working with the principals and the departments, we have been able to get some fantastic outcomes in the Redlands. Russell Island State School has received \$1.2 million in refurbishment, and Victoria Point State High



School has had a \$1 million library upgrade. We just had \$1.6 million worth of new school classrooms put into Redland Bay State School, as well as \$700,000 worth of new classrooms into BayView State School and \$400,000 worth of new classrooms into Redlands District Special School. Cleveland District State High School has received a new multipurpose hall and a new manual arts building, as well as \$9 million worth of new classrooms. At the moment, we have under way a \$2 million expansion for Victoria Point State High School and \$9 million for new learning precincts at the Redlands District Special School. Our government is absolutely focused. As I said, where we can do more we should be doing more to make sure we can give our community the infrastructure and the amenities they need and deserve.

The Palaszczuk Labor government supports local communities and our councils in tough times. As I said, we have seen a lot of them. When disaster strikes, we are there ready to help them rebuild. The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs's share of the appropriation bills was \$257.2 million. That related to getting grants out to Queenslanders quicker. Together, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Education and the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs accounted for 87 per cent of that appropriation bill.

Our Palaszczuk government is a government of action. When we can bring projects forward and fast-track them, we will do that for our community. We are delivering on that. These funds go towards creating more jobs for more Queenslanders. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.26 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate in relation to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019. These are bills that seek to approve the Treasurer's authorisation of unforeseen expenditure of \$639,000 for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and unforeseen expenditure across various Queensland government departments of more than \$1.397 billion respectively for the financial year 2018-19. As has already been discussed in this debate, the \$639,000 is for IT systems and projects and unforeseen expenditure in relation to staffing expenses. I will keep most of my comments in my contribution today to the \$1.4 billion.

The appropriation bills of the Queensland government go to the very heart of providing the infrastructure, services and economic prosperity that all Queenslanders deserve. Sadly, on this most fundamental principle and as these supplementary appropriation bills show, the Palaszczuk Labor government's budgetary and economic management has been nothing short of an abject failure over the last five years.

In the 2018-19 Queensland state budget—the financial year which is applicable to this Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019—the Palaszczuk Labor government introduced five new taxes, ripping \$2.2 billion out of the Queensland economy. It was a budget that was all about slugging Queenslanders with more taxes and more debt, with less infrastructure and fewer jobs. Despite the Treasurer's blatant tax grab on hardworking Queenslanders, which now totals some \$3.5 billion in new taxes, fees and charges, the Palaszczuk Labor government has overseen yet another budget blowout to the tune of nearly \$1.4 billion. Whilst the additional funding is being allocated to some important projects, we should not have to be constantly coming back and back again, when the budget was handed down approximately seven months ago—and that is the point. In fact, we are only two months away from the next budget.

This legislation is just the latest example of the shameful history of the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to adequately plan and manage the state's finances. Again, it should be budgeted for in the appropriate way at the appropriate time. In seeking the Queensland parliament's approval of more than \$1.397 billion for 2018-19, the Palaszczuk Labor government has now, over the life of its time in government, overseen more than \$4.1 billion in unforeseen expenditure and budget blowouts.

It is not just the Liberal National Party which has significant concerns over this Labor government's budget management. Indeed, the recent independent Auditor-General's report, titled *Queensland government state finances: 2018-19 results of financial audits*, which was tabled last week, made a scathing assessment of our state's financial position under the leadership of the Labor government. As revealed in the report, in the 2018-19 financial year Queensland's total state sector will have a net operating deficit of \$1.1 billion.

In fact, since 2016-17 the Queensland government's expenses have increased by \$7.3 billion, or 11 per cent, while total revenue has only increased by \$4 billion, or six per cent. Most ominously, as the Auditor-General, Mr Brendan Worrill, stated in his report—

Unless the Queensland Government can increase its revenue or constrain the recent growth in its expenses, it risks not being able to meet the costs of its activities from the revenue it earns going forward.

It is simply a fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government cannot manage our state's finances and it is seemingly more than comfortable with burdening future generations of Queenslanders with ever-increasing debt. This will be intergenerational debt and it will be a shameful legacy. Our children and grandchildren will certainly have to come up with innovative ways to deal with a significant intergenerational debt problem.

In October 2018 following the government's 2018-19 state budget I addressed the parliament's Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and concluded my speech by stating—

We know that by 2021-22 there will be an \$83 billion level of debt. That is not good enough for Queensland. This is a government of tax, debt and unemployment.

If we fast-forward a little over a year and a half to today, Queenslanders must now face the stark reality of a state Labor government that will have burdened this state's future with debt of \$91.8 billion by 2022-23. This is a woeful economic and budgetary management failure which will have devastating consequences right across this state, including the western suburbs of Brisbane, in particular the electorate of Moggill.

This Appropriation Bill (No. 2) includes additional unforeseen expenditure of close to \$700 million for the Department of Transport and Main Roads and more than \$262.5 million for the Department of Education. That is close to a billion dollars alone, yet in my electorate of Moggill residents continue to feel the devastating impacts of Labor's infrastructure investment neglect. It is now more than five years since Labor promised constituents an integrated road and public transport plan and comprehensive solutions for the electorate of Moggill. For five years local residents have had to sit idle in congested traffic on Moggill Road and join the ever-increasing traffic congestion on the Centenary Motorway as Labor all but ignores motorists, public transport users and cyclists of the western suburbs of Brisbane.


Speaking of local cyclists, it is now more than 2½ years since the Minister for Transport and Main Roads announced a Moggill Road corridor planning study to examine options for improving connectivity and local cyclist safety. Despite the best intentions and participation of dedicated stakeholders—and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group in particular for their work and advocacy—the Palaszczuk Labor government is yet to release the findings and outcome of this study. The safety of the public and cyclists in this locale demand that this Labor government release this study as a matter of high priority. Despite such a deliberate act of ignorance and neglect, I will continue to pursue the Palaszczuk Labor government for the integrated road and public transport plan that was promised in order to get the relief that road and public transport users demand in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Similarly, in the area of education, local families and school communities in the electorate of Moggill must contend with education infrastructure and resources that are failing to keep pace with our local community's expectations. As an example, it is not an unreasonable expectation of students, parents and staff at a school the size of Kenmore State High School—the only high school in the electorate of Moggill—that the Queensland Labor government plans for and delivers appropriate infrastructure investment in the school's infrastructure master plan, yet on this measure the Queensland Labor government has totally failed the Kenmore State High School community. The Kenmore State High School hall is grossly outdated and fails to meet even the most basic standards of the high school community, with school events constantly having to be held separately at different times as the hall fails to hold the entire 2,000-plus student cohort.

Yesterday I had the great pleasure of attending the Kenmore State High School senior and junior secondary school leaders induction ceremonies and present this year's school captains and leaders with their relevant badges. It is a wonderful and inspiring occasion to attend on an annual basis and one which deserves a far better and more accommodating school venue than the substandard and unbearably hot school hall that this Labor government insists is good enough for the Kenmore State High School community.

Despite the Palaszczuk Labor government's woeful budget management and ongoing blowouts, I will continue to fight for all school communities in the electorate of Moggill such as Kenmore State High School to ensure that our students, teachers and staff receive the vital infrastructure and resources they not only need but also deserve. All Queenslanders deserve better. All residents of the western suburbs deserve better. Our state, once a proud economic powerhouse across Australia, is being trashed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Palaszczuk Labor government has seen fit to completely trash this record in pursuit of a reckless and rarely defined agenda. It is only the Liberal National Party which has a plan for a stronger economy, one which will truly create jobs, improve our health and education services, and invest in the vital road and public transport infrastructure that we deserve.

Whilst I acknowledge the expenditure that is proposed in these bills will go to projects across Queensland—and some of those projects are vital—I would again say to the Palaszczuk Labor government that they need to invest money into the western suburbs of Brisbane. They need to deal with traffic congestion not only in the electorate of Moggill but right across the western suburbs of Brisbane. They need to look at school infrastructure and make sure that it is fair and reasonable. Students in the electorate of Moggill and across the western suburbs of Brisbane need that investment. That is the right, the fair and the decent thing to do. Labor talks about decency. Labor always talks about a fair go for all residents across Queensland, for all Queenslanders. It is time that they acted for those residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019. This is a commonsense government that delivers on its election promises, that delivers on the infrastructure—not cuts, but real infrastructure—that a growing state needs. It does so without asset sales, without breaking election promises like the previous government did left, right and centre. It is about building the roads, the rail sector and the light rail sector that a growing population needs. As noted in report No. 35 of the Economics and Governance Committee for 2018-19, the additional funding provided to the Department of Transport and Main Roads for unforeseen expenditure was \$699 million. I want to be clear from the outset that this expenditure represents good news for Queenslanders, providing even more jobs and local employment opportunities right across our state.

Transport and Main Roads' \$699 million in expenditure results from the following accelerated spending. An amount of \$441 million relates to the delivery ahead of schedule of capital projects including the Gateway Upgrade North on the north side of Brisbane and the New Generation Rollingstock with funding brought forward from future years—accelerated, which means delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. There is an amount of \$125.9 million in increased funding to allow commencement of accessibility modifications for the New Generation Rollingstock. We all know the history there: they were ordered by those opposite. They were not disability compliant. They were made overseas and it was left to this government to fix up the mess that was created by the Newman government. This was funded from the NGR contingency budget from future years. It is providing local employment to right the wrongs on accessibility.

I want to pay tribute to the member for Maryborough, who is a fierce advocate for his city, the rail city, and the workers there. That is a sector that was on its knees when this government was elected. It was saved because of the election of the member for Maryborough and the election of this government. We are not just proud of that; we are advancing all the opportunities for the workers in Maryborough.

There is an amount of \$58 million in operating expenditure mainly relating to the delivery of the road maintenance program ahead of schedule with funding adjusted in the following year—accelerated maintenance funding, local jobs and better connectivity for Queenslanders.

An amount of \$48.5 million in additional expenditure was for the bus driver wage parity in South-East Queensland bus contracts. This is something we believe: bus drivers ought to be paid fairly, and that is part of this bill. We respect the work they do. They deal with the safety of the public every single day. It can be a very challenging job. They deserve a decent pay packet to pay the bills, to pay their mortgage and to live a decent life. We are very proud of our record in that regard.

The year 2019-20 promises an even greater spend on transport and infrastructure works. The Palaszczuk government is delivering another record investment in the state's transport and roads infrastructure—four budgets out of five—with \$23 billion allocated across the forward estimates for the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. Previous budgets delivered by the Palaszczuk government created a pipeline of major infrastructure projects that employ thousands of Queenslanders. This program ensures that pipeline of projects continues in the future, particularly in regional Queensland.

The program will support an estimated 21,500 direct jobs over its life. Approximately \$14.5 billion of that will support projects in regional Queensland, supporting over 13,500 regional jobs right across Queensland. The current QTRIP is approximately \$1.3 billion more than last year's QTRIP and our record investment means a boom in cranes, concrete and construction from Cape York to Coolangatta. Townsville, Gympie, Mackay and Cairns have major road projects creating thousands of local jobs and supporting families. These include the Bruce Highway upgrade, Cooroy to Curra section D—that is the Gympie bypass—and its \$1 billion of road investment which will also take a very flood-prone part of the Bruce Highway out of the network once completed. There is the \$514 million construction of the Haughton River flood plain upgrade on the Bruce Highway from Horseshoe Lagoon to Palm Creek,

more flood-proofing of the Bruce Highway. There is nearly \$500 million for the Mackay Ring Road stage 1 project and also \$481 million for the start this year of the Bruce Highway upgrade Southern Access Corridor from Edmonton to Gordonvale. That is on top of our commitments in Cape York and at the Smithfield bypass.

On the Gold Coast, I know of more than 2,700 jobs. On the Sunshine Coast, there are close to 3,000 jobs. There is a boom in Central Queensland, in the Rockhampton region, where I know the members for Rockhampton and Keppel are fierce advocates for road upgrades. More than 600 road construction jobs are there. Our government has invested in jointly funded projects that include the Ipswich Motorway upgrade on the edge of my electorate and a number of other electorates from Oxley to Granard Road, Rocklea. There is \$160 million for the Sunshine Coast rail duplication and upgrade, as part of a joint \$550 million project, between Beerburrum and Nambour, something on which those opposite did not even start the business case. This year, we see heavy construction start. What a great boost for the Sunshine Coast region.


There is \$1 billion for widening from four to six lanes the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. The people of Currumbin know who delivers on the M1—this government. It is not those opposite, who did not spend a single new dollar in three years under the Newman government. It is this government that has underway four M1 upgrades, with one nearly completed from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. There is a much bigger one, five times the size. We will be telling the people of Currumbin that; that is for sure. It is five times the size of the one almost completed which in itself is already a huge project. The people of Currumbin know who funds infrastructure on the Gold Coast—this Palaszczuk Labor government. It is not those opposite who talk big but do not do anything about it. Who did light rail stage 2? This government. Who is doing light rail stage 3? It is this government that has led the way without the support of those opposite. Who did the M1 upgrades? It was this government. It is not those opposite and it is certainly not those opposite with a blow-in chosen by their Brisbane headquarters.

They cut out local members from having a say in their preselection, stopping Chris Crawford from even contesting the preselection in a cafe conspiracy, and now they are offering beer and food for Brisbane volunteers because they cannot find anybody down there to campaign locally. When Tim Nicholls is down there campaigning for you, you know you are struggling to get the people.

There is a \$1 billion funding commitment for the Gateway Motorway extension from Bracken Ridge to Pine River. We have \$812 million on that fantastic upgrade of the Bruce Highway from Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway which will be progressively opened towards the end of this year—a fantastic project and support for that growing Sunshine Coast region. Of course, there is \$749 million for the M1 upgrade between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill which will follow straight after the Gateway merge upgrade that is nearing completion at the moment. Again, the Palaszczuk Labor government delivers on the M1, something those opposite failed to do for three years.

I will put up for comparison our economic record under this Premier and Deputy Premier against those opposite any day. This is the economic record of the Newman government—economic growth plunged to 0.7 per cent. It did not even have a '1' in front of it. The jobless rate spiked at 7.1 per cent. At the moment, the unemployment rate has a '5' in front of it under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It had a '7' in front of it under the Newman government. There was a \$600 million cut in the road and transport budget. There was \$100 million wasted on Strong Choices privatisation. I have a bit of a laugh when they say, 'Oh, we didn't privatise assets.' The only reason they did not privatise assets is because we beat them at the 2015 election. It all would have been out the door the next day.

Those opposite whinge and moan about our infrastructure projects, but the fact is they continue to speak in code for cuts. Every time we hear an LNP speech on the economy, they are talking about code for cuts. It is the Newman model. They promise the world. There is no way to fund it. Already, there is something like an \$8 billion hole in opposition promises before we even get near a formal campaign period. There is no way of paying for it. We know there is only one way they will pay for it—cutting, selling and sacking. It is the old LNP model. Newman perfected it and they have not learnt a thing. They promise everything but in government will cut, cut, cut. I was bemused by the deputy leader's contribution. Apparently there is a new thing called the 'Bradbury' scheme. Did anyone hear that? Not only do they have the Bradfield scheme; they have the Bradbury scheme as well!

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.47 pm): The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money, as we all know. I rise to make a brief contribution to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019. Whilst I am not opposing these bills—we have made that clear—it would be remiss of members on this side of the chamber if we did not take the opportunity to talk in relation to the economic mismanagement of those opposite. By way of background, we note that in September 2019 the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, introduced the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) into the Legislative Assembly. The bills were referred to the relevant Economics and Governance Committee et cetera and here we are today.

I also talk a little bit of history. In the contributions of those opposite, plenty wanted to talk about history. We will do just that. We will go right back to the Goss government which previously I said was not a bad government economically. I have made that statement before and say it again today. We then moved into the Beattie era. Then we had the treasurer many of us on this side of the chamber thought took the No. 1 gold award in terms of being absolutely bereft of economic thought processes—Andrew Fraser. We now have a new contender for the prize. We all are looking at the member for South Brisbane. Does she even know the basic accounting equation? The Treasurer of this state is more fixated on political survivability than fiscal management. As the member for Mermaid Beach said, typically all governments need this sort of appropriation bill. If we return to the recent history of 2014-15, \$12 million out of a multibillion dollar recurrent state budget was sought. What figure is this government seeking with these appropriation bills? Around about \$1.4 billion.

The problem is that every time a budget is handed down, in rank order starting with the Treasurer obviously and working their way down in hierarchical order of senior ministers, they all get up and start their contribution by saying, 'And Mr Speaker, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am so proud that this is a record investment in'—insert their relevant portfolio. We hear it all the time.

There is no problem with that. For a start, with the CPI one would expect that, but the problem is: where is the money being spent? There has been a series of ministers and in particular the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and why would he not want to get involved in this debate? Let us look at what that \$1.4 billion is comprised of when Queensland Treasury provided the following amounts to the committee of the unforeseen expenditure by department. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is virtually just under \$700 million alone—that is, just that particular department. It was very interesting to sit here when moments ago the Minister for Transport and Main Roads preached about what is going to be spent and what those opposite are going to do. What have they done? Let us put something on the record which we know has not been done. That is, an audit report of November of the year before last showed conclusively that backlog maintenance on the 33,300 kilometres of state controlled roads was \$4 billion. The question was then refreshed at estimates last year. It was \$5 billion. Where is the money going? That is the problem. That is the rub here.

In terms of where the money has gone, we can go back through a little bit of recent history because we have the A to Z list of Labor waste such as eHealth project blowouts worth \$256 million, but I will zero in on the one that I think typifies where this government stands in the general community—that is, fiscally and economically a complete and utter joke. My favourite from the A to Z list of Labor waste is the app that was developed for fat dogs. That typifies in one statement where this government is so wrong. It defies logic and credibility that we are in this position, because all I heard during the last sitting of parliament and today is those opposite carping on about selling, selling, selling.

If those opposite want to talk about history, let us talk about history. In 2010 and 2011 many of those opposite were working for their favoured union before they got their dream jobs, yet they need to understand why we are in this current position and why some tough love had to be administered economically from 2012 to 2015. I am staring at the member for Woodridge right now. Back then, being the man of principle that he was, he was the member for Greenslopes, but he got a little bit of a holiday—a three-year holiday—but he obviously came back, being the man of principle, and moved into Woodridge. He was part of the cabinet decision tree, so let us talk about the history that got us into this very position which has rolled forward to today.


Back in 2011 those opposite sold Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion. Where did that go? What about the Abbot Point port that was sold for \$1.8 billion—nearly \$2 billion—in 2011? Where did that go? QR National was sold for \$4 billion—a cheque for \$4 billion. What have those opposite done with that money recurrently over the last several years? Absolutely zip! We have unemployment, bankruptcies and terrible NAPLAN results. As for 'rail fail' and as for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—the minister who calls himself a rookie minister with rookie errors and the one who was referred to by the CCC as 'foolish'—what has that minister done with this money? He has squandered it and then he comes back here and wants more—nearly \$700 million more. Why is that?

When we keep looking back, those opposite even flogged off Forestry Plantations for a lazy \$600 million. That was not bad, was it? When it came to selling assets in the north, those opposite made sure that they did it on behalf of all of Queensland all right, because it was not just in South-East Queensland. Going north to Mackay and Cairns, they flogged the airports for \$738 million—nice if you

can get it—and then they sold the Brisbane Airport for \$289 million. If you go through and add all of this up, including of course—there were no sacred cows—Golden Casket, they got a lazy, paltry \$530 million.

What did those opposite do with the money? All we know is that they get up and talk about record numbers and record programs, but when the tar hits the bitumen they are nowhere to be seen. We just need to look at the track record of those opposite. We are now in a situation where it is not about the money. It has moved on from fiscal principles to one of political survivability. Those of us on this side have no doubt, as we have already begun to see today, that we will see the member for Woodridge jostle with the member for Cooper. We know that the mojo of the Treasurer is well and truly gone. She is laughed at in the streets. The member for South Brisbane is laughed at by members of her own party. She is a complete and utter joke.

It comes as no surprise that we are starting to get the ruminations and the carping from the member for Woodridge because we know that he is not feeling comfortable. He knows that if you go back five months he was in the driver's seat, but do members know what? Something happened on the road to Damascus. The member for Cooper has usurped him. There are a series of backbenchers opposite who would not know fiscal responsibility if it hit them in the face, yet they are all sitting there like stunned mullets waiting for the inevitable come 6 pm on 31 October. Bring it on!

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.56 pm): That was a very interesting history lesson from the member for Chatsworth.

**Ms Howard:** Very loud.

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the member for Ipswich: it was a loud and verbose history lesson. Manning Clark the member for Chatsworth certainly is not. He is certainly no Manning Clark with his history lesson, although I do agree with one part of the member for Chatsworth's history lesson—that is, the Goss government was a very good government. I agree with the member for Chatsworth on that, although I find it very telling that he did not mention the government that he was part of—the Newman government. The member for Chatsworth got up and extolled the virtues of the Goss government in his history lesson, but he completely glossed over the Newman years and I think everyone in this House understands why he did just that.

The contribution from the member for Chatsworth was similar to most of the contributions from those opposite, with a few honourable exceptions. They ranged all over the place, they did not talk about the actual expenditure items that are in these appropriation bills and they told us what they are against. Of course, Halloween is coming. The state election 2020 is coming on 31 October, in just a few months, and ultimately those opposite at some point are going to have to tell us what they stand for. If they do not, they really only have one alternative, and that is to stand on their record. We have heard a whole heap of statistics from those opposite. The reality is that the last time the LNP was in government there was higher unemployment, higher debt and deficit budgets. If the LNP and those opposite want to stand on that particular record, that is a choice that they can choose to make.

Unlike most of those opposite, I want to focus on some of the expenditure items in these bills because I am really interested to find out what exactly is in this bill and what expenditure those opposite are against. As the minister rightfully pointed out, there is huge funding for Transport and Main Roads. In particular for my electorate, the extra funding for the Pacific Motorway has been really well received. I note that there is also funding for the Bruce Highway and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. Are those opposite against that particular expenditure? I really question whether that is the case.


With regard to the member for Maryborough—as we know, a hardworking local member—there is \$84 million for accelerated works for the delivery of the trains and funding for the eight additional train sets. We all know how much the member for Maryborough loves his trains. He loves to play with his train sets. Not only can these trains be used throughout Queensland; they also mean jobs for the member for Maryborough's local community which in turn boosts Queensland. Those opposite talked about jobs and unemployment yet none mentioned that very worthy initiative.

This bill provides for additional payments for Racing Queensland to increase prize money and support initiatives for the racing industry. I am sure the member for Mermaid Beach would have been supportive of that initiative. I was quite surprised that he did not mention that. There is also additional funding for the Department of Education for new schools and the acceleration of school infrastructure funding. Are those opposite against that additional funding? Are they against new schools and accelerating infrastructure projects? In my neck of the woods in Stretton we have quite a significant school infrastructure program that is hugely supported by the local community. I could go on and on. There is additional funding for the police.

**Mr Whiting:** Keep going!

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the member for Bancroft. I will continue. I was going to wind up. Thank you for your encouragement, member for Bancroft. There is also an additional departmental services expense for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as part of the fire ant eradication program and additional Australian government funding for the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme. All of these are very worthy initiatives. In fact, I would say to the member for Chatsworth that history will show that this expenditure and these initiatives are very worthy.

I ask those opposite to tell us exactly the items of expenditure that they are against rather than offer their usual criticism of the government. I counsel those opposite that there will inevitably have to come a time when they finally say what they are for and not what they are against. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.01 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate. On behalf of my constituents in Southern Downs, I have to say this is yet another example of Labor's economic mismanagement. The people in my electorate expect to see a government that runs a tight ship, one that spends its money wisely and does it in a way that delivers the services that they need. As I did some adding up before this debate I was interested to see that, whilst this bill is for just short of \$1.4 billion, over the last five years of the Labor government we are looking at \$4.56 billion in additional expenditures that have been authorised in this way. If we compare that to the three years of the previous government, the 2012-13 to 2014-15 financial years, there was only \$523 million. We understand that there can be natural disasters and other unforeseen events, but one would expect around about half a billion dollars over three years. It is remarkable that the government is unable to tighten its belt. It is unable to constrain its spending and what it is spending on are things that Queenslanders do not want or need.

I note that in the 2018-19 budget the Treasurer introduced five new taxes totalling \$2.2 billion. There has been a total of nine new or increased taxes over the five-year period of this Labor government, ripping \$3.5 billion out of the economy. Let me give a lesson to the Labor Party on this: you do not make society better by taxing it. People who make money the hard way, who are trying to make a living, spend their money a lot better than the government does. When I look at some of the priorities that this government has it is really quite a disgrace. We have seen record spending in so many areas yet we are seeing increases in waiting lists for hospitals, we are seeing increased ramping, we are seeing the renaming of hospitals, the reversal of privatisation of prisons—which was \$111 million or so—and a \$45 million bike track to link some Labor electorates in Brisbane. With \$45 million we could fix the Gore Highway in my electorate of Southern Downs.

When there is economic mismanagement on the part of the government, those who are hurt are everyday Queenslanders who find it harder to get a job, who have to pay more for rego—more for everything—because of this millstone of an inefficient and bloated government hanging around their necks. We have terrible unemployment in this state and that is the direct result of the mismanagement and indebtedness of this government.

Turning to the Auditor-General's report, it was a scathing indictment of the economic management of this state. No wonder the government has been so reluctant to talk about it. No wonder it did not respond when the Auditor-General provided it with advance copies seeking feedback. I was happy to read an article by Des Houghton in the *Courier-Mail* on Saturday. Uncle Des knows a thing or two! He says—

The government finances are a basket case, with Auditor-General Brendan Worrall warning this week that government debt is still spinning out of control, with spending outstripping revenue.

The government ought to listen to that—spending is outstripping revenue. It might be news to them, but everybody out on the streets of Queensland knows that debt is climbing and climbing. We are on our way to \$100 billion, which will indebt my kids, my grandkids, their kids and their grandkids. When the state spends more than it earns ultimately the debt becomes the problem of the people of Queensland. Spending like drunken sailors might be what the Labor party loves to do but it is not something they should be proud of and it is not in the interests of the people of Queensland. Des Houghton also said—

Worrall also warned a 'significant factor' in the rising debt crisis was the growth in the number of public servants. A stacking of the public service with card-carrying unionists is the new Joke, the term applied to government wrongdoing by the Fitzgerald Inquiry ...

There are now 233,673 public servants thanks to Labor's featherbedding.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** Des Houghton continues—

Queensland now spends more on public sector employees per capita than any other state.

The public servants become milk cows of the union, with millions in union fees channelled to the ALP. Yet despite the extra staff, such as teachers and nurses, service delivery worsens in key areas including health, education and policing.

He raises a very good point. It is interesting that with so many more nurses and doctors—as the member for Logan was interjecting—patient waiting lists are rising, ambulance ramping is going up and people are waiting years for important surgery. It is about outcomes. At the end of the day the government exists to provide services to Queenslanders and the way to measure that is whether the people are getting those services or not. In the case of health we are clearly in crisis. We have a government that spends like a drunken sailor but delivers nothing. If the members of the government have a problem with that I suggest they walk down the street and ask people what they think of the health service. The people know this health system is in crisis and it is up to the government to fix it. I do not know if they will. I hope the LNP gets an opportunity to do so after the next election.

It is instructive to hear the government talk about asset sales. I rejoice in the opportunity, whenever I can, to remind the government of its asset sales—the assets that it sold as distinct from those which had been proposed by the previous LNP government. The Labor Party never put them to the people. I see ministers sitting on the treasury benches who were sitting around the cabinet table when there were extraordinary asset sales. We have seen about \$16 billion in asset sales by the Labor Party. Where has all the money gone? We know where it has gone. It has been blown. It has been frittered away on thought bubbles and projects such as \$100,000 on weight loss for dogs, reversing the privatisation of prisons and the renaming of hospitals. Even after raiding the superannuation of public servants the government still has rising debt. The member for Chatsworth made the very pithy observation that the trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money. That is exactly what is happening here.

We hear the state government constantly whingeing about the federal government not coming to bail them out. Is it any wonder? If I was looking from the outside into this state government I would say, 'Why would we cut them a blank cheque when they spend their money so badly?' The problem with this state government is that when crises arise, such as an international pandemic or a natural disaster, it cannot deal with them when it is swimming in debt.

That is what they are: they are swimming in debt. They have been a profligate, ineffective government that is inward looking and whose members are far too concerned about their own jobs. I thought it was particularly instructive the other day when I saw in the media that the Premier advised her members to 'focus on your own jobs, don't worry about everyone else's jobs'. That is exactly the problem: they are focused on their own jobs—all the jobs to my left—and are not thinking about the jobs of Queenslanders.

The best way to have low unemployment and an economy that will generate enough taxes to support police, hospitals and schools is to have a strong economy. You cannot have a strong economy when you are swimming in debt, when your spending and borrowing priorities are appalling and when you discourage private investment with a myriad of red tape, which has been the hallmark of this government over the past five years. In saying that, I know confidently that I speak for the overwhelming majority of the people in my electorate of Southern Downs who look down at Brisbane from our country seat and see a city that is serving itself with a city-centric government that takes the stick to the bush, does not spend enough on infrastructure—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Logan. Emu Swamp Dam is a very good example. There is \$47 million on the table from the federal government and it has been there for the past 12 months or more. The growers themselves have put \$23.4 million on the table in the past 12 months.

**Mr McDonald:** It's a great project.

**Mr LISTER:** It is a great project; I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Lockyer. The thing about Emu Swamp Dam is that it cannot be built without the state approvals or the state's share of \$13.6 million. Isn't it instructive that the government typically wants to race forward and claim credit for announcing something such as the Emu Swamp Dam, but it is very slow to pay up and it plays the village idiot when it comes to allowing the approvals. It wants it to stop, just as we saw with the black-throated finch and the cartoonistically ridiculous attempts to waylay a project that will provide



700 jobs in my community. That is a huge number of jobs for a community on the Granite Belt. When the Labor Party wants to talk about jobs, good economic management and building infrastructure, it is all nonsense, it is soft soap, it is just weasel words and Emu Swamp Dam in my electorate is a perfect example of just that.



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.11 pm): We are having a fascinating debate today.

**Mr Power:** Did you listen to the member for Southern Downs?

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection from the member for Logan. I did listen to the member for Southern Downs.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I know. That is five minutes of my life that I will not get back. I want to take issue with some things that have been said. They are forever talking about the growing army of public servants. I will mention them specifically: the 430 police, the 4,800 teachers, the 1,400 teacher aides, the 6,000 nurses, the 2,000 doctors and the 500 ambos.

The member for Southern Downs said that we should ask people what they think about the outcomes. I ask people about the outcomes that they experience in the hospitals in my area. I can tell the House that the people who have been through the Caboolture Hospital always say how excellent the service is. It has a very busy emergency department and everybody who has been through that system talks about the excellent level of care. If you are going to run down your hospitals, do not do it without talking to the people of Burpengary and Caboolture, because they rely on that hospital and are thankful for the people who work in it to preserve life. Similarly, the Redcliffe Hospital has a very busy emergency department and for people who go through that hospital the level of care is excellent. I point out that, because of the great fiscal and economic management of this government, we can invest \$350 million to upgrade the Caboolture Hospital and \$120 million to upgrade the Redcliffe Hospital. Those opposite could never match that record spend.

We can see many more examples in the appropriation bills that show the financial strength that we have on this side, which helps to grow infrastructure and jobs in Queensland. I remind those opposite of what the Treasurer told us very early on in her speech, if they were listening, although I doubt that they were. She said that we have spent less than we budgeted and we returned that money to the Treasury. That is a very important point. I hope they were listening, but I suspect that, unfortunately, they were not.

I hope that they were also listening when we spoke about the roadworks that have been fast-tracked through this allocation. In particular, I am talking about the \$200 million, including federal funding, that has been fast-tracked for the Gateway Motorway in the Bracken Ridge area. That is a hugely important project for the people in my area. It will mean that they will get to work and home faster. It is absolutely crucial. Other road infrastructure works include the \$150 million highway overpass at Deception Bay which will start very soon. That is another 2018-2020 project that we are really looking forward to. We are putting an extra \$200 million annually into a Bruce Highway fund for our area. We are investing in infrastructure and we can do that because of the fiscal management of this government.

Talking about great fiscal management, we have already heard about the eight new schools that have been opened in Queensland. That is absolutely fantastic and it includes the new Mango Hill State Secondary College. That is an outstanding college and I congratulate the member for Murrumba for his achievement in getting that done. Smaller jobs include a grant of \$350,000 for a landscaping project at Deception Bay North State School. That is really crucial, as some of their playgrounds and landscaping have not been updated for a while. That project will make a huge difference to the school. We can invest in that school because of the fiscal management of this state government. Once again I note that driving Queensland's jobs growth is our capital works and infrastructure program, which is worth \$49.5 billion, supporting tens of thousands of jobs throughout Queensland. In this financial year alone, \$12.5 billion will be spent. I have already talked about how we are investing in Queensland jobs, such as those of the police and ambos who protect our people.

The member for Southern Downs talked about investing in water security and infrastructure. Something that has already been talked about is our \$848 million investment in water security and water infrastructure. There is the start of the \$350 million Rookwood Weir; \$215 million for the Haughton pipeline in Toowoomba; \$170 million for the Fairbairn Dam, which is a crucial project; and \$19.5 million for the Leslie Harrison Dam. That work is happening all over Queensland, but we will never hear any thanks from those on the other side for the work that we are doing to increase water security in our state.

In terms of our financial management, one thing that we have heard about today is the investment that we have been able to make in the new Barrett centre, the Jacaranda Centre, which is absolutely crucial infrastructure. We all know that the original Barrett centre was closed by the LNP. The new Jacaranda Centre is a \$27 million 12-bed facility that will house up to 40 young people each year. It is an absolutely crucial bit of infrastructure that we are investing in.


I come back to the question: how can we afford to build all of this infrastructure? They do not like to hear this, but it is because we have proven to be the better economic managers of this state. That is absolutely without doubt, even though they keep arguing the point. We are on track to having five budget surpluses. Scott Morrison would give his right arm to bring in one and we are delivering five. Our debt is lower than that which the LNP left us. We all heard the Treasurer say that it is \$2 billion lower. The member for Southern Downs talked about us spending money and racking up debt. My goodness! The people who racked up the biggest debt in this state are the people on the other side. I ask: how is it that we have delivered \$2 billion less debt than they did? Do we have geniuses or professors on the other side? I do not know, but I would not want them to teach maths to my children!

Those opposite cannot accept that we have a much better record on economic and financial—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): There are far, far too many interjections. I know there is a little bit of excitement in the room.

**Mr WHITING:** I would not want to be responsible for any incidents over the other side so I better make it quick. Those opposite cannot accept that we have a track record of better economic management which is reflected in these bills that we have before us today. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Appropriation Bill (No.2) and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No.2). These bills seek the parliament's approval for the unforeseen expenditure in the 2018-19 financial year. One bill relates to a number of departments and the other to the Legislative Assembly.

Under this bill, the Labor Treasurer is authorising to pay \$1.397 billion from the consolidated fund for eight departments as stated in the financial year starting 1 July 2018. For 2018-19, three departments—Transport and Main Roads; Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs; and Environment and Science—accounted for almost 90 per cent of the total unforeseen expenditure. The Treasurer stated the unforeseen expenditure was related to \$441 million worth of accelerated road and transport projects—they certainly were not in the Warrego electorate—and accelerated investment in school infrastructure and increased unforeseen expenditure related to natural disasters which we saw in the north-west of the state.

According to Queensland Treasury, the unforeseen expenditure for the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs of some \$257 million primarily relates to the Commonwealth government's decision to prepay the 2019-20 financial assistance grants for on-passing this money to local governments in 2018-19. Queensland local governments rely on the financial assistance grants for many of their day-to-day operations and activities. The state government is a conduit for these grants to local government. They are paid by the Commonwealth and then passed to local governments by the state and are identified as two components—the general purpose grant and the identified road grant. They go into lots and lots of different activities to support local governments right across Queensland.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has expended some \$699 million of unforeseen expenditure. According to Queensland Treasury, that expenditure was primarily due to additional equity adjustments resulting from the accelerated delivery of capital programs, additional departmental service expenditure and additional expenses for administrative items. It is no secret that under this state Labor government the long-term trend for road funding in the north-west district, central west and south-west has been of declining funding allocations through QTRIP. The funding allocations to these districts continue to be the lowest in the state at 2.7, 2.5 and two per cent respectively of QTRIP allocations across Queensland.

To put it into perspective, about 30 per cent of the road length in Queensland receives about seven per cent of the funding. Forecasts demonstrate that these allocations are to be reduced even further in 2021, 2022 and 2023. That is greatly concerning for local governments in these regions. They often undertake these works on the road network. Reduced funds from the state Labor government will seriously impact council workforces and the resilience of these communities during future disaster events. Many of these local government areas have already been very hard hit by the impacts of

drought and are suffering from population drift. Even more concerning is the fact that road users have to put up with substandard roads, unmaintained roads and dangerous intersections like those in my electorate at Jackson and Augathella. The Auditor-General said in his report to parliament titled *Integrated transport planning report*—

DTMR has calculated that it has a \$4 billion renewal backlog for its road network as at 30 June 2017. It estimates the renewal gap will increase to more than \$9 billion over the next 10 years. This will affect DTMR's ability to meet the minimum performance targets; it will compromise service standards.

**Mr Minnikin:** Just hopeless!

**Ms LEAHY:** Absolutely hopeless. Absolutely the wrong priorities. The estimate has risen \$5.2 billion as at 30 June 2018. It is clear that it is not only the regional roads that have had their funding reduced by QTRIP by this state government, but also they are not being maintained to minimum targets. You only have to drive on them, like I and my constituents do—the shadow minister has driven many of those state roads with me across my electorate—to see how they are seriously deteriorating under this state Labor government.

It is disappointing that the unforeseen expenditure has not addressed the shortfalls in QTRIP funding or the Auditor-General's identified funding renewal gap that is occurring across the north, central and south-west of the state. Put simply, the state Labor government's priorities when it comes to roads are all wrong.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has expended some \$52 million of unforeseen expenditure. Additional departmental services expenses were primarily due to the drawdown of funding as part of the drought assistance package and also to bring forward the funding for the fire ant eradication program and the additional Australian government funding of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme and partly offset by timing adjustments for a number of programs including the biosecurity programs and the multi-year digital strategy.


The administration by this state Labor government of the drought assistance when it comes to fodder rebates is slow. Primary producers are telling me that they are very disappointed with the processing times and the wait times they are experiencing for their rebates to be returned to them. It is also disappointing that the Palaszczuk Labor government has walked away from supporting primary producers by accepting the recommendations to abolish the drought, water, fodder and transport subsidies for primary producers under the DRAS program.

**Mr Perrett:** Unbelievable!

**Ms LEAHY:** Unbelievable. I will take that interjection from the member for Gympie. It is unbelievable and absolutely disgraceful that they should behave in that way when we have seen such serious drought conditions across the state.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018-19 budget showed that the only plan that the Premier and Treasurer has for Queensland is for more taxes and more debt with less infrastructure and fewer jobs. We can see that quite clearly in the regional areas. This budget introduced another five new taxes which are ripping \$2.2 billion out of Queensland's economy and also out of the pockets of mums and dads. In total, Labor has now introduced nine new or increased taxes, ripping \$3.5 billion out of the Queensland economy and the pockets of mums and dads. These job-destroying taxes are smashing business confidence and scaring off investment. We can see that in the resources industry across Queensland, particularly in my region. No wonder Queensland has had the highest unemployment rate in the nation over the last term of government.

Labor's budget blowouts are out of control. Over the life of the Palaszczuk government, more than \$1.4 billion has been appropriated to cover unforeseen expenditure due to Labor's consistent fiscal management failures. That is \$1.1 billion of taxpayers' money. It is not Labor's money; it is Queensland taxpayers' money. On average, this amount is nearly eight times higher than the unforeseen expenditure under the previous LNP government. In just five years, Labor has racked up a record amount of debt because it has lost control of spending. Every dollar that Labor wastes is a dollar it cannot spend on infrastructure, it cannot spend on roads and it cannot spend on renewing hospitals and dealing with the ageing infrastructure that so desperately needs to be addressed. It means there is less money to ensure our hospitals are working again, less money to build and repair roads, less money to spend on additional police resources which North Queensland is calling out for, and less money to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise to make a small contribution on this Appropriation Bill. Even though the Treasurer said that the next budget will be brought down in early April, not June, we are now looking to deposit urgent funds into the till again before the budget comes down. This has

not come as loose change either. This is nearly \$1.4 billion extra to get the government through. Queenslanders must be feeling a sense of horror. We are driving back into the black hole of debt with no change of course apparent. People now know what happens to them when they have unforeseen expenditures on this scale. They know because Queensland has to wear the shameful title of the bankruptcy capital of Australia. Between October 2018 and October 2019 there were almost 4,500 bankruptcies in Queensland. That was nearly one-third of the bankruptcies in the entire country.

People know that someone has to repay the debt—if not them then their children. We are heading for \$90 billion in debt over the forward estimates. Do we see a government planning on debt reduction? All we see is a government bent on continuing its high-spending, high-taxing ways, all the while blaming other governments, such as the federal government, or natural disasters for the world of pain it is accumulating for the state we love.

On 20 November 2019 the *Australian* pointed out in its editorial that the Queensland Public Service's bill is now bigger than the federal government's, and not by some minor amount. The Queensland Public Service's wage bill now exceeds Canberra's by some \$6.3 billion. What do Labor announce? They have hired consultants from plush, private firms to advise them on what to do about the problem—a completely self-inflicted problem.

In the meantime, they are going to pay 200,000 public servants a \$1,250 signing bonus to push through the new enterprise bargaining agreement. In September 2019 the *Courier-Mail* published its own calculations based on the number of public servants. They came up with a figure of \$340 million. It is an infuriating figure for what is a piece of pointless nonsense. The public servants would have signed the agreement anyway.

Public servants work hard and are good people, but they are also well paid. They are not a pensioner struggling to pay her electricity bill. They are not a courier van driver paying their van registration month by month because it is the only way they can afford it. Over the life of the Labor government more than \$4.1 billion has been appropriated to cover unforeseen expenditures. On average, that is nearly eight times higher than unforeseen expenditures under the previous LNP government. For 2018-19, three departments accounted for nearly 90 per cent of unforeseen expenditure. One of those was the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

I acknowledge the member for Warrego's contribution where she outlined QTRIP funding for regional, rural and remote roads. The roads in our electorates are now becoming unsafe. Those roads are the lifeblood for the economic viability of this state. They are used to cart organic cattle out of the Channel Country. They are used to cart grain and produce to the ports in eastern Queensland. We see that the Labor government is not interested in funding upgrades. There is a backlog of road maintenance in regional Queensland to the tune of \$9 billion. It is not fair for the people in western, rural, regional and remote Queensland.

I know that the member for Burdekin, who sits beside me, has the same problems in his electorate. One only has to drive the road from Charters Towers down to Clermont or the Peak Downs Highway—the highway to hell as some people call it—from Clermont to Moranbah to understand how unsafe our roads are.

The people of Gregory will be gobsmacked to hear that our local governments are struggling to gain state government funding which is doled out in increasingly competitive grants. In Gregory, people are driving daily on roads that are suffering from the \$9 billion deficit in road maintenance. Believe me, it is noticeable, particularly when there is a change in the weather and the roads are under stress.

I have heard people in Gregory voice their fears that money is being sucked out of Queensland's rural and remote schools. Meanwhile families with special needs children in rural and remote areas are seeing them lose access to special needs education under the guise of inclusive education. Our teaching work force—our public servants—in rural and remote Queensland are living in substandard housing. Too many positions are held in an acting capacity. This is causing confusion and stopping good people from staying out there because they do not have the role to themselves as it is an acting position. All the while, Queensland's NAPLAN scores continue to tumble.

While the health minister busies himself with changing hospital names, our hospital and health services are virtually running on deficits. Waiting lists have exploded for public patients while the media reports that Queensland Treasury, no less, has set Queensland Health a revenue-raising target of \$1.5 billion in so-called user charges and fees. Suddenly, Queensland Health is not a free health service, but a nice little earner if we look at that.


How will that work? Sick Queenslanders who are fortunate enough to have private health insurance will be able to jump the queue for surgery in our public hospitals and their insurer will pay Queensland Health for their treatment. Even before the story came out we saw the Mater close in Gladstone. Who is going to bear the cost? Poorer people who must rely on our busy public hospitals and regional Queenslanders who also must rely on public hospitals as their only treatment option will bear the cost. If our private hospitals close as a result, then it will be every Queenslanders who must rely on public hospitals.

As for the unforeseen expenditure due to natural disasters, this should not have been unforeseen to any true Queenslanders. This year's fire season was not a surprise because last year's fire season was just as challenging. When we have a fire season that brings Queensland's first ever catastrophic fire rating and the next fire season looks to be more of the same, we should not slash the rural fire budget by \$13 million.

In his report, Auditor-General Brendan Worrall gave the dire warning—

Unless the Queensland government can increase its revenue or constrain the recent growth in its expenses, it risks not being able to meet the costs of its activities from the revenue it earns going forward.

For anyone in cabinet or anyone in Treasury, those words from the Auditor-General should be ringing alarm bells. It should be ringing alarm bells for those members opposite because they are in charge of the finances of the Queensland state government. The *Australian* labelled the report into state finances as a grim assessment of the state's finances. This proves that Labor cannot handle the economy and that they are sending this state into more debt which someone has to pay off. It might not be us, but it might be our children or our grandchildren. We cannot leave the state's finances this way.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. I have been sitting here for the last couple of hours listening to those opposite give us a lecture on the economy. The member for Stretton was 100 per cent right when he said that we have not heard one thing about the Newman government. We have not heard them talk about the Newman government. Let us reflect on that.

We had the member for Chatsworth saying we had to have tough love. Tell that to the people in my electorate who lost their pathology services and lost Yaralla nursing home. Let us talk about tough love. I cannot wait to invite the member for Chatsworth up to Maryborough to stand in the Maryborough town hall and say, 'It was tough love.' People nearly died, but let us have tough love. Apparently tough love is really good for you.

The member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Bonney are wonderful when it comes to trains. They do not want jobs in Maryborough. They are complaining about the trains. Let us talk about trains. I know a lot about trains. We have the experts on that side of the House. That side of the House left us with the mess that the member for Miller and this government are cleaning up. They left us with trains that were not ready to run on the tracks. Why is that? They took the secateurs to the budget. They cut spending on trains. They gave us second-rate trains. That is what they think of Queenslanders.

They talk about how fiscally responsibly they are. Let us look at what happened in the great electorate of Maryborough. We had a hospital where we could only get a bandaid, if that were even possible. It is only thanks to the former health minister and the current health minister that this month we opened the brand-new, \$14 million accident and emergency unit at Maryborough Hospital. Let us tick that off—tick.

The roadworks happening in the Maryborough electorate are unbelievable. I have people coming up to me to say that they have never seen so much roadwork—tick for the minister, the member for Miller.

Let us have a look at funding for schools, from the former education minister to the current education minister. When it comes to Maryborough High and all of my primary schools—tick, tick, tick. We could stand here all day and all night and tick things off. Let us have a look at the Newman era. Let me get the crosses ready. When it comes to the nursing home—brrrrt, cross, gone! When it comes to the A&E—brrrrt, gone! When it comes to jobs—brrrrt, gone! When it comes to businesses in the CBD—brrrrrrrrt! That was a big one.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Maryborough, I do not know now Hansard is going to report that. Can you keep them in mind when you are making those noises?

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that advice, Mr Deputy Speaker. If this were *Wheel of Fortune*, we know who would win. It would be our side. Which side would you want to be on? Would you want to be on the Newman side? What did we see yesterday and today? The former premier came out and said,

'It's not quite right. We're going to have some cuts.' I have public servants and other people in my electorate who are now panicking because they know what happened to them last time. They know how devastating the Newman era was. It was unbelievable.

**Mr Minnikin:** Tough love.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Tough love! Member for Chatsworth, I am going to put that on a billboard next week. It will say, 'The member for Chatsworth says, "Queenslanders need tough love".' The member for Chatsworth should tell that to the people who come and see me. How good are the services in Maryborough city now? How good is Skilling Queenslanders for Work, the A&E at the hospital and the roads? I am going to give a special invitation to the member for Chatsworth tonight. He can come and speak to all of the hardworking AMWU workers at Downer—252 of them—and say, 'Fellas and ladies, you had to have a bit of tough love. This plant was going to close, but that is tough love. It is all right. You can handle it. You're big enough.' He can come with me and talk to the workers there. The Downer plant was on its knees and would have closed if not for the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is the economic heartbeat of Maryborough city. It would not have been kept open if Newman had got another three years, if that mob over there had got back in—those great economic managers.


The member for Gregory was talking about the budget blowout and that we have to cut. I was just reading what he wanted to spend money on. We would have to sell Parliament House to cover what he wanted. This place would have been gone. We would have been renting it back from someone. They are saying on the one hand, 'We are cutting. You have to do this and you have to do that,' but the list of the services that they want is long. How do we fund them? That is the question. They are talking about all of the services that they want. There is only one way they can fund them—cut, sack and sell. The only way that this mob—the rabble that they call the opposition—can fund their promises and fund the services that they want in Queensland is to cut, sack and sell. It is very interesting.

**Mr Harper:** Tough love!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I am going to love this. I am going to dine out on it all the time—tough love for Queenslanders. When it comes to people dying, road accidents and everything else that happens—tough love!

They do not care about Queenslanders. All they are worried about is numbers. They get the old abacus out. I can see them now. The funny thing is that when they were in power it went the other way on the abacus—the bill went up, yet they cut services. They caused mayhem in the community. They caused economic grief. What happened? The deficit went up but everything else went down. They are talking about being economic managers. I cannot work it out. They are throwing all the balls in the air and hoping they can catch one. They are working at a circus somewhere.

The services that have been restored in regional Queensland by this government are phenomenal—absolutely phenomenal. The local LNP members go on about the state government dragging the chain on section D of the Cooroy to Curra upgrade. They want section D. In the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) there is money for section D, yet they do not want it. What do we do? We give them the money to get section D started, along with the federal government. Now they are saying they do not want it, but then they will be out there saying, 'That Labor government is terrible. Only the LNP will get things going.' I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). What we are really looking at here is the question of what is a deficit. We have heard a lot of chatter from those on the Labor side: 'We have to spend this money.' This is intergenerational theft. The facts of the matter are that if you spend more than you earn someone will have to pay that money back and someone will have to pay interest on that money. At \$90-odd billion that someone is going to be our children, our grandchildren, our nieces and our nephews because we will not be in this place as the \$90 billion debt is reduced.

If the government put their budget together and then they come in here and ask for \$1.397 billion extra just a few months later, they have to ask themselves what is going on with their expenditure. I had one of my schools here today—Mater Dei—and they have a couple of aspiring politicians. If we do not arrest this debt, by the time they get to 18 the debt will be over \$100 billion. This is a ridiculous amount of money compared with our ability to raise revenue. We have seen taxes increase and we have not seen spending being controlled.

One area where we have seen spending increase in this bill as part of the nearly \$4 billion extra is the police—\$28 million. I want to talk a little bit about the police because the police have found themselves under extreme pressure in this state. We have seen the police budget as a percentage of

the Queensland budget reduce. When we look at the reduction as a percentage it does not seem much. It is just a couple of points. It goes from 4.28 to 3.89. That equates to \$230-odd million a year—\$1.71 billion over the five years of this Labor government.

When people see the crime rate climbing across our state, when they are shaking in their boots as they lock their door at night—I met up with some people in Bundaberg who are terrified in their own home after being broken into and then violently assaulted—you have to ask yourself: why has the police budget not kept pace with Queensland's budget as it increases? More importantly, why has the number of police per head of population not kept up with the number we had? We had 245 officers per 100,000 when the LNP were in government. We now have 233 per 100,000. That is 610 fewer officers across the state on a per head of population basis. That means that there are fewer police to patrol the streets. It means that there are fewer people to arrest.

Not only has there been a weakening of the law; the budget has not kept pace with our growing population and the numbers of police have not kept pace with our growing population. Not only are we asking future generations, our children, to pay the debt that has been ramped up by this Treasurer; we are also asking them to live in fear. We all, I am sure, have seen the report of an assault on a young girl in Cairns yesterday, as reported widely in the media. This young girl is going to be one of the people who will be paying back this \$90 billion worth of debt. Honestly, as she was assaulted yesterday by these people putting their hands in her pockets and ripping her money out, I do not think she will appreciate this House doing that to her as she becomes a taxpayer of Queensland.

This government needs to learn to live within its means. The government cannot increase taxes by \$3.5 billion, ripping extra money out of the economy, and then come back into this place shortly after introducing its budget asking, 'Please, sir, can I have some more?' People are having to spend their own money to get CCTV and to get security screens put on their houses. Businesses are having to hire security guards. This is crippling our economy. Not supporting the police properly is costing every Queenslanders more money. Not only has the Labor government got its hand in every Queenslanders' pocket, ripping out more money because it cannot manage expenditure; people are also having to run scared when they are closing their businesses at night and they have to take the takings home with them in their car.

In Toowoomba we had a guy who had locked up his business, his wife had picked him up, they had their young child in the car and they were pursued through the streets of Toowoomba for the takings. This is Queensland. We should make sure that the police have the money and to have it appropriated properly in the first place. The fact that there is some extra money for the police in Appropriation Bill (No. 2) makes me wonder why the police needed it.

Could it be that they had to fund the watch house job because of the extra resources that were needed for watch houses when 17-year-olds were taken out of the prison system and put into the juvenile justice system without any preparation or planning at all? Is one of the reasons to pay the overtime bill for watch houses? Is it to pay the police up in Townsville their overtime so they can take some of the youth offenders they are trying to arrest fishing and to football games? Is that why this extra money has been appropriated? Is it to cover that, or is it to cover vacancies in AO and PLO positions which have been held open across the state and not filled?

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not being relevant. The reasons for the unforeseen expenditure are detailed in the bill. I draw the member's attention to that rather than hypothesising about something that is not actually in the bill.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member, I will draw your attention back to the bill. You have three minutes left; spend it wisely.

**Mr WATTS:** Let us have a look at what is going on with this expenditure. As I said before, taxes have been increased by \$3.5 billion, yet that is not enough for this government. They cannot keep their budget on track. They are \$1.397 billion over budget. This government is addicted to other people's money. This government cannot learn to live within its means. The outcome of not living within your means is that you burden a future generation with taxes for the services and facilities we receive. The member for Maryborough was telling us about all of the things that are going on in Maryborough. I am sure that when the children of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs pay the interest bill on the taxes of the debt bomb they inherit they will be pleased to know that the member for Maryborough had all of these services delivered. The simple fact is that if you run the government efficiently and effectively you can get better outcomes without blowing the budget. We have seen that extra expenditure go into our hospitals and roads but we have seen poorer outcomes.

There is a dire warning from the Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall, who states in his report, 'Unless the Queensland government can increase its revenue'—that is code for extra taxes—'or constrain the recent growth in its expenses'—that is code for really poor management and waste—'it risks not being able to meet the costs of its activities from the revenue it earns going forward.' The children of Queensland need to prepare themselves because the warning is very clear. The Auditor-General said 'it risks not being able to meet the costs of its activities from the revenue it earns going forward'.

If there is not enough money there, people are going to miss out, and it will not be our generation that misses out. I see a lot of heads bent opposite me; they know it is their children who will be paying this bill. It is their children, their grandchildren and their nieces and nephews who will be paying this bill. The interest on this bill would provide so many services and facilities to the people of Queensland on a daily basis, but all we do is send a cheque off to a merchant bank somewhere that will lend us the money. Rather than deliver health outcomes or schools and education we just send the money off—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.53 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019. The bills seek approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and government agencies for the 2018-19 financial year. The total supplementary appropriation amounts to about \$1.4 billion, which the Palaszczuk government has offset with \$1.46 billion in savings as noted in the Consolidated Fund Financial Report for 2018-19. As a result, we have returned \$65 million back to Queenslanders.

Supplementary appropriations reflect unforeseen expenditure when a government prioritises the programs and services that Queenslanders need. I reflect back on what the member for Toowoomba North just said: children need to prepare themselves. They need to prepare themselves in schools. The number of schools those opposite shut down and sold does not give those kids an opportunity to prepare themselves for anything.

Accelerating programs and infrastructure development means better transport for Queenslanders going home each day. It means better learning environments for our kids at school and it means safer communities for Queenslanders. I want to talk a little bit about the brand-new high school that was in my electorate: Calliope State High School. Today I acknowledge the minister who set it up five years ago. It is a fantastic opportunity for those kids, with \$66 million going to that community to get those kids into schools. It was a pleasure to be out there to help open it on the first day of school, along with seven other brand-new schools right across Queensland supporting kids so that they can prepare themselves for the future.

Fast-tracking investments during the financial year has seen the faster delivery of projects such as: the Gateway Upgrade North, Deagon to Nundah; the Toowoomba bypass—which I am sure the member for Toowoomba North would be pleased about—the Second Range Crossing is an amazing bit of infrastructure; the Bruce Highway upgrades that I see around my electorate right the way up the Queensland coast; the Pacific Motorway upgrades we have heard so much about; and brand-new schools and extra infrastructure in existing schools. It is not rocket science, you know: when we prioritise and accelerate the infrastructure that Queenslanders need it means more jobs are created in more industries for more Queenslanders.

When it comes to roads and transport rollouts, we are supporting more than 21,000 jobs to get that infrastructure built here in Queensland. This includes 13,500 jobs in regional Queensland, which are so badly needed, and another 6,000 tradies. As a proud trade union member, I support all of the tradies who do that work for us in Queensland because we know they deserve safer and better roads for their families and themselves.

When it comes to education, we have opened eight new schools right across Queensland this year. With our record investment in education in the last budget we have employed 1,000 teachers and 200 new teacher aides in the past year who work for Queensland children to help prepare them for the future. We have done this because Queensland kids deserve the best education and the best start to an adult life they can get.


When it comes to small and medium sized businesses, after the last budget I had the pleasure of going on a roadshow to help sell the payroll tax reform we introduced in Queensland. It was refreshing to talk to a lot of small business owners, particularly in regional Queensland, who receive the benefits. This payroll tax reform will ensure their businesses continue to thrive so they can put on more staff.



Just about every one of the businesses that received payroll tax relief is now putting on extra workers because of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the decisions that we made in relation to small business in Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government introduced the largest reform to payroll tax in more than a decade. We lifted the threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million. In contrast, those opposite promised to increase the threshold to \$1.5 million. Remember those three years under Campbell Newman? They stopped it after just one year—another backflip from the LNP. The reform package we introduced included extending the 50 per cent payroll tax discount for employers of apprentices and trainees and provided a payroll tax rebate of up to \$20,000 for those businesses that hire more full-time employees. Unlike those opposite, who sacked 14,000 full-time workers, we know how critical it is to have a full-time, permanent job in Queensland—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bills having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.59 pm), in reply: I want to thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate on the two bills—the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019. From the outset, can I say that these are pretty straightforward bills. I think combined they are some 13 pages. The member for Everton was a bit concerned that I could not speak as long as he did, which I think was almost half an hour. If you need half an hour to explain 13 pages, it is a bit more than talking about the bill. It is a lot of filibuster.

As noted, the bills seek to provide for supplementary appropriation for the 2018-19 financial year. Unfortunately, the member for Toowoomba North decided not to focus on what the unforeseen appropriation was for and he wanted to just ramble on about a whole range of expenditure areas, so I will recap for the benefit of the House what in fact a majority of the unforeseen expenditure relates to.

Firstly, in relation to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019, about \$640,000 for parliamentary services in unforeseen expenditure is due to additional departmental services related to technology upgrades in electorate offices and determinations by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal regarding allowances. If those members opposite do not want this expenditure to take place either in their electorate offices or through their allowances, that is great. Give it back. I suggest that if those opposite are so offended by this unforeseen expenditure they should just give it back. They should refuse the IT upgrades in their electorate offices—that would be a great start—or refuse the allowances that the Independent Remuneration Tribunal has determined. If they are so personally offended by the unforeseen expenditure in this bill, just refuse the expenditure.

Additionally, in relation to the three biggest departments within government that have contributed to the unforeseen expenditure, the biggest agency is the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads outlined what that expenditure was for—the Gateway Upgrade North, the Pacific Motorway, the Townsville port and fixing the New Generation Rollingstock which those opposite ordered which were noncompliant with the disability laws of Australia. We are fixing up their mess and it is costing us money to do so. We are not compliant with the laws of the land because those opposite stuffed it up. That is unforeseen expenditure. If those opposite are so offended that we are fixing the trains to make them disability compliant, then I dare them to vote against this bill. I dare them to vote against this bill to add insult to injury—in terms of ordering trains that were not compliant with Australian disability laws and now voting against the expenditure required to fix them.

The other expenditure that was unforeseen relates to new schools as well as additional money that the Morrison LNP government brought forward, accelerated, to pass on to local governments. Those opposite are suggesting that we should hold on to that money, that we should actually not flow it on to local councils. That money should have been paid in this current financial year but the Morrison government accelerated it and passed it on to the state early, and those opposite would have us sit on it and not give it to local councils to expend in regional communities particularly. I think that reflects their values. I think that reflects the position they come to in relation to these matters, rather than actually standing up for Queenslanders and being on the side of Queenslanders.

The member for Chatsworth let the cat out of the bag when he said in relation to these bills—and more broadly budget matters and fiscal matters—that hard decisions needed to be made and Queenslanders needed to face some tough love. Isn't that a coincidence off the back of former premier Campbell Newman when he said good luck saying that you are going to fund your \$8 billion worth of promises without selling assets because, quite frankly, no-one will believe you? I repeat: no-one will

believe you. The member for Chatsworth has made it abundantly clear how they are going to fund their election commitments—by cutting, by sacking and by selling. Let us be very clear. If the member for Chatsworth thinks that tougher decisions needed to be made, that Queenslanders needed to face some tough love—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Even though the member for Chatsworth likes winking at me from across the chamber, it is not going to make it any more palatable for me or this side of parliament when he says that Queenslanders needed to face some tough love.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Chatsworth, your interjections are not being taken.

**Dr Robinson:** What is your pay down the debt plan? Have you got one yet?

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Oodgeroo. I would like to know what his party's plan is to pay down debt because the member for Everton some 615 days ago said that it would be crazy for the LNP to have a debt management plan. More than two years ago, he said, 'It would be crazy for us to have a debt plan,' so the time is ticking and those opposite do not have a debt plan yet. I think the member for Chatsworth made it really clear how they are going to pay down debt. He made it very clear. They are going to make some very hard decisions and Queenslanders are just going to have to face up to some tough love. I think the member for Chatsworth was probably auditioning for the shadow Treasurer's role. At least he has the courage to stand up and give a preview of what they are actually going to do. For the benefit of those opposite, and we heard them say a lot of things—

**Mr Minnikin:** Big words like 'debt'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, the next time I pull you up it will be a warning.

**Ms TRAD:** Well, hard words like 'tough love'. What exactly does the member for Chatsworth mean when he says that Queenslanders need to face up to some tough love? Is it another 14,000 people sacked? Is it millions of dollars cut from community services? Is it nurses sacked? Is it doctors sacked? Is it money pulled out of schools? What exactly does the member for Chatsworth mean when he says that Queenslanders needed to face some tough love? What exactly does that mean?

Queenslanders rightly remember. The RoadTek workers in regional Queensland who were sacked by the Newman government remember the tough love. The thousands of nurses who were sacked by the LNP—a decision that the member for Nanango was so proud of—had to face some tough love, didn't they? We will remind Queenslanders about that. What about the families of the children from the Barrett Adolescent Centre? They had to face some tough love from the LNP. Is that what the member for Chatsworth is talking about? What about the infrastructure freeze? Is that the type of tough love that those opposite are talking about? Is it about all of the full-time jobs lost from the Queensland economy? Is that what the member for Chatsworth is talking about? What exactly does the member for Chatsworth mean when he says that Queenslanders needed to face some tough love?

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Toowoomba North likes to talk about intergenerational debt but he does not like to talk about intergenerational benefit.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North and member for Southport, your interjections are not being taken but you are getting louder and louder.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Toowoomba North spent a lot of time talking about intergenerational debt but said not a word about intergenerational benefit. Let me say this: the roads, the schools, the hospitals—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Let me explain 'intergenerational benefit'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** The roads, the schools, the trains, the hospitals—all of those investments are going to be enjoyed for many future generations. In the same way we have enjoyed the investments made by previous governments in critical infrastructure, generations to come will continue to benefit from them.

This is intergenerational benefit. Nick Behrens has said that this is a sound and sustainable way of funding and building the state that we need for the future. This is Nick Behrens, the aspiring LNP candidate and economist. He said—

We've been in disagreement as to how we find the money to be able to invest in infrastructure. Look, we've really been limited to three options.

One was to increase taxes, the second was to reduce frontline services and the third was to sell assets.

Well the state government's actually come up with a fourth solution.

Out of those four things ... debt is seen by the broader community as the lesser of the evils.

It perhaps has some merit because historically we are at a low point in terms of the cost of borrowing, so it makes sense to go into debt at the moment.

What the audit office has clearly said is that we are at a sustainable level at this point.

Those opposite suggest that there is another way. They do not have a debt management plan and they say that there is another way. Every economist knows that it is either cutting, sacking or selling. The member for Chatsworth has made clear that Queenslanders needed to face some tough love, so what services are going to be cut, what positions are going to be sacked and what assets are going to be sold? Those opposite need to come clean with the people of Queensland in the lead-up to the state election because they cannot make \$8 billion worth of promises; they cannot say that they are not going to support billions of dollars worth of revenue measures and then say they are not going to hike up debt without a debt management plan and say it is all affordable. It actually does not add up.

The member for Chatsworth wants to talk about economic competency. Let's look at the economy under them. Growth contracted to less than a per cent under them. Unemployment reached an 11-year high under the LNP. Businesses closed under the LNP because those opposite sacked workers and pulled out important revenue—important incomes out of communities like Roma, Townsville, Cairns, Maryborough, Longreach, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. Right across the state there was not a community that was not affected by their cutting, sacking and selling.

**Mr Harper:** We won't forget.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. We will not forget.

We have been able to deliver light rail extensions, the stadium in Townsville, the expansion of the Townsville port and new schools in Gladstone. Everywhere people go the Palaszczuk Labor government is building this state and building the future of this state, and we have done it without cutting, sacking and selling. Those opposite need to come clean with the people of Queensland as to what exactly they mean when they say, 'Queenslanders needed to face some tough love.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my left, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms TRAD:** Those opposite have been keen to throw around the word 'blowout' to describe accelerated programs that are building new roads and schools across Queensland. Of course the LNP would know all about blowouts after their first budget blew out the deficit to \$4.6 billion—that was their first budget—and managed to sack 14,000 Queenslanders. That was a \$4.6 billion deficit blowout and 14,000 public servants sacked. Also over the three years of the LNP government they handed back \$10 billion in lapsed appropriations because they did not know how to spend them. They allocated money and they did not get it out the door at the same time that jobs were being lost from the economy and the economy was contracting in terms of growth. That is their economic genius and, quite frankly, Queenslanders remember. The LNP certainly did not restore their cuts or rehire workers. It took the Palaszczuk Labor government to restore frontline services and create jobs in Queensland.

I turn to the member for Bonney's comments. He likes to talk about the unemployment rate on the Gold Coast. He said, quite hysterically, that unemployment is out of control on the Gold Coast. They like to use that sort of hyperbole. Let me make clear that our government has delivered almost 50,000 new jobs on the Gold Coast since we came to office. That is 3½ times more than the LNP could manage, and the Gold Coast unemployment rate is below the state average. In fact, since 2015 we have created more than eight times the number of jobs those opposite created. Do honourable members know why? It is because we do not willy-nilly sack public servants and we do not cut services.

I now turn to the LNP's unfunded \$8 billion worth of commitments. I am deeply concerned about the economic credentials of the Queensland LNP as paraded by the member for Everton in responding to the bill. After five years in opposition all the LNP has managed to cobble together is \$8 billion in unfunded promises and no plan for how they are going to pay for them. In responding to this bill—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Treasurer, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bills having expired—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I can still issue warnings. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bills having expired, the question is that the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bills having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 2B, the House must now consider the clauses and the schedules. The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) first.

### **Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2)**

Question put—That clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

### **Appropriation Bill (No. 2)**

Question put—That clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

### **Third Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### **Long Title (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIT MASTER PLAN BILL**

Resumed from 26 November 2019 (see p. 3760).

### **Second Reading**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I acknowledge and thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its report on the bill tabled on 7 February 2020. I note that the committee made four recommendations to parliament, including that the bill be passed. I now table a copy of the

government response to the committee's report. I thank you, Deputy Speaker, in your capacity as the chair of that committee, all committee members and the secretariat for the hard work in considering the bill.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 45, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019, government response [\[279\]](#).

The government notes recommendation 1, that the bill be passed. Recommendation 2 relates to additional skills that qualify a person for nomination to the board of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. The committee recommended those skills include design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks and natural environments and built forms. The government supports this recommendation. To improve the Spit as a renowned destination on the Gold Coast, the quality of public space design and built forms is of fundamental importance. The authority is leading the delivery of capital works to improve the public realm on the Spit. The committee's recommendation provides a mechanism to ensure the achievement of exemplary public space design outcomes on the Spit. The government intends to move amendments during consideration in detail of the bill to implement the committee's recommendation.

Recommendation 3 relates to Curlew Island. The committee recommended that, as a matter of priority, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy survey and register the land mass of Curlew Island as an environmental reserve to enable the ongoing protection and management of Curlew Island. The government supports this recommendation. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has since completed the survey and registration of Curlew Island as an environmental reserve. My department is coordinating discussions between the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, the Department of Environment and Science and the City of Gold Coast to identify the appropriate entity as trustee of the reserve.

Recommendation 4 relates to helicopter operations on the Spit. The committee recommended that all stakeholders collaborate to expeditiously resolve the issues regarding helicopter operations within the master plan area. The government supports this recommendation in principle and will liaise with relevant stakeholders, specifically the City of Gold Coast and Air Services Australia, drawing their attention to the committee's recommendation.

The main purpose of this bill is to facilitate the implementation of the Spit Master Plan released in May 2019 by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I thank the community for its involvement in the extensive consultation for the Spit master planning process and through the committee inquiry. The government considers that the processes proposed under the bill are the most appropriate means of accelerating the delivery of the master plan. This special purpose legislation supports jobs in the tourism, entertainment and recreation industries and will create a welcoming space for locals and visitors to enjoy, striking the right balance, we believe, between the environment, community values and appropriate development.

The land in the master plan area is currently non-freehold state owned land held under various forms of tenure under the Land Act 1994. The most appropriate way to facilitate the release of the development sites identified in the master plan is to grant the sites in freehold to the state with long-term leases to be issued to the market. To accelerate this, the bill seeks to establish streamlined and dedicated processes outside the Land Act in relation to the grant of interests in land and road closures in the master plan area. The bill proposes to permit the granting of freehold title of unallocated state land in the master plan area to the state without competition and will enable me, as the Spit development minister, to perform functions and exercise powers in relation to roads in the master plan area.

The bill also proposes amendments to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012 to expand the authority's functions. This will enable the authority to undertake a broader range of capital works on land to support the implementation of the master plan. The authority will report directly to me as the Spit development minister relating to its expanded role in the delivery of capital works and support of the master plan. The authority will continue to report to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on waterways management matters. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his support for these important amendments.

Additionally, the existing Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act does not include provisions that allow the authority to recover from liable persons costs reasonably incurred in dealing with contravening properties or abandoned properties that are subsequently claimed by their owners. The bill proposes to address this matter which has cost implications for the state and the authority.

The bill also includes a minor amendment to the Planning Act 2016 which clarifies when a landowner may claim compensation for changes involving assessable development. The current provision implied that compensation is only available if development was assessable after the adverse planning change. This was not the intention of the provision. Compensation is available for changes

involving assessable development whether or not the development was already assessable. Transitional arrangements are also proposed that will ensure any landholder who may have been adversely impacted by the current wording and who has fulfilled the other prerequisites for claiming compensation has the opportunity to do so within six months of commencement of the bill.

Our government is committed to an efficient planning process and to working with peak bodies and the community to anticipate needs, maximise our strengths and manage the challenges we face. The bill not only supports Queensland land owners; it delivers important operational amendments required to implement the Spit Master Plan, preserving this very special and unique part of Queensland for future generations to enjoy. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 goes to the heart of the malaise that has affected Queensland's economy over the past five years. Unsurprisingly, it was not long after the Premier's election in 2015 that this malaise started to appear. The Spit Master Plan is just one of many examples across Queensland of how it has played out. Just a few months after the election in 2015, the Premier scrapped an ASF proposal on the Gold Coast and replaced it with, well, nothing. There was no new proposal, no new plan for jobs, no new plan for a community space and no new vision for the Gold Coast. Five years on, all that Gold Coast residents have received is a reported bill to the taxpayer of \$13 million to pay off the original proponent. A government which scraps a project and then takes five years to provide an alternative proposal is one bereft of ideas, bereft of direction and well and truly bereft of leadership.

**Mr Lister:** Just bereft.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs—just basically bereft. For five years, the Gold Coast suffered under an incompetent and ailing Palaszczuk Labor government. Instead of building job creating projects like the second M1, a reinvigorated Convention Centre, a cruise ship terminal or a vitalised Spit, all that the Palaszczuk Labor government delivered for the Gold Coast in five years was more taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure. It is no surprise—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order, members to my right!

**Mr POWELL:** It is no surprise that this inaction over the Spit was first started by the embattled Deputy Premier when planning minister. She is a Deputy Premier who in this term of government inflicted upon Queensland the average highest unemployment rate in the nation, the most bankruptcies and most long-term unemployed persons across Australia—not to mention the \$92 billion of debt she saddled upon Queensland. It is no surprise that it is now the member for Woodridge who is currently trying desperately to get the master plan implemented. It was only last month that the member for Woodridge proclaimed, 'Now it is time to get on with delivery for the Spit Master Plan.' I do wonder whether the minister's statement of, 'Now it is time to get on with delivery' were more aimed at the backbench doing the numbers of the Deputy Premier or at a project on which he has done very little for years. We already know that once he opposed the Deputy Premier by moving for the Labor leadership vote to be split 50-50 between branch members—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House, you are straying outside the long title of the bill. Can I bring you back it to, please.

**Mr POWELL:** I again refer to the comments of the minister in saying that now it is time to get on with delivery. We also know that he was accused by colleagues of whipping up a push to topple the Deputy Premier following the 2019 federal election wipe-out. It took the minister two days to deny—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, this is the second time I have pulled you—

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not have to say it again.

**Mr POWELL:** The only thing that the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning is trying to deliver is his own promotion. The people of the Gold Coast certainly cannot take solace in the minister's past performance. He has already been dumped as the minister leading the economic transition of North Stradbroke Island—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you have one minute left before we go to private members' bills. I am still prepared to sit you down if need be, so please come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, but it pertains to the ability of the minister to implement a master plan on the Spit. Given that he cannot handle an economic strategy on North Stradbroke Island, how will he handle a master plan? He was also overlooked to take on Cross River Rail despite being the infrastructure minister when the Deputy Premier was stripped of that project. For the sake of Gold Coast residents—


Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

## ELECTORAL LEGISLATION (POLITICAL DONATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 4 February (see p. 98), on motion of Mr Berkman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.30 pm), continuing in reply: Before the adjournment of this debate in the last sitting week I was discussing the constitutional context and, in particular, some of the most recent High Court jurisprudence on this issue that was delivered in the decision in *Spence v Queensland* which came after this bill first returned to the House for debate.

Before I return to constitutional issues, I will quickly turn to how the committee handled fundamental legislative principles. In my earliest contribution I noted that I have genuine concerns about the committee's treatment of FLPs in its report. I put a question to the member for Logan as chair of the committee about the applicability of fundamental legislative principles to corporations as opposed to natural people, and he has chosen not to answer this question in his contribution. To put it bluntly, with all due respect to the committee and to the secretariat, I think the committee has completely missed the mark on FLPs. What is more, the apparent oversight is really telling in terms of the privilege afforded to corporations by both government and opposition members. The committee's report notes the committee's view that the bill raises issues of FLPs only in respect of two issues. Those are the creation of new offences and penalties and the freedom of communication on political matters. The committee only expressed concerns in relation to the impacts on the second of those FLPs but, as I will explain, its concerns are quite misguided.

As everyone in the House is no doubt aware, FLPs are set out in section 4 of the Legislative Standards Act. They include the requirement that legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and includes a non-exhaustive list of factors that help inform whether legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals. I emphasised the word 'individuals' both times there because both parts of section 4 use the term 'individual', which importantly means questions around FLPs do not apply to corporations. The term 'individual' is not defined in the Legislative Standards Act, so we look to the Acts Interpretation Act which states that 'individual' means a natural person. If FLPs were meant to apply to corporations, the Legislative Standards Act would have used an alternative term such as 'person' or 'party', both of which include both natural persons and corporations, but it does not. Members need not rely on my statutory interpretation here. It is not just my opinion. The position is set out explicitly in the explanatory notes for a 2008 Labor bill, the Mineral Resources (Peak Downs Mine) Amendment Bill 2008. The explanatory notes make the following statement regarding the fact that the bill would deprive mining corporations of certain legal rights. It states—

This would appear to be inconsistent with the intention behind section 4(2) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*, which provides that legislation should have sufficient regard to the rights of individuals. However, section 4(2) does not technically apply to Cherwell Creek because it is a company.

Section 4(2) of the Legislative Standards Act does not apply to companies—there is no question—yet the committee's position is stated as follows—

An issue of fundamental legislative principle arises as to whether banning political donations by for-profit corporations or an industry representative organisation, as proposed by clauses 6 and 14, impinge on the freedom to participate in the political process and freedom of communication on political matters.

How does the committee arrive at the conclusion that it applies? It is as though this parliament is so used to privileging the rights of individuals and corporations of these fictional legal people over actual everyday people that now Labor and the LNP are accidentally affording them the same rights as real people. It is a bit of a Freudian slip, I would suggest. I have some news for Labor and LNP members of this House that at least some of them need to hear again: we do not govern in the interests of fictional corporate people.

I will return now to the High Court decision in *Spence v Queensland*. There are a few important points to take from the High Court's reasons in *Spence* that are relevant to the bill and worth raising in this debate. This is High Court authority, as I mentioned before, that the committee did not have the benefit of in considering and preparing its report. The majority judges of the High Court in *Spence* explicitly recognised the legitimacy of legislating based on lessons learned from other jurisdictions. The majority judges referred to the following passage quoting Justice Nettle in *McCloy*. They quoted him as saying—

It is not illogical or unprecedented for the Parliament to enact legislation in response to inferred legislative imperatives. More often than not, that is the only way in which the Parliament can deal prophylactically with matters of public concern.

They went on to make the following observation directly at paragraph 96—

Australian States are not so much 'little laboratories' that each State is required to conduct its own experiments or rely on its own experiences before it can be justified in taking legislative action to address a risk of harm to its system of government highlighted by occurrences in another State.

They are saying in as many words that we can take our lead from other jurisdictions. Just as the New South Wales parliament has done, we could unquestionably now ban donations from tobacco companies, liquor companies or gambling companies like the Star Entertainment Group, for example. There is no doubt that we could ban donations from it, but the government is enjoying its largesse too much and Star is clearly keen to keep the arrangement going as it forges ahead with its enormous new casino right next door to us here on prime CBD land—a 10th of the CBD that has been handed over to this massive corporate donor under a shroud of secrecy.

In the court decision in *Spence*, Justice Edelman goes further in considering the purpose of legislation and the role of other examples interstate and internationally. To quote a long paragraph, he states—

A reason why parliaments make laws is to shape behaviour. They can act prophylactically, by reference to possibilities and probabilities, as well as reactively. They can shape laws by reference to circumstances overseas. And they can, and often should, shape laws by reference to circumstances and conduct in other States.

...

The plaintiff's submission really reduces to a claim that the result in *McCloy* does not dictate the result in this case because the circumstances underlying the same parliamentary purpose are different in Queensland from those in New South Wales. But the different underlying circumstances do not affect whether the law burdens the freedom of political communication. They do not affect the legitimacy of the law's purpose. They do not affect whether the law is suitable, in the sense of having a rational connection with its purpose. Nor do the different underlying circumstances affect whether there were alternative, reasonably practicable, means of achieving the same object but which have a less restrictive effect on the freedom.

Justice Edelman's judgement here reaffirms the statement of the majority and invites us to consider how we as legislators need to remain live to the need for new preventative legislation to address possibilities and probabilities and to protect the public good. What this decision of the High Court makes absolutely clear is that we here in Queensland could be doing so much more to eliminate the insidious influence of corporate donations in political decision-making. We could go much further than what the government has proposed in the electoral reform bills if only the old parties were not so completely tied to their corporate donors.

The member for Mermaid Beach in his contribution was at great pains to make the case that corporate interests can have a philosophical basis to support a political party, which is absolute rubbish. How can a fictitious legal construct that is a corporation take a philosophical position? Justice Nettle puts this argument in the bin—right where it belongs—on the basis that corporate interests are paramount in any decision to make a political donation. He says at paragraph 115—

Plainly, there are any number of electors who make political donations in the hope or expectation of extracting political favours, exerting political influence or otherwise advancing their own interests. Large corporations which make significant ... donations provide an obvious example: Because the directors of a corporation cannot lawfully authorise the making of a political donation unless persuaded that it is in the best interests of the corporation.

This is the fundamental problem with corporate political donations. Corporations cannot donate unless the donation gets results and aligns with their profit motive. Yes, it is the case that companies can pursue profits by putting up a philanthropic facade. They can adopt so-called corporate social responsibility principles to feign or even genuinely reflect a degree of community concern, but they are duty-bound to put profits first. This duty and their interests in maximising profits, whether or not it is at the expense of everyday people, is the reason they will keep shelling out tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars for access to politicians.

Our recent analysis of the disclosure data shows that Labor and the Liberals sold special access to 114 corporations and lobby groups in the lead-up to the last federal election. After Bupa admitted last year they had paid \$27,500 precisely for special access to business forums of Labor and the



Liberals and Woodside paid \$55,000 and \$110,000 for Labor and Liberal business forums, further analysis has shown that this dodgy practice has continued in 2018-19. To explain it as simply as possible, this is an apparently agreed uniform price for a ticket to get in to see your preferred politicians from either of the big parties at their business forums. Business forums is such an innocuous name, but it is better described and understood as cash for access. These payments are so easy to identify in the disclosure data because they are all paying the same ticket price to both sides of politics.

There is a long list of very big, very profitable, very powerful corporations that are buying these tickets to cosy up with Labor and the LNP. Labor made over \$2.7 million in the lead-up to the election, selling special access to 69 corporations and lobby groups, including the big banks like Westpac and CBA, private health insurance corporations and big fossil fuel corporations like Santos and Woodside. Also among them is Star Entertainment, the big developer behind the Queen's Wharf mega casino. Meanwhile the Libs made \$2 million selling access to 45 corporations and lobby groups in 2018-19 including Westpac, the Commonwealth Bank and private health insurance corporations Bupa and Medibank.

There are plenty of companies that were interested in buying access to both sides, as I have mentioned already: Westpac; CBA, which paid \$55,000 to the ALP and the Liberals; the Insurance Council of Australia—clearly it is an organisation that is desperately interested in the wellbeing of Australians as opposed to its profit motives; Woodside—\$110,000 to both Labor and the Liberals; Santos paid \$55,000 to Labor and \$27,500 to the Libs—they clearly have a bit more work to do with Labor, it seems; KPMG went to both—who knows which of their very, very long list of clients they might have been in there spruiking for; and the Australian Banking Association which, interestingly enough, only donated to the Libs—I would imagine Anna Bligh in particular would probably feel pretty ripped off if she had to pay to meet with her old Labor mates.

When they are buying access to both sides where does this leave the member for Mermaid Beach and his musings on the philosophical preferences of big donors? I would suggest it leaves him looking pretty silly. We are well past buying the trickle-down economics myth and we cannot reasonably accept that corporate pursuit of profit is a fundamental good.

When governments take these donations loaded with the expectation of access and outcomes for big corporations, it leaves the people of Queensland worse off. It puts corporate fat cats ahead of mums and dads doing it tough. It means multinationals can buy the outcomes they want and take their profits offshore, paying buggler-all tax in the process. Corporate donations make our lives harder because they help hand control of the political system to people who already have lots of wealth and power. Corporations are not people and they do not deserve the right to buy access and influence in the political process in the way they are currently allowed and that this bill would put a stop to. Labor has taken the Greens' lead on much of our proposed democratic reform policy. The community sees through the corrupting influence of lawful political donations and this proposal's time will come.

I will finish with an invitation. A lot of members of this House have been positively scandalised by the suggestion that donations from big business in exchange for policy outcomes amount to legalised corruption. I invite those members to head down to their local coffee shop or pub or down to the park on Saturday morning to try to convince someone, some regular Queenslanders, any one of our constituents, that it is in our interests—in their interests—for big corporations to write big cheques to politicians. I desperately look forward to hearing how any member goes.

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

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

## **WORKING WITH CHILDREN LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from 17 October 2018 (see p. 2904).



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.50 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am very proud to be standing behind the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018. I remind members that this is the second time I have brought this bill into the House. It will keep coming back into this House until something is done about this issue. I cannot emphasise enough the seriousness of this issue.

Time and time again I come into this House and I hear platitudes mouthed about how we want to help Indigenous people, talk about closing the gap and a treaty. Here is some action. Here is how we can help people in these communities. When I visit Indigenous communities and talk to people I say, 'You are telling me you need a job and that you want to get into work. What are some of the problems?' Not having a blue card is one of the problems. I cannot find anyone in the communities who will argue that point with me. I visit these communities and I say, 'What is the big problem up here?' and I am told, 'Mate, none of us can get a blue card.'

The genesis of the bill before the House today came from having numerous conversations, inside and outside the Indigenous communities, with people saying, 'Can you please do something about this, because we're dying; we're drowning in this stuff and people are missing out on jobs.' It is not about better educating people about the process. There are some fundamental flaws in the application of this. I acknowledge that it is all done with the best intentions. I would say that these are inadvertent consequences of the good intent in the parliament, but I am telling the House that there are inadvertent consequences. They are dire and we are counting the costs of those consequences through youth crime in communities such as Townsville and Mount Isa—everywhere.

People come to see me in Mount Isa and they say, 'Rob, what are you doing about youth crime?' I say, 'I'll tell you what I am trying to do; fix the blue card.' Let us follow this problem through. Kids are running around on the street because it is not fun at home. There are dangers and threats for them at home, so they are out on the street at night. Why is the family dysfunctional? Most of the time it is because they cannot access work. You go up to the communities to find out why they cannot access work and find it is because they cannot get a blue card. Here is a solution to helping the problem.

In the eight years I have been in this job, going up to Mornington Island or Doomadgee, I cannot recall anyone walking up to me and saying, 'Robbie, I'd really like some more money', 'I'd really like some action on treaty' or 'I really like what you're telling me about closing the gap.' What a lot of people—perhaps 80 per cent or 90 per cent—say to me is, 'How come I can't get a job?', 'How come the white fella gets the job here and not me?' or 'How come I lost my job and can't get a blue card to try to get in there?' Very often the case comes back to the blue card.

I have said this before in the House and I will say it again: I was witness for an applicant who, I think about five years later, is still trying to get a blue card. In the course of discussions, I was asked, 'What are you suggesting with these blue cards? Are you suggesting there should be two sets of rules in this state, one for Indigenous and one for non-Indigenous?' I say that that has already been done, because there are alcohol bans on Mornington Island that we are still trying to resolve. Already there are two sets of rules, so you cannot use that excuse anymore.

I will go through some of the reasons for arguing against the bill. One comment I have heard is that it will put too much pressure on the locals who have to make the decisions. Let us stand back from that comment. Is that not what we would all refer to as condescending and paternalistic? The whole thing is about getting the communities to make decisions and to be autonomous; they make the decisions about who is safe to work in their communities. That is one of the arguments that has come up against the bill.

Of course, kids' safety is paramount. That is a proposition that we can never avoid. Yes, kids' safety is paramount, but I am afraid that the situation is a lot more complex than that and cannot be limited to it. Yes, we all should be worried about the kids' safety, but I would argue that the bill will make things safer than what we have at the moment. I would argue very strongly that kids' safety is compromised when you have dysfunctional families. When people are out of work they can turn to substance abuse involving alcohol and drugs. That is when you get child abuse and kids coming out of their homes because it is not safe to be there. I would say that that is accentuated and made a lot worse because they cannot access jobs without a blue card. My blue card legislation would let the community make the decisions on that, so long as there are no disqualifying offences, and then I would say that the kids' safety would be enhanced considerably. I challenge anyone to refute that or to speak against it. Those are the main issues that I have heard argued against the bill.

In the course of the debate and when it is time to vote on the bill, I hope that members will consider what can be achieved if we improve this. There might be some risks. Along with the government, I acknowledge that there are always risks about being perceived as soft on crime in the community. We all play politics around that issue. However, this issue is far too dire for that. I am sure that we have all been exposed to some of the really troubling issues that revolve around this.

Very recently, I have heard of more teenage suicides in my electorate. There is utter despair among children who are looking to get out. They are looking for structure in their families. There is despair among parents who are trying to access jobs. Maybe they have climbed out of a hole of


substance abuse and are trying to turn their lives around. A female or a male may have an assault charge from 10 years ago when they were bad alcoholics, but that assault charge now disqualifies them. It is not just the disqualification. Say someone turns around their life and goes up to the school in Doomadgee, having finally decided that they are going to clean up their act and apply for a job. I know of real-life stories, if members want to hear them, but I will speak generally for now.

People will come out of that cycle, often having cleaned themselves up. They will say, 'All right, I'm going to engage in the white man's world. I'm going to get a job.' They will start to try to turn things around, but one of the first pieces of communication that comes to most of those people is, 'Sorry, mate. You can't get a blue card, but hang around, because we'll appeal. There are ways to work through this.' There are ways to work through this; I will admit that. However, the fact is that, when that person decides to turn up, within days the first message that they get is, 'You're not valid' or 'We don't consider you appropriate to be working in this role.'

I can tell the House that, in Doomadgee and on Mornington Island, there is hardly a single job that does not require the blue card anymore. Workers with QBAS go into hospitals and schools for most of the jobs that they do and they need a blue card. To go for any job you need a blue card. I think I mentioned—I lose track from the last bill, in the parliament before this one—that Clarrie Walden said, 'I've cleaned up my act. I acknowledge that I have a rap sheet this thick, but I've cleaned up my act. I dried myself out.' In his appeal they said that he did not even consult professional help. He said that he took himself out bush to dry out and that was held against him in the appeal, presumably. He was denied work and, to this day, still does not have a blue card, to the best of my knowledge. At what point do you say that these people will be denied access to jobs forever, because of this system?

I will say again that I am sure that no-one in this House has a mortgage on who thinks children should be safe and kept safe. Of course we all acknowledge that, but these are extraordinary circumstances that are faced in the communities. They are very serious and it is pervasive. It is not just in the gulf communities. You can talk to Alf Lacey on Palm Island. You can go up through the cape. You can talk to people in Yarrabah or anywhere back down to Murgon. People do not realise that a lot of this has arisen as an issue because, while individually they are all affected, collectively no-one is saying, 'Hey, do you realise that this is a real problem?' You do not hear about it collectively, but individually people are affected. It must change. I urge members to vote for the bill.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.00 pm): On 17 October 2018, the member for Traeger introduced a private member's bill, the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018. On 14 February 2019, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee tabled its report No. 13 recommending that the private member's bill not be passed. I can advise the House that the government will be opposing the private member's bill.

In saying that, however, I acknowledge the passion of the member for Traeger. We all want to see some solutions for how we can myth bust the issues in the Indigenous communities around blue cards. I take the point of the member for Traeger when he says that there are inadvertent consequences, despite the best intentions. That is what this bill is about. There are serious inadvertent consequences, even though there is the best intentions in what it is seeking to achieve. The private member's bill proposes a new blue card decision-making framework that would enable a statutory community justice group to make a binding recommendation to the chief executive of Blue Card Services to issue a restricted blue card to an applicant who would otherwise have been issued a refusal under the existing blue card framework.

A blue card issued in circumstances envisaged by this bill would enable that person to be employed in child related employment or to carry on a child related business in a defined community area. In effect, it would operate as a conditional blue card, restricted for use in a certain geographical area.

In summary, the committee concluded the private member's bill does not have sufficient regard to the key principle underpinning the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 that the welfare and best interests of a child are paramount. The committee noted that the private member's bill would allow certain applicants to obtain a blue card when they otherwise would not be eligible and consequently provide a different standard of assessment and a lower standard of child protection in specified communities.

As the Queensland Catholic Education Commission stated in its submission—

While the specific difficulties associated with the operation of the blue card system in Indigenous communities are recognised, a dual system should not be created where particular individuals are issued with a blue card in circumstances where they would not otherwise be given a blue card.

Principally, the government's opposition to the private member's bill is borne out of the fact that it runs contrary to the recommendations made by both the royal commission and the Queensland Family and Child Commission that there should be no conditional nor different types of working with children clearances.

However, I acknowledge there are valid concerns about the operation of the blue card system on First Nation peoples. The QFCC in its review of the blue card system found that First Nation peoples needed more support to improve participation and the system as a whole needed to enhance its cultural capability. The QFCC recommended that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General develop and implement a specific strategy and action plan to provide more support for First Nations peoples and build cultural capability in the blue card system. This is what we are doing.

The committee considered that implementation of the QFCC report is the preferred approach to addressing the concerns about the blue card system. Accordingly, the committee recommended that I, as the responsible minister, provide the committee with a progress report on implementation of the strategy and action plan by 31 July 2020. That is exactly what the government will do. The government has accepted this recommendation and I refer to the government response to recommendation 2 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report No. 13 which I tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13 May 2019.

I can advise the House that the development of the strategy and action plan has been prioritised and is well underway. It is important to note that the response to the QFCC report is only one part of the work the government is undertaking to improve its engagement with First Nation peoples.

Blue Card Services has also increased its travel to discrete communities to provide information, education and individualised assistance to applicants to increase participation in the blue card system. In addition, Blue Card Services has undertaken targeted, community engagement activities and information sessions for First Nation organisations that assist and support kinship and foster care applicants. This includes the fact that we have produced material in First Nation language in those communities so they better understand exactly what their rights are, how they can apply and how they can work through the process. They are walked through the whole process.

Blue Card Services has intensified our efforts to support applicants in discrete communities through key parts of the application process where historically applicants have not responded to requests for further information and their application had subsequently been withdrawn. This has included the establishment of a dedicated team, including two identified positions to cater for men's and women's business which educates and assists employer organisations to reduce unnecessary processing delays and supports applicants throughout the application and assessment process.

This more targeted engagement has resulted in a better quality of information being provided to inform the decision-making process and there has been an increase in the number of blue cards issued in circumstances where a negative notice may otherwise have been issued had the person not provided a submission. This is key. Often they believe there is no point applying in the first place because they have a history—and we have heard that from the member for Traeger—and they assume a history means refusal. Then when they make an application, because they are asked for further information at that point, they assume they are going to receive a negative notice and withdraw. This is the work we are doing.

Overall I am very pleased to advise that the outcomes of these specific initiatives in these communities have been positive. This is evidenced by a reduction in the percentage of applications in discrete communities being withdrawn due to lack of response to requests for further information or a request for a submission from 17.8 per cent in 2015-16 to 4.4 per cent in 2018-19. That is a significant reduction in the number of applications being withdrawn.

As noted by the Australian Association of Social Workers, there is no quick fix to what is a longstanding problem. Without a focused, sustainable and meaningful strategy to address the structural issues, any short-term solution is not going to achieve the outcome. As part of its submission to the committee, the Australian Association of Social Workers commented on the lack of details in relation to who would be responsible for enforcement and monitoring and reflected that 'this gap needs clarification and resourcing as the potential that community justice groups become an enforcement agent would change their role and responsibilities'. I believe this would reflect very negatively on the community

justice group and put them in a very difficult position in their community. There would be, I suspect, significant conflicts of interest in terms of those individuals and their relationship and friendship with those who are applying. We also have the possibility that a community justice group in one community would approve the application but a community justice group in another community would not.


The framework proposed by the private member's bill provides that a community justice group may have regard to whether its decision would have a negative impact on the social or economic wellbeing of the community area's inhabitants and the person's social standing and participation within the community area. Giving weight to these factors would dilute and distort the paramount consideration under the Working with Children Act.

Again, I acknowledge the passion and drive of the member for Traeger in terms of what he is trying to achieve with this bill. However, there would be inadvertent consequences if this framework were to be set up. I believe there is a role for community justice groups. I believe that consultation can occur with them to better understand the needs of their communities and better break down the myths in the communities but we should not make them the decision-maker and we should not set up a conditional blue card system.

Again, I would like to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for its detailed consideration of the private member's bill and acknowledge the valuable contribution of all those who made submissions and participated in the public hearing. While well intentioned, a quick-fix response such as that proposed by the private member's bill would lead to a lowering of child protection standards in discrete communities, run contrary to the recommendations of both the royal commission and the QFCC and may lead to a number of other unintended consequences such as an increase in harm to vulnerable children.

Rather, the work currently being undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, which I have outlined to the House, provides a long-term, sustainable and community-led solution to this complex issue. I am happy to work with the member for Traeger and come to the communities, talk to the people and work out ways that we can better open the dialogue and provide ways to encourage people to make applications. That way we can get people to realise that a criminal history does not mean they will be automatically rejected. We want people who may very well have had a history and turned their lives around to be great leaders and mentors for others in their communities to not follow in their footsteps. This bill is not the solution.

I ask members to not support this bill. I reflect on the work that is being done across my department. We are all seeking to achieve the same aim of acknowledging the problems with the blue card system for Indigenous communities.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.10 pm): On 17 October 2018 the member for Traeger introduced the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill aimed at providing a new blue card framework that empowers Indigenous communities to make decisions that best serve their interests in relation to child protection and the employment of community members. On 14 February 2019, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee recommended that the bill not be passed.

While the policy intent of the bill of addressing employment challenges within Indigenous communities is worthy of serious consideration, there are significant flaws with the policy that will likely inadvertently subject children to the risk of harm. The opposition will not be supporting the bill for that reason and for the reasons I will now outline.

A community justice group is a group dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system. The number of members required for each community varies and each community justice group is designated to a specific community area.

The bill has the effect of granting more decision-making power to the communities themselves to assist in increasing employment opportunities. Specifically, the bill grants a community justice group the ability to issue an interim restricted positive notice to an applicant while Blue Card Services are evaluating the application. The interim restricted positive notice will apply until the chief executive decides whether to approve or refuse the application. The chief executive then has 21 days to write to the community justice group detailing all the information the chief executive considers relevant. Despite the chief executive's recommendation, the community justice group can in fact issue a positive notice if it believes it is appropriate.

Given the close connection between persons a part of a community justice group and an applicant, it is likely to raise the risk, real or perceived, of bias. The risk of a community justice group turning a blind eye to an applicant's criminal history to allow that applicant to work will be heightened under the bill. This policy will also potentially conflict with Labor's no-card no-start policy which is likely to commence later this year.

The bill limits the range of criminal charges and convictions that would be considered as part of a working with children check for a person who applies for a blue card for use in a discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community. The effect of the bill is that a community justice group would consider a community area application only if the person had not been convicted of a serious offence as defined in the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 such as a sexual offence, kidnapping or pornography offences. A restricted positive notice can be issued to offenders convicted of trafficking dangerous drugs, supplying dangerous drugs, producing dangerous drugs and trafficking in relevant substances or things, robbery, burglary and unlawful entry of a vehicle.

The bill provides that the chief executive must give the community justice group for each community area to which the application relates a written notice containing all information the chief executive considers is relevant in deciding the application. This is an unreasonable time frame, especially if an applicant has a criminal history, as it takes on average four months for Blue Card Services to conduct a thorough check.

The committee was not satisfied that the bill has sufficient regard to a child's rights by allowing certain applicants to receive a positive notice when they otherwise would not be eligible. The committee was of the view that the bill would provide a different standard of applicant assessment and of protection for children in specified communities.

The bill requires that an applicant give consent to the chief executive giving documents and information about them to the community justice group for the community area to which their application relates. This has the effect of increasing the likelihood of breaching an applicant's privacy and confidentiality, which is concerning given the close relationship between community justice groups and applicants. For example, the Australian Association of Social Workers Queensland branch submitted that there needs to be further consideration of how conflicts of interest will be managed, how much personal information is shared, how information is stored and the implications for breaches of confidentiality.

Six stakeholders made a submission on the bill. Most stakeholders recognised the challenges posed by the blue card system for people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supported changes to improve access. However, stakeholders raised many reservations about the bill and have provided their own views on how the system could be improved. The most common theme amongst stakeholders was to increase support services and increase the access to those services rather than have a separate blue card policy for Indigenous communities. Many stakeholders agreed with the committee's comments that more support services ought to be made available to Indigenous communities, including the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.


The Queensland Family and Child Commission report into the blue card system recommended a number of reforms to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and build cultural capability in the working with children system. I note the second recommendation of the committee was that the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House provide the committee with a progress report on the implementation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission blue card review recommendation for reform to how the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are supported. I note the Attorney-General has provided an update in that regard this evening. I look forward to further updates in the months ahead.

The Attorney-General and I have had a number of disagreements with regard to the blue card system in this term of parliament. What I had not realised is the sheer complexity of the blue card system, the unintended consequences and the unforeseen loopholes. I join with the Attorney-General in commending the member for Traeger for his determination to try to address some of the inconsistencies and challenges facing communities in his electorate. As I said, I had not realised the extraordinary complexity of this legislation. The potential unintended consequences of this bill are serious in nature. That is why the opposition is unable to support the bill on this occasion.

The protection of our children—our most vulnerable—is always a high priority in this House. We all talk about it. We have disagreements about how that is best achieved, but, at the end of the day, each one of us here takes very seriously our responsibility to protect our children and our most vulnerable. I know the member for Traeger takes that extremely seriously as well. That is why it is unfortunate that on this occasion it is not possible to support this private member's bill.

I look forward to seeing the implementation of the government's no-card no-start policy this year. I look forward to seeing the update on the recommendations coming out of the QFCC reports. I hope they are given in a timely and efficient fashion. The blue card system has proven to be extremely problematic over the last 20 years. I look forward to the recommendations.

Again, I commend the member for Traeger for his determination, for the proposal of this bill and for the ideas contained in it. It was seriously worthy of our most considered analysis. Unfortunately, the opposition will not be supporting the bill here tonight for the reasons that I have outlined during my contribution.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak to the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018 introduced by the member for Traeger and subsequently referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, of which I am chair, for examination. The bill is similar to a 2017 bill introduced by the member for Traeger which lapsed on dissolution of the parliament prior to the election. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee kindly provided our committee with access to documents received by it during the conduct of its 2017 and subsequent 2018 inquiry into the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill and I thank it, particularly the chair, the member for Stretton, for that assistance.

The bill at its crux proposes a two-tiered system for the issuing of blue cards in Queensland. It proposes a new framework that would limit the range of criminal charges and convictions that would be considered as part of a working with children check for a person who applies for a blue card for use in a discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community. The bill enables a statutory community justice group for a discrete community to make a binding recommendation about a community member's application for a blue card. In effect, such a binding recommendation to the chief executive of Blue Card Services would be to issue a restricted positive notice to an applicant who would otherwise have been issued a negative notice under the existing blue card framework. A restricted positive notice would enable that person to be employed in child related employment or to carry on a child related business in a defined community area.

The bill is, however, silent on what liability would be attached to members of community justice groups and also how the issuing of blue cards in specific geographical areas would be policed, hence my earlier comment that the bill proposes a two-tier system, because the framework I have just spoken of is only proposed to operate in specific geographical areas—namely, discrete First Nation communities in North Queensland and not across all of Queensland.

I want to say from the outset that I believe the bill to be well intentioned and the member for Traeger's motivations in introducing it honourable. The member for Traeger said in his introductory speech—

The objective of this bill is to provide a new blue card framework that empowers Indigenous communities to make decisions that best serve their interests in relation to child protection and the employment of community members.

As I said, that is an honourable objective, but I do not think the interests of any community are served by having a lower standard of protections in place for that community's children than applies to others. A blue card issued in the circumstances outlined in the bill would enable a person to work in child related employment in circumstances where they would not normally be able to. This essentially means that a lower standard of child protection is applicable in those communities under the proposal contained in the private member's bill.

During our committee inquiry, in written submissions and public hearings, stakeholders argued that people living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities often had a criminal history of offences which had prevented them obtaining a blue card, based on old or low-level offences, and that their recent rehabilitation was not taken into account. Four submissions broadly supported the approach proposed by the bill, particularly the potential to involve community members in decision-making, improve employment in discrete communities and the resultant potential to improve economic, health and family circumstances. However, the proposed creation of a restricted or conditional card was not supported by some of those same stakeholders in line with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Queensland Family and Child Commission blue card review, both of which did not support the introduction of conditional licences.

After examination of the bill, including consideration of the policy objectives to be implemented, stakeholders' views, the Queensland Family and Child Commission review of the blue card system and information provided by the member for Traeger and the department, the committee recommended that the bill not be passed. While sympathetic to the issues the bill seeks to address, the committee placed


weight on the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that nationally there should be no conditional or different types of working with children clearances and the QFCC blue card review endorsement of that recommendation. The bill in this regard is contrary to both the royal commission's and QFCC's recommendations.

Further, the committee did not consider that the bill has sufficient regard to a child's rights by allowing certain applicants to receive a positive notice when they otherwise would not be eligible. The bill would provide a different standard of applicant assessment and of protection for children in specified communities.

The committee did, however, consider whether there may be alternative ways to achieve the intent of the bill to address some of the difficulties experienced by people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with the blue card system. Given the importance of systematic implementation of the broad-ranging and significant recommendations of the blue card review, the committee made a further recommendation that the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice provide the committee with a progress report on implementation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission blue card review recommendation for reform to how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are supported—recommendation 73—by 31 July 2020.

The Attorney-General outlined in her contribution here tonight additional specific initiatives being undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in addition to the development of a specific strategy that has resulted in a reduction in the percentage of withdrawn applications in discrete communities from 17.8 per cent in 2015-16 to 4.4 per cent in 2018-19. These are significant results.

I thank the Attorney-General for her action and that of her department to date and for this interim update. The statistics provided clearly indicate that support and education measures being put in place to support applicants to not prematurely drop out of the application process are having a positive impact, and they are doing so without compromising in respect of the 'best interests of the child' test. It is for the reasons outlined that I cannot support the bill.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise today to speak on the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill is of great importance to many stakeholders, and no matter what the outcome of this debate it will have an effect on those who are potentially Australia's most vulnerable population group.

Very few Queenslanders will ever face as much adversity or as many challenges as those in the life of a child growing up in an Indigenous community. This is not to say that these communities are inherently bad for children. In fact, studies show that connection to community is vital. It is just a sad reality that we still have a long way to go to ensuring Indigenous Australians—in particular those raised in Indigenous communities—are provided adequate access to the resources they need to overcome any disparity they may face.

I am sure that this bill was intended to take steps towards achieving this. While its authors may have had the best intentions in mind when they conceived this bill, unfortunately it just does not quite stack up. That is why I will be joining my colleagues in the LNP to oppose the bill. Before I go into more detail about how I have come to that conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, its secretariat and all of the submitters for the work that has been done on this bill.

The LNP is committed to ensuring the safety of all children in Queensland. No matter who they are or where they are from, the LNP will always put the safety and welfare of any child first. While it would be fair to say that the uniqueness of Queensland's Indigenous communities often requires alternative approaches, we must make sure that those alternative approaches do not reduce the effectiveness of child safety.

This was a sentiment shared by many submitters to the bill. In the submission of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers they noted that, whilst it is important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals were provided fair and equitable access to blue cards, in their opinion this bill fails to appropriately address the current barriers to those individuals attaining a blue card. The submission went on to suggest that this bill could result in unintended consequences that could ultimately further disadvantage some of Queensland's most disadvantaged communities. It is these unintended consequences that we must try to foresee and ensure the protection of some of our most vulnerable.

One major concern shared by submitters and the LNP is the bill's recommendation of the development of a new category of blue card to be known as a restrictive positive notice blue card. This card, available to individuals in Indigenous communities, aims to provide individuals with greater access



to the system by omitting from its eligibility requirements a number of the offences that would disqualify an individual from being eligible for a blue card. Under this bill, individuals in Indigenous communities convicted of trafficking, supplying, producing a dangerous drug as well as those convicted of burglary, robbery and unlawful entry of a vehicle may still be eligible for a restrictive positive notice card should the community's community justice group feel this acceptable.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service of Queensland, one of the few submitters widely supportive of the bill, stated in their submission that this check would be sufficient to exclude any unacceptable applicants. In a perfect world I would agree, and I support the principle of autonomy for our Indigenous communities, but when it comes to this restricted positive notice I must disagree. The stories of delays in processing and appeals shows a broken system. Let us fix the system.


The bill has the effect of granting more decision-making power to communities themselves to assist in increasing employment opportunities. Specifically, the bill grants a community justice group the ability to issue an interim restrictive positive notice to an applicant while Blue Card Services evaluate the application. The interim restrictive positive notice will apply until the chief executive decides whether to approve or refuse the application. The chief executive then has 21 days to write to the community justice group detailing all of the information the chief executive considered relevant. Despite the chief executive's recommendation, the community justice group can issue a positive notice if it believes it is in the best interests of the community.

While few beyond its elders can claim to know what is right for an Indigenous community, when it comes to child safety standards must remain. We simply cannot risk the possibility of a community justice group turning a blind eye to an applicant's criminal history. We understand that people can change, but when it comes to the safety of children it is just not worth the risk. Beyond the risk posed by having a third party make the final decision on an individual's application, other concerns were raised regarding community justice groups. The most common theme amongst stakeholders was to increase support services and increase the access to these services rather than have a separate blue card.

The Australian Association of Social Workers highlighted the concerns of some of its members, including several Indigenous social workers, over the issue of confidentiality and how it would be managed by justice groups. In its submission, the group was concerned about the bill's lack of consideration as to how individuals may feel about having their personal information provided to a third party like a community justice group without their consent. It was suggested that, while the bill aims to increase the number of positive notice blue cards issued to Indigenous communities, the issue could have the opposite effect and make individuals more reluctant to proceed with an application.

The submission also questioned the bill on its failure to address how issues such as decision-making, appeals, nepotism or conflicts of interest—which are more common in small communities of all types—would be managed so as not to affect the decision-making ability of the community justice group. Ultimately this bill appears to try and solve an issue caused by a flawed system, not by changing the system but by creating a new one. This bill does come into conflict with the Labor government's no-card no-start policy, which should come into effect sometime this year. This bill would create different standards for individuals in remote Indigenous communities and potentially place the lives of children in these communities at risk.

I acknowledge and appreciate the views of submitters who support a new blue card system and framework for Indigenous communities, but at the moment we just do not have it right. I must also recognise that the bill is not in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse or the Queensland Family and Child Commission's blue card review. The safety of all Queensland children must be the first priority of any bill involving children, and this bill just does not quite stack up. That is why the LNP will oppose this bill.


 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (6.34 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on this bill. As was outlined by the member for Nudgee, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I was chair in the last parliament, had carriage of this particular bill. We commenced our inquiry, and it is a matter of regret for me that we did not get to complete the inquiry before the election was called and that the bill ultimately lapsed and was reintroduced by the member for Traeger. In saying that, I am not blaming anyone for the fact we did not complete our inquiry. That is just the way parliament works. Given it is such a serious issue, it is a matter of regret that we did not get to complete our inquiry. It was heartening for me that the member for Nudgee and the committee that she chairs, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, were able to utilise the work that we did on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in their report. I agree with the recommendations put forward by the committee.

Can I say at the outset—and other members have touched on this—that there is absolutely no doubt that the member for Traeger is raising a serious issue and that he is coming from a sincere place in putting this bill forward. The Attorney-General, the member for Traeger and the member for Hill certainly kept the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee very busy.

While we did consult with Indigenous communities, there are two main reasons I oppose this bill. The first reason is that during the course of our consultations people came up and showed us their negative notices informally. I have to say that unfortunately those negative notices were for serious offences. In fact, I did not see one negative notice that was not for what was in my view a serious offence, and I had to agree with those negative notices and why people were rejected for their blue cards in those particular circumstances.

I accept the argument of the member for Traeger. In these Indigenous communities, if you cannot get a blue card your prospects of employment are limited. There is absolutely no doubt about that, but this is a matter of balancing child safety with supporting the economic development of Indigenous communities and supporting people in jobs. The other point I want to make is that from my observation the member for Traeger is certainly connected to the communities he represents, but it is not the case that all members of the community support this bill. During my consultations there were undoubtedly people who supported the bill, but equally there were people who opposed the bill for a range of reasons. I wanted to put that on the record.

Child safety is such a serious issue that it is not something I think we should compromise. Having said that, I do think the member for Traeger raises serious issues. I was really heartened by the comments of the Attorney-General in addressing what her department is doing to try and address those issues, and I commend the committee's recommendation 2. Unfortunately, along with other members of the government, I oppose this bill.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat, Hansard reporters and those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill and appeared at the committee's public hearing. This bill was referred to our committee for detailed consideration with the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was debated in the House on 15 May 2019. Both these bills were investigated concurrently and propose amendments to the issuing of blue cards.

As I mentioned during my speech on the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, there is nothing more important than protecting children, which is a view supported by submitters to the inquiry. More so, it is a view that is in line with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the QFCC's blue card review. I acknowledge and appreciate the views of the submitters who supported a new blue card system framework for Indigenous communities.

This bill, which was introduced by the member for Traeger, seeks to limit the range of criminal charges and convictions that would be considered as part of a working with children check for a person who applies for a blue card for use in a discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community. The bill outlines that the community justice group for the community would be able to make binding recommendations about the community member's application for a blue card. In theory, this type of change is much needed within government systems such as Child Safety where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are over-represented across all measures.

Child safety officers, in their everyday business of protecting our most vulnerable children, must uphold the provisions of the Child Protection Act, which clearly sets out the child placement principle whereby a child has the right to be brought up within the child's own family and community and, if a child is to be placed in care, the child has a right to be placed with a member of the child's family group. This child placement principle has been around since the 1970s and is the vexed issue dealt with in the child safety department daily.

The child placement principle has special meaning to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It carries an acknowledgement that serious harm can be caused to children by separation from their families, communities and culture. Yet if members of the family group are unable to obtain a blue card, despite whether they are deemed suitable by the assessing child safety officer, then the child cannot be placed within their family group or potentially their community if no other suitable carer can be found. Rather, the department must look elsewhere for suitable placement, and this is not an easy task particularly if sibling groups need to be placed.

The lack of foster carers across Queensland—and more so the lack of Indigenous carers—means that every day a child is placed outside its family group legislation is effectively being breached. Division 1 section 5C of the Child Protection Act is being breached. This is an issue that the government have turned a blind eye to. They know the difficulties faced on the front line in placing children, let alone finding a culturally appropriate placement to ensure legislative requirements are met—notwithstanding the rights of the children in accordance with the act.

A submission by the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak to the Carmody child protection inquiry noted that 'lost contact with family and community also represents loss of connection to land which is a significant spiritual and emotional factor for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people'. It went on to discuss not just individual costs but broader economic costs to both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the wider Queensland population due to such issues as family and social dislocation.

I doubt there would be anyone in this House who does not want the best outcome for children and families. Therefore, the child placement principle, if it is able to be achieved, is a core component of having an effective child protection system in Queensland. However, I am brought back to the vexing issue of implementing two different regimes for blue cards and the question of how we can—or even more so whether we should—implement a process whereby a different level of protection is provided to some children and not others.


During the inquiry we heard from various stakeholders who spoke of the barriers affecting some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders obtaining blue cards, such as providing identity, disengagement with the application and assessment process due to lack of literacy skills and lack of culturally appropriate information and resources, and issues with logistical and geographical barriers which make it challenging to engage with the review and appeal process.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill seeks to develop a framework to enable the community justice group to use its judgement based on knowledge of the specific circumstances and individual involvement so they can issue a binding recommendation to the chief executive so as to issue a restrictive positive notice where a negative notice would have been issued by the chief executive due to previous serious offences being committed by an applicant. Types of serious offences that can be considered under this new proposed framework are limited to the following: Criminal Code offences, that is, sections 409, 419 and 427 which relate to stealing with violence, burglary and unlawful entry of a vehicle; and Drugs Misuse Act offences, that is, sections 5, 6, 8 and 9D which relate to trafficking dangerous drugs, supplying dangerous drugs, producing dangerous drugs and trafficking in relevant substances or things.

The benefit from this provision would be to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have old or low-level offences to now be considered for restrictive positive notices. This in turn would provide them with employment opportunities that require a blue card they would not otherwise be able to access. The other obvious benefit I have outlined already is in regards to placing children in need of protection. Whilst there would be some obvious positive outcomes from this bill for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, one major concern raised by submitters is the lack of monitoring and compliance within the framework. The Australian Association of Social Workers stated—

There is no information as to who would be responsible for enforcement and monitoring of the individual. This gap needs clarification and resourcing as the potential that CJGs becoming an enforcement agent would change their role and responsibilities. Furthermore, the complexities of managing conflicts of interest given the smallness of many communities requires further attention.

As this concern has been raised by most submitters and has not been addressed, I am unable to support this bill in its current form. It is our job to ensure laws are as strong as they can be made, as robust as they can be enforced and as clear as they can be. I hope that future governments look more closely at the issue this bill presents and never give up on trying to find better answers. Whilst the blue card system will never deliver an absolute guarantee that every single person who holds one poses no risk to children, it is our job as members who are trusted to legislate to make our laws as strong and as robust as we possibly can. Our laws must limit risk and prevent, wherever possible, those who should never be around children from being so. I would like to thank the member for Traeger for introducing this bill to the House. This is a subject that must be kept on the government's agenda moving forward, but as this bill stands in its current form neither I nor the LNP can support it.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.47 pm): I rise to speak on the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill 2018. I am opposing the bill. For the five years that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was

undertaking its important work, Australia stood by hearing story after story of the most abject kind—of children suffering sexual abuse at the hands of the very people who were meant to care for them, of them never having a voice, of those experiences which had affected their very souls taking away the ability of most to ever enjoy a happy life. We all heard those stories and we were all appalled.

Many people think that the royal commission was referring to historical abuse, but unfortunately that was not the case. We saw the reality of this played out for public viewing last night on the *Four Corners* report 'Boys Club' in an episode that has left many people in our community reeling. The people who work in child protection tragically see the abuse of children, the most vulnerable people in our state, every single day. When the royal commission made its recommendations about how we can stop this happening again, governments all over Australia and certainly the Queensland government said yes, because we have to look after our kids. It is our highest priority.

When I speak to members of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce, which we established to oversee the implementation of the royal commission recommendations—and a number of people on that task force are victims of past sexual abuse—I cannot speak to them without committing to them on a daily basis that we will uphold those recommendations of that commission and we will honour all of the sacrifices they have made throughout their lives to come forward and relive their trauma.

The royal commission was a profound examination of what can happen—and, in fact, did happen far too often—when governments and institutions are not proactive about taking positive action to prevent abuse of children in their care. In 2015 they published an interim report on working with children checks. That report made more than 30 recommendations, including many which focused on working towards national consistency in working with children legislation. Some of those recommendations relate to things like continuous monitoring of national criminal history records and the development and implementation of the royal commission's recommendations about child safe standards.

Importantly, one of their recommendations was for every state and territory government to amend their laws to make sure there are no conditional or different types of working with children clearances. They recommended that the outcome of a working with children check is either that a clearance is issued or it is not. There should be no conditional or different types of clearances. There are a number of reasons for their recommendations. It is difficult to apply standards consistently if you are also assessing situational and organisational factors. It is more difficult to monitor and enforce compliance, and it makes it difficult to transfer working with children checks across different jobs and employers.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission also did a review of the blue card system in 2016, which they reported in 2017. That review took into account the recommendations of the royal commission and it made 81 recommendations about legislative, policy and operational issues across four areas: overarching reforms, streamlining the system, strengthening the system, and improving support and maintaining public confidence. The recommendations included a specific recommendation on reforms to how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and applicants are supported and acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience significant disadvantage at every stage of the application process. Many withdraw from the process when they may have been successful in their working with children check application if they had the right support.

The blue card review report noted there were no culturally appropriate community education strategies and a lack of culturally appropriate information and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants in communities. It also found there was a lot of misinformation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about the blue card process. Recommendations to address these included providing more community based sources of information and advice to help participation in the system and help reduce people withdrawing from the process. I acknowledge the work of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in addressing these very recommendations. I know that the Attorney-General is extremely passionate. It is why I understand where the member for Traeger is coming from. I absolutely accept that his heart is in the right place. I have had conversations with him about this. I have been in many communities myself and I have heard about the issues that he has raised. I absolutely understand that he is putting this bill forward because he believes that it is the right and the best thing to do.

The parliamentary committee report acknowledged the issues experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. They acknowledge the issues that the member for Traeger raised. However, despite acknowledging these issues, the QFCC blue card review specifically did not support the conditional working with children clearances suggested by the member for Traeger. That, of course, was in line with the recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child

Sexual Abuse. This stand was confirmed in submissions to the committee by organisations such as the Australian Association of Social Workers. Of course, that association upholds the QFCC's position that any compromise to ensuring the safety of children is problematic.


I note that the AASW also referred to the submission to the QFCC by PeakCare, who is an outstanding peak stakeholder representing the rights, safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families. They stated in their submission to the QFCC—

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection sector is strong and committed to working together to achieve better outcomes for our children and families and working alongside the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Our position, while clearly privileging the legitimate role of our families, organisations and communities in growing our children up, strong in culture, does not in any way support a lowering of standards or safeguards that our children have equitable rights to expect of the adults in their lives and the services and systems with whom they interact.

This bill would also allow some applicants to obtain a positive notice or blue card when otherwise they would not be eligible. The bill would provide a different standard of assessment and, consequently, a different standard of child protection in specified communities. While we acknowledge there is more work to be done to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in the blue card system—and I acknowledge that the committee has asked the Attorney-General to report back on further strategies—whatever those strategies might be, they should not be about creating a different standard for keeping Indigenous children safe. Our blue card system is the most robust system of any state in Australia. We simply cannot dilute the framework we have built around our kids to keep them safe. We must insist on the highest standards to keep our kids safe.

I want to note that this government is absolutely committed to addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system, and we have made significant progress. There is so much more to do. We have developed the Our Way strategy, which is a generational change, which we funded to the amount of \$14.6 million over four years to change the story for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. After 14 years of growth, we have achieved our seventh quarter of stabilising the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children coming into the child protection system, the only state in Australia to achieve this. We are funding the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection agency to develop an Aboriginal kinship care program because we want to know that the care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be undertaken by the community controlled sector. We have provided funds of \$3.5 million in this financial year alone to make sure that we are actually making that shift for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I very much acknowledge the role of the First Children and Families Board, which we established in this term of government, who are guiding us in our decisions. We need to do more; we need to do better. Despite the best intentions of the member for Traeger, this is not the way.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.57 pm): There seems to be a general agreement in the House about the need to resolve this issue and an acknowledgement of this issue. I acknowledge that the member for Traeger is trying to solve a significant issue in his area, and I can appreciate the intent. I have had extensive experience through my work, through the Police-Citizens Youth Club, with the blue card system and the frustrations it can sometimes cause when trying to manage staff, volunteers and those who wish to help. I also had experience with staff and volunteers who had difficulty with government forms and the administrative support they need to fill in those forms and submit them with the appropriate identification. The system can be very clunky; it can be drawn out and difficult to navigate. I think there are improvements we could make in this area so that it is easier for those in the communities the bill is trying to assist.

The member for Bulimba outlined some of the things that are happening in this space. The member for Traeger can take some solace from the fact that, if this bill is not passed, he has achieved some results in terms of drawing attention to the issue at least and having the House come up with some other solutions. I believe this particular solution is not the right way to go. It contains too many risks. There is a reason we have blue cards. There is a reason we have serious and/or disqualifying offences and negative notices, and that is the protection of our children. It is not a perfect system and it is impossible to make a perfect system. Rightly, the balance is tilted towards the protection of children.


Unfortunately for some, that balance will exclude them from working with children. There may be many instances in communities all over Queensland, not just in the communities that this bill seeks to assist, where a person has committed a serious offence historically, has displayed that they have rehabilitated themselves and wants to contribute to society. The LNP will always put the safety of children first. It must be our top priority. I note in the committee process that six stakeholders made a submission to the bill. Most stakeholders did recognise the challenges faced by the blue card system

for people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supported changes to improve access. However, it should be noted that stakeholders raised many reservations about the bill and provided their own views on how the system could be improved.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hunt, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT


### Ecotourism

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.00 pm): The state government's ecotourism strategy is in tatters. It is in tatters because of a void of leadership. It is in tatters because of a schism that exists between the departments of tourism and environment. No-one is driving the need to get this vital section of our tourism economy going.

Nowhere is this highlighted more than at Green Mountains Campground. This is a project that in 2010 the then environment minister, who ironically is the tourism minister today, said would be a wonderful project. It is a project that in 2017 we heard would be opened by Christmas. In July last year, we were told it would be open by early 2020. The campgrounds are closed. The project has not even started. A project that will deliver jobs and good things for the environment, that is supposed to be the signature project of this government and that was due to be completed by now, has not even started. It is low impact. It allows people with a disability to experience all that is good about Mother Nature. Yet we have a department of environment that is incapable of seeing it to fruition, a department that listens too much to special interest groups, a department that lacks the skill to deliver and a department that lacks the political will to stand up to a handful of people who believe that the only way to protect a national park is to lock it up and allow the feral pigs and weeds to run rampant. That is the point we have reached in this state: a government after a decade cannot deliver a project.

I get asked, 'What is the LNP's position on ecotourism?' We will unlock its potential. We will do it in a sensible and sensitive way. Do members know the best way to do it? By making the departments of tourism and environment one. The days of fighting, of trade-offs, of one department speaking with forked tongue and the other doing all it can to stop will be over. Tonight I make a plea to those opposite—please, will somebody show leadership and make it happen? I do not want to wait to 2021 to give the order to make this happen. I want to see someone on the other side step up, stop kowtowing to special interest groups and find a way to deliver a tourism future for a struggling state.

### Benson, Ms K


 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (7.03 pm): I rise tonight to reflect upon the enormous contribution of a wonderful woman who worked in my community and whose influence and impact was felt right across Queensland. I am talking about Kerrin Benson, who for 16 years led the organisation Multicultural Australia, formerly known as the Multicultural Development Association or MDA. Kerrin Benson was farewelled. There were hundreds of people at her farewell and, Mr Deputy Speaker, you were there in attendance as someone who has provided voluntary support for those migrants in need of medical attention. I note your presence there along with the education minister and others.

Kerrin Benson is a woman who had an incredible, relentless spirit of positivity. Over the past 16 years, there has been a lot of change in terms of the immigration policies of this nation, spearheaded by successive federal governments. We have seen some of the most restrictive and inhumane decisions made by this government in particular. Over that whole period, Kerrin led the organisation Multicultural Australia with absolute love and determination to ensure that new migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to Queensland get the best possible support.

When Kerrin started, this organisation had some 30 employees but today has more than 200. We heard firsthand from many people whose lives she had touched—from leaders of other multicultural and refugee support organisations to those asylum seekers who experienced not only the support of the organisation but also the personal support, love and attention of Kerrin Benson. I put on record my deepest appreciation for her efforts. She touched the lives of so many people. To hear so many people speak so respectfully and so lovingly of Kerrin, you know that she had a big impact on the lives of new Queenslanders, asylum seekers and refugees.

I wish Kerrin and her family all the best in their future endeavours. I know that the past year has been particularly difficult for Kerrin with a number of health concerns, but I know that her capacity for positivity will mean that she triumphs above all things.

## CopperString 2.0


 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.06 pm): I refer to the CopperString 2.0 project that is desperately needed in the North West Minerals Province. It is very important for the House to acknowledge that with inaction nothing happens. If nothing happens in the context of the North West Minerals Province, it will be akin to the Australian car industry. If we sit back complacently and say, 'Oh well, there is not much we can do,' we will awake in 20 years to find it gone. I am not saying it will collapse tomorrow. This is a dreadful issue to report to the House, but I refer to some of the highest energy prices in the world. One mining company at its board meeting referred to some of the African basket case countries where the price for electricity is over \$100 a megawatt hour. The minimum price in Mount Isa is \$150 a megawatt hour. Under the NEM, it is \$50 to \$60 an hour. We in Mount Isa pay three times what others pay to access the grid. The gas provider has a monopoly.

CopperString involves a \$20 million input from the government in terms of the construction phase right now. That unlocks a \$1.5 billion investment. The taxpayer need not do any heavy lifting as that will be done by the mining companies, but we need that \$20 million. In a few months, it is no good saying, 'That is a pity, someone else should have come up with that money.' Governments are supposed to drive these projects. People look to us to make these projects happen. It behoves the government to make this happen. We need that \$20 million.

Thousands of jobs in Townsville, Mount Isa and the north-west will in the future be compromised if the government fails to invest. This is all based on my discussions with multiple mining companies. New Century said, 'We alone are a small operation in the North West Minerals Province. Build the CopperString. It would represent \$30 million to \$60 million in extra royalties to the state government.' That is pretty easy maths. The early estimate is that a \$20 million state government investment in CopperString equates to a \$30 billion return.

What do we do? Do we sit around and wait and hope that someone else comes up with the money, or does the government take charge—and I hope the government does this—and say that it is going to build this and get behind it? I do not mind if the government takes over the project and owns it itself, because it needs to be done. It is embarrassing that, with our rich mineral province, which will be there for the next 100 years, if we are to be competitive it cannot do it with its arms behind its back. People are paying \$150 a megawatt hour and up to \$200 a megawatt hour when it can decrease those power prices by 30 per cent to 40 per cent. Guess how much cost there will be to the taxpayer? Nothing, apart from that \$20 million to set up a \$1.5 billion investment. It must be done for the sake of Mount Isa and Townsville.

## Morayfield Electorate, Community Champions


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.09 pm): I rise to pay tribute to three community champions from the Morayfield electorate—three outstanding individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Caboolture region who, for a variety of reasons, are moving on with their roles and moving to other places. I think it is appropriate to record in *Hansard* their contribution to our community.

The first person I want to acknowledge is Estrella Herzog. For the last 15 years Estrella has been a very important part of our community. She has been the manager of the local DV service, the Centre Against Domestic Abuse, in Caboolture and she has certainly been a leader in this field. She has contributed significantly to the advocacy around additional resources in our community to support people who are experiencing domestic and family violence. I note some of her significant successes are around new programs that were developed in the Caboolture region and then rolled out statewide, and I think about the PRADO program which is a very important partnership between police and the community sector. I also know that one of her dreams was to establish a women's wellbeing centre, and last year I was very pleased to be able to officially open that on behalf of the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I know that Estrella was very proud to have that delivered.

I also want to acknowledge Jim Lazzarini, who is a significant contributor to Caboolture Community Care, a service which helps people who are experiencing significant disadvantage and provides them with not only support but also counselling. Jim is moving closer to Duncan Pegg in the Stretton electorate. I know that Jim's heart will always be in Morayfield, but he is a great friend of mine. I know that the term 'relentless' is bandied around a lot, but Jim was certainly relentless in his advocacy for our community. I am very proud to know him and I wish him very well with his move to the Stretton electorate.

The final person to pay tribute to is Carol Clare. Carol Clare is an outstanding contributor to Neighbourhood Watch. She is involved in all the Neighbourhood Watch activities in our region. In fact, for her involvement in Neighbourhood Watch and her passion for Neighbourhood Watch, she was recognised as the 2018 Neighbourhood Watch Queensland Volunteer of the Year. Well done to Carol. I know that she and her husband will experience a different scene in the Hervey Bay area when she has a sea change. From the perspective of my office, we will miss her jam and chutney and also her regular visits when she comes to do the photocopying of the newsletter. I thank Jim, Carol and Estrella on the record for their contributions to the Caboolture region. We will miss them, but I wish them all of the very best for the next stages of their lives.


### **Gold Coast Light Rail, Annette Kellerman Park**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.12 pm): Right next to my Mermaid Beach office is the Annette Kellerman Park, a park named after an internationally famous sportsperson and later performance celebrity of the early 20th century promoted as the Australian little mermaid. Like many celebrities, she retired to the Gold Coast to spend her final years there and is recognised by the naming of that park in her honour. It was brought to my attention by local residents that the Department of Transport and Main Roads, in conjunction with the designers of the light rail stage 3A, had proposed to build a 300-square-metre building on the Annette Kellerman parklands to house an electrical boosting station for the light rail project. The original designation for the building impacted local residents severely and parkland in this area is precious because of the build-up of high-density housing along the light rail route, necessitating parks and open space for future generations. An increasing population in high-rise accommodation, which light rail stage 1 has facilitated through Broadbeach, along stage 3A of the light rail route will mandate the preservation of all existing public open space to allow for recreation for the multitude of extra people attracted by this development enabler transport infrastructure.

After a briefing with department officials and a meeting on site with officials at the Annette Kellerman Park, I believe we have come up with a solution which will be acceptable to residents and future generation users of the park, and I thank Mr John Carroll, a local resident, for his input to the solution. We have determined that the 300-square-metre building can be fitted onto the current road space that leads to the recently refurbished Gold Coast City Council public toilets so as to have minimal impact on the grassed park space and, most importantly, to leave the magnificent fig tree standing in its current location near the Gold Coast Highway. This will require a reconfiguration of the rear entry to the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club, making it a two-way egress and ingress access which the department was supportive of completing as part of the light rail building works.

This is a sensible outcome for local residents, future generations and the light rail partners together and it came as a result of meaningful, pragmatic conversations between all involved with a willingness to compromise for a mutually acceptable outcome. A massive bonus to the solution was an agreement by all involved that a large advertising sign dedicated to the auspices of the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club would front the proposed building facing northbound traffic only that would bring financial advantage to the Mermaid Beach Bowls Club—a win for all parties living in this beautiful part of Mermaid Beach. I personally want to thank Mr Paul Noonan and Mr Chris Brown from the light rail team on the Gold Coast and all of their team for their cooperative and community minded approach to the issue to get an outcome acceptable to all residents and for future generations.

### **Pallara State School**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.15 pm): As a community, one of the best things we can offer our children to help them realise their potential is a great education. In my electorate of Algeria I am grateful to have 13 growing and vibrant schools full of hardworking teachers, dedicated staff and incredible young people. One such school is Pallara State School. In 2016 the school moved to a brand-new site with state-of-the-art facilities. Since the move, the school has gone from strength to strength and I have had the privilege of visiting the school many times to celebrate the achievements of its students. Last year the Palaszczuk government announced a further \$7 million investment in new teaching blocks to keep up with the increasing number of new families moving into the Algeria electorate and joining the school community. We have also committed \$150,000 to an outdoor environmental learning area which, I am excited to report, is now under construction.


We know that a positive learning environment provides our students with greater opportunities for success, so as the school transitioned to a new home in Pallara I embarked on a conversation with parents and residents about the options for the old school site. More than 12 months ago I surveyed



the Pallara community to understand their vision for this place. I asked people whether they thought our community needed space for community groups, sporting clubs to use the fields, not-for-profit organisations to host events or more school facilities to accommodate our growing population. I also asked locals to indicate whether they thought these were short-term needs or long-term needs, because it is important that we recognise what is required quickly and what we should plan for into the future. It was fantastic to hear from so many residents who took the time to complete the survey. Overwhelmingly, those surveyed expressed a need for more school facilities, with 81 per cent of them expressing that view. As a former teacher myself, I know that investing in our children's education is important to the long-term prosperity of our communities. That is why the Palaszczuk government is looking to the future and keeping this site for our children's education.

Pallara State School has over 650 enrolments, with more and more families choosing to make our community their home. We all know that primary school students eventually become high school students, which is why we need to keep educational sites ready to respond to the community's growing needs as other secondary schools in the area edge closer to capacity. The community has spoken and has entrusted me to make sure the former Pallara State School site remains a public asset for educational purposes, and I will continue to ensure that I meet its expectations. By retaining this property as an educational precinct, we are investing in the future of our children's education and their success and of course I will continue to do that work with the residents of Pallara.

### Scenic Rim, Bushfires

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.18 pm): In 2019 bushfires ravaged much of the Scenic Rim electorate, from the east all the way to the west. The aftermath of those bushfires has caused a significant amount of economic struggle within the Scenic Rim. Tonight I want to focus on the struggle being experienced by Canungra and Beechmont businesses following on from their bushfire events in September last year. At the outset can I say we welcome the support from the federal and state governments in terms of tourism incentive packages and promotional marketing funding for those areas around Binna Burra and Beechmont that suffered so badly. Of course, the Binna Burra Lodge was lost to fire.


However, we need to focus tonight on the impacts on Canungra and Beechmont businesses where the tourist traffic has dried up significantly as a result of those fires and has not come back yet. There are business owners there who are struggling to go to work each day because there is so little foot traffic. One business owner said to me that some days they do not get a single person through the door. It is so dispiriting for those businesses that have seen foot traffic move away so quickly.

That is why it is a scandal that the Green Mountains Campground is closed and has been closed since May 2019. The campground is a significant drawcard for the local economy and for the local area. It was shut by National Parks in May 2019 and shows no sign of reopening any time in the future. I have been contacted by people who have been regular visitors to that park and are wondering why it has not been opened. For nearly 10 years, as the member for Broadwater said, there has been talk about the redevelopment of the Green Mountains Campground. It does not seem any closer. The campground itself has been closed.

I ask: when is the campground at Green Mountains going to be reopened to bring back to the Canungra and Beechmont area the visitors who come to visit O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park and go camping at Green Mountains Campground?

There was much fanfare in 2016 and 2017 when it was promised that the redevelopment would be complete and opened by Christmas 2017. We are now in February 2020 and construction has not even begun. It is time for the government to put some action behind their words about ecotourism and to stop the bickering within government departments—between National Parks and Tourism. I call on the minister for tourism to use her political clout, take this off Parks and get the Green Mountains Campground redeveloped and open again.

### Logan, Multiculturalism

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.21 pm): I stand here as a proudly elected member of parliament along with other colleagues representing the great city of Logan. I have lived and worked in Logan almost my entire adult life. It is a city that has grown and changed over the past 20-plus years. It is a city that does not stand still, it is vibrant and it is a melting pot. All manner of worlds collide in Logan and when there is collision there is energy. The beating heart of that energy is its people. Logan accepts and invites people from all walks of life. In Logan you are welcome. Logan is home to over


320,000 people from more than 217 different cultures. This is truly Logan's greatest treasure—its diversity. If Australia can be seen as a successful demonstration of multiculturalism in action, then Logan deserves to be its flagship. This success comes from the fact that we have embraced a multiculturalism grounded in diversity, not assimilation. In its very simplest terms multiculturalism means that there is public endorsement and recognition of cultural diversity. It means that a national community accepts that its common identity may evolve to reflect its composition, and Logan has evolved and it has embraced multiculturalism. One just has to look in our schoolyards and on our sporting fields to see this.

With the unique and not-so-unique challenges that Logan and many other growing communities face when diversity and disadvantage coexist, Logan is always at risk from the politics of division. The choice that this thriving city has on 28 March is an important one because there is so much at stake. We have a Logan mayoral aspirant, Paul Taylor, who less than a year ago stood in front of the Holland Park Mosque next to Fraser Anning highlighting what he called the dangers of Islam. Paul Taylor, who is running for mayor, seeks the support of groups calling themselves the Australian Patriots who will assist him in stopping Islamic forces from taking over our council. This is someone who seeks to be a mayor of one of Australia's most ethnically diverse cities and from the outset seems to vilify and demean a valued community within our city.

Tonight Logan hosts a citizenship ceremony. It represents everything I love about a multicultural Logan. It is bright, it is brilliant, it is full of smiles and it is full of pride. I am proud of my city and I am proud of those hundred or so residents who tonight will become citizens. Perhaps Mr Taylor should take a quick refresher on what it is that these new Australians are saying tonight: we pledge our loyalty to Australia and its people whose democratic beliefs I share and whose rights and liberties I respect and whose laws I will uphold and obey.

Logan City has a cultural diversity policy, the most recent being in effect since 2017. I call on all prospective mayoral candidates to indicate their intention to support Logan City Council's Cultural Diversity Policy or to state otherwise.

### **Toowoomba North Electorate**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise in the House tonight to talk about the great organisations and people in my electorate. Recently I have given out some local hero grants. These are small amounts of money but they make a big difference. The YWCA in Toowoomba runs an inclusion program, the YAbility program. They have a band. They play ukuleles and sing songs. I was there before Christmas and they wanted band shirts. Last week we gave them the money for band shirts. I think they will do a great job with their new shirts on.


The annual ladies summertime fiesta of the Toowoomba North Bowls Club is on as we speak. They also received a small grant. People come from all across the state to Toowoomba to play on some of the best greens in Queensland at the Toowoomba North Bowls Club. I congratulate the ladies on being local heroes in putting that together and bringing those people into the electorate.

I had the pleasure of going to the Toowoomba Rugby League Referees Association where they received a community benefit grant to get some audio equipment for referees to use whilst they are running the game. There are four sets per unit which means that young referees can be taught and trained as they referee the game. It makes a big difference in making sure we have great officials in the future. We have all seen Tim Mander and we think they can definitely improve.

I visited the Help a Friend Club which received a community benefit grant to purchase a new vehicle. They provide disability services, crisis accommodation and short-term accommodation. It is a small Toowoomba organisation that is punching well above its weight, running at 100 per cent occupancy helping people who otherwise would not have a home. Also I had the privilege of going to Base Services. Nat and Tiff, who run Base Services, do a fantastic job with homeless people. They have been running a certificate I in hospitality. They have had some people who have come out of totally adverse situations, like the heroin addict who has been through Teen Challenge, got herself cleaned up and now has accommodation, has her life on track and has done a certificate I. Nat and Tiff at Base Services do a fantastic job.

Finally, I want to mention a Toowoomba experience that is put on by Lifeline. It used to be done by Civic. It is the Loads of Love appeal. In the lead-up to Christmas they collect bags of non-perishable food. This year 22 tonnes was donated. Their target was 15 tonnes. Matt and Derek, who run the Loads of Love program for Lifeline, do a fantastic job in my community.

### Cairns Manufacturing Hub

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.28 pm): Last year I had the pleasure of attending, along with two Palaszczuk government ministers, the opening of the Cairns Manufacturing Hub. The Cairns Manufacturing Hub is one of three hubs being established as part of the state government's \$30 million initiative to bring together Queensland government, local government, industry, research and educational partners to collaborate to grow regional manufacturing. The hub is focused on bringing together partners to accelerate the growth of specialised manufacturing industries in regions and develop a strong local manufacturing ecosystem which in turn will attract investment and drive job creation which, as we know, is a fundamental goal of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Cairns hub is located within the Cairns TAFE campus and will work closely with TAFE Queensland, universities and schools in Cairns and surrounding areas to build capability in science, technology, engineering and maths learning and skills. In particular, the Cairns hub has flagged working with programs such as the Gateway to Industry Schools Program to promote STEM learning and support long-term development of a highly skilled workforce to support and meet the needs of the advanced manufacturing sector in North Queensland.

In Cairns our local Cairns State High School is running a very successful Gateway to Industry program, partnering with the aerospace industry which provides students with learning opportunities in the aerospace industry through curriculum offerings, links with local and international industry partners, awards and recognition, direct entry opportunities to university and, most importantly, extension work placement. Staff also access additional professional development and networking supported by the Gateway program.

The opening of the Cairns Manufacturing Hub was a fulfilment of yet another one of our election promises and continues to see our government deliver on facilities and services that will strengthen and grow regional manufacturing, skills and jobs—and we know how important that is. The Cairns manufacturing sector contributed \$787 million to the Queensland economy in 2017 and 2018 and as of the September quarter 2019 employed over 6,300 people locally.

The Cairns Manufacturing Hub will initially focus on the growing marine, aviation and food export sectors. It is already delivering outstanding results, such as developments towards advanced fibre composites maintenance, particularly for superyachts; the delivery of advanced welding; and funding of \$650,000 over three years to support the FNQ Food Incubator, which is a group of local food experts collaborating to support early-stage food processors in Far North Queensland. This is about jobs; it is about creating an environment in which jobs will flourish. I am very proud to be standing here representing the people of the great city of Cairns.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson