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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 19 February 2020

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## WEDNESDAY, 19 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.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### School Group Tour



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

#### Convoy to Capital Q



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I also wish to advise that there are only two times of the year when I wear a bright orange tie. One is to support our emergency service workers and the other is for the Convoy to Capital Q. Welcome to Advance Cairns, who are here throughout the week.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Convoy to Capital Q



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): I love Cairns! In regional Queensland, from Cunnamulla to Cairns and up to the Cape, there are so many wonderful places with incredible experiences and rich stories that not only tell us about our history but also lay the foundation of who we are as a state today and where we are going tomorrow. As a government, we invest in regional Queensland to invest in the jobs, the businesses and the people to keep those cities and towns flourishing, to keep our story going.

As Premier of the most decentralised state in the country, I try to get to regional Queensland as often as possible. However, this week while parliament is sitting, we are being treated to a region visiting us. A delegation of business leaders from Tropical North Queensland, the Cairns TNQ Convoy to Capital Q, have come to discuss the region's key infrastructure and industry priorities with my government. While organised prior to the recent coronavirus outbreak, obviously that will be top of mind for everyone during discussions on how we steer not only Cairns but also other regions through the crisis.

We recognise that the current global coronavirus threat is impacting the local economy and we are working to support our critical industries through these tough times. That is why we immediately launched a domestic tourism campaign to let Australians know that Queensland remains open for business. Yesterday I announced a \$27.25 million package for Queensland business owners hit hard by this crisis and called on the federal government to match that funding, with the Tropical North to be a strong focus of that.

My government shares the passion of the TNQ Convoy to Capital Q for the Tropical North and, despite the recent challenges, we are dedicated to unlocking the enormous potential of that diverse and exciting region. That is why in our last state budget we have committed \$967 million on infrastructure and capital works projects. We are investing in the Cairns Convention Centre with a \$176 million upgrade, creating 570 jobs.

**An honourable member** interjected.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, Labor built the Convention Centre; I am happy to take that interjection. We are funding key upgrades for the Bruce Highway, the Smithfield Bypass and the Burke and Peninsula developmental roads. We are spending \$1.2 billion in local hospital and health services, with

\$9.1 million set aside to construct the Cairns South Health Facility. We have committed \$60 million to the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development Project to improve efficiency and allow for larger cruise ships to berth. We have opened the \$10 million Cairns manufacturing hub to strengthen and grow regional manufacturing, skills and jobs. And with 2020 being the Year of Indigenous Tourism, we are keen for more tourists to discover the natural wonders and unique cultural treasures of the Tropical North.

The Cairns Marine Precinct is another big focus for my government. Just over a year ago, we finalised the Cairns Marine Precinct Growth Strategy. One of the actions identified was to seek advice from the Australian government about its future plans for the level of defence sustainment and maintenance for Cairns. I know that this is something that Advance Cairns is also passionate about, and I know that the minister for state development and all of the local members also agree with me. I want Cairns to have a great naval presence.

Last year, the *Pathway to Prosperity* report identified two stages for the long-term development of the Cairns Marine Precinct and sought a \$125 million commitment from the Australian government to support its delivery. Today I am pleased to announce that my government is backing that initiative and strongly supports the establishment of Cairns as a regional maintenance centre for the Royal Australian Navy. We will continue to lobby the Australian government to secure that job-creating opportunity for Cairns, which would add another new exciting dimension to the continued diversification of the Cairns economy. I look forward to listening to the Cairns TNQ convoy delegates and discussing how together we can further prosper and grow the Tropical North.

### Water Supply


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): My government is monitoring the impact of recent rainfall on communities. Townships including Canungra, Condamine and Inglewood are no longer relying on trucks for water. Others such as Goondiwindi and Murgon, Wondai and Yallakool in the South Burnett no longer require emergency contingency measures, although some may still go ahead with bores to be on the safe side.

Downstream from Warwick, Beardmore Dam, near St George, is reaching capacity. Although there was some water flow into Storm King Dam, it has not been enough for Southern Downs to suspend water cartage to Stanthorpe. Clifton and Miriam Vale also continue to receive tankered water supplies. While inflows to Leslie Dam near Warwick have assured supply for an extended period, work continues on longer term solutions for Warwick.

In the south-east water grid, dams, including Hinze Dam at the Gold Coast and Baroon Pocket Dam on the Sunshine Coast, are at or near capacity. On the other hand others, including Wivenhoe Dam, received good inflows. So, after the grid sent water to help the Sunshine Coast when it was needed, the Sunshine Coast can now return the favour. The pipeline water flow will be reversed back to Brisbane for a short while. That is the way the grid is supposed to work, because previous Labor governments had foresight.

It is wonderful that some rain has fallen, but we are not free from drought and my government will keep its firm commitment that we will not let communities run out of water. We will continue to work extensively with councils, landholders and businesses where water supplies remain under pressure.

### Cyberbullying

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): I am proud of my government's efforts to address the prevalence of cyberbullying among children and young people. Queensland continues to lead the nation in acting to address this very complex issue. Since the release of the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Task Force report in 2018, we have committed nearly \$3.5 million to initiatives to protect our children from cyberbullying and empower our communities to take a stand. This includes \$2 million for public awareness and education campaigns and \$500,000 for grants to community organisations and young people aged 10 to 17 years.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. There is no need for an interjection at this time. If you wish to speak, rise to your feet.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** On top of this, we have allocated \$1.2 million over four years for parenting programs, education programs and phone counselling services and the continuation of school guidance officers. In the past year, round 1 of the Tackle Cyberbullying Grants Program was released and a

youth anti-cyberbullying event was held to continue to drive the momentum for change and hear directly from young people. I look forward to seeing the education awareness campaign this year informed by the voices of young people. Funding allocated to yourtown and Triple P International has supported the employment of a cyberbullying consultant at Parentline from this month and will see additional programs and supports for parents, including digital skills training. We will also provide a second round of grants to support young people and community organisations to deliver initiatives to reduce cyberbullying.

For our school communities this year, we have released new and revised resources to support schools, parents, students and teachers against cyberbullying. Today I am announcing that Queensland schools can now access \$1 million in funding for school-based cyber safety programs to combat this important issue. Grants will be available for schools. In a special partnership with Dolly's Dream Foundation and the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, we are rolling out the eSmart Schools program in our schools as well. All schools can now register, but we especially want rural and regional schools to get on board. This is just one of the ways we can reach all corners of our state and further educate our children that this behaviour is unacceptable, hurtful and dangerous.

As I have said previously, there is no one thing that we can do to beat cyberbullying; we must do everything. I will also continue advocating that the federal government should follow Queensland's lead in supporting young people to lead healthy digital lives.

### Distribution of GST

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): Queensland's households are leading the nation in consumer spending growth. ABS data show that Queensland's household consumption expenditure increased by two per cent over the most recent 12 months, far outstripping national growth of 1.2 per cent. Our strong household consumption growth is reflected in our strong retail sales figures. Growth in Queensland's annual retail turnover is the fastest among mainland states and our strong household sector is also reflected in our consumer sentiment figures. Queensland's consumers are the most confident in the nation. In fact, we are the only state with a net positive level of consumer sentiment.

Queensland's strong household sector is reflected everywhere except in our GST payments from the federal government. Robust consumer spending should be reflected in robust GST revenue which helps to fund the schools, the hospitals and the transport infrastructure that Queenslanders have rightly come to expect. Weak household consumption across the rest of the nation has meant that the Morrison government has revised down its estimates of GST collections and Queensland's share of GST has also declined. It is no secret that Australia's economic growth under the Morrison government slowed to a rate not seen since the global financial crisis. The Morrison government's 2019-20 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook revealed that Queensland's share of GST for this financial year has been revised down by \$346 million since the federal budget last year.


All states and territories have endured GST writedowns as economic growth has slowed, but the Morrison government has hit Queensland with a double whammy of GST writedowns. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, federal LNP treasurers, of which the Prime Minister was formerly one, have cherry-picked \$12.2 billion worth of projects that they are funding in other states, allowing states to keep this funding and not have it reduce their share of GST. Thanks to this interference of the Morrison government, every other state and territory is having its GST cake and eating it, too—every other state except Queensland.

The federal funding carve-outs include a \$100 million eye and ear hospital in Victoria, \$68 million for a proton beam facility in South Australia, \$1.2 billion for Perth Freight Link funding and \$6.2 billion for the Snowy Hydro Scheme in New South Wales and Victoria. All of these have been given GST-exemption status. Queensland has not benefitted from a single specific exemption under treasurers Morrison and Frydenberg. In fact, the only exemption related to Queensland was \$20 million for the Queensland fruit fly, but the federal LNP government gave that to Tasmania.

I have written to Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to seek exemptions for his government's payments for the Haughton pipeline in Townsville and the Brisbane Metro. More than six months after writing, Queenslanders are yet to hear a response from the federal Treasurer. If the federal Treasurer does not exempt these projects for which our government is happy to flow through funds, Queensland's GST revenue could be cut by tens of millions of dollars more. The LNP special treatment of all other states, except Queensland, has already seen our state lose close to a quarter of a billion dollars in GST revenue that we are otherwise entitled to. If the Brisbane Metro and the Haughton Pipeline are not exempted, it would be the fifth consecutive year of special treatment for other states and no additional exemptions for specific payments going to Queensland.

In May last year, the Prime Minister stood up and said, 'How good is Queensland!' We believe that Queensland is great and Queensland deserves its fair share. If the Prime Minister truly believes that Queensland is good, then he ought to believe that we are entitled to our fair share. His words are hollow unless they provide us exemptions, as he has for every other state.

### Queensland Space Industry Strategy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the sky is no longer the limit for Queensland's newest industry—space. On Sunday, the Palaszczuk Labor government unveiled the five-year Queensland Space Industry Strategy to propel our space industry into an unprecedented growth phase. I table a copy of the strategy for the benefit of all honourable members.


*Tabled paper:* Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning report, dated February 2020, titled 'Queensland Space Industry Strategy 2020-2025' [\[280\]](#).

Our government will invest \$8 million over the next five years to put our space industry on a high trajectory to success. Queensland is already home to a well-established, high-tech aerospace industry that is world-renowned for civil and defence aviation manufacturing and services. This includes Brisbane company Hypersonix, Gold Coast based Gilmour Space Technologies and Black Sky Aerospace based in the great city of Logan. These Queensland companies are Australia's most advanced rocket and launch vehicle developers. This investment will help our government to achieve our vision of making Queensland a leading Australasian centre for space technologies. We want to triple the number of people working in high-value space jobs to 6,000 and increase by more than sixfold the value that the space industry contributes to the Queensland economy which would be \$6 billion annually by 2036.

The Queensland Space Industry Strategy sets out the actions we will be taking to support this exciting emerging industry. We will leverage our existing capabilities in areas such as launch activities, ground systems, earth observation, niche manufacturing and robotics. Space technology also adds value to other areas of the Queensland economy like agriculture, natural resource management and telecommunications, delivering increased productivity through the use of systems like earth observation and satellite position.

Queensland's geographic location is ideally positioned to launch payloads into more orbits than any other place in Australia. We are the only eastern state with access to equatorial orbits. I have no doubt that Queensland will be a key contributor to making this goal a reality and building a space industry of which our nation will be proud.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (9.47 am): To infinity and beyond! We know that nothing creates jobs quite like building brand-new infrastructure. That is why at the last election I was very proud that we were the only side of politics that backed the tourism industry with brand-new funding programs to deliver new tourism infrastructure and experiences across Queensland. Our government's policies are all about partnering with the private sector to get shovels in the ground and create jobs.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I am getting to that one. I am proud to report to the House that this strategy is working. Today I announce that we have crunched the numbers and 49 new projects will be built in Queensland, generating more than \$200 million worth of construction work and creating more than 1,000 jobs. This will bring close to one million extra tourists to Queensland and generate more than \$100 million a year for local businesses. No matter where you look around the state, we have brand-new projects that will be a boon for local tourism industries.

These projects coming online in 2020 could not have come at a better time for the industry. These projects include a new six-day eco walk west of the Gold Coast, a new Moreton Bay jet boat experience from Brisbane to Moreton Bay, a new underwater pontoon at Lady Musgrave Island off Bundaberg and a swathe of multimillion-dollar projects on our Great Barrier Reef island resorts, including Hamilton Island, Green Island, Hook Island and Lady Elliot Island. It is even more exciting that these are just the projects coming online in 2020. We have a swathe of other attractions in the works like a new world-class dive site on the Gold Coast that we can all look forward to into the future. We will continue to work with the tourism operators and the tourism industry right across the state to deliver new infrastructure that will create jobs for Queenslanders.

### **Camp Hill, Deaths; Townsville, Hit-and-Run**



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.49 am): As members of parliament we get to see the best of people and the worst of people. We can see the frailty of the human condition and we can see how precious life is.

Today is a very sad day. I have just been informed by the Police Commissioner that three people have died, including children, in an horrific incident at Camp Hill this morning. All emergency services are on the scene. The situation is at a very early stage. I am informed that police are investigating all of the circumstances surrounding this tragic set of events. My thoughts are with all of those affected by this terrible tragedy.

I was also shocked to hear about a hit-and-run incident in Townsville this morning. My thoughts are with the injured cyclists and their families and friends. I have no doubt that this incident will hit the Townsville cycling community hard. I am advised a group of five cyclists were struck in the incident. Police are investigating this appalling incident. Everyone has the right to be safe on the roads. I know that police will work swiftly to identify those responsible. I am advised that three female cyclists and two male cyclists were taken to the Townsville Hospital with various injuries. Again, I would like to say that my sympathies are with the cyclists and their loved ones.

I have spoken to the Police Commissioner and our Deputy Police Commissioner based in Townsville. I have been informed police are devoting extensive resources to tracking down those responsible. This incident occurred at 5.30 this morning so the investigation is still at a very early stage. Having said that, I know police will not rest until this matter is resolved and those responsible are brought before the courts.

I say again that my thoughts are with the victims of this senseless, heartless, cowardly attack and also with the friends and families of those who have a connection with the incident in Camp Hill—a truly tragic set of events.

### **Logan Hospital, Expansion**



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): I add my thoughts and thanks to the paramedics and hospital staff who have responded to those incidents that the police minister just referred to.

The new Logan Hospital rapid expansion is now open and treating patients with complex medical conditions. Last week I had the pleasure of visiting Logan Hospital to officially open the hospital's new, 28-bed medical ward. This project employed 78 construction staff, including eight apprentices. The \$9 million medical ward boosted the number of beds at Logan Hospital for patients requiring more complex treatment.

We know that demand for health care across the state is increasing, with more and more patients presenting to EDs for treatment. Logan Hospital has one of the busiest emergency departments in Queensland, with more than 90,000 people seeking medical treatment there each year and that number is growing each year. This extension will provide a much needed boost for the hospital's emergency department and their hardworking frontline staff, by not only delivering more beds for patients but also delivering more frontline staff to treat them.

On my visit to the ward, I met Dianne, one of the very first patients in ward 2M. Dianne lives in Waterford West and told me how happy she was to have access to modern healthcare facilities like ward 2M close to her home. I also had the pleasure of meeting some of the 77 additional full-time staff who will be working in ward 2M. That is more nurses, doctors, wardies and cleaners, which is more frontline jobs our government is delivering for Queensland.

It does not stop there. This rapid expansion is only the start of Logan Hospital's \$460 million major expansion that will deliver more services, 206 more beds and the care Logan deserves closer to home. Construction is nearing completion on a new mental health decision unit within the emergency department. This unit will provide a safe and quiet area for our mental health patients to be triaged and treated, while being in close proximity to the emergency department to ensure they have the best possible care. This year we will commence work on a major refurbishment of the hospital's maternity unit, birthing suites and special care nursery, as well as a new multistorey car park for patients and staff. This is in addition to the Palaszczuk government's commitment to backing frontline health workers with the hiring of an additional 206 doctors and 886 nurses across Metro South HHS already. This is the Palaszczuk government delivering for Queenslanders and for Queensland.



## Rail Infrastructure



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.54 am): Only one government is all aboard rail manufacturing in Queensland, and that is the Palaszczuk Labor government. We know investing in major rail projects and manufacturing means jobs for Queensland families and businesses. It means more than 250 Maryborough locals can put food on the table, buy a house and support their families.

**Mr Saunders:** No tough love there.

**Mr BAILEY:** No tough love there; that is correct. That number includes 14 new apprentices who have this year started their journey to gain the skills that will set them up for life.

I am proud to announce today that we are delivering millions more in investment for Maryborough in terms of rail manufacturing and jobs at the plant. Everyone knows the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing \$335 million to rectify the NGR trains and make them accessible. Next week crews will get started on a \$6.8 million upgrade of the city's train tracks, unlocking new opportunities in the heritage city. This project alone will support 20 construction jobs.

Rail manufacturing is in Maryborough's DNA. For 150 years, the city has built more than 2,000 railcars and locomotives. As we enter the 2020s, the Palaszczuk government is committed to making sure that proud history of rail manufacturing continues at Downer's Maryborough workshop. Today's announcement builds on a 10-year strategic partnership announced in December with Downer EDI to rebuild our iconic electric and diesel tilt trains, as well as parts of our Citytrain fleet right in the heritage city.

This was a sector that was on its knees when we were elected in 2015 because of those opposite. They cut 1,700 Queensland Rail workers, cut driver training and ordered noncompliant trains from overseas. It is thanks to this government and our member for Maryborough that the Downer workshop is once again the beating heart of the city, supporting hundreds of families.

Across Queensland, major regional rail projects are driving a rail jobs boom, with projects underway from Toowoomba to Townsville supporting more than 1,150 rail jobs. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government through its record \$23 billion, 21,500 job transport and road budget that is backing public transport, backing jobs and backing Queenslanders.

## Energy Infrastructure



**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in world-class energy infrastructure for Queensland. Our publicly owned electricity companies will invest more than \$2.2 billion on capital works in 2019-20 and support up to 4,900 jobs in the process. I am pleased to inform the House that \$37 million in crucial electricity infrastructure is underway in the Wide Bay. The rebuild of the Gin Gin substation has hit the halfway mark and the Gin Gin to Woolooga insulator replacement works is now underway. These two projects combined will bring up to 95 jobs to the Wide Bay region.


In North Queensland, Queensland's first community scale battery near Townsville is due to be connected to the grid this month. This four megawatt Tesla battery will provide a valuable backup power supply to the local community. It can be used to help out during evening peak demand and temporary disruptions, including storms and cyclones which, as we all know, are very common for North Queensland at this time of the year. Meanwhile, works are underway on the \$49 million rebuilding of Bouldercombe substation in Rockhampton. These critical upgrades will support more than 100 jobs and will ensure safe and reliable electricity for Central Queensland.

Works are continuing at Palmwoods on a \$9.4 million substation upgrade which will secure power supply for the growing Sunshine Coast and support 23 jobs. The Palmwoods substation is a major injection point in Powerlink's transmission network and supplies Mooloolaba, Nambour, Beerwah and Caboolture. This project will underpin the long-term safe, reliable and cost-effective performance of the transmission network in this rapidly growing region.

Just last month a \$3.8 million makeover was completed on a critical South-East Queensland transmission line, supporting nine jobs in the process. This 47-year-old line will continue to supply electricity to many of Brisbane's southern suburbs including Eight Mile Plains, Wishart, Runcorn, Drewvale, Goodna and Collingwood Park. This is how you deliver for the future, not tough love—no 43 per cent power price increases, no sacking of our workers, no privatising of our assets—just sound, sensible investment into the future.

We have a world-leading power network and generation fleet which are creating jobs and continuing to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity supply to households. We are only able to do this because we own our assets.

### Aquaculture Industry, Jobs

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.00 am): It is my absolute privilege to update members on the fantastic jobs growth we are seeing as a result of the Palaszczuk government's support of the aquaculture industry. The latest figures show that aquaculture is now a significant multimillion dollar industry that is providing jobs for more than 600 Queenslanders.

In just the last financial year we have seen the number of Queensland aquaculture jobs grow by 18.7 per cent. That is an increase of 98 jobs just in this one fast-growing sector of Queensland's economy. The annual aquaculture production summary confirms that we are on track with our goal to grow Queensland's aquaculture industry which will create even more jobs in the regions. I table that report.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Agriculture and Fisheries report, titled 'Ross Lobegeiger report to farmers, Aquaculture production summary for Queensland 2018-19' [\[281\]](#).

A strong aquaculture sector partnered with a strong commercial fishing sector will mean more fresh and tasty Queensland seafood on plates around Australia and around the world.


In the Cairns region there is now the equivalent of 224 full-time jobs in aquaculture—up 11.1 per cent on last year. In the Fitzroy region jobs are up 154 per cent; in Brisbane, 113 per cent; in Mackay, 4.3 per cent; in the Wide Bay-Burnett, 32.9 per cent; and in Townsville, 7.1 per cent.

Our Gold Coast and Logan River prawn industries are getting back in production. Last financial year prawn production increased 18.1 per cent. Overall, the total value of Queensland aquaculture increased by 3.7 per cent. We know that there is significant further investment and jobs growth still to come. The continued recovery of the prawn sector, the release of six aquaculture development areas and investment in aquaculture farms by companies such as salmon producer Tassal mean a very bright future for the industry in Queensland.

When I became the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries one of my goals was to see Queensland become the aquaculture capital of the world. Since this time we have been successful in attracting southern states' businesses to invest in the industry in Queensland, with projects that will mean hundreds of additional jobs in the aquaculture sector.

I am looking forward to visiting some of these key projects over the coming weeks such as those by Tassal and Ornatas. This industry is farming great Queensland seafood that will become known the world over, and it is also growing hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders.

### The Oasis Townsville

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.02 am): Firstly, my thoughts are with those who have been impacted by the incident in Townsville this morning. I know that the police are conducting extensive investigations and I await the outcome of those investigations.

Today I would like to talk about the delivery of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to establish a dedicated hub to deliver services and supports for our ex-ADF personnel in Townsville. The Oasis Townsville has been a labour of love for everyone involved, and it is exciting that work has begun on the site. I had the privilege earlier this month of turning the first sod at the Oonoonba site to mark the beginning of the very important early works. The early works, which begin this week, include roads, footpaths and lighting. It was great to meet with Newlands Civil Construction, which is undertaking these early works, and to welcome them to this project.


The Oasis Townsville is a local focused project, using local construction companies, supporting local jobs and boosting the local economy. That is a commitment that we have made with this project and we have delivered. The Oasis Townsville will support an estimated 26 full-time-equivalent construction jobs, including three during the early works phase. These are vital jobs for the Townsville community. We are proud to be providing up to \$4.3 million for the first phase of this vital project. The early works on site could be finished as early as Anzac Day. I know the Oasis Townsville advisory committee, led by chairman retired Lieutenant General John Caligari AO DSC, are looking forward to watching these works take shape.

I am also pleased to inform the House today that we released the main works tender for construction of the Oasis Townsville this week. This tender will be open to the three Townsville based construction companies that were short-listed through an EOI last year. They are A Gabrielli Constructions, Paynters and Woollam Constructions.

I welcomed the Commonwealth's \$5 million commitment to this project made at the last federal election. I call on my Commonwealth counterpart to put the money on the table so we can work together to deliver this project for Townsville in 2020.

I cannot wait to see the project completed and delivering for the ex-ADF personnel in Townsville. We do anticipate that the Oasis Townsville could be constructed and operating as early as the end of July. I look forward to updating the House on the progress of this important project for the community of Townsville.

### Back to Work Program

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting businesses right across Queensland, especially in regional Queensland. I am proud to announce that we have reached a milestone with over 10,000 businesses supported to create more jobs through our Back to Work program. Back to Work is a fantastic program which provides support of up to \$20,000 for employers who take on unemployed Queenslanders who have been struggling to find work in regions that are doing it tough.


One success story that I visited last year with the member for Gladstone is local family owned engineering business Jenmick Gear Cutting and Engineering. The business celebrated 20 years in business and its ongoing success is helping locals get back to work. The business started in 1999 by Clifton and Sandra to produce precision machined components and services. Since then the business has gone from strength to strength and has recently taken on three new staff members with the help of Back to Work.

Brianna, Jake and Ruben all started at Jenmick through the Back to Work program and have continued their employment once the program finished. The business is planning on taking on another apprentice this year and is looking forward to skilling up more of Gladstone's local workforce. Jenmick administration assistant and Back to Work part-time trainee Brianna is in her final year of a Certificate III in Business Administration. Brianna said she is glad that she can work part-time in such a welcoming and friendly place while completing her course.


We have created over 940 jobs in Gladstone thanks to the Back to Work program, supporting over 400 small and medium businesses. We know Queensland businesses love the Back to Work program, with more than 21,000 jobs created through the program—and four out of five of those jobs being in regional Queensland. Back to Work is making a big difference for regional businesses and employees alike. That is why our government is proud to be investing in this program.

I would encourage any small and medium businesses looking to grow and take on more employees to speak to our hardworking Back to Work teams across Queensland to see how the program can help them expand and create even more jobs in more industries.

### Far North Queensland, Child Death

 **Mr SPEAKER:** With the indulgence of the House, I want to briefly say that the tragic death of a three-year-old in my electorate yesterday has shaken the community in Far North Queensland. Our thoughts are with all concerned, particularly the school community at the Hambleton State School. The local community is devastated and all are grieving over this tragic loss. I wanted to make sure that my thoughts were on the record regarding a very difficult situation that is hard to understand.

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Infrastructure

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.08 am): Mr Speaker, I join with you in adding my thoughts around that tragic incident in the Far North. In addition to that, my thoughts are with our QFES firefighters this morning who attended a significant incident in Brisbane. I know that that will be affecting our crews significantly throughout the day.

Since taking office in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$156 million in state-of-the-art facilities for QFES, supporting more than 250 Queensland jobs. Our ambitious capital works program has delivered 28 new stations and four major upgrades across the state.

It was a real privilege to visit places like Charleville, Roma, Mackay, Horn Island, Dirranbandi and Mount Ommaney to celebrate the opening of these new facilities. We made a commitment to the people of Queensland to rebuild frontline services, and 28 new stations and counting is a pretty solid effort. Building modern facilities ensures communities can feel safe knowing that our crews are properly equipped and ready to respond at a moment's notice. QFES responds to a wide variety of incidents from road traffic crashes, structure fires and specialist rescues to large-scale emergencies such as bushfires, cyclones and floods. New state-of-the-art facilities ensure our firefighters have greater operational response capabilities to meet communities' needs well into the future.

While QFES's priority will always be the preservation of life and property, its capital works program has the added benefit of supporting jobs in Queensland. More than 250 jobs have been supported by the construction and upgrade of QFES facilities. That means local tradies, local suppliers and local jobs. With a 2019-20 capital works budget totalling some \$44 million, there have been many more station openings to attend. Later next month the member for Thuringowa and I will celebrate the opening of the Round Mountain Rural Fire Brigade—something that the member has been incredibly passionate about. I also know that the member for Sandgate has been closely following the progress of the new Bracken Ridge station which, I am pleased to report, is ahead of schedule. The building of the Bracken Ridge station has supported 22 construction jobs, and what an asset to the community it will be.

Even the member for Nanango gets to partake in the celebrations and must be happy that the Palaszczuk government is replacing both the Esk and Kilkivan stations in her electorate. The member for Burdekin will appreciate our investment in the Clevedon Rural Fire Brigade and will be thrilled when that new station opens. Then there is the Rathdowney replacement facility for Scenic Rim, which we know saw devastating fires this year. The government has invested \$2.1 million in the Rathdowney build because Queenslanders from all corners deserve a world-class emergency service. This side of the House will continue to invest in infrastructure and services that support local jobs because that is what a responsible government does.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Crime



**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (10.12 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) Queenslanders perceive crime to be out of control across Queensland, with reports Queenslanders feel unsafe in their own homes and communities;
  - (b) youth crime gangs actively terrorise communities across South-East Queensland on a daily basis;
  - (c) the Townsville community is a powder-keg, with families' homes being invaded, cars stolen and lawlessness out of control;
  - (d) criminal bikies and organised gangs are out of control, with increasing public acts of violence including shootings and fire-bombings;
  - (e) open expressions of concern from senior police about an 'absolute escalation of violence' between gangs;
  - (f) several violent incidents involving young people that have shone a shocking spotlight on the problem of youth crime on the Gold Coast;
  - (g) Labor's revolving door youth justice system, with 10 per cent of all young offenders committing 44 per cent of offences;
  - (h) media reports that the Premier insisted there was no crime problem in Townsville and her Labor members should stop complaining about it;
  - (i) violence on Cape York;
  - (j) media reports that the member for Rockhampton and member for Nudgee are concerned about crime in their electorates; and
  - (k) Labor's weaker youth justice laws, removing breach of bail as an offence.
2. Condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government's appalling record on crime across Queensland, with five years of failed policies and wrong priorities that have put community safety at risk.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

### Health Services



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question is to the Premier. Will the Premier order a full investigation into the horrific incident of a patient suffering from dementia who was tied to a chair and left in a hallway to wait for treatment as a result of Labor's rapid off-load transfer policy?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am happy to look into the matter and receive advice from the health minister.

### Health Services

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. Brave cancer survivor Kate Yeoman revealed on the weekend that she has been waiting years for breast reconstruction surgery. On Monday the health minister said he was heartbroken and promised Kate would receive urgent treatment, but when Kate contacted me today she said that Queensland Health said she may have to wait another 12 months before seeing a surgeon. After so many years of waiting, why has the Palaszczuk government just given Kate false hope instead of the care that she needs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that I am unaware of any conversations she has personally had with Ms Yeoman. I will ask the minister to follow up. As I said very clearly in this House yesterday, this is a very sensitive issue for women. Anyone who has gone through breast cancer and reconstruction knows that it is deeply personal. Of course we want to make sure that they are being dealt with in the most sensitive way and—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. You will cease your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I also want to put on record the fine work that our doctors and nurses do in hospitals across Queensland—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will cease her interjections.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am talking about a serious issue and you are yelling. You are being very disrespectful.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair, as will the member for McConnell.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, the minister was going to personally follow up with the department to talk to the individual—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will not stand here and be lectured to by those opposite when their record in Cairns was to cut 306 health professionals—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Members, the level of interjection is unacceptable. I will be warning early and often.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let's put the facts on the table: 306 Health staff were cut from hospitals in Cairns and the hinterlands.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will end my comments with this: the matter will be followed up—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders. I just brought the House to order and you proceeded to interject immediately.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The minister will look closely at that matter because, as I said, these are very sensitive issues dealing with very personal women's health issues in this state.

### Far North Queensland, Coronavirus

**Mr HEALY:** Mr Speaker, nice tie! My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. With the Cairns TNQ convoy here in parliament, will the Premier update the House on what steps the government is taking to ensure Far North Queensland can weather the coronavirus crisis, and what else is the Palaszczuk government doing for the region?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cairns. Nice tie, nice scarf. The member raises a really good issue. I am really pleased that I will be meeting with the delegation coming down from Far North Queensland today. There will be a reception this evening so we are looking forward to that engagement. As I said, we have acted swiftly in relation to dealing with the coronavirus and the impact that the member personally knows from speaking with tourism operators up there. I am very pleased that both the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Tourism were able to visit Cairns last week to meet with the member on the ground and talk about some of the measures of the package that I announced yesterday.

We know that we need to do everything we can to listen to regional Queensland and deliver for regional Queensland. As we lead up to the preparation of the budget, I am very pleased to announce in the parliament today that in April the cabinet will be going to Cairns. That is something that the member for Cairns has raised personally with me. The members for Cook and Barron River have also been raising that. It is wonderful that the whole cabinet will be going up to Cairns, especially in the lead-up to our budget, to listen firsthand and also to see the progress of the infrastructure and what we are delivering for the people of that great city. The pride of Cairns—

**Mr Powell:** The convention centre.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, the convention centre, \$176 million and starting construction this year. We heard in the parliament yesterday the member for Chatsworth talk about some tough love measures that were taken—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, that they needed. That was in the period of 2012 to 2015. I thought I would do some research and you would not believe it.

**Mr Dick:** What did you find, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You just wouldn't believe it. All this talk of tough love—

**Ms Trad:** It rang a bell, didn't it?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It rang a bell. In fact it was the front page of the *Cairns Post*: 'Tough love: budget hardship reflects the high price of recovery'. There it was, with Campbell Newman talking the tough love. We know what that tough love was because it was cutting, sacking and selling.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is the tough love they talk about.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! It is not a free-for-all, members. I am calling the House to order. You will come to order or we will hear these questions asked in silence and the responses given in silence.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We know that Cairns and other parts of regional Queensland were hit very hard by Campbell Newman and his apprentices over there. The member for Nanango sat around the CBRC table and she was very proud—

**Ms Trad:** Of their tough decisions.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. What did some local people have to say?

*(Time expired)*

### Under Treasurer, Appointment

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. The Palaszczuk government has refused to release the selection report used to appoint Frankie Carroll to the role of Under Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier confirm this report was not blocked to hide the Deputy Premier's intervention into the independent selection process to ensure Frankie Carroll was appointed to the job leading Treasury as she wanted?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for the question. This was an independent selection process. I am not privy to it. I did not participate in it.

### Southern Gold Coast, Beaches

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. What more will be done so Currumbin locals and visitors can continue to enjoy the world famous southern Gold Coast beaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Gaven. The member for Gaven is a fine representative of the Gold Coast in this parliament. In fact, she is the Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development. She stands up for the Gold Coast and she is always talking about the Gold Coast. When I visited the wonderful electorate of Currumbin just recently, I was joined by Minister de Brenni—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am going to keep going. Don't worry about that. I'll be going there.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Every visit drives the vote lower.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Broadwater, I've got more on you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier.

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection because this is what the member for Broadwater said on election night about Townsville: 'I love this city. These people have supported me as a young councillor. I will always call this city home. It means so much to me.' There we are.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Keep it coming. Keep interjecting.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will be opening the Townsville stadium. I will be there this weekend.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, I appreciate there was some provocation but you were directing your comments directly at another member. I had called you to order personally. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** When we were in opposition, we promised to make the southern beaches of the Gold Coast a world surfing reserve and that is exactly what we did. From Burleigh Heads to Snapper Rocks, we made it a world surfing reserve. It was put to me by our candidate, by Kaylee—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, Kaylee Campradt, a local.

**Mr Dick:** Born and bred.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Born and bred. From Queensland, not Terranora.

**Ms Jones:** She's a member of the Currumbin RSL and shops at The Pines.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. What we are very proud of is the fact that I have tasked Minister de Brenni to look at making sure we have legislation to protect this world surfing reserve forever. It is a beautiful part of the Gold Coast enjoyed by surfers and families alike and we want to keep that for many decades to come. However, the member for Burleigh does not seem to share those views. In fact he said, 'I am totally opposed to the declaration of a large world surfing reserve.' On this side of the House, we support it, and on that side—

**Ms Trad:** He is more of a paddleboarder.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, he is not a paddleboarder. Not at all. Don't wish that upon him. Anyway, we will continue to stand up for the southern Gold Coast. I look forward to visiting Currumbin again in the very near future.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Health, Rapid Transfer Policy

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. In May 2018 documents obtained under RTI revealed Queensland Health nurses took the extraordinary action of writing to the health minister to voice their grave concerns that Labor's rapid transfer policy risked patient safety. This policy was only meant to operate for a few weeks during the Commonwealth Games. Why did the minister ignore these nurses' warnings?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. I can confirm for the benefit of the House that subsequent to receiving that correspondence I went to Logan Hospital and I met with those nurses and I spent a significant amount of time with the doctors and nurses at the Logan emergency department. While I did not discuss those conversations publicly at the time, I did subsequently make a whole series of announcements to relieve the pressure on the Logan emergency department to deliver on the requests that those nurses made of me personally. I am pleased to report that many of those initiatives are now coming to fruition.

They said to me that, while they appreciated the government's long-term investment in a major expansion in Logan, that was frankly too far away. That is why very shortly after receiving that correspondence I announced the investment in the rapid expansion ward to deliver beds quickly to Logan Hospital. That is now open and operating and relieving pressure on the wards in the hospital, as well as allowing better flow through the emergency department.

I also then allocated additional funding for additional nursing staff at the emergency department to ensure that they could adequately transfer patients quickly into the emergency department, particularly those arriving by ambulance. The nurses also raised with me their concerns about having an appropriate space within the emergency department to see and treat mental health patients. That is why I then announced funding for a mental health stabilisation and treatment hub—

**Ms Bates:** Why are nurses working double shifts then?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba.

**Dr MILES:** She does not like to have an answer, but she should at least let me deliver it because I am answering very specifically the question that she asked of me. She came in here and accused me of ignoring them and I am outlining to you, Mr Speaker, in great detail how I did not ignore them—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, cease your interjections.

**Dr MILES:**—and, in fact, how I went and spent time with them and delivered to them exactly what they asked of me. That mental health stabilisation and treatment unit will be open very soon and will deliver a much better space for mental health patients in that very busy emergency department. If the member was listening to my ministerial statement she would have heard that I went precisely to all of the initiatives that have been—

**Ms Bates:** I'm asking about the other EDs where the nurses are working double shifts.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

**Dr MILES:**—put in place in Logan. If you listened to them like I do you would know about it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! A reminder to ministers to direct their comments through the chair.

### Jobs

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on jobs growth in Queensland and how that compares with other approaches involving tough love?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Lytton for the question. She understands how important jobs are to the people in her community and right across our state. I am so proud of the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered 39 months of uninterrupted jobs growth. In December, 4,000 jobs were added to the Queensland jobs market. That took the total number of jobs that have been created since 2015 to more than 235,000 jobs in our state. That is 235,000 jobs, and 125,000 of them are full-time jobs—that is full-time jobs, secure employment, well-paid jobs in our economy.



This is because we are making the right investments—the right investments in infrastructure right across our state, the right investments in industries like the Rheinmetall factory opening up, the right investments in programs like free TAFE and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This is supported through a budget that has delivered surpluses that are built on prudent spending and sensible savings, unlike those opposite, who delivered when they were in government huge doses of tough love.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition is so proud of her time in government when she was the assistant Treasurer. We know that she was very proud of the tough decisions that they had to make. Only yesterday we heard from the member for Chatsworth that Queenslanders had to cop tough love under the Newman administration. Let's be clear what that tough love was, and I will start where the health minister left off, which was about if the member for Mudgeeraba had listened to nurses. I say to the health minister that it is hard to listen to nurses when you sack them, and 1,800 nurses were sacked under those opposite. That was a dose of tough love, wasn't it? That was only a subset of 14,000 workers sacked right across our state. That was a dose of tough love that the member for Chatsworth was talking about or the tough decisions that the member for Nanango was talking about. What about the tough economic love that those opposite—

**Mr Lister:** As if we're going to listen to you. You should be in jail.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, that was extraordinarily unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw that statement, and you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr LISTER:** I withdraw.

**Ms TRAD:** They talked about the tough economic love they had to dish out to Queenslanders like the highest unemployment rate in 11 years. They talked about tough love while the economy was contracting. Those opposite need to detail what tough love they are planning for Queenslanders this year. How are they going to fund their election commitments and what type of tough love are they going to be asking Queenslanders to cop? Queenslanders are well aware of the tough—

*(Time expired)*

### **Barbagallo, Mr D**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier rule out giving David Barbagallo an indemnity and confirm that taxpayers will not fund his legal costs arising from the CCC investigation into his company's receipt of a taxpayer funded grant given that the Premier used an indemnity to pay for defending her contempt charge?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the shadow Attorney-General should know, indemnity is only available to ministers of the Crown on both sides of parliament, including current and former ministers.

### **Olive Downs Mine**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister please update the House on the government's work to deliver jobs and development through the proposed Olive Downs coalmine and is the minister aware of any other approach?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the minister, members to my left, the questions will be heard in silence.

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question and her great and strong advocacy for the resources industry in Central Queensland. The Coordinator-General approved the environmental impact statement of the Olive Downs coalmine on 13 April 2019. It was then referred to the Morrison government for environmental approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The federal process was meant to be completed in 30 days, which is the maximum allowable time under the EPBC Act. Of course, it has now been 39 weeks since this project was lodged with the federal Morrison government for approval. Let me remind all members of the House that this is a \$1 billion project for the resources sector in Queensland. It promises 500 construction jobs and 1,000 ongoing mining jobs for many decades to come. These are intergenerational resource jobs that are being stopped in our state by the Morrison government.

It is also worth noting that not one environmental group put in a negative submission against this coalmine during consultation on the EIS. I want to say that is a credit to the proponent and also a credit to the good work of the Office of the Coordinator-General.

This great project, meeting all environmental processes, can start this year, but it hinges on an overdue approval from Scott Morrison and his government. Enough is enough. One would have thought the self-proclaimed Senator for North Queensland, Matt Canavan, the champion of the resource sector, would have got on with this. However, it is in his unfinished business list. He has a lot of unfinished business: Olive Downs coalmine; NAIF, the 'never any infrastructure fund' for Queensland; the Leader of the Opposition's job—that is another bit of unfinished business. He could hardly do worse than the never-ending list of misjudgements and missteps from the member for Nanango and her frontbench team.

What about the tough love expert, the member for Chatsworth? We all know what that means. Tough love means closing the Barrett Adolescent Centre. Tough love means 14,000 people could lose their jobs.

Tough love means record unemployment in Queensland. The one group of people those opposite will not get tough with is the Morrison government. The Leader of the Opposition will not be tough with Scott Morrison. She will not be tough with the 'how good is Queensland' raft of LNP senators and members of the House of Representatives who do absolutely nothing for Queensland. She will not be tough to them. She will not be tough to the member for Chatsworth because she knows that he speaks the truth. Tough love is coming, and that is cutting, sacking and selling.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Bundaberg and the member for Toowoomba North are warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday the Deputy Premier refused to deny that she exchanged text messages with the education deputy director-general, Jeff Hunt, about the inner city south school principal appointment process. Will the Premier order the Deputy Premier to immediately surrender her taxpayer funded mobile phone to the Crime and Corruption Commission to preserve potential evidence?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the member has also referred this matter to the CCC, the CCC has all the powers to search and to access whenever it wants to. Of course, everyone will cooperate with that. Can I just clarify my earlier answer? On advice from Crown Law, ministerial staff, public servants and the director-general can get indemnities, but Mr Barbagello will not be getting an indemnity. I have answered the question.

### **Energy Infrastructure**

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House about the latest electricity industry capital project in Cairns and outline what contribution Queensland is receiving from the Commonwealth towards energy infrastructure?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I am pleased to inform the House that a world-class research and development hub planned for Cairns will support up to 70 jobs and will help shape the future of energy in Queensland. Cairns based Osborne Construction Solutions and Babinda Electrics have commenced design and construction of the \$6 million facility. It is the first large-scale facility of its kind in Queensland and, most importantly, it will pave the way for new electricity solutions that can be used in communities right across this state.

As I said, Queensland's publicly owned energy companies are investing more than \$2.2 billion in our state. But what do we have to do to get some of that love that the federal LNP is showing to other states? Valentine's Day was last Friday. Scott Morrison has serenaded New South Wales with a billion dollars of energy infrastructure gifts. ScoMo turned on the charm, the choccies and the champers for Gladys—and New South Wales got the lot. Meanwhile, Queensland has been left sitting at home alone again with the microwave dinner. Not even a bunch of servo flowers at the last minute from ScoMo. It is just not fair.

When it comes to building the energy solutions of the future, we have given ScoMo more than a wink and a smile. Through the QNI interconnector, we are keeping the lights on in the southern states. Just last week, 57 gigawatts of electricity passed through to New South Wales. That is enough electricity to power half a million homes in New South Wales for a week. If you were sensible, you would spend taxpayers' money where it benefits Australians the most—here in Queensland. Only in Queensland can the Prime Minister learn a lesson on how to run a reliable, low-cost, efficient energy system. Maybe

Mr Morrison does not like the look of our publicly owned energy assets; maybe that is it. Maybe he wants to shows us a bit of LNP tough love with another 43 per cent increase in power prices? Mr Morrison can forget flirting with Queensland. He has picked his valentine and has rejected Queensland. But I remind the Prime Minister that Queensland is keeping the lights on in Sydney. It is Queensland that is doing it.

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

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier said about the Deputy Premier's video announcing a new school principal in the Deputy Premier's electorate—

I am advised that the ALP logo was used in error in that post. The logo was subsequently removed.

I now table screenshots of the Deputy Premier's Facebook and Twitter accounts showing that the video with the Labor logo has not been removed.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for South Brisbane, Hon. Jackie Trad, in relation to a video [282].

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 2 September 2019, from the Twitter account of the member for South Brisbane, Hon. Jackie Trad, in relation to a school principal [283].

Why does the Premier allow her deputy to continually flout her directions and basic ministerial standards?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was advised that it has been taken down. I am happy to look into that matter.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Interjections are not meant to be there for a break in the conversation or commentary.

### **Outback Queensland, Tourism**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the government's strategy to boost the tourism industry in the outback?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the member for the question. I know that he loves the outback just like I love the outback, just like the Premier loves the outback and just like everybody on our side of the House loves the outback. That is why we are so proud that we were the first government in Queensland's history to develop a package specifically to boost outback tourism. We know that so many Queenslanders and indeed Australians love going to the outback, but the one thing they needed was more tourism experiences to get people to stay there longer and to spend more in local economies. Didn't we show them the love in terms of the Year of Outback Tourism?

The good news is the love does not end there, because the projects are being built right now and will come online this year for Queenslanders to fall in love with as they holiday here at home. These projects include: caravan and camping infrastructure in Arramac, Jericho and Muttaborra; 15 new five-star eco lodges at Longreach; a new cultural heritage experience at Arramac; the Qantas Founders Museum light and sound show in Longreach—I really am looking forward to that one; you will love it—and our new infrastructure at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs headquarters in Winton.

We are investing in tourism in the outback because we know of communities such as Mount Isa, Longreach and Winton—and I must acknowledge the local member out there; I know that he loves the outback and this investment in those communities. This investment stands in stark contrast to the tough love we saw the LNP issue to the tourism department and the tourism industry when in government. In fact, on 25 July 2012 a reminder of the tough love that the member for Chatsworth still argues for—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** He said it yesterday. It is so funny because the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We learnt our lessons through the Newman era,' but then old mate, the member for Chatsworth, said yesterday that he is reminiscing about the old, tough love days. We know what 'tough love' meant for the tourism industry—\$188 million cut from the tourism sector. The problem with the opposition is that when it comes to love they are all stem and no rose.

**A government member:** Full of thorns.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection—full of thorns. That is all you are left with—the thorns that cut you when you are turning around! We know tough love. The cat is out of the bag. You open up the chocolate box and there is no chocolate in there—just the dark ones with the nuts that nobody eats. No fizz in the champagne; the champagne is flat. That is the kind of tough love we get from the opposition. It is not a laughing matter, because we know that cuts to tourism money are cuts to jobs, jobs right across Queensland. One in 10 Queenslanders work in the tourism industry, and every time you cut their funding you cut a job.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired.

**Ms JONES:** I take the minister's interjection—I am all show and all substance!

### **CopperString 2.0**

**Mr KATTER:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. My recent discussions with all major miners in the North West Minerals Province indicates serious threats to the future of our industry if energy prices among the highest in the world are not addressed. Given that \$20 million of investment will get this \$1.5 billion CopperString project to the construction phase and finally deliver on the government's northern energy policy, will immediate action be taken to address this shortfall?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Traeger for his question. I was pleased to announce in April 2019 that the Coordinator-General had declared the CopperString 2.0 project a coordinated project for which an environmental impact statement is required. I will just give the member some background before coming to his question. The proponent is currently preparing a draft environmental impact statement which it advises will be submitted to the Coordinator-General for consideration in coming months. I am further advised that the draft EIS will be on public display for a minimum period of 30 days and that the proponent will have until 4 March 2021 to finalise the proposed project. The proponent has stated that they hope the start of construction will be in early 2021.

We have contributed significantly so far to the project development costs. We announced that when we were in Mount Isa for the community cabinet. The Premier took us up to Mount Isa and we announced a further investment of more than a million dollars to support the progression of the CopperString project, and we will continue to work closely with the proponent's team of advisers. My department will work with them and with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

I can also advise the House that, as the honourable member has indicated, the Queensland government has just received a submission seeking additional funding for the project and that will be considered on its merits, so I can give that undertaking to the member for Mount Isa. It is a very significant project. It is a billion dollar project. The current request is \$20 million, but the company will need to reach financial close in some way.

This is a very significant project that speaks very clearly to the federal government and its Northern Australia infrastructure fund. We have received very little from that fund, as all honourable members from both sides of this House would acknowledge. There has been an incredible amount of talk about NAIF but very little delivery. It has become, I think, a political plaything for the federal government. Senator Canavan used to talk about NAIF at length before he blew up his own ambitions in the federal coalition, as well as blowing up the National Party federally with a deliberate attempt to destabilise his own party, to wreck his own party's leader, and we now see him running around the countryside disempowered and unable to deliver for Queensland. Keith Pitt is the new minister responsible for NAIF who has a personal obsession with nuclear energy. Plutonium Keith Pitt will now look to CopperString as an option.

I would encourage all members in the LNP, on the crossbench and in our party to say to the federal government, 'Let's back a real project for Queensland—not one that's not going to get off the ground, not one that's going to put communities, our business and tourism at risk,' which is nuclear energy and the community of Bundaberg in particular. Let us back—

*(Time expired)*

### **North Queensland, Health Services**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on health investments in North Queensland?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Townsville for his question. I know that he is a strong and passionate advocate for health services right around this state. It was great to be with him in Townsville along with our other Townsville MPs—the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra—at the Townsville HHS staff awards. The member for Hinchinbrook was there, too. We were there to celebrate the efforts of the Townsville HHS staff. Those people do a fantastic job and we on this side of the House are pleased to be able to support them in their work. We have done that by employing 124 additional doctors and an extra 151 nurses and midwives in the Townsville HHS. We are backing them with a budget of more than a billion dollars this financial year. We are backing them with new facilities like the upgraded paediatric ward.

Mr Speaker, as you know, it does not stop at Townsville. We are also supporting our health workers in Cairns and the Far North, and I know this will be of interest to the Cairns delegation which is here meeting with us this week and I was pleased to meet with it yesterday. We are investing more than a billion dollars in the Cairns HHS this financial year. We have already employed an additional 164 doctors and 335 nurses and midwives. We have expanded the treatment spaces in the emergency department by eight spaces, and I note that the member for Cairns is nodding because he was a big advocate for that project. We are investing \$70 million in a hospital expansion that will deliver a massive fantastic new mental health unit. As you know, Mr Speaker, we are investing in the south Cairns community health hub, which you and I turned the sod on not that long ago, which will not only deliver community health services but also serve as an evacuation centre in the case of a natural disaster like a cyclone.

We make all of those investments because that is what we on this side of the House love doing. We love employing more nurses and midwives. We love employing more doctors. We love building and opening new hospitals and expanding our hospitals. We love backing our health workers because we know that is what they need. They do not need tough love. They have had enough tough love. Three years was enough tough love for them. Tough love meant that 306 hardworking health staff were sacked from the Cairns HHS, 48 of them nurses. Some 4,400 health workers were sacked in their tough-love campaign last time, and now we know what their tough love would look like if they ever got a chance to tough love us again, and that would be to privatise our hospitals and outsource the work of our health workers. Let us stick with loving our health workers.

*(Time expired)*

### **Paradise Dam, Release of Documents**

**Mr BATT:** My question is to the Premier. SunWater has refused to release vital documents about Paradise Dam to independent expert Dr Paul Rizzo. Given the Premier told the parliament that her government will act in the best interests of the Bundaberg community in the spirit of full public disclosure, will the Premier immediately order the release of the nine requested documents to allow Dr Paul Rizzo to complete his independent safety and engineering assessment of Paradise Dam?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I said that there have been a number of documents that have been released. I am not aware that they are asking for any more specific documents. I am happy to look into that matter for the member. At first glance I do not have a problem with it, but I just need to get some more information as to what the problem is and I will ask the minister to report back to the House.

### **Port of Townsville, Jobs**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister provide an update on the Palaszczuk government's investment in the Port of Townsville to support jobs in north and north-west Queensland?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question—a great advocate of our publicly owned port in Townsville. I am happy to announce that Townsville port will be rocking next month. The first rocks will go into the water to build a seawall that will reclaim 62 hectares for a port expansion, and that means jobs in North Queensland. The rock wall is a critical part of our \$193 million channel widening program driven by this government—not just public ownership but investing in jobs and investing in expansion, not tough love. Almost 130 Townsville jobs will be supported by it and later this year we will see work starting to extend Berth 10 for larger car-carrying ships, and the new container terminal at Berth 4 which we have been investing in heavily will open soon. That means cheaper products and more jobs for North Queensland.

Our government is also funding the construction of the new intermodal rail freight terminal at the port to support exports coming from the north-west Queensland mineral province. We have committed \$80 million over four years to reduce the Mount Isa rail line charges. This is the rail line that was going to be privatised by those opposite. They were going to privatise the Townsville port and they were going to privatise the Mount Isa rail line—tough love they call it, as was revealed as recently as yesterday by the accident-prone member for Chatsworth. We are investing in not just the Townsville port but the Cairns port too. The shipping development project there is a \$127 million investment with 800 construction jobs for Far North Queensland in the areas of the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River. That will allow us to have up to an extra 150 cruise ships coming in a year by 2030. That is 2,700 jobs coming over the next decade because of our investments in our publicly owned port in Cairns. These are key gateways to our economy in North Queensland.

When in power those opposite sacked 16 North Queensland port workers and almost 60 North Queensland road builders also lost their jobs—tough love. We saw tough love all too much when it came to those opposite, but even Campbell Newman says that he does not believe them on asset sales. RoadTek workers were sacked. Some 14,000 people were sacked. We saw tough love but not a single new dollar on the M1. We saw the incompetence of those opposite when it comes to our rail. They said that it would take 36 years for rail to come back. As recently as yesterday they are now saying 'tough love'. They did it before and they will do it again. We know that to be the truth, and the member for Chatsworth let the cat out of the bag yesterday by mentioning it—not Strong Choices but 'tough love' is the new phrase for their privatisation program.

*(Time expired)*

### **Queensland Health, Rapid Transfer Policy**

**Dr ROWAN:** My question without notice is to the health minister. When asked about a dementia patient being strapped to a chair in a hallway to wait for treatment because of Labor's rapid transfer policy, the health minister said he did not know if it occurred and I ask: will the minister apologise to this patient and immediately review Labor's rapid transfer policy to ensure patient care is always the priority?

**Dr MILES:** As I outlined publicly at the time that that report was brought to my attention, I asked the HHS to investigate it and they reported back to me that no evidence could be found of such an incident. I am advised that the incoming chief executive of Metro South HHS has undertaken to again investigate that matter and report back to me the events that have been reported and I look forward to receiving that.

Our paramedics and our emergency department doctors and our nurses deliver incredible care to patients from the second that we receive a triple 0 call and patients are collected and stabilised on the scene until they are transported to a hospital and into the care of an emergency department.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** At every single part of that process they receive world-class care from highly skilled clinicians.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Dr MILES:** I will not have those opposite question the care delivered by our clinicians, whether they are paramedics, nurses, doctors or other health staff. That is what those opposite are trying to do here in this House today. It is disgusting. Those opposite are the ones who sacked those workers. We are the ones who put them back and now they walk in here and criticise their worth.

Let me put it this way: this government supports and will resource our ambulance services and our hospital services to ensure that we respond as quickly as possible to the community, we transfer those patients into the emergency department as quickly as possible and they receive treatment as quickly as possible. That is why treatment time in our emergency hospitals has gone from 20 minutes under the LNP to just 16 minutes under this government.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you were issued a warning moments ago. For the second time in two days you will leave the chamber for one hour. Members on warnings will cease all interjections. I hope I am making myself clear to the House.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 11.02 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have 30 seconds remaining. Do you have anything further to add?

**Dr MILES:** I do. By coming into this place and criticising the rapid transfer of patients into the emergency department, those opposite are saying we should take more time to transfer them into the emergency department, that we should not transfer them as quickly as we possibly can and that we should not allow those paramedics to get back into the field to save the next life. That is what our policy is all about and by opposing it they are effectively criticising us for delivering the fastest possible emergency care.

### Local Government, Jobs

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister advise the House of the job-creating projects being facilitated through the local government portfolio?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question. In October last year the Premier committed to writing to councils in Queensland to get feedback on our hugely successful, job-generating \$600 million Works for Queensland program. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of feedback and by the positive support for the program from across the state. Mayors and councils wrote to us and spoke to us about the program's scope, its aims and its possible expansion. The upshot is that the Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland program is transforming communities while supporting 21,000 jobs across regional Queensland.

Far be it for me to put words into people's mouths. Let us hear from those council leaders themselves. The Mayor of Mareeba Shire Council, Tom Gilmore, said—

The Works for Queensland grants scheme is, and I trust will remain, one of the most highly regarded grants programs offered by the state government to local government in my more than 30 years of public life.

What does the Mayor of Goondiwindi Regional Council, Graeme Scheu, say? He says—

To date Works for Queensland has proven to be one of the most successful examples of state and local governments working together to fund infrastructure that benefits local communities.

The Mayor of Cairns Regional Council, Bob Manning, said—

I would like to thank and congratulate the government on the introduction of the Works for Queensland program. It has greatly assisted our council in delivering key community projects.

The Mayor of McKinlay Shire Council, Belinda Murphy, said—

For our council, with little ability to raise our own source revenue, situated in a small community, keeping local businesses engaged and sustaining jobs can be challenging. Works for Queensland has been an extraordinarily valuable program in this space.

The acting mayor from Mackay Regional Council and LNP candidate for Whitsunday, Amanda Camm, said—

The Mackay region has benefited significantly from the job creation opportunities created by the Works for Queensland funding program. I commend the state government for providing Queensland with this funding opportunity which continues to help support job growth throughout the Mackay region.

The LNP candidate for Whitsunday and the mayors across Queensland are singing the praises of Works for Queensland but all we hear from the opposition on this job-creating program is radio silence. Everywhere I go mayors and councillors are asking me whether the opposition supports this job-creating Works for Queensland program, but unfortunately I cannot give them that assurance that they will commit to the program. In fact, when we hear about tough love we know what is going to happen; it is going to be cut in the same way that all those good programs of previous Labor governments were cut.

### Under Treasurer, Appointment

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is of the Premier. This morning the Deputy Premier said she respected the independent appointment process of Frankie Carroll to the role of Under Treasurer and took no role in his appointment. Given the Palaszczuk government has blocked release of his selection report under right to information, will the Premier now order its release so that Queenslanders can have confidence in the appointment of Treasury's most senior official?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is an independent selection process that is run by my director-general.

### Gold Coast, School Infrastructure

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is of Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister advise the House of the government's investment in school infrastructure on the Gold Coast and are there any other alternatives?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. I know she is very proud of some of the work that is happening in her schools. They are going from strength to strength and it is great to see. The Palaszczuk government is no stranger to the Gold Coast.

**Mr Crandon:** She is not on the Gold Coast!

**Ms GRACE:** It is so proud to be able to go down to the Gold Coast.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera!

**Ms GRACE:** I will take the member for Coomera's interjection. The question was about the Gold Coast, with all due respect. I enjoy meeting with the member for Coomera about the schools in his electorate. There is Foxwell and I just turned the sod on the site at Pimpama for a new primary school. I welcome his input into that.

Since we have been elected on the Gold Coast we have invested over half a billion dollars in upgrades in schools on the Gold Coast. That has been delivered by a Labor government. We have delivered, as the Premier pointed out, the new Foxwell State Secondary College, a world-class education facility for students at the northern end of the Gold Coast. New learning centres and classroom blocks are open at Southport State High School, Palm Beach Currumbin State High, Ormeau State School, Pimpama State School, Broadbeach State School and Pacific Pines State High School, where the member for Gaven and I opened a most magnificent building of classrooms as part of the 2020 Ready project.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

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

**Ms GRACE:** We have updated classroom blocks, libraries and staff blocks, and we have delighted in opening those buildings. Despite that incredible investment, last year I received a letter from the member for Bonney about the Arundel State School. We had the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Bonney talking down our great schools on the Gold Coast. In their press release, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We want the classrooms for the future to meet modern curriculum and the needs of the future.' The member for Bonney said, 'These demountables were brought in on the back of a truck decades ago.' Maybe you should have done some research—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Ms GRACE:** Maybe the member for Bonney should have done some research, because those demountables were put in in 2013, at the time that the school was growing, under the Newman government. The Leader of the Opposition gave the money for additional demountables in that school when she was assistant treasurer to Campbell Newman. Now she says, 'We will build a brand-new building,' but we will go further. We are not going to put a building here and there; we will master plan the Arundel school, we will do it well, we will do it properly and we will deliver the classrooms that they deserve.

*(Time expired)*

### Health Services

**Mr HART:** My question without notice is to the health minister. Yesterday, Queensland Health advised brave cancer survivor Kate Yeoman that her reconstruction surgery might not happen for at least another year or even longer. Will the minister apologise to Kate for giving her false hope and how will the minister ensure that Kate gets the surgery she needs now and not in a year's time?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the minister, I want to provide some guidance. The question is extraordinarily similar to a previous question, particularly the preamble. However, I note that the question is different as it is asked. I want to provide that guidance.

**Dr MILES:** I cannot, have not and never will disclose personal information in this place or in public. The details of people's personal and private interactions with the health system are private information and I am not at liberty to disclose that in public.



As I said at the weekend, I have asked Cairns HHS to meet with the three women who remain awaiting allocation for breast reconstruction surgery. I have not yet received a report back from them about those meetings. I can advise the House that Cairns HHS has advised me that, if clinically ready, all of those patients should be scheduled by the end of May 2020. There is a range of considerations that need to be taken into account when determining if a patient is clinically ready. Those are properly matters to be discussed and considered between a woman and her clinicians. Frankly, bringing them in here to exploit their misery is beneath even you lot. It is, indeed, disgraceful.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Scenic Rim, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair. Minister, do you have anything to add?

**Dr MILES:** I do, Mr Speaker. As at 1 February 2020, statewide there were eight patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for breast reconstruction surgery. Three have now been treated, three have been booked for treatment in the next month and two patients are waiting to be booked. If the LNP really wants to talk about—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I have called the House to order. Interjections will cease. Member for Warrego, perhaps I was not clear before. You are under a warning. Your continual interjections mean that you will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Warrego withdrew from the chamber at 11.14 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has strayed somewhat in his response, but generally is being responsive to the question asked. I ask that you hear the response to the question. Minister, you have 43 seconds remaining.

**Dr MILES:** Earlier I outlined the investments that the Palaszczuk government has made to improve health care for all Queenslanders and those investments are delivering a dividend. When we came to office, 95 per cent of category 1 patients were seen within clinically recommended times; now it is 96 per cent. When we came to office, 80 per cent of category 2 patients were seen in time; now it is 92 per cent. When we came to office, 88 per cent of category 3 patients were seen within clinically recommended times; that is now at 95 per cent—and that is without going to the more than 100,000 Queenslanders who were on their waitlist to get on the waitlist.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Good as gold, member for Mermaid Beach!

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIT MASTER PLAN BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 18 February (see p. 380), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.15 am), continuing: As we adjourned the debate yesterday afternoon, I was sharing with the House and the people of the Gold Coast some considerable concern that, given the minister's track record, there may be an inability for him to implement the outcomes of this legislation and, indeed, the Spit Master Plan itself. As I said, he was taken off transitioning North Stradbroke Island. Despite being the infrastructure minister, he was not given Cross River Rail when the Deputy Premier was stripped of that responsibility. For the sake of the Gold Coast residents, over the next eight months let us hope that the minister does a better job at implementing the Spit Master Plan than he has done in his other portfolio area of manufacturing, as it has been reported that 18,000 Queensland manufacturing workers have lost their jobs on this minister's watch.

With regard to some of the specifics of the bill, I first want to touch on the hypocrisy of this government. Throughout this term and, indeed, the term before and the term before that, we heard references to asset sales. The first commercial parcel of land to be developed on the Spit—a nearly

10,000-square-metre opportunity—is being offered under a 120-year lease. That sounds familiar. Wasn't it the then shadow Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, who described long-term leases as full-scale privatisation? It is funny how when it suits their purposes long-term leases do not classify as asset sales or full-time privatisation, but when considered under the LNP they classify them as asset sales.

With regard to further specifics of the master plan and the expansion of the duties of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, I will direct people to the upcoming contributions of my Gold Coast LNP colleagues, particularly the local member for Surfers Paradise and his neighbours in Bonney, Southport and Mermaid Beach. They are invested in the outcomes on the Spit. They have been cognisant of what has transpired over the course of the past eight years and particularly what has not transpired over the course of the past five years. They will have very specific input on elements of the master plan.

Although the master plan was finally released in May 2019, it is now midway through February 2020 and the required legislation is only just being debated. While the minister has failed to get on with delivery, in the past year the Gold Coast unemployment rate has jumped by 1.4 per cent to 5.7 per cent, which is the second largest increase in the state. That means 5,400 Gold Coast locals have been added to the unemployment queue, which again is the largest increase in the whole state. The Gold Coast's unemployment queue now stretches more than 20,000 people long and that is incredibly concerning for the local economy. Equally concerning, if not more so, is that youth unemployment has skyrocketed on the Gold Coast over the past year, increasing the most in the whole state by 5.4 per cent to 13.1 per cent.

While the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning was dawdling on this legislation, his colleague the Minister for Tourism was busy making promises while delivering nothing. Despite promising a speedy resolution four months ago, the tourism minister has made no progress on delivering the promise to revamp the Gold Coast Convention Centre.

Despite promising the Indy cars for the Gold Coast, nothing has been delivered. Despite spending millions of taxpayers' dollars on pitching a Gold Coast second casino—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is straying well off the topic here. This is about the Spit Master Plan. He is going all around the world on a whole lot of other issues, everything except the bill.

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

**Mr BAILEY:** Yes.

**Mr POWELL:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I listened to the minister's contribution to the second reading speech and he, similarly, made a lot of comment about jobs and jobs on the Gold Coast and the work that this government was apparently doing to deliver those. I am being consistent with what the minister also contributed on this debate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask all members to remain relevant to the bill.

**Mr POWELL:** As I was saying, despite spending millions of taxpayers' dollars on pitching a Gold Coast second casino, nothing has been announced. In response to the consistent failures of Labor to deliver for the Gold Coast, the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce President Martin Hall accurately summarised—

We do not want to find ourselves in a long stalemate, as we did with the ASF development, with months of speculation when we could be doing something.

Gold Coasters cannot afford another four years of businesses going bankrupt, jobs being lost, projects being promised and under-delivered, and tourism numbers falling. Gold Coasters cannot afford a government bereft of ideas, bereft of direction and bereft of leadership.


**Mr WHITING:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is not covered in the long title of the bill. This is not covered in the explanatory notes. None of these issues were covered in the hearings of the committee. I submit that he is extremely irrelevant.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice from the table. Member, I ask that you stay relevant to the long title of the bill and the committee report.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will be listening with much interest to the contributions of Labor members further on. Should they also be talking about jobs on the Gold Coast or lack thereof, I will be sure to pull them up as well. After all, this is about implementing the Spit Master Plan, something that has taken five years to do. Clearly the Palaszczuk Labor government has held the Gold Coast back. It is clear that only an LNP government can unlock the city's potential. I can assure

you the LNP will build a stronger economy for businesses to grow, to create new jobs and more higher-paid local jobs on the Gold Coast. While Labor look after themselves, the LNP will work for Gold Coast residents.

Before closing, I want to briefly address the legislative changes to the Planning Act. The bill seeks to amend the Planning Act 2016 in order to clarify the intended scope of compensation rights in relation to an adverse planning change, in particular, that compensation is available in relation to development, that is, assessable development, both before and after the adverse planning change, and include transitional arrangements to ensure that any affected owner who may have been unable to claim compensation as a result of the current provisions of the Planning Act may do so within six months of the commencement. I understand these changes were requested by external stakeholders, including the Property Council and the Queensland Law Society. I understand from the committee's report that in some instances those external stakeholders do not believe these changes go far enough, particularly the Property Council, but at the same time the local government authority probably fears they go a little too far. In balancing out those activities, I believe that we have probably arrived at the right outcome for this particular part of the legislation. This legislation is long overdue. It comes after five years of hiatus. Let us hope, for the sake of the Gold Coast, it stimulates at least some activity, but under the Palaszczuk Labor government I fear it will not.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (11.24 am): One of the questions that has been stimulated in me by the member for Glass House is their declaration of how they support this. Do they support this? Do they not? Do they support the process? I look forward to hearing from the Gold Coast members on the other side about whether they support this or not.

The member for Glass House said he will listen to us to see if he can learn something. I will be very happy to enlighten the member for Glass House and other members once we explain a bit about the bill, which they may not know too much about, and the process that we have gone through. For example, I mentioned the first commercial lease going up for sale. We found, from talking to the stakeholders, that all stakeholders are in support of that. Community, environmental, commercial leaseholders—they all agreed to this; they were waiting for this. Everyone was on board for this first lot going onto the market. I know that he said that the LNP members are invested in this. I point out that there is a whole range of stakeholders who have been invested in this for years and years. This government has listened to them. Some 23,000 individual pieces of feedback have been fed into this master plan. That is extraordinary.

In this debate the member talked a little bit about what is in the Spit Master Plan bill, but a much larger portion of the time he was whinging and whining. We implore members on the other side to speak to the bill. Do not use it as an opportunity to whinge and whine. Let us see you contribute to the process, like all the stakeholders around the Spit have done.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the minister and the department on what has been a highly consultative process, bringing about a very highly consultative master plan. As the minister said, 30 years of conflict have led to this. So many stakeholders wanted so much to happen on this particular bit of land. We have had extensive consultation that has led to this bill and this master plan. As I said, there were 23,000 individual pieces of feedback. That is extraordinary.

As the minister said in his speech yesterday, we have spent time to get this right. That is the crucial part: we have spent time to get this right. We have arrived at a situation where all parties are very much in agreement about what should happen. It is a fine thing to witness all stakeholders being furiously in agreement, especially over such a contested bit of land. I point out that the master plan has been recognised for excellence in public engagement. It has won a Planning Institute of Australia award for that engagement process. It has taken time and we have got it right.

Throughout this process and in the bill itself, our vision and achievement is very clear. As the minister has said previously, we have built consensus out of conflict in this process and in this master plan. The vision we brought forward is the vision shared by the community—a three-storey height limit and to preserve the open space in this area. We are preserving this open space for all of Queensland. In contrast, as the minister said, the LNP plan is for plenty of concrete, plenty of high towers and maybe a canal estate or two. As we heard last night from the LNP, if they were in control they would favour some stakeholders over everyone else. Our plan is all-embracing. We have a vision for all Queenslanders with this plan.

I will deal with some of the issues that have been raised in our report. I congratulate the minister for taking on the committee's suggestion to expand the skill set of the board because it is very clear the Gold Coast Waterways Authority will now be delivering so much more than they have previously. They

will be overseeing works and planning that will include built form as well as natural areas. That takes a higher level of skill and a different skill set than we have seen on some boards recently. This particular issue was very important to the community and environmental stakeholders. They were very specific about it. We saw the sense in what they said. The fact that that has been accepted reflects the consensus approach the Palaszczuk government has brought to the master plan and the whole process.

One of the other issues we addressed was Curlew Island. I thank the minister for pointing out that action has already been taken in terms of surveying and registering this particular bit of land as a nature reserve. We saw this land when we went down to the Spit. It is a special area. Curlew Island has been created by natural forces over recent years. It is home to many birds and it is a roost site. It is also a recreation site. We heard from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority that people picnic, camp and bring their dogs to that area. It is an area of potential conflict. The feeling very much was that it be recognised as a nature reserve. It is great that that has been done.

The issue around helicopters was also brought up during our consultation. This is another vexing issue for the Waterways Authority and all other authorities on the Gold Coast. We saw helicopters taking off on a quite regular basis. Some stakeholders told us that they come and go just minutes apart at times.

The committee saw the potential for conflict. Many people go to the Spit to enjoy the natural values of the area. Others go there for the tourism experiences provided by some of the major operators. There is a potential for conflict between those coming to enjoy the natural values and those taking part in high-impact activities such as tours from the mini helicopter port. It was illuminating for the committee to visit the Spit and walk around and see exactly what was going on. We saw a very high degree of usage of the Spit by joggers, walkers, snorkelers, surfers and picnickers—an array of users. We heard that there was to be a polo match played at the Spit as part of an event on the Gold Coast.

We also saw the potential of the natural area of the Spit. I can understand why people have fought so strongly over the years for the area to be preserved and enhanced. There is a very large frontage to the ocean. It is very clear that there has been a lot of replanting, revegetation and weed clearing. That will happen more over the years so that the natural area expands and improves. Some of the submitters and stakeholders said that the Spit is such an iconic site in Queensland that it has the potential to be used like Central Park in New York. We saw the potential when we visited.

This is the start of the process to enhance the Spit and, as I have said, make it an iconic tourism destination for Queensland and visitors to the Gold Coast. I acknowledge and thank the government for allocating \$60 million to start that process. We will see a lot happen in this area over the coming years. The wonderful things we see will be traced back to the extensive consultation process undertaken to deliver the master plan. I commend the bill to the House.

In closing, I point out that yesterday I said that the Haughton pipeline was in Toowoomba. The members from Townsville quickly pointed out that mistake. I wish to correct the record and state that it is in Townsville.



**Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.33 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 was introduced into the House and referred to the committee on 26 November 2019. The committee was required to report to the Legislative Assembly by 7 February 2020. The committee received a public briefing on the bill from the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on 18 December followed by a site visit and a public hearing at the Gold Coast. The committee also met with the Gold Coast Waterways Authority.

The Spit is a permanent sand structure of approximately 201 hectares that separates the Gold Coast Broadwater from the Pacific Ocean. It is an area of both cultural and social significance and has a unique green coastal stretch which is used by thousands of people every day. The master plan is comprised of seven precincts on the Spit, these being: the top of the Spit; Wave Break Island and Curlew Island; Federation Walk Coastal Reserve; Muriel Henchman Park; the village centre; Philip Park; and the Southern Gateway. The explanatory notes state—

The State has committed \$60 million to commence implementation of the master plan, which includes the following programs:

- a capital works program to oversee the funding and delivery of a series of capital work projects, such as public realm improvements on The Spit; and
- a site release program to manage the release of development sites identified in the master plan.

To achieve this outcome the bill will expand the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's role, scope and capabilities to enable it to deliver the capital works program. The bill enables unallocated state land in the master plan to be granted under the Land Act 1994 to the state as freehold.

The bill also amends section 122 of the Land Act to allow for the granting without competition of a deed of grant of unallocated state land in the master plan under the proposed implementation of the Spit Master Plan 2019. The department informed the committee that—

The bill seeks to enable state owned land to be granted to a state entity—in this case the department—as freehold without competition.

The grant of interest in land is intended to facilitate essential commercial developments such as marina, retail, commercial, residential, new resorts and short-term accommodation. Village Roadshow Theme Parks is the owner and operator of Sea World and the Sea World Resort under lease from the state government on land that forms part of the Spit. Under the master plan, VRTP will develop a new resort to the south of Sea World which will provide additional short-term accommodation facilities. The Sea World theme parks car parking capacity is to be maintained.

The bill expands the purpose of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act beyond the management of the Gold Coast waterways and associated activities to facilitate the implementation of the master plan through the development and delivery of a program of community infrastructure and public realm works. The bill allows the appointment, if necessary, of three additional board members. Clause 24 amends section 44(c) to provide that the Gold Coast Waterways Authority board comprise the chairman, the mayor of the Gold Coast City council and at least five, but no more than eight, other persons. A number of submitters proposed that the bill should specify the skills, qualifications and experience of new Gold Coast Waterways Authority board members. Given the unique and iconic nature of the Spit and vision for development under the master plan, the committee considers it is essential that the Gold Coast Waterways Authority board has capacity and expertise in design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks and natural environments and built forms. This was a recommendation of the committee.

Submitters raised concerns that the bill does not outline a guaranteed ongoing minimum source of funding beyond the initial \$60 million for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to carry out its ongoing infrastructure and public realm works and associated duties. Submitters proposed that income generated on the Spit could be quarantined to guarantee future and appropriate funding of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. Mr Michael Carey, Executive Director, Investment Facilitation and Partnerships of the department, informed the committee—

... the intention is to reinvest the proceeds of the long-term lease sale back into the public realm works and the capital works program being carried out on the Spit. I do not think at this stage, without proponents and without developments under consideration, any consideration about the long-term income associated with these sites has been considered.

Although complimentary of the consultation process and consensus reached in the final master plan for the Spit, some submitters requested that crucial elements of the master plan be incorporated in the Implementation in The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. Specifically, submitters requested that the bill state the vision for the Spit, which is articulated in the master plan, to guide the implementation of the master plan; identify the master plan precincts and their designated use and functions to provide clarity about the purpose of land use activities to support interpretation of the master plan; and establish the three-storey height limit to be applied to all future developments along the Spit by specifying the limit in the legislation to implement the master plan rather than in the Planning Regulation 2017. The department responded to that concern by stating—

The intention is to formalise the vision, strategies and outcomes of the master plan, including the precinct and the height limit for new developments, in the Gold Coast City Plan.

Some submitters expressed concern about the status of Curlew Island. The Gold Coast Shorebirds Group explained that Curlew Island is a significant environmental site as it is a confirmed 'critical roost site' and feeding area for very large numbers of international migratory birds, Australian shorebirds and seabirds, and other species. The department confirmed that Curlew Island would be registered under the Land Act and amendment of legislation is not required for this to be achieved, stating—

Curlew Island is not presently surveyed and recognised as a land parcel. Outcome 2.9 of the master plan intends to fully recognise the land mass as a parcel and to protect and enhance its environmental values.

The bill also includes an amendment to the Planning Act 2016. Clause 30 amends section 31(3) to omit the word 'becomes' and insert the words 'is or becomes' to clarify that an affected owner may claim compensation for an 'adverse planning change' in relation to assessable development whether

or not the development was assessable before the change. The department informed the committee that the potential for compensation only applies when a change to a local planning instrument is an adverse planning change, stating—

An adverse planning change is one that local government makes and adopts. The adverse planning change reduces the value of an interest in premises. The affected owner is only entitled to compensation for the loss of a development right for development the affected owner genuinely intended to pursue.


As the member for Glass House stated, it has been almost five years since the Palaszczuk government rejected the ASF Group proposal and the Spit has been waiting ever since. It has taken 18 months for this government just to deliver the Spit Master Plan, with the legislation finally being debated in February 2020, even though the plan was released in May 2019.

The Gold Coast is desperate for new infrastructure; however, all this government has delivered for the people of the Gold Coast is more taxes and more debt. The people of the Gold Coast are not putting any faith in the Minister for State Development's comments, stating, 'Now it's time to get on with delivery.'

In my time on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, it is my belief that this is only the second bill that has come from this minister and we are three-quarters of the way through the term. If my memory is correct, we had a space inquiry. This is the only bill that has come from the hands of the Minister for State Development. If we are going to get this state back on track, I hope we are not solely relying on the Minister for State Development.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! I will wait for silence before I call the member for Ipswich West. This may be a good time to read out the warnings list, which is current until lunchtime: member for Everton, member for Kawana, member for Broadwater, member for Southern Downs, member for Bundaberg, member for Toowoomba North and member for Scenic Rim.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.43 am): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. As the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning said in his introductory speech on 26 November 2019—

The primary objective of the bill is to facilitate the implementation of The Spit Master Plan. This will improve The Spit as a community asset for future generations while balancing open space with the release of commercial site opportunities.

For over 30 years The Spit has been a site of conflict over competing views on how it should be managed. In August 2017 the Premier sought to bring that period of hostility to an end when she announced that a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government would develop a new master plan for The Spit which would include ensuring that building height limits would not exceed three storeys and that the open public space to the north of Sea World would be preserved for future generations.

This bill delivers on an important election commitment by the Palaszczuk government.

Subsequent to the minister's introductory speech, the bill was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in accordance with standing order 131. The committee tabled report No. 45 of the 56th Parliament earlier this month. The committee made four recommendations: first, that the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 be passed; secondly, that clause 25 of the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 be amended to include the following in proposed section 45(2)(aa), 'design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks and natural environments, and built forms'; thirdly, 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; and, finally, that all stakeholders collaborate to expeditiously resolve the issues regarding helicopter operations within the Spit Master Plan area.


The bill will amend the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, the Land Act 1994, and the Planning Act 2016. The Planning Act 2016 provides a framework for land use planning and development assessment right across the state. This framework balances economic development, the environment and the wellbeing of our communities in an effective, efficient and transparent way. Stakeholders have identified operational matters in relation to the Planning Act's compensation provisions which the bill proposes to address. The amendments will provide certainty to landowners about when they may claim compensation for changes to local government planning schemes that adversely affect their property interests.

Owners have always been able to claim compensation for changes involving 'assessable development'. However, the current wording implies that compensation may only be claimed for development that becomes 'assessable' as a result of change. The proposed amendment clarifies that

compensation is available for changes involving assessable development whether or not the development was already assessable. The compensation process requires certain criteria to be met before compensation is payable. The proposed amendment does not alter these existing requirements.

Amendments include transitional provisions to ensure an owner will have six months from the date of the commencement of the bill to make a compensation claim if the owner had previously believed they may not be eligible for compensation. The ability for an owner to claim for compensation within six months of commencement of the amended provision is limited to those circumstances where all other prerequisites for being able to make a claim for compensation have been met.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, chaired by the member for Bancroft; as well as the committee secretariat, led by Jacqui Dewar; as well as Hansard and submitters. I would also like to thank the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning for bringing this important bill before the House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (11.48 am): I rise to contribute to the debate in relation to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. At the outset I note the LNP will not be opposing this bill. As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee which dealt with this bill, I would like to acknowledge the committee secretariat and my fellow committee members.

It is pleasing to finally get some work from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning, who clearly has not been run off his feet with work. Given this lack of workload you would think it would have been a lay-down misere to get responsibility for Cross River Rail when it was stripped from the Deputy Premier. Surely the state's biggest infrastructure project—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Member for Buderim, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill. We are talking about the Gold Coast Spit.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Despite this lack of workload, it has taken nearly five years for the Palaszczuk Labor government to get around to doing anything for the Gold Coast Spit. It is five years ago that the Premier scuttled the ASF proposal and the Spit has been languishing ever since. It is pretty clear that the Gold Coast is not a priority for Labor. The Palaszczuk Labor government is holding the Gold Coast back. Last year unemployment on the Gold Coast jumped by 1.4 per cent, the second-largest increase in Queensland, so this master plan is well and truly overdue.

The committee held hearings in Brisbane and the Gold Coast but, importantly, our site visit to the Spit provided important context with regard to what is proposed. The majority of submissions in relation to the bill were broadly supportive—

**Ms Jones:** You gave them Townsville's rejects.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Sorry, Minister, do you have something to add?

**Ms Jones:** I said, 'You gave them Townsville's rejects.'

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, I advise you to continue with your speech and not to take those interjections.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I was saying before I was interrupted, the majority of the submissions in relation to this bill were broadly supportive, with specific concerns expressed in relation to: funding certainty for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority; the skills and composition of the board; the transparency of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's reports; protection of the land mass identified as Curlew Island; and a lack of clarity in relation to land purpose and height limits for development across the Spit. Specific concerns were also heard in relation to helicopter operations across the Spit, as we heard previously from the member for Bancroft.

As I mentioned, submitters to the bill raised concerns that the bill does not outline a guaranteed ongoing minimum source of funding beyond the initial \$60 million. This is important to allow the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to carry out its ongoing community infrastructure and public works and associated duties. The Save Our Spit Alliance noted—

... there is no guarantee the GCWA will have annual funding or suitable budgets to ensure the continued implementation of the Master Plan in a timely way or have the ongoing funds to appropriately govern the commercial, tourism and recreational activities that have been determined as being the duties and responsibilities of the GCWA by *The Bill* and as a consequence in accordance with *The Spit Master Plan*.

Submitters proposed that the income generated on the Spit could be quarantined to guarantee future and appropriate funding of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. Mr Philip Follent proposed—


Income from rental leasing of crown land and from other Spit related businesses/ventures should, in the main, be quarantined to fund projects and maintain the improvements to The Spit.

I note that the committee made a number of recommendations which seek to address some of these concerns. Specifically, the committee recommended that clause 25 of the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill be amended to include 'design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks and natural environments and built forms' in proposed section 45(2)(aa) as part of the skill set. I acknowledge that the minister intends to accept this recommendation.

The committee also recommended that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy take action to ensure the ongoing protection and management of Curlew Island. Other contributors have spoken about this. Finally, the committee recommended that all stakeholders collaborate to expeditiously resolve issues regarding helicopter operations within the Spit Master Plan area, which were of considerable concern to a number of submitters. Another area of discussion during the committee process related to the term of proposed leases across the Spit. Proposed lease terms of more than 100 years are considerably longer than the lease terms provided for existing developments like Sea World and other accommodation providers on the Spit.

In conclusion, it is good to see Labor finally getting on with the Spit Master Plan. It has taken an inordinately long time, and it is the latest example of the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government just does not care about the Gold Coast. While Labor will look after themselves, only the LNP will work for a better Gold Coast.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Miller I would like to acknowledge students from Coomera Anglican College on the Gold Coast in the gallery. It is good to have you with us, kids. We are talking about the Gold Coast Spit.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.54 am): The Gold Coast has prospered under the Palaszczuk Labor government. This bill is a continuation of our commitment to infrastructure and jobs on the Gold Coast and listening to Gold Coast residents. I was born on the Gold Coast; in fact, just across from the Spit at the old Southport Hospital. I have always had an affinity for the Gold Coast, despite leaving Broadbeach State School to move to Brisbane. We all know that the Spit is a much loved part of the Gold Coast—not just by Gold Coasters but many people who visit. There are beautiful beaches, the iconic Sea World, diving, boating, kayaking and the like. It is an extraordinary part of the world by any standard. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 will legislate for an implementation model for the Spit Master Plan that will see me alongside my ministerial colleagues, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, guiding agencies that report to us in their respective roles in delivering the master plan.

Under that model the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which was established under the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, will become the agency responsible for leading the delivery of capital works in the area covered by the master plan. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority has earned the trust and support of the Gold Coast community. It has achieved this through the strongly consultative and effective way it has undertaken its role in providing infrastructure to improve access to Gold Coast waterways for the boating community and in managing the myriad issues that present themselves in some of the busiest waterways in Queensland. It was also integrally involved in consultation activities the Palaszczuk government undertook in developing a master plan which enjoys the broad support of the Gold Coast community. We recognise the Palaszczuk government's Gold Coast Waterways Authority's expertise and local support and are keen to leverage these qualities to bring the vision of the master plan to fruition.

In bringing the master plan to finalisation I have witnessed the way that state agencies, as well as the City of Gold Coast council, the private sector and community members, have productively worked together to develop a sustainable plan for the benefit of the community. To move to the next stage requires the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012 to be amended to broaden the authority's functions so it can legally take on the lead agency role in delivering land based capital works on the Spit. The implementation of this bill therefore contains provisions to amend the act to expand the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's remit, prescribe new reporting arrangements for it, and enable board membership to be expanded.

The bill provides for up to three new board members who will possess appropriate expertise to guide the authority in the delivery of capital works envisaged by the master plan. These members will be appointed to the board by the Governor in Council upon my recommendation after I have consulted



with my colleague the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority's current board is comprised of skilled professionals who provide expert guidance, but this government has listened to comments received through the master plan's development, including the committee's deliberations, and will ensure that the appropriate skills will be present on the board for the expanded role. The required extra resources to enable the authority to deliver capital works will be provided through funding agreements between it and the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

The Palaszczuk government's \$60 million financial commitment to the implementation of the Spit Master Plan demonstrates our resolve to implement the vision for the area that stakeholders have helped to shape. This adds to our Gold Coast investments, which have been extensive over the last five years, including: two M1 upgrades; light rail stage 2 with stage 3 to come; and heavy rail duplication from Helensvale to Coomera. The record shows that it is Labor governments that invest in the Gold Coast.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Member for Broadwater, you are on a warning.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister is straying from the long title of the bill and I ask that you bring him back.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, I ask you to stick to the long title of the bill.

**Mr BAILEY:** Certainly. The reporting arrangements provided for in the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019 will ensure that the authority has clear lines of reporting on both its new duties and its existing waterways management responsibilities. The authority will report to the Spit development minister, the Minister for State Development, on its Spit Master Plan responsibilities while continuing to report to me as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on its waterways and management duties.

The implementation of the bill will also amend the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012 to enable the authority to recover reasonable costs related to dealing with or removing abandoned boats on contravening property as well as its core waterways management responsibilities. The Spit is a very special part of the Gold Coast, and I am proud to be part of a government that is implementing a master plan that will safeguard this precinct going into the future.

We have already shown the community how much value we place on this area with the work that has been done by the authority on the community facilities at the Spit. The authority has a strong track record there. For instance, Doug Jennings Park at the top of the Spit is a very good example of the authority taking a space that was underused and frankly neglected and turning it into a space that is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The works have included a major upgrade to the road between Seaworld Drive and Moondarewa Spit, additional marked parking spaces, a shared footpath around the park perimeter, landscaping, shade trees, more picnic tables and park benches. It looks fantastic.

Throughout all four stages of the upgrades, the Waterways Authority engaged with community groups and the public to make sure the projects were well delivered. As trustee of the park, the authority also worked hard to address community concerns about illegal camping, rubbish and off-road driving by introducing a model by-law to stop people from trashing the area. The authority listened to what the community wanted and provided more opportunities for enjoyment. The resounding feedback has been that people already loved Doug Jennings Park but they wanted these improvements and they are absolutely supportive of them.


The upgrades are also benefiting the local economy because of the number of events held in Doug Jennings Park since the works were completed. These events attract thousands of people and create work for everybody from caterers to film crews and bus drivers alike. On average, a dozen major events are being hosted in Doug Jennings Park each year, including the Magic Millions Polo, music festivals such as The Grass is Greener, Polo By the Sea and various film and television shoots.

The authority is already transitioning to its expanded duties through undertaking some catalyst projects for the Spit Master Plan that have a strong nexus with its waterways management role. I am confident that, with the work being done under the Spit Master Plan implementation, visitor numbers will increase as will the associated economic and social benefits for people on the Gold Coast. I am delighted that the Waterways Authority has been tasked with delivering two out of the three initial community infrastructure projects being delivered as part of the Spit Master Plan implementation.

The authority worked very closely with the department of state development, the City of Gold Coast and the community to develop the Spit Master Plan so it is fitting that they will see some of this work through with the delivery of improvements to the Moondarewa Spit foreshore parkland and the

creation of the Seaway Promenade. Those works include landscaping, picnic shelters, foreshore restoration, beach showers, water refilling stations and shared cycling and walking paths. The Palaszczuk government has set aside just over \$5 million for these works which will be completed in time for the next Christmas holiday season. These projects will create more places that embrace the lifestyle on the Gold Coast that locals and visitors enjoy.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on this bill and for bringing an important bill to the House. It shows that once again it is only Labor governments that invest in the Gold Coast. As I said before, when it comes to funding actual infrastructure that creates actual jobs and actual benefit on the Gold Coast, our record is very strong compared to the previous government where very little got done.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (12.02 pm): As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, I rise today to make my contribution to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. Before I begin, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, including yourself Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting as the chair, and the secretariat staff for their invaluable assistance. I would also like to thank the individuals and organisations who participated in the inquiry, including all those who submitted a contribution. In the time I have, I will discuss the committee's recommendations, particularly relating to Curlew Island and the helicopter use that some others have discussed already. I will also voice my concerns regarding the ongoing funding for this project.

The Spit is a permanent sand structure approximately 201 hectares in size. It separates the Gold Coast and Broadwater from the Pacific Ocean and is an area of both cultural and social significance visited and used by thousands of people every day. However, until now there has been no clear direction for the future of this unique, green coastal stretch. The vision for the master plan is to see the Spit become a renowned destination that demonstrates a harmonious balance between tourism, recreation, leisure experiences and environment, connecting the community and visitors with the landscape and marine environment while protecting and enhancing its natural assets and coastal parkland.

The bill was referred to our committee on 26 November last year and a few weeks later on 18 December we received a public briefing from the department. On the same day, the committee also held a public hearing with members of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority and we were fortunate enough to receive a tour of the site which was invaluable. Visiting the Spit was a great opportunity for us as a committee to receive a valuable insight into both the master plan itself and how this bill is necessary in the delivery of that master plan. During our visit, we met with the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which was a great chance for us to ask varying questions.

After considering the bill, our committee recommended that the bill be passed. However, we also made three other recommendations. The first recommends that clause 25 be amended to include the words 'design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks and natural environments, and built forms'. The second recommends 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 its ongoing protection and management. At present, the master plan considers Curlew Island a sandbank, failing to recognise it as a land parcel. This is despite the island being a significant environmental site and confirmed critical roost site and feeding area for a very large number of international migratory birds, Australian shorebirds, seabirds and other species. Because the island is not currently categorised as a designated island, management and protection of the site is not provided by government, resulting in high levels of wildlife harassment. This was a major concern raised by various submitters, including the Gold Coast Shorebirds Group. That is why our committee recommends the island is recategorised to ensure the island is protected as a conservation area, reflective of the intention of the master plan.

Finally, the committee recommends that all stakeholders collaborate to resolve the issues regarding helicopter operations within the Spit Master Plan locality. Several submitters raised concerns about the helicopter tourism operations conducting joy flights from the Spit and the potential negative effects the helicopter operations could have on the master plan. These concerns include recent construction of a heliport in the nearby Sea World car park area, where the master plan does not provide for this land use, interrupting the connectivity of the Broadwater pathway and the interface between the village centre north and Sea World. The helicopter operations could also potentially impact on future investment and the planned Aboriginal cultural centre. Overall, the submitters were concerned regarding the absence of planning in relation to helicopter operations in the plan in general, which is why the committee made a recommendation to ensure these issues are resolved.

This bill is positive news for Gold Coast residents who have been waiting a very long time for a plan to revitalise the Spit. Given the slow speed of developments, residents are certainly not holding their breath when Labor's Minister for State Development says, 'Now it's time to get on with delivery.' Other than the initial funding of \$60 million, the minister has so far made no ongoing funding commitments to allow the plan to be physically implemented, nor has the minister advised how the funding will be obtained or sourced. Submitters raised similar concerns that the bill does not outline a guaranteed ongoing minimum source of funding beyond the initial \$60 million for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to carry out its ongoing community infrastructure and public realm works and associated duties. The Save Our Spit Alliance noted—

... there is no guarantee the GCWA will have annual funding or suitable budgets to ensure the continued implementation of the Master Plan in a timely way or have the ongoing funds to appropriately govern the commercial, tourism and recreational activities that have been determined as being the duties and responsibilities of the GCWA by The Bill and as a consequence in accordance with The Spit Master Plan.

Submitters proposed that income generated on the Spit could be quarantined to guarantee future and appropriate funding for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. Mr Philip Follent, who members have already spoken about today, proposed—

Income from rental leasing of crown land and from other Spit related businesses/ventures should, in the main, be quarantined to fund projects and maintain the improvements to The Spit.

The Save Our Spit Alliance also suggested the bill be amended to allow—

... the GCWA to be the recipients of fees paid by users of the Spit for temporary or single events in each financial year; for instance, from the rental monies paid for the use of Doug Jennings Park for commercially based music events such as 'Splendour in the Grass' ... Polo Matches and the "Magic Millions Launch"

Additionally—

... rather than all the lease monies collected from current ... commercial leases on The Spit—including ... the hotel, theme park and other enterprises—going into the State's 'consolidated revenue', SOSA requests that The Bill prescribes a proportion/percentage of these lease monies to be dedicated as a basic long-term financial foundation for the GCWA's community infrastructure and public realm works program and the GCWA's expanded ongoing day-to-day duties and obligations, once the initial \$60 million for these purposes has been utilised.

Mr Richard Holliday proposed that the Gold Coast Waterways Authority be enlarged to 'The Spit Gold Coast ocean park authority'. He stated that funding—

... could be found by allocating all revenues from The Spit currently directed to Queensland Treasury into a specific purpose accounts for the management and on going contributions to infrastructure as identified within The Spit Masterplan.

We also heard that from staff and management of Gold Coast Waterways Authority; they also have concerns for their future ongoing viability.

These initiatives all have merit. I would encourage the minister to review these ideas for the ongoing financial longevity of the Spit Master Plan and support the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to implement the plan day to day. In conclusion, I am supportive of the bill and our committee's recommendations.



**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.09 pm): As a member of the planning committee it is a pleasure to rise to contribute to this bill today. I am quite sure that the Gold Coast holds fond memories for each and every member of this House regardless of where we were born and which electorate we represent. It is a beautiful city, one of the largest in Australia. For us Brisbane based members it is an escape within a day's reach. All of this is to say that it is vital we get this Gold Coast master plan right not just for Gold Coast residents, who obviously are very proud of the Spit, but for all the Queenslanders and, indeed, international tourists who love visiting too. Our tourism and community spaces are vitally important to creating jobs, creating emotional wellbeing in the community and preserving those special areas that the community treasures, and this is exactly what the Gold Coast Spit master plan is designed to do.

At the outset I commend the obviously large amount of work that has gone into getting this plan right—work from the department, the minister's office, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority not to mention the countless community groups—and the spirit in which they undertook the genuine and considered community engagement. This site has been under consideration and debate since before I was born. That is how far back interest in this site goes. There was a heavy weight of expectation that we get the balance right for this site.

Late last year our committee had the opportunity to head down to the Spit a week before Christmas—what a treat—and see firsthand the many diverse uses that the site currently has but also the potential future options and the opportunities yet to be explored. For those unfamiliar with this

particular patch of the coast, it is home to Palazzo Versace, Sea World and its Nara resort, the Sheraton Mirage as well as Doug Jennings Park, which has hosted some fantastic large-scale events. As we have heard, it also includes Curlew Island, which is home to the delightful curlew population that roost there. I think Curlew Island has to be seen to be believed. It really is just a little bar of sand in the middle of the water. That is why it currently is not recognised, which this plan aims to address. It is a very crucial roosting site for curlews, which do need peace and quiet to maintain their population there. This is just a sample of the many and varied parts of the Spit. It gives honourable members a taste of the diversity of this site and the large number of groups that have a longstanding interest in the site that needed to be consulted.


As I said, the Spit has been the subject of longstanding interest on the Gold Coast. As any local member knows, when there is a large number of different community groups, businesses, Indigenous elders and more all holding strong and conflicting views on the future of the site, there is going to be keen interest. It is also very likely that it is going to take some time to negotiate an outcome that all members of the community feel addresses their feedback and their concerns. It is really critical when working on the future of a site like this one to get those different groups in the room together so they can hear from each other and work together to get a better outcome for the site. I really appreciate the importance of this process that has been undertaken to get the Gold Coast community on board with the future plan. Indeed, in my own community of Oxley we undertook a very similar process for the former Oxley secondary school site. Taking the time to collate the many differing views, which can be a really tricky process, ultimately creates a much more exciting outcome for that community, and that is what we have seen with the Gold Coast Spit.

Oftentimes the quality of the process that is undertaken guarantees or determines the quality of the outcome for the site. We cannot take shortcuts in that process. I know from my own firsthand experience in Oxley that the end result is absolutely worth it, and that is what we have seen with the Spit Master Plan, too. I can confidently say as a result of participating in this kind of process myself that a master plan can be really fantastic and successful if you take the community with you over that period of months and years and get that outcome right.

The Spit Master Plan and my local Oxley PDA had a number of parallels. In Oxley we also had a wide variety of community groups. Similar to the master plan, we had a bit of a steering panel with the Oxley Progress Association and the Centenary and District Environment Action, led by a fantastic local person, Theresa Rich Hoyle. We had that process of engaging and working on the proposals, refining the proposals and then refining them some more to come up with the right plan for us. Through this sort of process you go through a lot of ideas which may ultimately be discarded before coming up with the right option. In this case, as with Oxley, it is a mixed use site where all of the different groups have had buy-in and they are all part of the outcome and the fantastic process we have seen for the Gold Coast master plan.

As I said, projects like this take a really long time and a lot of consultation has gone on. I place on the record my thanks to the many public servants who worked on the consultation and the fantastic team who briefed us on the day we visited as well as the committee secretariat, who always do a wonderful job. The final plan is a wonderful result. It is a credit to each of them. It is an award-winning plan; they have been recognised for their wonderful work in planning the Gold Coast Spit.

I really want to commend the Gold Coast community for embracing the opportunity to shape the future of this amazing site. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.16 pm): I rise to speak to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. I have been advocating for a Spit master plan since 2015 to provide a long-term vision for the area, which is a very important part of the Surfers Paradise electorate but, I acknowledge, is visited by many people from South-East Queensland and other parts of the world. The great proportion are not necessarily from the Surfers Paradise electorate. Many people have a view about what is happening in the Spit and that is why I have been advocating for a Spit master plan since 2015.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order, member for McConnel.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** All we have seen from Labor since 2015 is the announcement of policy by headline, which has caused uncertainty and confusion amongst my community.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I have already called you to order.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Let's not forget that it was Labor who forced taxpayers to foot a \$13 million bill and miss out on thousands of jobs to stop a \$3 billion development. I am referring to the ASF development, and that was five years ago. My hope was that a master plan would address the uncertainty brought about by Labor and finally provide the jobs and the economic injection my residents need and deserve.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** In fact, under Labor, the coast's unemployment queue now stretches more than 20,000 people long. Youth unemployment has skyrocketed on the Gold Coast over the past year—increasing the most in the whole state—by 5.4 per cent to 13.1 per cent. Gold Coasters such as Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce President Martin Hall are deeply concerned about Labor's track record of delivering stalemates for the Gold Coast. He said—

We do not want to find ourselves in a long stalemate as we did with the ASF development with months of speculation when we could be doing something.

A comprehensive master plan would have addressed the concerns of locals, organisations and businesses. However, in true Labor fashion, all this Labor master plan has done is leave locals with more questions than answers. What will happen to our Water Police, Maritime Safety Queensland, Boating and Fisheries Patrol and others who operate out of the marine base as a result of Labor's full-scale privatisation of assets?

Currently, it needs its premises upgraded with significant electrical work and has an issue in terms of a new police vessel about to be delivered—very uncertain about their future. What will happen to the fishermen's co-op whose lease is set to expire in April? Where is consideration for a cruise ship terminal? I will come to that later. What is the forecast revenue estimate from the sale of long-term commercial leases and why is it—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Members, you know the standing order about arguing across the chamber. Direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** How will Labor address the increased support and planning provisions for our surf lifesavers that will be required as part of the master plan? There is still no mention of how this will be addressed despite the fact that I brought this up in parliament in June 2019. The minister subsequently agreed to more consultation about this. I table a letter from Greg Clarke, a member of Southport Surf Life Saving Club.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 1 April 2019, from Mr Greg Clarke to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding the Spit Draft Master Plan [\[284\]](#).

Labor has missed one of the most important points of this master plan—safety. What about the safety concerns of parents of nippers concerned about a skate park and lack of appropriate parking? These are just some of the pressing questions that my community is asking. We all know that Labor has run out of money to deliver much needed projects on the Gold Coast. Last month's *Gold Coast Bulletin* confirmed that Labor is disposing of public land. In 2015 Labor took a strict 'no asset sales policy' to the state election. In fact, then shadow Treasurer Curtis Pitt labelled long-term leases as 'full-scale privatisation'. Today we see an arrogant Palaszczuk Labor government warping its headline policy to be limited to 'strategic assets'.

As a result, on 30 January 2020 the *Gold Coast Bulletin* revealed that Labor was marketing the first parcel of 9,858 square metres of commercial land through a 120-year lease. Labor must explain why it is treating the Gold Coast community as fools and engaging in full-scale privatisation. Labor must also outline its plan for our Water Police, Maritime Safety Queensland and Boating and Fisheries Patrol staff who will be affected by this disposal of land. In addition, our fishermen's co-op, which I visited both as an MP and a customer, is crumbling under the uncertainty brought on by Labor. Established in 1970, it was one of the first developments on the Spit. It is a tradition to visit the co-op on holidays and special occasions for the freshest catch. I know that the chairperson has written to the Premier regarding his concerns about infrastructure, the lease and the culmination of these factors leading to the potential demise of this wonderful organisation.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please pause. The member for McConnel, if I pull you up again you will be officially warned. I am getting to him, don't worry about that.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I have cautioned you on that. Next time it will be a warning. Members for Mudgeeraba and Woodridge, I have already given direction about across-the-chamber argument.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the protection. It is time Labor provided some certainty for this important establishment and for my community. Today Labor needs to stand up and tell us what the plan is for the co-op. Previously, I have written to the Minister for Natural Resources about this but no certainty was provided. Speaking of projects and plans that have been brushed to the side in Labor's master plan, I am concerned that this master plan does not consider the cruise ship terminal. Under Labor, Brisbane gets two cruise ship terminals and the Gold Coast gets none. This is a half-baked job if Labor wants to put forward a master plan for the Spit with no consideration for a project that Gold Coasters have indicated they want time and again in terms of the re-election of Mayor Tom Tate.

It is obvious that the cruise ship terminal will never happen under Labor. In the first term of the Palaszczuk government, the Minister for Natural Resources ruled out 'any part of the Spit' being used for a cruise ship terminal. Now the Minister for State Development says it could be considered separately at some later stage in terms of the master plan. Whilst Labor will not include a cruise ship terminal in the blueprint for the future of the Spit, it is willing to name sandbanks, something which I opposed in 2015 and which I oppose now. I table a letter from 2015 highlighting my concerns about naming naturally moving geographic features such as Curlew Island.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 August 2015, from the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, to the former minister for state development and minister for natural resources and mines, Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, regarding naming geographic features in The Broadwater [285].

The member for Mount Ommaney just acknowledged that it is a moveable sand island but we have named it—which I objected to in 2015—and now we are doing more. This is a concern because of the lack of dredging happening in the Broadwater, and it is affecting our growing boating population who are frustrated with the lack of dredging throughout that part of the Broadwater.

The digital Cadastre database is the spatial representation of property boundaries and their related property descriptions. The currency and accuracy of this database is vital both to the government and industry, and the inclusion of naturally moving features will jeopardise this. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority at the Gold Coast public hearing confirmed that the authorities have not traditionally re-established sandbanks as they come and go, saying—

... that is not to say that if it disappeared from that location and reappeared somewhere else, the birds would not be able to use that area as well. It's a natural process.

In fact, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority is looking into whether it can 'synthesise somewhere else which is less vulnerable' due to the busy nature of the Broadwater. It is absurd that these landmarks, which are at the mercy of natural processes, are being named and established.

In terms of the appointment of additional board members to support the Spit Master Plan, in addition to the required experience outlined in the bill, it is vital that they have local knowledge. In my view, this should be a two-step appointment process. First, they should have the skills and experience. Second, they need the local knowledge of the Gold Coast, Main Beach and the Spit. My community does not want people flown in from everywhere except for the Gold Coast who have no knowledge of our area and our history. This is a special spot for many of my constituents. That is why as the local MP I will monitor it closely.

Another aspect of this bill is clause 19 and proposed new section 32A—'Recovery of expenses incurred in dealing with property'. While this is not directly related to the Spit Master Plan, having considered the comments of representatives of Gold Coast Waterways Authority at the public hearing, I support the inclusion of this clause. The inclusion of the clause will mean that taxpayers are no longer slapped with the bill when contravening items and vessels are recovered. That burden will be placed on the owners of the property—which is only fair.

Overall, the Spit presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase the diverse area that is the Gold Coast, but I am concerned that under Labor all we see is radio silence when it comes to addressing the valid concerns of locals, organisations and businesses. We are not opposing the bill; however, on behalf of my community I will monitor the implementation carefully and hold Labor to account on its promise of 'no asset sales' in contrast to what it calls 'long-term leases' but which obviously by previous definitions are sales. I also look forward to answers pertaining to future operations of the fishermen's co-op, the additional resources our lifesavers will need and other safety matters.



**Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Spit Master Plan 2019. It is great to hear that the member for Surfers Paradise advocated for a master plan since 2015. If only the member did something about it before, such as when he was a minister and a senior Gold Coast representative. If that is not the definition of impotence, I am not sure what is.

The evolution of the Spit from a shifting sandbank to a stabilised and fully established land form is not only an example of an incredible natural wonder but an important lesson in listening and supporting community and industry expectations. We know that for over 30 years the Spit has been the basis of conflicting views, over-the-top proposals—mainly supported by those opposite—and incredibly passionate protest to protect something considered very special.

Ultimately, the Spit needed strong leadership. I hope the member for Surfers Paradise is listening. The Palaszczuk government took that step in August 2017 when the Premier announced that a re-elected Labor government would develop a new master plan for the Spit—a master plan that would ensure that building height limits would not exceed three storeys and that the open public space to the north of Sea World would be preserved for future generations.

I appreciate that not everyone agrees with a number of historic decisions about the Spit, but we must continue to move forward. I strongly believe that the bill before us today will allow the implementation of a master plan well considered, thoughtful and balanced. That is the critical point here—balance. Balancing the community's desire to protect the area's significant environmental values whilst ensuring sensible, sustainable development will provide access to all the Spit has to offer.

The overall character of the Spit, its role and contribution to the Gold Coast and its connection to the city has been articulated in some clear and involved strategies with the master plan. We also know that as the population of the Gold Coast grows the Spit's value as a multifaceted landscape offering ecological, recreational and economic benefits will continue to grow. One of the key drivers of course is growing that green peninsula, ensuring the natural coastal ecosystems of the Spit are protected through best practice, area management and threatened species conservation. Working in partnership with the community, we can ensure that the Federation Walk Coastal Reserve, Wave Break Island and Curlew Island are managed well, that coastal dunes are enhanced to maintain stability and resilience, and that coastal and estuarine vegetation is established in suitable locations.

At the same time it is important for people to connect with the natural attributes of the Spit, and the master plan envisages facilities and infrastructure within those green spaces to accommodate a wide range of recreational and leisure activities. It is important to also appreciate that the Spit is a place of significant employment and tourism, attracting both residents and visitors. However, there is an opportunity through sensitive development to build on and strengthen the Spit as the home to some of the Gold Coast's well-known tourist attractions and recreational facilities.


The iconic Sea World theme park will continue to attract visitors, and I certainly have very fond memories of visiting Sea World in the eighties as a child and taking my own children there in recent years. Future development will deliver additional short-term accommodation, revitalise the village centre and ensure that more certain tenure arrangements after years of uncertainty build the confidence of businesses to invest in new and expanded facilities, services and visitor experiences. One of the challenges of the Spit has always been its connectivity back to the city. As outlined in the master plan, movement to and from the Spit should be convenient, efficient and safe. Road network improvements and improved public transport connections will make the experience of travelling to and from the Spit more enjoyable for all.

The Spit Master Plan comes with an important financial commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government—\$60 million towards infrastructure projects to progress its implementation. The projects identified in the master plan are expected to create potentially 1,800 new jobs during the lifetime of the plan's implementation and there is clear confidence in the master plan, with a total of \$145 million already committed for investment by the public and private sector, including \$50 million from Village Roadshow and a \$35 million contribution from the City of Gold Coast. Importantly, the community has been very much involved in the development of the master plan. I was heartened to read that over 2,500 people attended the consultation sessions convened, with over 23,000 individual pieces of feedback received. This is clearly a plan led by the community.

The Spit Master Plan 2019 delivers those important operational amendments that are required to implement the Spit Master Plan and will support the work of the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to preserve the Spit as an ecological and community asset for future generations, create jobs and boost further



investment in the Gold Coast. As the minister said in his introductory speech, comments which I will echo, the Spit Master Plan provides a clear example of what can be achieved when you provide clear leadership and take the community with you. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.32 pm): In rising to speak to the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill, the Spit did not just fall from the sky. I go back a long way with the Spit, and I note students from Coomera Anglican College in the gallery today listening to this debate. I was at the opening of Coomera Anglican College as mayor of the Gold Coast. For those members who are not aware, I used to be the mayor of the Gold Coast and therefore the Spit is a very important part of my history on the Gold Coast. Given that, I am speaking with a lot of experience with regard to the Spit.

Over the years I have seen the development and the protection given to the Spit by the Gold Coast City Council when Labor tried to put up 10 storeys on what we call the Indigenous land down the end south of Sea World. I have seen Hans van der Drift and his Andalucia dalliance, but we are going back a few years now. Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen facilitated the development of the fabulous Sea World. It did not fall from the sky; it was done with the fabulous support of the then National-Liberal government in Queensland. Then there is Doug Jennings Park. Doug Jennings—a wonderful National Party member for Southport—facilitated the development of all of those facilities there. Then there was my good old chairman from the Albert shire, Billy Laver. Good old Bill was the first chairman of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority that built up Wave Break Island and facilitated the rock wall so that boats could get in without disasters occurring on a regular basis.

The history of the Spit lies with the conservative side of politics, and I have seen so much procrastination by the party opposite in dealing with a master plan for the Spit that it is just downright embarrassing. The glacial speed with which it has dealt with this plan would make one think that there are icebergs coming to the Gold Coast. There is this plan worth \$60 million over a number of years, and that money will be fed out on a drip as they sell particular lands. One can guarantee that they have their eyes on every spare block of land there. There has been a three-storey limit under the Gold Coast City Plan for many years, and there have been proposals. My good friend Soheil Abedian from the Sunland Group wanted to go 40 storeys there, if I recall, but that was certainly not agreed to or supported by us in government at the time. The Spit itself is a prime piece of real estate, and that is why the Gold Coast City Council protected it with a three-storey limit. In fact, I was there when Chris Skase moved into town and built the beautiful Sheraton resort on the Hans van der Drift Andalucia site. We have seen the Spit develop over the years under a conservative approach to the matter and I strongly support the limit of three storeys on the Spit.

There is great development on the western side of the Spit. I do not know whether or not ministers stayed at Versace during the Commonwealth Games—they probably did—but the Versace development is a beautiful example of the current development, and again that was done by Sunland and Dr Soheil Abedian. It was formerly called Fisherman's Wharf and, as I recall, he paid \$14 million for the site and has turned it into a fantastic international six-star resort, deserving of Labor ministers staying in it during the Commonwealth Games.

I particularly support the comments of my good friend and neighbour the member for Surfers Paradise in relation to Curlew Island. The other day I was getting a briefing by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, and the CEO of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority is a great guy—Hal Morris. He is actually the son of Reverend Monty Morris, who started up the Robina church, so that is how far we go back in terms of the family connections. He has done a wonderful job at the Gold Coast Waterways Authority—not his board, as there are questions in relation to the board that I will not go into at this particular time. I will be keeping an eye on the new selections of the extra three members who have come up with the naming of a sandbank. I looked from my in-laws' Labrador unit across to this little sandbank that is an absolute boat wrecker that they are now going to call Curlew Island with one poor old mangrove hanging off it. That sort of thinking will not support the boating industry in the long term for the Gold Coast.

Again, it is part of a pumped up, man-made facility. The rock wall brings the sand in and it cannot get out, so it accretes, as one would know if anyone understood these matters. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority has a busy pumping program in terms of sending that sand that has accreted back on to the beaches and sending it north as the currents take it north. Quite clearly, the area of the Spit is perfect for leisure and for entertainment areas, and I refer to the polo match that was recently held—I did not go this year, but I have been in past times—attracting wonderful crowds as part of the Magic Millions wonderful carnival held in January which is an international event. We have royalty attending the polo—other than me; sorry, member for Gregory. He looked at me rather funny—but we have royalty attending the Magic Millions on the Gold Coast. That is a perfect area for those sorts of events to occur.




Billy Cross—one of the well-known entertainers from the Gold Coast area—runs some fantastic functions. He has been curtailed in recent years by certain bureaucratic matters, but I do hope to see him in action bringing major events to the city again because it is the perfect venue for that entertainment.

That is the history, and that has always been my view. Even when Dr Abedian came to see me, I said that we need the eastern side kept as a beautiful park—an open space park—not just replanted. Keith Williams was part of the planting of all of that area on the eastern side of the road many years ago, but it really needs genuine funding to get it into a park scenario similar to Kings Park in Western Australia, if anybody has visited that fantastic tourist spot in Perth. It draws a lot of people to that area and we could have the same if the money is spent by an incoming Frecklington government on the Spit to ensure that the eastern side is maintained and kept for the people to enjoy.

I repeat that this has been a long time coming. I will give an accolade to one of the new residents on the Spit who has done a lot of lobbying in relation to this issue: a former minister Judy Spence. She has done a good job lobbying people on the Gold Coast, and some of the members opposite I hope, to come to a conclusion that will protect the Spit, because that is what is needed. It is limited by access. We need to make sure that the Spit remains a wonderful place for Gold Coasters, tourists and visitors from Brisbane. It is a fantastic open area on the Gold Coast and we want to see it maintained.

I am supportive of this bill before the House but I will be monitoring very carefully the funds expended by this government in the short-term—up until 31 October—and then it will be up to us to make sure that appropriate funds are spent in the Spit area to make sure it reaches the world-class standard of a serious park area for those on the Gold Coast and tourists to enjoy. Currently the so-called Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens are at Benowa. Tourists need a cut lunch to get out there. We have a wonderful bridge that I toddled across on Sunday—the green bridge, which is actually blue—from Chevron Island to the HOTA cultural area of the Gold Coast. This is a great step forward in protecting the Spit. I support it 100 per cent. It has been a long time coming and we need to make sure that the funding gets through to make sure that this is deserving of the Gold Coast's reputation as the best international resort in the world.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.41 pm): I rise today to speak on the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. As a planner passionate about responsible development, unique tourism experiences and environmental sustainability, I am confident that this bill strikes a healthy balance in what is a very important site on the Gold Coast. I acknowledge the Minister for State Development for ensuring the community were consulted extensively on this proactive, responsible framework for sustainable development on the Spit. I also acknowledge the member for Bancroft and the other members and secretariat of the parliamentary committee which examined this bill.

The Gold Coast is home to iconic tourism experiences. The last time I was at the Spit was a few years ago when I went fishing. I did not catch anything that day, but it was a great day out.

**Ms Pease:** Casting practice.


**Ms LAUGA:** It was a casting practice. This bill will help unlock the Spit's potential for even more experiences in a responsible, planned manner in much the same way as I aspire to see Great Keppel Island again be home to iconic, sustainable tourism experiences. Of course, the bill and its accompanying master plan will provide for low-rise residential properties which will be in context with the surrounding environment.

I note the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed \$60 million to commence implementation of the master plan. This will go towards capital works projects including public realm improvements on the Spit and a site release program to manage the release of development sites identified in the master plan. This is what our government does: we consult, we invest, we deliver and we create jobs. We are delivering a master plan and precinct rejuvenation that will protect green spaces and amenity, unlock responsible sustainable development, enable more tourism investment and, most importantly, will drive more jobs—1,800 jobs, I understand—as the projects in the master plan are delivered.

This is a plan by the people for the people. The vision, strategies and precincts together create a cohesive framework for the future of the Spit and it brings consensus to a part of the Gold Coast that for too long has been contested. As a passionate urban and regional planner I believe in the power of planning to shape our world. Planning supports our everyday life, connecting us with places to live, to work, to study and to play. It supplies us with clean water and air, with energy to power our lives and with food to nourish our bodies. Planning is the tool that creates places that we love and that nurture us now and into the future. Planning matters.

The Spit Master Plan is a prime example of good planning. The Queensland government committed to genuine consultation and engagement utilising an inquiry-by-design approach. Innovative community consultation techniques were utilised in both online and workshop settings and I can see that the investment in consultation and engagement is really the strength of this plan because the views of stakeholders are very strong in the vision of the plan.

I support the bill and welcome another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to responsible development, sound planning principles, catalytic investments in tourism and community assets and extensive community consultation. I look forward to this master plan unlocking another generation of memories for Queenslanders as they enjoy what is one of our state's many tourism gems. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.45 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill and flag that the LNP will not be opposing it. I do so with the message to the minister of the need and the importance to deliver on this project and to get on with it. I start by saying that this section of the Gold Coast, the Broadwater, could be to the Gold Coast what the harbour is to Sydney. It is a very, very special area. If we get this right, it will be a legacy for generations to come. If we do not, we will live to regret it. Indeed, there are many challenges for the Broadwater of which I intend to speak.

My concern with this process is that it has been in go-slow mode. It was flagged in August of 2017 and then nearly 12 months ago we heard that this master plan was going to be implemented and here we are, many months later, still waiting for it to come forward. That is not to say that consultation has been flawless. It is quite the contrary. The likes of the Gold Coast City Council continue to ask for more time to be able to have further input. I seek to raise a matter that I do not believe has been flagged today. I ask, with respect, that the minister please provide feedback on it.

When I look through the budget papers I see a difference between the projected cost of the master plan and the budget for the master plan. I can only find \$31.5 million, which is a little over half of the total cost of this project, when I look through the forward four years. Yes, it is centrally controlled, but there is nowhere else that I can find the balance. My question to the minister, with respect is: where is the additional funding coming from? Is it from the long-term leases—which are extremely long-term leases—that the member for Surfers Paradise articulated? Over a century is a pretty generous lease. Is the balance of the funds to come from that and will that then fast-track this to be delivered in the next four years or is it, as I suspect, that this project will not be delivered in its completion within four years and it is, in fact, further down the track? I would appreciate if the minister could report back on that in his summary.

I want to speak briefly about the issue of Curlew Island. I understand its environmental significance. To have this discussion without talking about dredging and a long-term proposal for dredging is a little shortsighted. I can tell members just how passionate people are at the northern end of the coast about getting this proper maintenance schedule for dredging. I will acknowledge the significance of those migratory birds in that area and I wish to place on record my thanks to both Bob Westerman and the member for Bonney, who has been a great champion of the environmental significance of this part of the coast. Again, without talking about a dredging schedule we are merely delaying the inevitable of the tough conversation that needs to be had.

In the Broadwater there is something like 2,000-odd migratory birds. That includes the eastern curlew, which is critically endangered. These birds span the globe. In fact, one could mount the case that in some cases this journey is nearing 20,000 round kilometres. That is of world significance.

I want to ask the minister a few things about the waterways authority. The minister needs to explain how—and give the House the reassurance—this will not come at the expense of the core business of the waterways authority. The minister needs to outline how the authority will be properly resourced to undertake this role. We need to ensure that we have a properly resourced and empowered waterways authority.

Issues relating to the Broadwater are clearly the No. 1 source of feedback that we get in the electorate office. If I had to summarise the majority of that correspondence into three parts, the first would relate to dredging. There is a real pushback, particularly from the boating community but also from right across the groups that enjoy the recreation opportunities provided by what is a very special part of the state. They have seen a reluctance to dredge. They have seen a falling budget when it comes to dredging. They have seen a reduction in the appetite of the board and, indeed, the state to prioritise dredging, and that must change. There is no way known that you cannot find a way to strike the balance between good environmental outcomes and allowing people to get out on the water.

The second issue is around speeding vessels. This relates to the interaction between those vessels and not only the people who live on the waterway but also those who use other recreational craft, such as jet skis. That is the second concern raised in feedback.

The third issue involves houseboats. You can have all of the vision, you can have all of the master plans and you can have all of the environmental significance, but if you continue to allow people on those vessels to flout the law then it counts for little. There are people living illegally on those vessels. They are flouting the law. They are not complying with the regulations that everybody else has to comply with. They are not paying their fair share in the same way that other people do—people who pay rent, who pay rates or who pay for the privilege of using a marina. In many cases, they are not collecting their own sewage. That has to stop. A properly resourced waterways authority would be able to deal with that. I make this impassioned plea: give the Gold Coast Waterways Authority the resources to deal with the master planning process and also give them the resources needed so that, by centralising a lot of the functions of multiple departments in a beefed-up waterways authority, it will be able to deal with these issues.


I want to touch on some of the comments made by the member for Surfers Paradise. As the local member, he has a great feel for this. He raised issues around the likes of the fishermen's co-op and the water police. Those things must be clarified. They are important, not just to his electorate but also to the broader Gold Coast.

The member also raised the issue of a cruise ship terminal. The mayor has now run two election campaigns on that issue and his vote has increased each time. He is again campaigning on the issue. At some stage we need to acknowledge that the council has a vision to deliver the terminal. To talk about it but not in the location that they are proposing is wrong. We have to have an honest conversation about that. We cannot continue to kick this can down the road. I want to see a council able to fulfil its vision. Infrastructure challenges will come with that, but those are challenges that we can meet. If any city in the state deserves a cruise ship terminal, I suggest that the Gold Coast should be at the top of that list. It is a city that has come of age on the back of tourism and aspiration. The mayor has run two successful election campaigns and is about to run a third campaign on the issue. It should be acknowledged.

The member for Surfers Paradise also spoke about the additional board members. Again, I ask the minister to heed the advice of the local member and ensure that those people have a connection with the local area. I think that is fair and reasonable. I also ask the minister to look long and hard at the skill set of the people who will comprise the board. Currently, I do not believe the board has a sufficient interest in all things maritime. That is a strength that needs to be bolstered. I think representatives from the fishing industry and the boating industry need to be included. With such an important issue, the minister may also look to bring onto the board somebody who has significant planning industry expertise.

I conclude my contribution by saying the following: the Broadwater can be to the northern end of the Gold Coast what the harbour is to Sydney, but the waterways authority needs the resources to make this work. I ask the minister to clarify whether we will see this concluded in the next four years or whether the bulk of the funding lies down the track.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. As a born and bred Gold Coaster, it probably comes as no surprise that I spent a lot of my childhood at the Spit, whether getting every last dollar out of our Sea World annual pass, eating chips from Peter's Fish Market while sitting on the beach or, in later years, having drinks with friends at Fisherman's Wharf Tavern, known by most as Fisho's. For my entire life, the Spit has been the site of conflict over competing views of what the future of it should look like.

In August 2017, the Premier sought to bring that period of hostility to an end by announcing that a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government would develop a new master plan for that piece of land, which would include ensuring that building height limits would not exceed three storeys and that the open public space to the north of Sea World would be preserved for future generations. Given the history of the project, we knew that extensive consultation would be needed to get the balance right. I think it is fair to say that, with over 23,000 individual pieces of feedback received, the plan was well and truly designed by the community for the community. The master plan strikes a balance between preserving the much loved natural assets of the site, while also enhancing the tourism and recreational opportunities such as boosting Sea World's attraction and activating vacant and under-utilised land by providing certainty to developers, investors and the community.

Last year I was pleased to join the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for State Development and Planning to announce that the Queensland government was committing \$60 million towards infrastructure projects to progress its implementation, along with a significant \$50 million investment from Village Roadshow and \$35 million from the City of Gold Coast. This master plan secures the future of 138 hectares of green space, unlocks the potential for up to 1,800 new jobs, provides for up to 800 new short-term accommodation rooms and creates vibrant community spaces and outstanding natural areas.


Our initial focus will be on the community infrastructure projects at the top of the Spit, including the design, scoping and delivery of improvements to the seaway promenade; community infrastructure works, including extensive new planting, new pathways and recreational facilities; and Seaworld Drive shared pathways linking the Muriel Henchman precinct to Doug Jennings Park. Planning and design works have started on the Seaworld Drive pathway and the projects are due for completion by November this year.

We are well and truly getting on with the job, contrary to what those opposite are saying. It is this government that has committed funding to that important piece of land. It is also this government that is investing on the Gold Coast, whether it is our four M1 upgrades; the light rail stage 1, 2 and 3; or the dive site on Main Beach. We are investing when those opposite failed to contribute new money for the Gold Coast, despite the incredible growth.


Debate, on motion of Ms Scanlon, adjourned.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Inner City South Secondary College, Apology

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.58 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. This morning the Premier was asked about a video announcing the Inner City South Secondary College principal that was posted to social media displaying the ALP logo. When the matter arose in November last year, I instructed my office to remove the video from social media and I was advised that that had occurred, as well as a number of other videos. I understand that the video still appeared in error. The video has now been removed and I apologise again to the House.

### Under Treasurer, Appointment

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.59 pm): This morning in question time the member for Everton asked me about the RTI request regarding the appointment of the Under Treasurer. I wish to clarify that RTI requests are handled in accordance with the RTI Act and decisions are made by independent departmental officers. I had no involvement in the handling of that application. I wish to further clarify that the process to fill the Under Treasurer role was a merit based process. It was conducted by an independent panel, of which I was not a member.


Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIT MASTER PLAN BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.00 pm), continuing: As I was saying, Labor governments deliver for the Spit. This is in stark contrast to the LNP's plan under Campbell Newman who wanted high-rise development with no clear transport or road strategy and no genuine community consultation. We are getting on with the job with this bill by streamlining the process for the granting of particular interests in land and road closures in the master plan area to accelerate this site release and expanding the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's roles, scope and capabilities to enable it to deliver the capital works program in which we have invested.

This bill also seeks to clarify the intended scope of the compensation rights under the Planning Act 2016 in relation to an adverse planning change and includes transitional arrangements to ensure that affected owners who may have been unable to claim compensation as a result of the current provisions may do so within six months of the commencement.

The Spit Master Plan provides a clear example of what can be achieved when you provide clear leadership and take the community with you. I think it speaks volumes about this government's consultative process that we have people with opposing views coming together to support this master plan. I commend this bill to the House.



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.01 pm): The Spit is a precious place for many Gold Coasters. It is a place known for its recreational and environmental value, somewhere that provides space to enjoy some of the best water access we have and the natural beauty that comes with it. There are not many things better than heading out there late on a summer afternoon, picking up some Pete's fish and chips from up the road, parking my ute alongside the rock wall, sitting in the tray and eating the fish and chips while the sun sets. I doubt there would be a dog on the Gold Coast who has not enjoyed running around the off-leash section of the beach there. There is also an incredible array of marine life you can see whilst snorkelling off some of the diving platforms on the rock walls.

This plan outlines some much needed investment into the future of this precious public space. I applaud my colleague, the member for Surfers Paradise, whose electorate covers the vast majority of the master plan area for continuing to call on the government to provide clarity over many years. I believe he was one of the first to call for a master plan back in 2015.

This process, however, has taken far too long and many of the ideas in the plan are not new. Gold Coasters want certainty and they want ideas like this to become a reality, not just to be proposed and slowly progressed. We desperately need the almost 2,000 jobs promised by this plan. The area that I represent, particularly Labrador, has the highest unemployment rate on the Gold Coast with it sitting electorate-wide at 9.6 per cent. That means I represent over 3,000 people who do not have a job. They need projects like this to happen much sooner than on the current time frame.

Delays like this are nothing new. This same minister has carriage of the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, a similar big-picture, state development project with a similar delivery time frame set by the government of several decades. 'Delivery' is a generous word to describe what is now strangely called Lumina. Two years on, the precinct remains empty. The only deal they have locked in for a site within the precinct is with Griffith University from across the road for the ADaPT building. There are no agreements for every other site. Labor always bring out grand plans with claims that it will create thousands of jobs, but there is never any follow-through. We cannot allow the Spit Master Plan to be a repeat of that by this minister. We need development like this and the jobs that come with it.

The concerns many people feel about the government's ability to carry this through in an economically viable way is also evident from the report into this bill. On page 12 of the committee's report, we read—

Submitters raise concerns that the bill does not outline a guaranteed ongoing minimum source of funding beyond the initial \$60 million for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to carry out its ongoing community infrastructure and public realm works and associated duties.

There is an opportunity to raise significant revenue from the different elements of the plan, particularly the superyacht marina, but that needs to be managed appropriately and used to further the development of the plan and not just have it go into state coffers. Millions of dollars have already been raised from lease arrangements on and around the Spit, let alone the huge amount of registration fees collected from vessels that use the Broadwater. The growth in leases and other revenues from this area should be reinvested into managing these extraordinary assets.

What we see at the moment is not a good indication. The Gold Coast Waterways Authority's budget was cut from \$8 million in 2018-19 to \$6.3 million in 2019-20. This important body is under-resourced. That budget is a pittance for the job they have to do. They have only 30 full-time staff. I note there is talk of them getting extra staff for this new role that they are undertaking, but it will not be enough.

We need more dredging to make navigation safer and easier for boats. Greater resources are required for the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to manage unseaworthy vessels. You cannot and should not dredge the whole Broadwater, but the navigation channels are becoming more and more silted which severely undermines the recreational value of these waterways for boaties.

The designation of Curlew Island as an environmental reserve is a necessary step to protect this significant habitat. I thank the committee for the recommendation and the minister for following up on that. It is a little misleading, though. The sandbanks next to the island, just off the Labrador shoreline, are the important roosting areas for these endangered birds. They have been there far longer than any person. Long before the seaway was completed and Wave Break Island was constructed, the sandbanks existed, as is evident in aerial photographs of the Broadwater from decades and decades ago. The island has formed over the last decade or so as vegetation has taken hold and sand has gathered around it. The debate on the merits of whether or not to name this island is separate to protecting this important part of the Broadwater. I note the minister has indicated that it is now an environmental reserve with the trustee arrangements being worked out. I hope that it takes into consideration the sandbanks and not just the island.

It is not an area that requires dredging as it is not a thoroughfare. Granted, a lot more work is required to be carried out on the surrounding channels, but these particular sandbanks need to be protected because they have high environmental value.

I recently caught up with the Gold Coast Waterways Authority CEO, Hal Morris. I urged him to install signage on the island as soon as possible, as is outlined in the master plan, so that visitors will be aware of how important this site is to birds listed as critically endangered by the federal environment department. These areas fall just within my electorate and I have been vocal for the need to protect the animals that call these sandbanks home in the warmer months of the year. Alongside local species like gulls and pelicans, there are a number of migratory birds that travel thousands of kilometres along flyways from the other side of the world. These include double-banded plovers, whimbrels, bar-tailed godwits and the world's largest shore bird, the eastern curlew.

The curlews are about a metre long with a 110-centimetre wing span and a distinctive 20-centimetre bill shaped like a new moon, as their scientific name indicates: *Numenius madagascariensis*—'Numenius' meaning 'new moon'. They breed in the Arctic and travel over 10,000 kilometres to get to Australia's east coast, including to our little part of the Gold Coast where, according to current estimates, about 60 to 100 roost. On their way here, they will only stop and rest every few thousand kilometres at places like the Yellow Sea's mudflats in China and Korea, the Philippines and parts of Papua New Guinea. These birds are very shy. When they are disturbed they will fly away, either to another feeding site or they will circle above until what they perceive as a threat has left. That includes dogs, people fishing, kayakers, paddle boarders, boaties and some of the daily tour groups that visit the area.

When these birds have to fly unnecessarily they burn energy. That gives them less to use on their migration which, on a long journey of thousands of kilometres, can be the difference between life and death. I first became aware of these birds and their habitat when I met local conservationist and birdwatcher Bob Westerman a couple of years ago. I have gone out with him twice to see this area for myself in his little tinnie. Bob is a retired TAFE teacher and passionate birdwatcher. He has been doing it for around 20 years. He first noticed this roost while he was out with the Southport Volunteer Marine Rescue. He knew immediately just how special it was.

I asked him why birdwatching became so important to him. Why did he care so much about this little part of our Broadwater? He told me it was as he was grieving the death of his first wife. Watching our local birdlife helped him to get through that because it showed him that life was still going on. It literally gave him a reason to live. He has been advocating to protect this important part of our local environment for a decade since then. Even just this morning Bob reported to me that his colleague had spotted 200 birds around Curlew Island but within 20 minutes a woman had brought her dog onto the island and scared the majority of them off. When those birds are disturbed they end up in the air in a holding pattern between South Stradbroke Island and Curlew Island which, as I mentioned, really cuts into their energy reserves. Global numbers are declining, but Gold Coast numbers are holding strong. That makes it so important for us to protect this important habitat so that their numbers do not follow the same trend as we are seeing at other sites.

Our Broadwater and the Spit are a stunning part of the Gold Coast and Queensland. We need this investment to happen sooner rather than later to ensure that their future is preserved for generations to enjoy.



**Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019. As many members in this House have said, the Spit is considered an iconic place on the Gold Coast by lots of people in Queensland, particularly those in South-East Queensland. I do not think there is a more enthusiastic fan of the Spit than my dog, Juno, who loves going down there and playing on the beach and running around.

The Spit is a natural piece of paradise in a concrete jungle. It is a space that attracts both local residents who want to escape and unwind as well as tourists from out of town. It is home to luxury tourist resorts that welcome thousands of tourists from around the world. It hosts world-class marine tourism enterprises such as diving and surf schools, watercraft hire, whale watching, fishing and tours of the Broadwater.

The Spit also has a rich history and a strong sense of community spirit with volunteer organisations such as the 96-year-old Southport Surf Life Saving Club, the Southport Yacht Club, TS Tyalgum Navy Cadets, the Friends of Federation Walk and the Volunteer Marine Rescue. Importantly, the Spit is an environmental oasis in the city, but a world apart. This is why it is so valued by the local community and visitors.

Over 81,000 people live within five kilometres or about a 10-minute drive from the Spit. It is seen as a respite from the city where people can enjoy its natural assets. It is home to 47 terrestrial fauna species including 44 bird species and three reptile species. It fulfils all five characteristics as set out by the CSIRO in its report entitled *Future of Tourism in Queensland*. That makes it an attractive destination for domestic and international tourists in that it is considered safe and secure, clean, green, friendly and authentic, and worth it.

Nature based, authentic tourism experiences offer opportunities for growth in the Australian tourism market. In a world where we are losing so much of our natural habitat, areas that offer authentic, nature based experiences will be highly valued. It is imperative that the Spit be improved as an important community asset for future generations. The Spit Master Plan Bill proposes to fulfil that objective. We want to enhance the public realm of the Spit to create a community space for locals, improve connections to the surrounding marine environment, generate job opportunities through tourism, entertainment and recreation, and strike a balance between protecting environmental and community values, and development opportunities.

The Palaszczuk government is committing \$60 million to oversee the funding and delivery of capital works to improve the public realm of the Spit and to deliver a site release program to appropriately manage the release of development sites identified in the master plan. To help do this, the bill today streamlines the processes for granting of particular interests in land and road closures in the Spit Master Plan to accelerate the site release program and expands the Gold Coast Waterways Authority's role, scope and capabilities to enable it to deliver the capital works program.

I am speaking today in support of this bill not only because the Spit means a lot to people in Ipswich who holiday on the Gold Coast—some families for generations—but also because I know that striking the right balance between development opportunities and environmental and community values is an important one that we have to get right. In my electorate of Ipswich, rapid development of greenfield spaces for urban residential housing has left a mark on the environmental footprint of our city. Some of this development was rubber stamped by our former Ipswich City Council with little thought about the environmental or social consequences.

While population growth is a reality, we need to accept that we can do much better at managing development sustainably in line with environmental considerations and community values. People have an overwhelming need to live in urban spaces that provide parks and nature reserves that connects them to their local environment. This is so much more important for people living in brand-new housing estates where many houses fill the size of a block and trees are minimal and where public transport is poor and people commute everywhere in their cars. Poor urban planning that gives little thought to the environment and the community is what happens when councils value developers over people.

That is why I am proud to be part of a government that banned property developer donations to state and council candidates so that we could put an end to our elected representatives working in the best interests of property developers rather than the community they are meant to serve and represent. That is why I am proud to support the Spit Master Plan bill.

The master plan strikes the right balance between preserving and enhancing the Spit's unique natural heritage as well as regulating development in line with community expectations. The natural elements and underdeveloped environment of the Spit is what people love about it—locals and tourists alike. It is part of why the Gold Coast attracts millions of visitors each year. It plays a significant role in the Gold Coast's tourist economy and generates hundreds of jobs directly and indirectly.

I know that many locals on the Gold Coast are passionate about the Spit's natural and cultural heritage, and so are many nonlocals who love the Gold Coast and the Spit as a place to visit and holiday. The master plan provides a vision for the Spit which will enhance the natural realm and improve on public spaces while providing certainty for future development opportunities. I thank the Premier and Minister Cameron Dick for their work on the master plan and I commend this bill to the House.



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.16 pm): At the outset of my contribution to this debate and out of an abundance of caution, I declare that I have a unit at Main Beach.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Hear, hear!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I actually mentioned to the mayor that I am a Gold Coast ratepayer as well as a Sunshine Coast ratepayer and a Brisbane City Council ratepayer.

I am proud to speak to this bill that delivers on our commitments to the people of the Gold Coast. This is a proud day for the people of the Gold Coast but also for my government. It is something that we see as iconic to the Gold Coast and something that must be protected for future generations. That is what this bill before the parliament is all about. It is about saying to Queenslanders that we recognise the fundamental importance of the Spit and we want to see it preserved for many generations to come.

I can remember as a young girl going down to the Spit with my parents. As a young adult at university I would go there as well. On my recent holidays I was at Peter's Fish Market, which is iconic to the Gold Coast. I was in disguise. A couple of people recognised me. There is no better place to get fish and chips and sit by the water to eat them.

This is about creating an ocean park. If we look around the world we know that there is Central Park in New York and Hyde Park in London. This will be the Gold Coast's own ocean park. It is not just for the Gold Coast; it is not just for Queensland; it is for Australia and the world. This will be an international drawcard for generations to come. I remember standing at the Spit on 10 March last year outlining our vision for this iconic area. In terms of recognising its environmental significance and preserving it, it is a very proud day for everyone in this parliament. I hope everyone realises that this will be part of history and that everyone here is part of that history.

Almost 140 hectares of the 201 hectares on the Spit will be set aside for park activities. As I mentioned, Central Park in New York is 340 hectares and Hyde Park in London is 142 hectares. The open space areas on the Spit are eight times the size of South Bank. We talk about how wonderful South Bank is and what a drawcard it is for people from all around the world, yet the Spit is eight times the size of that. It is 12 times the size of Barangaroo in Sydney and 2½ times the size of Mount Coot-tha's botanic gardens. None of those parks have what the Gold Coast has—none of them have the Broadwater and the surf. It is a beautiful part of the state. The Spit is not just a jewel for the Gold Coast but also for Queensland.

I want to pay special tribute to Minister Cameron Dick and his department. His agency has conducted outstanding consultation with the local community. I always said that my government would be a government of consultation, and we live by that. We make sure that we are out there, we are listening, we are responding and we are delivering. To everybody who contributed to that consultation, today I say thank you. Thank you very much for your support because without your support this would not happen. Today is a day that everybody should be incredibly proud of.

The Spit Master Plan breathes new life into the area with seven precincts that preserve and enhance greenspace. The Spit Master Plan in consultation with the local community provides open space adjacent to the ocean and the Broadwater for the benefit of both visitors and residents.

To deliver on this commitment my government has committed \$60 million to begin implementing a \$145 million master plan for the future of the Spit. The master plan includes 4,000 square metres set aside for a restored rainforest, improved cycle and walkways, new boat ramps, marine rescue facilities, diving facilities and the protection of curlew habitat.

I get the opportunity to speak to a lot of people who visit the Gold Coast. When Disney and Marvel were out here filming they stayed around Broadbeach and Main Beach. They said to me that one of the highlights of coming back and staying on the Gold Coast was the ability to run up the beach, to run up to the Spit, and they said to me, 'This is world-class. There is nothing like this anywhere else in the world.' If international visitors are already saying that to me, imagine what they are going to say when this precinct is cleaned up, opened up and preserved for future generations.

I thank everybody. I am very proud that there seems to be broad support for this. Like I said today, this is history in the making, and I hope everyone recognises what we are doing for the Gold Coast and for Queensland. It is a great environmental initiative.



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.21 pm): I am pleased to follow the Premier on this particular piece of legislation. I note that I am still waiting for an invitation to sunset drinks at her apartment at Main Beach. Maybe one day that will occur.



**Ms Palaszczuk:** I haven't been on your jet ski!

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take that interjection from the Premier. The offer to go for a ride on my jet ski still stands, although some of my colleagues have suggested that maybe it would be appropriate to make sure you fall off—

**Dr Miles:** Oh, that's nasty.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** No, no—just to ensure that you enjoy the full experience of an afternoon jet skiing, Premier.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** It would say more about you than me!

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I note that those on our side of the House will not be opposing this legislation. I do want to take Deputy Speaker Stevens back to 22 October 1998. I can see the look of consternation on your face because you are struggling to remember that date. That was the morning after you and I were unceremoniously dumped from our attempt to join the charges board. On that particular day that news was shared on the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* with yet another crazy proposal to create some overdevelopment of the Broadwater. At that point there was a proposal being touted to build a bridge to Wave Break Island from the end of Brisbane Road and then create a marina complex on Wave Break Island.

We have heard from the member for Surfers Paradise. I note that the member for Bancroft mentioned earlier the fact that what the Gold Coast has been wanting in regard to the Spit is some certainty about its future. I, like the member for Surfers Paradise and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and others, have been calling for a master plan for the best part of a decade, if not longer. I am pleased that at long last the Gold Coast does have some certainty around this issue, that there is a master plan and a vision that the broader community have been able to contribute to.

Like others in the House—I note that the member for Gaven shared some of her experiences on the Spit—I, too, grew up on the Gold Coast. I taught my boys to surf over on the Spit. I have spent many a weekend over there with the family. I can remember a time when there was no Spit—when there was marine land and a very unstable seaway, or the Southport bar as it was called back then. It was Keith Williams, the developer of Sea World, who had the vision to stabilise that stretch of land. He and other developers of the day planted hundreds, if not thousands, of casuarina trees on the eastern side of the Spit to stabilise it and eventually create what is one of the Gold Coast's best attractions—Sea World.

We have heard much said about developers. There are those on the other side of the House who introduce legislation to attack developers and who subtly suggest in some way that they are not worthy of getting involved in politics and the community. There are many developers in the history of the Gold Coast who we can be extremely thankful for—for their vision, their persistence, their hard work and their personal contribution to making the Gold Coast what it is today. I would suggest to those members that, if it were not for the vision of someone like Keith Williams—who sadly passed away I think three or four years ago now—we would not have the Spit to be arguing about or discussing in this chamber.

There have been many divergent views about the future of the Spit. I have attended some very interesting 'Save our Spit' meetings over the last decade. If you really want to upset a room full of people, get the room to start discussing their ideas of what is an appropriate level of development and an inappropriate level of development. There are some who want the Spit left exactly as it is, as a nature reserve with no more infrastructure, no more buildings, no sound shells, no recreation areas at the end and no mounding for concerts. They want it left as it is.

I am pleased to see the progress that has been made in creating decent public amenities at the northern end of the Spit such as the new kiosk and the new public toilets. We now have a sewer that runs out to the end of the Spit to deal with those amenities. I am also pleased in creating the waterways authority, as we did under the LNP government, that we now have a very proactive approach to managing our waterways and managing the facilities and resources on the Spit.

I am pleased to hear that a new toilet block and showers will be built. That is in the current proposal. I am also pleased to hear that there are some plans for better pathways in some parts of the Spit. I am particularly pleased to note that there is also a plan to upgrade the pathway on the southern groyne. It is a beautiful spot. It enjoys a lot of foot traffic out there every day—365 days of the year. There is absolutely a need to upgrade that pathway and improve the amenity of that facility.

I am, however, a little concerned. The concern is this: the natural beauty of the Spit is something to behold. For some 10 years or more now it has been my pleasure to go for a walk up and back to the Spit most Friday mornings with a group of mates. I will lay on the table a standing invitation for anyone to join us—meet at six o'clock at the Main Beach surf club. You are welcome to join us.

**Mr Hart:** Then have drinks on the balcony.


**Mr MOLHOEK:** No, we will not be having drinks on the balcony. What I am concerned about is that we have a wonderful walkway through there called Federation Walk. I note that in the current master plan there is a suggestion that there be concrete paths from one end of the Spit to the other. I understand that we need to provide greater amenity and facilities and greater access for people, but it would concern me to see the Spit overdeveloped.

Perhaps there could be a compromise where there is a concrete path along the ocean way but a real effort to maintain the natural setting and natural pathway which is the Federation Walk. I know that many volunteers have worked hard for many years with tree plantings and maintenance programs. The amenity of the western stretches of Federation Walk really should be preserved.

I am also a little concerned about some of the proposals in respect of more infrastructure. I note that there is a proposal to create more hard standing infrastructure and retail space at the northern end of the Spit near the kiosk.

I would suggest to the House that we need to make haste slowly with some of those proposals. By all means—and I am on the record as saying this many times—let's develop the western side of the Spit up to Sea World. I am pleased to see the approach that has been adopted there, but we do not want to see the northern end of the Spit, Doug Jennings Park and parts of the eastern side of the Spit overdeveloped. It is very important that we take great care and that there be a lot more thought and consideration around the extent and style of development proposed for any of the eastern stretches of the Spit.

I said earlier that we will not be opposing this bill. I am pleased that we finally have a master plan for the Spit. At least now the community has the certainty it has sought from us and other levels of government over many years. In the Beattie and Bligh years we saw this great community asset kicked around many times. Sadly, we saw some proposals through our term in government as well. There were suggestions that tunnels be built at a cost of billions of dollars and that Wave Break Island be turned into some sort of tourist resort. These are areas that we will never get back. As the member for Southport, I am proud to stand in this House to speak for my community and say that I am pleased the Spit and those natural spaces will be preserved for future generations to come.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.31 pm): I also rise to support the master plan for the Gold Coast Spit. It was interesting to hear the member for Bancroft say earlier that this site has been in conflict for the last 20 to 30 years and for the member for Gaven it has been her whole lifetime. I first moved to the Gold Coast in 1986, some 33 years ago—possibly longer than the member for Gaven's lifetime; I am not entirely sure—but I have been around the Spit for a long time. My family has enjoyed many a holiday around the Spit. At one stage we had a boat and we would anchor off Wave Break Island. We put our tender ashore at a little mooring whose name I will not mention—it may not be parliamentary language—and we moored our boat inside that particular area. Anybody who has visited those parts of the Broadwater will say what a wonderful area it is, but for a number of years the Spit has had quite a few issues and it really does need cleaning up so it can be the nice place that it could be—so a master plan is vital.

If we look back at the history of what has happened around the Broadwater and the Spit, we see that, every time there is an election in Queensland, the Spit becomes a bit of an issue for people to kick around. They come up with all sorts of brilliant ideas, but those ideas are traditionally axed just before an election. We all remember back to the Beattie years when there was going to be a cruise ship terminal. I think it may have been a week before the 2006 election that idea was axed. We saw videos, virtual reality and all sorts of things about a cruise ship terminal in that space, but that was axed.

Fast-forward to 2015 when another cruise ship terminal was proposed for Wave Break Island, along with an integrated resort idea, and again just before the election in 2015 along came the now Premier who stepped onto Wave Break Island—I think it was the only time she actually visited the Gold Coast during that whole election campaign—and the cruise ship terminal and any development around there was axed. Then the ASF consortium negotiated in good faith with the government about what would happen there. My understanding is that ASF has been paid out something like \$30 million in

compensation, so it has cost the people of the Gold Coast and the people of Queensland a lot of money over the years with this chopping and changing. It is nice to see that we now have a plan both sides of government can work with. We can hopefully work together on this, and I do support having a master plan.

We have heard other members say that the Spit is a permanent sand structure. It is about 201 hectares—or ‘hectares’, as I like to say—and it separates the Gold Coast Broadwater from the Pacific Ocean. It is an area of cultural and social significance, and we all know that. However, the report says that the Spit has not had a clear direction until the development of the master plan, and I do support that.

The master plan covers seven areas: the top of the Spit; Wave Break Island and Curlew Island—as I said, Wave Break Island is one of those unique places where you can pull your boat up. You can go for a bit of a wander around there. There are some wonderful dive sites and great fishing there, and it is to be commended that we take care of that. There is also Federation Walk Coastal Reserve, Muriel Henchman Park, the Village Centre, Philip Park and the Southern Gateway. Philip Park could either be left the way it is at the moment or, as the Mayor of the Gold Coast has talked about for a number of years now, be the site of a cruise ship terminal. That is where his latest idea of a cruise ship terminal comes in.

All of the people on the Gold Coast I speak to think that a cruise ship terminal is a good idea. Obviously, there are some who do not, but most of the people I speak to think that a cruise ship terminal is a good idea. I have been on a number of cruises recently, and before you bring that up one of those infamous cruises was in Canada. I can say that when you take the Inside Passage cruise through Canada and Alaska there are some amazing little cruise ship terminals in very small towns where there is not a lot of infrastructure, yet those towns benefit from 2,000 to 3,000 visitors coming through regularly. If we did have a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast, you can imagine the benefits that terminal would bring to the Gold Coast when it comes to 2,000 to 3,000 people going to our theme parks, visiting our restaurants or having a cup of coffee in a coffee shop. That is a wonderful thing that could happen. In the time that I have left I want to raise the hypocrisy of the Labor Party.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I have done the ‘nice’ bit and now I am going to do the ‘nasty’ bit. As part of this plan the minister intends to convert public land into freehold which the state will control, and I accept that. I am happy with that, but he is also going to lease that land out for 120 years. If we were doing something like that, the other side would kick us for it being an asset sale. I will table a speech that the member for Mulgrave gave on 14 October 2014.

*Tabled paper:* Speech by the member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt MP, dated 14 October 2014, extracted from the *Record of Proceedings*, pp 3308-3309, titled ‘Matters of Public Interest: Sale of Public Assets’ [286].

The member for Mulgrave said—

For the benefit of those opposite, selling assets via a long-term lease to receive an upfront payment is a sale—or a transaction as the Treasurer now calls it. The Treasurer said back in 2010 ‘a 99-year lease is as good as giving away the farm—

here we are talking about a 120-year lease—

and ‘saying “the state of Queensland will still own the underlying asset” is really a furphy.’

This is the member for Mulgrave—who at the time was the shadow treasurer but who then became the treasurer of the state—who said this. He further stated—

Treasurer, after 2½ years of the Newman government, we agree with you.

It appears that the Labor Party has now changed its mind because, now that they are in government, apparently the long-term sale of a lease is not an asset sale anymore. We know from the history of this place and debates in the last few days that it is only the Labor Party that has actually sold assets in Queensland. I table a list of assets that the Labor Party sold totalling \$16.5 billion.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘The truth about who sold Queensland’s assets’ [287].


Members will note interjections I have made in the last few days on this issue, calling on those opposite to name some of the assets that we sold when we were in government. Quite frankly, we have heard none of that. They have not been able to name anything that we sold in government. Getting back to the then shadow treasurer’s speech in 2014, he said—

The Treasurer might still be confused about what a 99-year lease is, but the people of Queensland know very clearly that it means full-scale privatisation.

That is one of their own members saying that a 99-year lease is in fact full-scale privatisation. This is a 120-year lease. Although the Gold Coast council has said they need more time to make this happen, the minister is saying to them that he wants this all done before this year's election, and he is providing some staff from his department to assist the Gold Coast City Council in moving forward on this as quickly as possible. Obviously, they would like to see some of this money in the bank before the election happens.

One thing the minister could explain to me in his reply speech is what is happening with land rights and native title. Could we have an explanation about that? There is no mention in the report or in any of the speeches or transcripts I have seen about ILUAs or native title. Is native title being extinguished? What is happening there?

The best thing that could happen for the people of the Gold Coast is that on 28 March we elect Laura Gerber as the member for Currumbin and then we elect an LNP government on 31 October later this year. That is the only thing that could save the people of Queensland.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (2.41 pm), in reply: I thank all members who have provided their support for this bill. The Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill is the next stage in the delivery of the Spit Master Plan, which is already underway and steaming ahead. We have already announced funding for the delivery of significant upgrades to the Seaway Promenade and the Moondarewa Spit, as well as the construction of a new pathway connecting Muriel Henschman Park to Doug Jennings Park. Last month I announced a \$2 million funding allocation from our \$60 million commitment to the implementation of the Spit Master Plan to the Southport Yacht Club for the construction of a berth to accommodate one or more visiting superyachts.

When the Premier and I stood with Village Roadshow CEO Clark Kirby at Sea World in May last year and launched the master plan, we were well aware of the importance of that moment for the future of one of Queensland's most iconic and best loved areas. Part of that process includes the activation of vacant government land for private investment and the construction of new infrastructure for commercial purposes. We have already released a vacant block south of Mariners Cove to the market through an expressions of interest process. The northern area, roughly between Sea World and Versace, will be open to expressions of interest in the near future.

The bill also makes a minor change to the provisions in the Planning Act surrounding compensation for landholders affected by adverse planning changes. It is, as I said, a small change but one considered necessary to provide clarity for all stakeholders when these planning changes are made. One of the key elements in the success of the implementation of the master plan was ensuring that we got the governance right. This bill represents a major step in the realisation of that objective.

There would be few organisations that enjoy more respect and goodwill from the residents of the Gold Coast than the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. The Gold Coast community looks upon the Broadwater as one of its most precious assets, and the role of the authority in assuring its safe and sustainable use has elevated the organisation's standing and contributed significantly to its rising social capital. Under the governance model proposed in this bill, the opportunity exists to extend the capability of the authority's board by adding up to three positions, one of which should have experience and demonstrated expertise in architectural and/or landscape design, in accordance with the second recommendation of the committee's report.

The bill provides further evidence of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to doing the hard work needed to deliver on major projects. We had the vision and we have the will to give it practical effect. Project delivery is not just about cutting ribbons; it is about planning and design, it is about funding and execution, and it is about establishing appropriate models for governance and tenure.

While I am on my feet, I wish to correct an answer I gave in the House today. I stated that the Olive Downs coalmine received its approval from the Coordinator-General on 13 April 2019. The correct date is 13 May 2019.

The Spit is a beautiful place but regrettably it has an ugly history. For three decades, it has been a site of dispute and protest, of conflict and division, of open hostility and fierce debate. Those divisions have long seemed irreconcilable since they have been constructed around competing visions about the way the Spit should be developed or preserved. When we began the consultation process back in 2018, we were well aware of the mountain we would have to climb. We were determined, however, to take our time and ensure that this would be a plan designed by the community for the community. That

success was recognised in last year's Planning Institute of Australia Queensland awards, which acknowledged the Spit Master Plan as the best major project for public consultation and named it the overall winner as their project of the year.

Of course not everyone has been quite as enthusiastic about this great project. While the rest of the Gold Coast community have been powering ahead on '*The Master Plan*' superyacht towards the dawn of a bright new future for the Spit, those in the LNP have been stuck on the '*SS Misery*' bobbing up and down in their wake and, most importantly, plotting the next mutiny against their captain—like the member for Surfers Paradise, and how could we forget his contribution? He has changed his position more often than a Bridget McKenzie spreadsheet. He has been for it and against it more times than Pauline Hanson on the banking royal commission. He has not flip-flopped. He said yes, then he said no, then he said yes, and on it went.

The Leader of the Opposition said that she always supported a master plan—except apparently when she was in office and could have actually delivered one. The member for Southport greeted news of the master plan with a declaration of his excitement about the prospect of going camping on Wave Break Island. As he is only too aware, that is only an option because the Newman government was defeated. Under the plan of that government of which he was a member, Wave Break Island was destined to be smothered in concrete and crowded with apartments—no room for camping. That was their vision for the Spit—flog it off for development and create the Gold Coast's largest canal estate. There was no public consultation, no consideration for the environment or recreational values—just the primacy of the bulldozer and the dump truck. It was just another iteration of the Newman government's instinct for conflict and addiction to arrogance. It was a combination that destroyed their record majority in a single term.

What today's debate shows us is that they have learnt nothing in opposition. What a disappointing and frankly dispiriting chorus of negativity and dreary complaint we witnessed in this debate from those members opposite—endless whining and rambling on issues on just about everything but the substance of the bill, demonstrating to the people of Queensland, and most particularly the people of the Gold Coast, that even on issues that so manifestly serve the public interest the LNP cannot rise above political obsessions.

Even when they declare that they are voting to support the bill, we nonetheless get another lesson in the graceless art of opposition for opposition's sake. Being lectured on hypocrisy by the member for Glass House is like being lectured on how to launch a by-election campaign by the Leader of the Opposition. It was a bizarre and barely comprehensible contribution to the debate—all personal attack and a stark reminder that the maligned child of Strong Choices still lives in the dark closet of the LNP's hidden policy agenda. The member for Glass House clearly did not get the memo or pick up on the Campbell Newman megaphone so publicly wielded in recent days—whatever you do, don't mention asset sales. The LNP campaigning on asset sales is the equivalent of Scott Morrison campaigning on sporting grants.

I would like to thank the member for Buderim for visiting us from whatever alternative universe he currently inhabits to contribute to this debate. In one of the strangest arguments in this debate, he made the claim, believe it or not, that Labor was not interested in the Gold Coast—except for the Spit Master Plan, and the light rail, and Metricon, and Cbus stadium, and the upgrade of the M1, and the Gold Coast University Hospital, and Robina Hospital and of course the Commonwealth Games, which the LNP sought legal advice on to stop. In a polly-wants-a-cracker parroting of the LNP speakers who preceded him, he complained about the time it has taken to reach this stage. Well, our government makes no apology for taking the time to consult with the community and to deliver a plan designed by and for them. We know those opposite had a different approach—concrete the lot with zero community engagement. That approach led to warfare with the community which we have replaced with consensus, consultation and wide public support.

The member for Condamine made another unique contribution, spending the first three-quarters of his speech explaining to the House the important governance and administrative improvements made in the bill, which had him running to be nominated as the government's Spit Master Plan champion, before ruining that effort with a petty political attack and mucking up the time frames. After such a promising lead, it was more disappointing than the end of the *Game of Thrones*.

There is great news for the member for Bundaberg: we recognised Curlew Island as an island. Recommendation 3, thanks to Dr Lynham and his department, has already been delivered. Even better news is that, as this parliament is sitting again tomorrow, he has the opportunity to get up then and thank me for it.

The member for Surfers Paradise once again performed down to expectations, delivering a contribution with a kind of outrage that is hard to take seriously. He wobbled his way through a confusing miasma of conflicting ideas. He said that he has apparently, albeit very, very quietly, been calling for a master plan since 2015 before launching into a spirited defence of the ASF project and trashing the three-storey building height limit outlined in the Gold Coast city's own planning scheme. In went the cruise ship terminal, supported very clearly by the member for Surfers Paradise and supported by the member for Broadwater, but it is currently a coordinated project under the purview of the independent Coordinator-General.

The member for Surfers Paradise then said it was not mentioned in the master plan—except, of course, for the entirety of precinct 6, which just shows that the member for Surfers Paradise is talking about a document he has not clearly read. If he had read it, he would know of the outcomes it contains for seafood sales. If he read his local paper, he would be well aware of the considerable engagement between the co-op and my department—and I thank my departmental officers for the hard work they are doing working with the co-op on the Spit. There it was again from the team who spent \$100 million preparing our income-producing electricity assets for a fire sale and who wanted to flog off Fortitude Valley State School, Everton Park State School and the rest. It was a lecture from the LNP, from those people, about leasing vacant land for commercial development in the same speech in which the member for Surfers Paradise, for example, lectured us about not providing the private sector with certainty over commercial development.

Asset sales are the LNP's dangerous liaison, the obsession they cannot get over. Again, if the member for Surfers Paradise had read the master plan, overwhelmingly supported by the community, he would see the course of action that the government is pursuing is clearly set out. I can confirm that through the department we are working closely with the Gold Coast Fishermen's Co-op and other stakeholders that will be impacted by the master plan. I was asked for information about the future. I give you the Spit Master Plan; that is the future. There is so much: 15 outcomes for the village centre north where the co-op is based, including: a reorganisation and renewal of current activities associated with the fishing fleet, fresh seafood sales and casual dining; maintenance and, over time, renewal and improvement to parking and accessibility for Sea World; development of a cultural centre; private sector developments offering resort accommodation, bar and function centre activities; and a number of environmental and open space outcomes to protect this area for the future.

I heard the member for Bonney again running down the Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct, which is a pity. It is a project he should be proud of as a legacy of the Commonwealth Games. On the other hand, he should not forget—ever—that the LNP tried to cancel the games altogether. In any case, the member for Bonney is way off the bean, making up his own facts and fake news about the health and knowledge precinct. Who could forget last year when he tried to get the night quarter moved into a precinct about health and knowledge over the opposition of the council, the hospital and the university? Here is a memo to the member for Bonney: this is a health and knowledge precinct, not an entertainment precinct.

In October he was at it again, calling for a science centre apparently to be supported by the federal government and Griffith University—another fail. When we asked Griffith University about it they knew nothing. I urged the member to contact Karen Andrews, the federal member and his LNP colleague, to get the money for the science centre. I am yet to hear anything back from the member for Bonney. I urge the member for Bonney to stop playing political games with the health and knowledge precinct. This is a great legacy piece from the Commonwealth Games that can set up the new economy on the Gold Coast for the future. The reality is that it is moving ahead.

In April last year EDQ finalised—and I put this on the record for the member for Bonney, who continues to mislead his community about this important space—its first land sale to Griffith University for its Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies Institute space, ADaPT, with construction expected to commence this year. The state has also invested \$3 million to convert a Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games legacy village building into a co-working innovation space named Cohort. Cohort is targeting health and technology startups, incubators, entrepreneurs, accelerators, mentors and investors—exactly the type of investment and individuals we want to attract to the Gold Coast. The member should be supporting them so they can collaborate and grow their business.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is relevance to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): I ask the minister to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DICK:** It is very interesting being lectured to by the member for Glass House on relevance.

I want to correct the record because the member for Bonney constantly misleads his community about this space. I can tell honourable members that Cohort has been an unrivalled success and I ask him to support the health and knowledge precinct instead of running it down.

The progress of the Spit Master Plan is the culmination of significant collaboration, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all those who have contributed to the process, starting with my own department. I want to thank the director-general, Rachel Hunter. I also want to thank my departmental officers Kerry Doss, James Coutts, Rebecca Kenny, Gerard Coggan, Michael Carey, Craig Whip, Maggi Van Rensburg, Ruth Grant, Connie Guo, Teresa Luck, Deirdra Leigh, Mahala Butler, Larissa Currie and Bree Hughes. I would like to thank the master plan consortium led by John Gaskell and Deicke Richards as well as Articulus for their work in assisting with the process of community engagement and Hal Morris and Mara Bun from the Gold Coast Waterways Authority for their engagement in the process including the governance model we are debating today.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Gold Coast city council, particularly Mayor Tom Tate and Deputy Mayor Donna Gates, and recognise the \$35 million the city is contributing to the upgrades of local roads and the Sundale bridge to improve the access to the Spit. Anyone who has visited the Spit recently would have seen that work is already underway.

In conclusion, I also want to sincerely and genuinely pay tribute to the Premier of Queensland since it was her commitment and her vision that drove this project from the start. When the Premier stood up at the Currumbin RSL before the last election and announced that the government would lead the preparation of a new Spit master plan there were many who said it simply could not be done. That view clearly underestimated her resolve. The Premier promised the community a better way, an outcome that would be driven by consensus and consultation—it defines her leadership—that would be shaped by what the community wanted for this valuable public asset. The Premier said we would get the balance right and that any development that occurred must comply with the three-storey building height limit. The Spit Master Plan reiterates what Queenslanders already know: that this is a Premier who keeps her word and validates every day her promise to govern for all Queenslanders.

There is no region that more clearly delineates the difference between Labor governments and the LNP. It was Labor that delivered Metricon and Cbus stadiums, Labor that built the aqua centre and velodrome, Labor that built the Gold Coast University and Robina hospitals, Labor that upgraded the M1 at Nerang and Labor that is delivering the M1 upgrades at Varsity. It was Labor that delivered the Tugun bypass and Labor that developed a plan to run six lanes—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr DICK:**—to the border for the M1. It was Labor that delivered stage 1 and stage 2 of the light rail against the opposition—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, if we can return to the long title of the bill the House will be better served. Those on my left, please refrain from final interjections. The minister is winding up his speech.

**Mr DICK:**—and it is Labor that has delivered the contract for stage 3. We brought the most successful Commonwealth Games in history to the Gold Coast. On the point of land rights—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, I have just given you a direction. Can you tell me what part the Commonwealth Games plays in relation to this legislation that you are now discussing?

**Mr DICK:** I am discussing land rights, Mr Deputy Speaker, directly—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Commonwealth Games has nothing to do with that. Minister, I will sit you down if you do not come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DICK:** Can I respond to the member for Burleigh, please, Mr Deputy Speaker, on the issue of land rights?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, please stay within the long title of the bill. If you want to respond to the member for Burleigh make sure it is within the long title of the bill.

**Mr DICK:** With respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, I thought the issue of land rights is important because it goes to the ownership—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, you are not going to argue with the chair. I will sit you down if you do not come back to the bill.

**Mr DICK:** I will not respond to the member for Burleigh in that case on a very important issue. In that case, I commend this important piece of legislation which protects and enhances the Spit, something that all LNP members of the Gold Coast—in fact, all members of this House—and all Queenslanders should be very proud of. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—



**Mr DICK** (3.00 pm): I move the following amendment—

1

**Clause 25 (Amendment of s 45 (Appointed members))**

Page 14, line 19—

*omit, insert—*

(iii) planning and development;

(iv) the design and aesthetics of public open spaces, parks, natural environments and built form; or

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment and statement of compatibility with human rights, including the rights of Indigenous people on the Gold Coast.

*Tabled paper:* Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [288].

*Tabled paper:* Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [289].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 31, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 18 September 2019 (see p. 2918).

### Second Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.



The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and tabled its report on 4 November 2019. I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its consideration of the bill and for the valuable work the committee undertakes. In its report, the committee made one recommendation, namely, that the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for its support of the bill. I intend to propose amendments to the bill. These relate to the Prostitution Act 1999 provisions in the bill and these amendments have been circulated in my name. The amendments will omit provisions in the bill relating to the Prostitution Act because the Attorney-General has made a commitment to refer the development of a regulatory framework for the sex industry to the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

This bill will advance the safety and security of the Queensland community and provide efficiencies and improved operability for the Queensland Police Service. Technology is changing rapidly and in today's world we have an expanding range of digital devices including laptops, smartwatches, tablets and smartphones. These devices have become increasingly mobile and have the capacity to store large amounts of information, either on the devices or through the devices on internet services, sometimes referred to as 'the cloud'.

The majority of the community uses their digital devices for social, work and other well-meaning purposes. But for criminals and organised crime syndicates, digital devices can provide opportunities to commit offences and conceal evidence of those offences from law enforcement. Criminal elements do this by protecting access to their devices by passwords and encryption code.

The Queensland Police Service has obtained legal advice indicating that current access information provisions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 are ambiguous. Due to the ambiguity, the QPS has been advised that police cannot obtain an order which is issued by a magistrate or judge to access social media accounts such as Instagram and private email accounts such as Outlook.com, even where police have information or evidence suggesting there is evidence of offences on a person's email or social media accounts.

While child sex offenders can offend online by many different methods, they most often offend by pretending to be a child on social media accounts popular amongst children, such as Twitter and Instagram, before engaging with and sexually offending against children. The murder of 15-year-old Adelaide girl, Carly Ryan, by a 50-year-old Melbourne based paedophile, Gary Newman, who was posing online as an 18-year-old musician is just one example. When police located Gary Newman, within 11 days of the murder, he was found at his computer using his fake identity to talk to a 14-year-old girl in Western Australia.

In its October 2015 report, the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry highlighted, through numerous case study examples, the propensity for child sex offenders to utilise social media applications to sexually offend against children. The use of passwords and encryption codes to block access to information stored on computers enables offenders to conceal evidence of a diverse range of crimes including homicide, sexual assault, drug trafficking, child abuse, cybercrime—for example fraud and revenge porn—and terrorism.

This government demonstrated it is alert to developing trends in cybercrime when it passed new offences targeting revenge porn through the Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Act 2019.

The amendments in this Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will ensure police are able to efficiently detect, investigate and prosecute a variety of offences that may be concealed on or facilitated by technology. Changes to access information order laws in the bill will clarify existing powers so they operate as intended and are future proofed as far as is foreseeable.

The bill also makes clarifying changes to access information orders in other relevant Queensland legislation so that officers of the Crime and Corruption Commission and police officers utilising the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 and Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 will have clarification as to the scope of information lawfully accessible on or through a digital device in that legislation.

Further, important safety measures in this bill will permit police to search a person prior to transport under section 134A of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act so the safety of all persons can be ensured and the worst-case scenarios of a death in custody or serious injury to police officers or other members of the community can be avoided. In addition, appropriately qualified staff members of the Queensland Police Service will be enabled to share domestic violence information with other government and non-government agencies.


The purpose of the information sharing framework in part 5A of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is to assess whether there is a serious threat to the life, health or safety of people because of domestic violence; respond to serious threats to life, health or safety of people because of domestic violence; and refer people who fear or experience domestic violence, or who commit domestic violence, to specialist service providers. The amendment will improve efficiency of information sharing by increasing the capacity of the QPS to share information and better protect the victims of domestic violence.

I will briefly comment upon other amendments in the bill that translate to frontline efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service. These remaining amendments include updating the definition of 'controlled activity' so police can make use of modern forms of technology such as texting and any other forms of communication when using the provisions; broadening the delegations for approval of controlled operations to allow for a timelier response to information and intelligence regarding serious crime; ensuring surveillance device warrants can be used in a vehicle for a named person warrant; permitting the owner of a vehicle to voluntarily transfer their vehicle to the state if it is impounded under chapter 4 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act—this will be especially useful where impoundment fees may exceed the value of a vehicle, leaving the vehicle owner and potentially the holding yard operator out of pocket; and repealing sober safe centre trial laws which occupy a division and various sections throughout the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

These amendments will also reduce the time the Queensland Police Service is required to hold found property from 60 days to 30 days, noting particularly that, due to advances in technology, reports of lost property may be made online and over the phone and online search capabilities allow for the comparison of lost property reports against found items. The Queensland Police Service's capacity to advertise lost property to the community is far reaching through the Queensland Police Service's social media sites, traditional media channels and via formal advertising on the Queensland Police Service website, which has recently been upgraded. Also, there will be no reduction of the 30 days for an owner to make a claim on found property from when a written notice is published. These changes will assist the Queensland Police Service in dealing with the increasing costs associated with storing and handling this property.

Finally, the Weapons Act 1990 will be amended to provide a licensee who has had their weapons licence suspended to have 90 days instead of 30 days to show that they are a fit and proper person. The bill places positive obligations on armourers to ensure that before they modify a firearm that would place it into a new category of weapon they are obliged to check that the weapon's licensee is licensed to hold that category of weapon. The armourer will also be required to immediately record the details of a modified weapon in the register and notify the Weapons Licensing branch of the Queensland Police Service within 14 days so the Commissioner of Police can maintain an accurate statewide firearms register.

This bill demonstrates a proactive approach to ensure that criminals who use digital devices to facilitate or conceal offences do not avoid prosecution due to technical loopholes. It creates efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, meaning more frontline police are available to respond to emergency calls. These aspects of the bill ultimately provide for and enhance the safety and welfare of the Queensland community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.12 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The LNP will always support things which make the job of the police simpler and which allow them to compete with the criminals who are trying to evade detection, investigation and prosecution. Largely and fundamentally, this bill enhances police powers so police can get on with the job and conduct thorough investigations against some of Queensland's worst criminals. As the minister said, we are talking about paedophiles and some of the worst offenders in the state. The types of offenders that this bill targets specifically are sex offenders but also—and not to be forgotten—organised criminals who consider themselves above the law. The LNP cracked down on these types of offenders in government and we will crack down on them in opposition and always support legislation that empowers our police to crack down on these types of offenders.

It is without a doubt that these offenders conduct much of their criminal offending through technologies such as cloud services. We all know that our own technology has transferred to cloud services in recent times and it should be widely expected that the criminal fraternity will be doing much the same thing, and this has definitely been a gap. These offenders are often intelligent people who go out of their way to try and outsmart law enforcement so they can continue committing and even promoting their vile acts online. I have no sympathy for sex offenders or organised criminals who

destroy the lives of the most innocent and the most vulnerable in our community. It is for these reasons that I support the amendments to the bill which will give the police the certainty that they have the ability to search cloud services of offenders whom they are investigating so that they can gather the evidence they need to prosecute.

Turning to the amendments, I note that currently the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 provides for access information powers which enable police to apply for an order from a judge or a JP that would require a person to provide access information such as a password or any assistance necessary to gain access to an electronic device so the information on, or accessible through, the device can be obtained by the police. However, as I have already mentioned, the advances in new technology are contributing to offenders using cloud services to manage and promote their criminal activities.

While access to storage of incriminating information on traditional storage mediums such as memory sticks is clearly articulated under the current laws, the current definition of 'stored' prescribed in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act has created ambiguity with respect to accessing information and the scope of information accessible in cloud services. This bill resolves that ambiguity by making it clear that any information can be accessed within the terms of the judicial order on or through an electronic device. Not surprisingly, the Queensland Police Union was supportive of these changes and so were the advocacy groups such as Bravehearts and Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia. In its submission, the Queensland Police Union said—

The proposed new powers contained in the Bill go a long way to ensuring Queensland's police can remain a step ahead and provide them with the tools necessary to effectively police with today's technology.

In a public hearing the QPU went on to say—

Paedophiles are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the way they store their information, including, for example, storing them on email accounts that are kept in the cloud. That makes it very difficult for police to locate that sort of material on their computers, because it obviously is not on their computers, yet they are still able to access it when and as they prefer. This legislation will allow police to download that information and actively prosecute those types of offenders.

The QPU went on to explain how social dating applications such as Tinder are increasingly used and that in recent times quite a number of rape and other sex offences have occurred as a consequence of a complainant meeting an offender through those sorts of apps. The QPU commented—

Having access to that, particularly where it is an offender, will also allow police to identify potential other victims who have been reluctant to come forward or too scared to come forward.

The enhancement in police powers to help detect alleged sex offenders, terrorists and murderers is something that I wholeheartedly support and everybody on this side wholeheartedly supports.


With respect to some of the changes with the Weapons Licensing branch, the two major changes to the Weapons Act relate to the extension of suspension notices and the regulation of firearm modifications. Currently, the Weapons Act allows for an authorised officer to suspend a person's weapons licence where they suspect on reasonable grounds the licence holder is no longer a fit and proper person. I note that, under the bill, the suspension time frame is moving from 30 to 90 days which will benefit a licensee because it will give them more time to demonstrate they are a fit and proper person before their licence is cancelled. I also support the amendments to the Weapons Act which require armourers to sight a person's licence before modifying any firearm to ensure the person holds a licence authorising them to possess a firearm in the new weapons category as well as the change requiring armourers to record any modifications in their firearms register and report to Weapons Licensing about the change.

I turn now to the amendments that have been tabled and circulated which basically withdraw one aspect of the bill. What was originally proposed was a watering down of the penalties from an indictable offence to a simple offence for breaches of the Prostitution Act. I was very concerned about those breaches so I am pleased to see that the minister has withdrawn those from the bill and has suggested that they will be referred to the Queensland Law Reform Commission. There were several areas that I was particularly concerned about.

When representatives from the Prostitution Licensing Authority gave evidence they suggested some of these matters were simply administrative. Some of the matters that we were talking about were a licensee being responsible for checking the proof of the age of a sex worker, sexual health matters, safety and security, sex worker autonomy, inductions for sex workers and approved managers and maintenance and cleaning. I think everybody would agree that these in no way are administrative and in no way should the penalties for breaches, particularly of checking the age of a sex worker, be watered down to a fine with a maximum penalty of a couple of thousand dollars.

I support that they have been withdrawn and I put on record clearly for the Law Reform Commission, as it considers the new framework once it is referred to it, that the LNP would not support legislation that waters down the penalties for such serious breaches of the Prostitution Act. I believe they should remain indictable offences. A judge can always sentence lower than the maximum, but if the maximum is a couple of thousand dollars then that has the potential to become the cost of doing business. When it comes to checking the age of a sex worker or sexual health matters, failure to comply with those guidelines is a very serious breach of the trust of our community and needs to be upheld in the extreme.


From my point of view, giving the police the powers they need to keep organised crime and some of these perverse paedophiles and other sex offenders in check and giving them the ability to investigate and gather the evidence that will lead to a prosecution is something that I support. I note that some changes will mean an increase in regulation for armourers, but that is a small price to pay to protect our community from gun crime. Overall the bill is administrative in nature. I am pleased to join with the Queensland Police Union in supporting the majority of the bill. I am pleased to support measures to ensure that our Police Service has all the powers it needs to restrict crime in our communities in Queensland.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.22 pm): I would like to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, in its report No. 55 which was tabled in this Assembly on 4 November 2019, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed. While evolving technology provides many benefits for society, it also provides an opportunity for crime to flourish. Criminal elements are using digital devices to facilitate and conceal information about their offending and police, along with Crime and Corruption Commission officers, need adequate powers to require access to a suspect's password and encryption protected devices.

This bill makes clarifying changes to access information provisions in order to align the sections with their original intent and to provide broader terminology in an effort to future proof the provisions. In its report, the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry provided several case study examples that revealed a propensity for child sex offenders to use social media applications to interact with and offend against children.

One of the amendments made by the Serious and Organised Crime and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 was to clarify that police could gain access to information that was stored in cloud services through a device. However, the terminology used in the provisions made the scope of the information police could access through a court order unclear. On one interpretation, the words 'stored information' could be taken to mean any information stored on social media applications, email accounts, messaging services and so on. On the narrower interpretation 'stored information' means information physically stored on the device or information stored in cloud service facilities that are designed specifically for storage of excess information, for example, Dropbox. Due to the absence of a definition for 'stored information' and the resulting ambiguity, legal principles—that is, the principle of legality—dictate that the narrow meaning should be adopted. This bill simply removes this ambiguity so the provisions can continue to operate. I support this approach to ensuring that police in this state can keep pace with criminals who are using technology to commit a diverse range of offences.

On 21 October 2019, the committee received correspondence from the minister advising that he had been informed by the Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, that she intended to refer the development of an appropriate regulatory framework for the sex industry to the Queensland Law Reform Commission. The minister further advised that, given the decision to refer this matter to the QLRC, the Premier had granted permission to remove proposed amendments to the Prostitution Act 1999 from the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As outlined today by the minister during his second reading speech, these are amendments to be moved during consideration in detail. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. It is a good bill. The LNP will not be opposing it. I am pleased to see that the government has excised the proposed amendments to the Prostitution Act, in particular in regard to the penalties for breaches of the act. I have some other concerns that I will now go to.

As we have heard, the objectives of the bill are to clarify for law enforcement purposes the right of access to information on more than just storage devices but also new technology, the cloud and so forth. We always have to be vigilant for changes in technology to ensure that our police have the law behind them to keep up with technology to make sure that their fight against crime is effective. The rest of the bill is to enhance the efficient operations of the QPS, particularly the Weapons Licensing branch.

We support the enhancement of the powers of police to access information. Whilst I note the objections that the Queensland Law Society had to an expansion of law enforcement's ability to acquire information without formal legal processes behind it, on the balance of public interest this is necessary. We heard the shadow minister, my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba North, speak about the importance of protecting society, in particular from sex offenders and the scourge of child pornography. This will be an important tool for law enforcement agencies in that fight.


During the committee's public hearings I had the opportunity to question officers from the Queensland Police Service. From memory, and I will stand corrected if I am wrong, it was Deputy Commissioner Steve Gollschewski who I asked how this helped us in the context of the fight when so much of the material could be held overseas. He acknowledged rather frankly that the fact that this crime uses technology and touches storage throughout the world is a challenge and that the police rely on the goodwill and cooperation of other jurisdictions in order for them to execute the fight against crime. I support this aspect of the bill. I think it is worthwhile and the LNP has no problem with.

I turn to the part of the bill that has been excised. I am pleased to see that and I thank the Attorney-General and the government for it. Two particular aspects concerned us: the reduction in penalty units and also the change from an indictable offence to a summary offence for those breaches. I do not think the case for that had been met.

I will make a general observation about giving the Prostitution Licensing Authority power to enter premises without the support of the police. That is an understandable and noble action in terms of efficiency and I can understand why the police, whose time is precious, do not want to be called out when another officer can enter a licensed prostitution premises. However, I recall that some of the observations from the Fitzgerald inquiry were that having all of the power to control prostitution vested in one institution allowed corruption to flourish in the past. I do not say that with any intention at all of impugning the Prostitution Licensing Authority, but I caution Queensland that sometimes it is beneficial to have two signatures on the cheque.

The bill proposes changes to the Weapons Licensing branch. Currently and appropriately, an authorised officer is able to issue a notice to suspend the firearms licence of a person who they feel is not a fit and proper person. That is a necessary safeguard in the interests of public safety. The proposed change enables the expansion of the period in which the licensee can appeal that decision from 30 days to 90 days. The experience has been that a great deal of time has been taken up in QCAT, which is already burdened with a large amount of work relative to its resourcing, to hear those cases. I believe the additional 60 days will give sufficient time for licensees to gather a case in order to appeal a suspension.

Lastly, the bill proposes to require gun shop owners and licensed firearms dealers to sight the licence of a weapon owner who seeks to have a modification done that will change the category of a weapon. Again, on the balance of public interest, I think that is a good thing. I note that the peak body for firearms dealers had reservations about that. I can understand where they are coming from, because they do have to go through a large amount of red tape when dealing with weapons, as it is a very sensitive matter. I note that some of them say that there are inefficiencies in the red tape that they have to deal with now and that that creates difficulties for law enforcement and inconveniences lawful owners. We need to head towards having a fully electronic system for all of these things, not only for the larger operators but also for the smaller dealers. Having said that, we support the bill and I commend it to the House.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The bill is wide ranging in its amendments and I would like to speak to certain aspects of it. Firstly, I turn to the amendments that address the bill's objective of clarifying the powers of law enforcement officers to access information on electronic devices.

As the methods and means of committing many and varied offences continue to evolve, we must equip our police with the powers to investigate those developing offences. In the introductory speech, the minister said that child sex offenders, drug dealers and perpetrators of other serious crimes can conceal evidence on devices such as mobile phones. Currently, police have the power, through means of a search or crime scene warrant, to access a storage device such as a mobile phone. However, when tested it was found that that power was limited to information contained directly on the phone. The power did not provide the requirement for the owner to provide further access to applications on the device in which evidence may be found. In effect, as part of the warrant police could require the offender to provide the PIN to access the phone but could not then require the owner to provide the passwords to email or social media apps in which photos or other files containing evidence may be stored.

This amendment bill seeks to clarify the terms and provides definitions in the PPRA for the terms 'digital device', 'access information' and 'device information'. I can assure Queenslanders that this is not an extension of police powers but rather a clarification of the original legislation to ensure that it works as intended. Police officers still need to make an application for a search warrant and are required to provide information or evidence to support the reasonable suspicion of the commission of an offence or a crime scene threshold offence respectively in order to utilise these access information orders.

The definitions will apply to other pieces of legislation, including the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 and the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. The application under the child protection legislation applies if an authorised police officer suspects on reasonable grounds that a reportable offender has committed an indictable offence against the act, such as an offence under section 51A, 'Failing to comply with offender prohibition order'. The police officer may require the reportable offender to give access to information on the device or accessible through the device.

An example of when police may use this section could arise when a reportable offender is required to report to police the social media that they are using and police subsequently acquire intelligence that the offender is engaging with children on a social media application that has not been declared to police. This particular section means that police will have the power to require the offender to provide access to the device in their possession and passwords to the social media applications in question. The provisions extend to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 whereby commissioned officers at the CCC are able to access information on those social media apps relevant to offences that they are investigating, for example, major crime or corruption in the public sector.

There are a range of amendments in this bill that others have already spoken to, but it would be remiss of me not to mention the changes to the provisions of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012. I was heavily involved in the rollout of the most recent large sweeping changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act which commenced in 2017. One of my roles was to assist in the development and rollout of statewide training for police officers on the new provisions, which included the information sharing provisions and the streamlining of police protection notices or PPNs. The first of those amendments is around the information sharing provisions.

Part 5A was an important shift in the approach that this government took to dealing with the scourge of domestic and family violence. It recognised that, while this act predominantly provides police and court systems with guidance and powers in relation to domestic and family violence, it requires a whole-of-government approach. The case management approach supports the high-risk teams that are now located throughout Queensland. The provision allows for government departments to share information where it is in the interests of the safety of the victims and their families.

The original legislation failed to capture the role of our non-uniformed staff—our unsworn staff and our administration and staff officers. That is right: it may come as a surprise to those opposite, but in the Police Service we do have public servants delivering frontline services. However, the original legislation only referred to the role of police officers in sharing information, not staff. This amendment seeks to expand that information sharing provision to our non-sworn staff who work side by side with other government departments to case manage our most vulnerable clients.


The other amendment I wish to speak to relates to the additional search powers granted when police give a direction under section 134A of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act. I am going to assume that most members are unfamiliar with the functions of section 134A of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act, so strap in and let me enlighten you.

Section 134A operates when a police officer reasonably suspects a person is named as a respondent on a DV application or a DV order, or needs to be issued with a PPN. Those documents and the protections that come with them are not enlivened until they have been served on and explained to a respondent. Ensuring that they are served and that that service is documented is an important step in protecting victims. An option under section 134A is for police to give a respondent a direction to move to another place and remain there. Those other places include a police station, courthouse or premises of an organisation that provides a community service.

Basically, the purpose is to allow for the service of the relevant domestic violence document. The reason for the direction to move to another place for the purpose of service is to remove the respondent and police from a high-risk environment. For police to manage a domestic violence incident and attempt to complete and serve all relevant paperwork at the scene can represent a high risk, not only to police officers but also to the aggrieved and the respondent.

In order to avoid that high-risk environment, it is a reasonable solution to move the respondent away from the scene to complete that paperwork. This allows the respondents to cool off and the aggrieved to make any necessary arrangements out of the eye of the respondent. In almost every case, the place that the respondent will be directed to move to is a nearby police station and they will be driven there by police.

The last amendment bill was unclear on the search powers of police whilst the respondent was under the direction of a section 134A direction. This posed a safety risk to officers transporting respondents. In all other instances whereby a perpetrator of any number of offences is in custody, technical or otherwise, police retain a search provision. This is done as a risk mitigation factor not only for the person in custody but also for police. The purpose of this search is to locate items in the person's possession that may be used to cause harm to themselves or another person. This amendment is designed to enhance the safety of our officers as they go about their duties in the high-risk environment that responding to domestic and family violence incidents create. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.40 pm): Queensland's hardworking police officers do a wonderful job. They work tirelessly to protect the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders and often make enormous sacrifices to ensure we can enjoy a way of life we regularly take for granted. Without their efforts, the world would not be the same. That is why the members of our state's thin blue line deserve all the support we can provide them. It is our duty to remain vigilant and adapt to changing times to ensure our officers can exercise the powers they need to combat crime in Queensland.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 which I stand to speak on today is the House's latest effort towards achieving that goal. This bill intends to enhance and clarify the power of our state's law enforcement officers across several areas of interest. Under the bill, officers in Queensland would be provided clarity in regards to what information they are able to lawfully access from electronic devices, whilst the Weapons Licensing branch of the Police Service would be granted additional power that they need to enhance their operations.

Overall, the bill intends to improve efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, thereby increasing community safety, which is truly an admirable goal and one that I will join my colleagues in the LNP in supporting. Before I elaborate any further, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, our committee secretariat and the 10 submitters to this bill for their contributions. Submissions to this bill came from a wide array of sources, including the Queensland Law Society, Queensland Police Union of Employees, the National Firearm Dealers Association and several women's advocacy groups. There was a large difference of opinion across the submissions with few stakeholders having an active interest in this large bill's entire contents.

As a party that supports Queensland's police officers, the LNP will always do whatever we can to ensure our officers have the support and powers they need. That is why we support this bill's enhancement of access of information powers. These powers will allow police, with the authorisation of a judge or justice of the peace, to access any potentially incriminating information stored digitally by any individual whether that be on a traditional storage medium, such as a phone or computer, or information stored on an online cloud service.

It is critical that our police adapt and evolve to meet the challenges of stopping crime in an evermore technologically dependent world. This bill helps to ensure that they have the powers necessary to do so. The Queensland Police Union of Employees shared this view in their submission. They stated that, while the existing powers are extremely useful when investigating serious crime, such as paedophilia, terrorism and sexual offences such as rapes, unfortunately until this bill came into power they were restricted.

With the advances in technology and the increasing use of widely available encryption, criminals have become more sophisticated in their attempts to avoid apprehension. As such, they welcome this enhancement of access powers which they believe would go a long way to ensuring Queensland's police can remain a step ahead and provide them with the tools necessary to effectively police today's technology.

Another welcome addition to this bill is the additional powers it will grant to the Queensland Police Service's Weapons Licensing branch. Tasked with keeping our community safe and ensuring only those with a genuine need to own and operate a weapon can do so, the branch is one of the Police Service's most active. This bill will make major changes to the Weapons Act 1990 relating to the issue of suspension notices and the regulation of firearms modification—quite sensible changes.

The bill will amend the Weapons Act to extend the period an officer may issue a licence suspension order from 30 days to 90 days. It is hoped that this extension may assist in alleviating the backlog faced by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal when a licensee applies for the

reinstatement of their licence. I must say, given the Labor government's track record regarding QCAT, it comes as quite a surprise that they would come up with an idea that might help relieve some of the pressure the tribunal faces. It is not additional staffing or a desperate need for funding that QCAT has required, but it is a start. That is all we seem to get from this government.


The bill will also hold armourers responsible to assist in the fight against illegally modified weapons. Under the bill, armourers will be required to sight a licensee's firearm licence before completing any modification of a firearm while they will also be required to record and report any modifications they make to firearms directly to Weapons Licensing. As well as helping to ensure that no licensee may hold a modified firearm for which they do not hold an appropriate licence, this change will also allow Weapons Licensing to maintain the most accurate register of firearms possible.

My contribution so far has highlighted many of the positive aspects of the bill. It was at this point that I was going to take issue with clause 60. I thank the minister for the amendments. I am pleased to see the prostitution legislation amendments referred to the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Our police need all the support this House can give because it is only a few short months ago that we were here talking about the police budget. In 2015, I remind the House, the police numbers in Queensland were 245 police officers per 100,000 of population. Fast-forward to last year and that number had dropped to 233 police officers per 100,000. That equates to over 600 fewer police officers in the state. Simply put, that means police officers cannot be proactive in fighting crime as they are too busy going from job to job.

I must take the time at this point to give a shout-out to my local police at Helidon, Gatton, Laidley, Lowood and Forest Hill. I welcome the recent announcement of two additional police officers to be stationed at Helidon. I have been fighting for those police officer positions since August 2017 when our shadow police minister Tim Mander was there asking for those police. It is certainly very welcomed in the community all the way from Helidon out to Murphys Creek and Flagstone Creek. Glen and Sam do a wonderful job at Helidon. The addition of a further two police officers comes at the right time because the Helidon police have been under a lot of stress with their workload. The Police Service locally in Lockyer do a great job. I will continue to advocate for them and continue to strive for more police numbers.

The time has come and passed for those opposite to get serious on crime. They have tried before with this bill, only to fail at the last hurdle. That is a failure I am sure they will regret when their time in government passes on 31 October 2020.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill makes important changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. Domestic and family violence should never be tolerated. It is a scourge on our society. We know it cuts across all countries, all cultures, all socio-economic backgrounds and all communities.

In my career as a school leader I was often called upon to reach out to families in these troubled times. Domestic and family violence does not respect boundaries. For the children it can make getting to school challenging, it can make homework and assessment hard to complete, it makes learning in the classroom challenging too, and the list goes on.

I saw firsthand the emotional impact on my students. This was difficult to watch. As an educator I was duty bound to report on instances of harm and emotional trauma affecting children in my care. That is why I strongly support any positive changes that can make a real difference to people's lives through stronger laws, policy changes, resource allocation and positive intervention. There are positive changes in this bill that will give effect to our objective of making a real difference—a real difference in the lives of the students referred to earlier and their families.

For example, under the power to give direction a police officer may direct a person to move to another stated location such as a police station, police beat or courthouse to enable the officer to serve that person with a domestic violence application or order. This is about affording greater protection to victims of domestic and family violence. Importantly, this bill expands the current power to police to direct a person to move to and remain at another appropriate place so that an officer can serve an application for a protection order, serve a domestic violence order or issue or serve a police protection notice. Again, this is further protection for victims of domestic and family violence. This will help police to de-escalate domestic and family violence incidents by separating the parties, provide opportunities for respondents to gain a deeper understanding of the documents that are being served on them and assist police in reinforcing the seriousness of what may have occurred.




I turn now to other aspects of this bill. Again, it is about protecting our most vulnerable members of our community—that is, our children. This is about protecting our children from the clutches of the dark net. We know that child sex offenders use various ways to prey on our children. They pretend to be a child themselves. They do this on social media websites that are popular with children. They engage with them as part of a sinister plan to lure them into their clutches. I experienced instances where an older man posed as a teenager to entrap an innocent victim—a student of mine at the time. He was successful in luring her to a nearby shopping centre, unbeknown to her family—luring a very intelligent and assertive young lady into his grasp.

These are unfathomable crimes. The Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry has highlighted these insidious case studies and how child sex offenders use social media to achieve their aims. Technology such as the use of passwords and encryption codes to block access to information stored on computers enables these offenders to hide evidence of their crimes—sexual assaults, child abuse, cybercrime and revenge porn, to name a few.

Amendments in this bill will ensure that police have the tools they need to detect, investigate and bring justice to these offenders who use this technology to prey on our children. Changes to access information order laws in the bill will more clearly define these powers. The bill also more clearly defines changes to access information orders in other Queensland legislation. This will enable officers from the Crime and Corruption Commission and police officers to have heightened clarity about the scope of information that is lawfully accessible on or through a digital device.

I take a moment to thank our Upper Mount Gravatt police and Holland Park police. Today we have the Holland Park police in our thoughts as they deal with a tragic incident that happened in your electorate, Deputy Speaker Kelly.

This bill is about protecting children. It is about protecting victims of domestic and family violence. It is about keeping our community safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. There are a number of provisions in this bill which concern me greatly. As an old lawyer once said, 'I am an advocate for the broccoli principle of law reforms. You cannot have any new powers until you use up the ones you have got.'

**A government member:** Who said that?

**Mr ANDREW:** Old lawyers. If ever there was a proposed law that invites police to ask for more, it is this one. Normally when police apply for a warrant to search a place or a person's electronic device a justice of the peace will issue a warrant if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect the evidence is at the place or on the device. Under this bill, there is no such requirement. A justice of the peace does not need to be satisfied of anything before granting such a search order. Also, by removing the requirement that police have reasonable grounds to suspect that a particular account or a particular device contains evidence of an offence, there will now be absolutely no limitations set down in the order on the type of accounts police can now demand access to. This means that they can demand access to all of the specified person's accounts, including banking details, email accounts, social media accounts, subscriber accounts, dating accounts and medical records.

Finally, the overly broad definition of specified person in the bill means that the warrant will not be limited to the devices of the person who is suspected of having committed an offence but will include the devices of any person who happens to be at the place being searched or is in possession of an electronic device at the place being searched. As the Queensland Law Society president so dramatically warned members of the committee in the hearing, the powers granted under this bill are so broad and undefined that if such a warrant were issued for a staff member in my office the police could compel anyone else present in the office, including myself, to provide them with access to their phones, computers, email accounts and search history et cetera.


I acknowledge the responses provided by the Queensland Police Service that in practice the provisions of the bill would never be used in this way. However, the question remains as to why the proposed law has been made as broad and open to abuse as it has. Why does the proposed bill contain no limits in terms of either the making of the order or the power it grants?

The concerns contained in the Queensland Law Society submission are not easily dismissed. They are the peak professional body for the state's legal practitioners and their submission makes very clear that they are unhappy about the implications for our democratic freedoms if this bill is passed. They say that they have sought the opinion of three legal experts who believe the bill grants police extraordinary invasive powers and the keys to the kingdom of our digital world. I think parliament should listen to them.

The standard processes for getting a warrant exist to protect us and our democracy. They exist so that we can go about our ordinary business free from unreasonable interference by the police. Applying for a court warrant is not a complicated business. It can be done over the phone. Whilst these powers are being claimed to target child sex offenders, the provisions of this bill are not in any way restricted to that offence and are therefore open to being applied much more broadly than that.

Under section 25(a) of the Human Rights Act 2019, Queenslanders have the right to privacy and a right not to be harassed. I believe that some of the provisions contained in this bill infringe on that right. They are both unclear and far too broad. They reflect the view of those who believe that effective law enforcement and increased police powers are of greater importance today than the preservation and protection of individual rights.

The modification of weapons and the reporting of such does give a better legal framework to both dealers and armourers. That is a very good part of the bill.


 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill that is before the House. In doing so I want to particularly draw to the attention of the House the provisions which amend the Weapons Act. The bill proposes to expand the period for which a weapons licence can be suspended from 30 days to 90 days. The Weapons Act currently allows an authorised officer to suspend a person's weapons licence where they suspect the licence holder is no longer a fit and proper person.

The suspension period is designed to provide the licensee more time in which to demonstrate that they are in fact a fit and proper person. When a person's licence is suspended because they may no longer be a fit and proper person on the grounds of mental or physical health, the licensee may engage the services of a psychologist or a medical practitioner to demonstrate their fitness. Sometimes it can take several weeks to get in to see a psychologist or other specialist who can provide that evidence that the licence holder needs to support their case. I think that this makes good sense. The statutory window of 30 days disadvantages licensees, and additionally it is administratively burdensome for the police and QCAT. I support the amendment in the bill to the Weapons Act to extend the time for which a licensee can be suspended to 90 days.

I met local grazier Russell recently who has a property at Farnborough and also at Stanage. Russell uses guns on his property to kill feral pigs and dogs. The amendments in this bill will help people like Russell. If they are notified that their gun licence has been suspended, they will have more time now to put their case together with the supporting evidence that they need. I was pleased to read in their submission that the Firearm Dealers Association of Queensland supported this amendment for the proposed suspension notice extension. The Firearm Dealers Association said—

On the basis that there are safeguards and reasons for licence suspension and there is an ability for the Authorised Officer to lift the suspension earlier than the 90 days proposed, we support the amendment, which apparently seeks to assist licensees in establishing or re-establishing their eligibility for licence.

I think the amendments to the Weapons Act are common sense. They are good for farmers and graziers, they are good for gun licence holders and they are good for the police and our courts. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.01 pm): I rise to add my input to this important bill. As a former police officer, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act is one that I know very well. From the outset let me say that policing is not an easy job. There are days like today, no doubt, when a number of police officers around this state are under enormous stress. All of us in this place do owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women in blue. We must take the necessary steps to support them in their work and to keep our communities safe and, more importantly, to give them the resources in terms of the legislation that they need to do their job properly.

Currently the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 provides for access information powers which enable police to apply for an order from a judge or a JP that requires a person to provide access information—for example, a password—or any assistance necessary to gain access to an electronic device so that information on or accessible through the device can be obtained by the police. The powers are generally used with respect to child sex offences and organised crime. However, they can be used in relation to any offence that forms the basis of a search warrant application or a crime scene threshold offence that are approved by a judge or a justice of the peace.

With advances in new technologies, offenders such as child sex offenders are using cloud services to manage and promote their criminal activities. Access to storage of incriminating information on traditional storage mediums is clearly articulated under current laws. However, the current definition of 'stored' prescribed in the PPRA has created ambiguity with respect to accessing information and the scope of information accessible in cloud services. The bill makes amendments to resolve the ambiguity

and to make it clear that any information can be accessed within the terms of the judicial order on or through an electronic device. In a world of increasing use of technology, it is important that our police have the ability to move with changes in technology and to have the tools available to them, to have the necessary access and the resources to deal with such activities.

Our police deal with crime and tragedies every day, and without doubt every police officer has had an interaction with an offender who preys on the weak in our communities. Very few offenders will make a police officer's skin crawl like those who commit child sex offences. As representatives of the community and as legislators, we have a responsibility to assist in the apprehension of child sex offenders and we have a responsibility to ensure the legal system is properly resourced to ensure these people face the full force of our legal system.


Changes to technology seem to be happening at an ever-increasing rate. To ensure that our police have access to every single skerrick of evidence against child sex offenders is something that no-one in this place should be opposing. Of course, police also need access to this type of evidence when dealing with offences such as murder and in our ongoing efforts to protect the general public from terrorism related activities.

The fact that we on this side of the House want child sex offenders held to account means that we will support this section of the bill, but it is worth noting one area where the LNP differs from the current government. That difference is when it comes to the ongoing supervision of dangerous, violent sex offenders. The Minister has taken one step, but I would encourage him to adopt the LNP's approach to the supervision of these offenders.

I will move on to the changes proposed in the Weapons Act. In regional Queensland, weapons are quite often not only used for recreation but also used as a tool. Many times I have mentioned the challenge of increasing medical services and having access to those services in the regions. Those challenges make the amendment relating to suspension periods even more relevant, let alone the backlog in QCAT that this government has overseen. The fact that licence holders require a medical practitioner to support the overturning of a suspension means that regional Queenslanders need more time to have access to a fair and just process. I support that particular amendment.

When it comes to the requirement for armourers to decide an appropriate weapons licence for any weapon that is modified, it is logical, in my opinion, that we support that amendment. Whilst the vast majority of weapons licence holders are law-abiding citizens, we must ensure that we address any opportunity for criminals to access firearms and the modifications that go with that.

I referred earlier to people who prey on the weak in our society. The unfortunate reality is that there are people who target the weak through the sex industry. For that reason I welcome the minister's decision to amend this bill to ensure that this industry and the protection of the workers in that industry receive the appropriate level of scrutiny. Given the amendment, I want to put on the record that I was appalled by the proposal to make the failure to keep records of the proof of age of sex workers a simple offence. I will not be opposing this particular bill as it does have a number of common-sense and practical amendments that will certainly make the lives of our police officers a lot easier.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As Minister Ryan said this morning, police see people at their best, but they also see people at their worst. I want to acknowledge the police and the other first responders who stepped in as this morning's tragedy unfolded. I want to express my heartfelt sympathies for everyone who knew and loved this family. I think everyone is absolutely heartbroken at the story.

When police are responding to incidents of domestic and family violence, it is especially true that they see people at their best and their worst. In fact, it is estimated that around Australia police are responding to a domestic and family violence incident once every two minutes. Dealing with domestic and family violence is a significant part of any police officer's job.

When police respond to a DV situation, they are there first and foremost to keep people safe—and, in doing so, they are placing themselves possibly in harm's way. There is a significant risk of violence—unpredictable violence—in DV situations, often enough made even more unpredictable due to the effects of drugs or alcohol. Sometimes police need to separate people to be able to deal with a situation as safely as possible. That can mean that, while one person may need to stay where they are for the moment, police may transport the other person to a different location. This is important both to reduce the immediate risk but also to give each person involved the time and space to calm down and understand the instructions police are giving them.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012 gives police the power to transport a person without having to arrest them or take them into custody. However, because that person is not under arrest or in custody, police currently have no power to search them. That poses a safety risk to police, to the person being transported and to anyone nearby. This bill seeks to amend the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act 2012 to allow police to search individuals for weapons or other dangerous items like cigarette lighters.

Police put themselves at risk every single day to keep Queenslanders safe, and we thank them for that. They also deserve to work under conditions which are as safe as they can be in the circumstances. Allowing police officers to search DV respondents for weapons or dangerous items is an important way to help make their working environment as safe as it can be. This is especially important in volatile and dangerous environments like responding to DV matters.

Another important amendment this bill seeks to make to the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act is around information sharing. Families and children who have been affected by domestic and family violence often come into contact with multiple systems including family law, child safety and police. Each system or agency has some information about the situation. They will have one or two pieces of the puzzle, but it is only when you put together more of those pieces that you then see a picture emerging which may show you this person is at high risk of imminent violence. When Rosie Batty tragically lost her son to family violence in 2014, the coroner found that multiple agencies had information about the perpetrator. Rosie herself had reached out for help many times, but each of the agencies involved was not sharing information with each other or with Rosie. If they had all had the same information from each other it would have been clearer that Luke's father was potentially extremely dangerous. That is why initiatives to improve information sharing between agencies is so important. Getting the right information to the right people at the right time means we can respond quickly and we can reduce risk.

We have made good progress in Queensland, both in terms of child safety and DV, to make it easier for the right people to access the information they need at the right time. We have made it easier for Child Safety staff to access information from QPS when assessing risks to children. For example, if a child discloses to their teacher that mum's new partner hurts them and hurts mum too, our Child Safety staff can access QPS information about whether mum's new partner has a history of violence. Co-locating child safety officers and police in family law courts is another way we are working to make sure decision-makers have all the information they need to assess whether a child may be placed at risk. Both the CSOs and police located in Queensland's four family law courts will provide relevant information to the court, including things like what child protection history exists or whether there is any history of domestic violence. Information sharing will be two-way, which means that information received from the courts will also be relayed to the department and QPS to help inform their risk assessments in the future.

One of our most important information-sharing initiatives has been to set up high-risk teams in several locations to identify and respond to women and families who are at high risk of violence from a family member. These teams were set up to rapidly assess whether women and their children experiencing domestic and family violence were at high risk of serious harm or death; identify and engage with perpetrators; and, when needed, intervene urgently to get victims out of danger fast. Police are valuable members of our high-risk teams, which also include DV workers, police and other agencies. High-risk team members can share information with each other to make accurate assessments of risk, which means they can respond swiftly in situations where the risk of imminent violence is high.

I have had the great privilege of visiting a number of our high-risk teams. I will always remember the first meeting I attended with a high-risk team, where professional people were sitting around the room talking about this joint approach and the capacity they now have to share information. One of them said to me, 'This is the most effective I have ever felt in my professional life.' That is what we are doing about creating that environment; it is just so important.

While we have made great progress in improving the way our agencies do share information in DV matters, the law as it stands does not properly take into account the way the QPS operates. As well as sworn officers, the QPS also employs a number of civilian staff who are critical to the effective operation of the QPS. The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act does not currently allow civilian staff to share this information. This amendment will allow civilian staff to share relevant information when needed, and we expect this will be especially important for our high-risk teams.

The Palaszczuk government has done more to address the scourge of domestic and family violence than any before it. We invested almost \$330 million to implement all 140 recommendations of the landmark *Not now, not ever* report, and last year we completed those recommendations two years ahead of schedule. But there is still so much more to do. We cannot rest until we end domestic and family violence. We must continue to improve our systems, processes and responses wherever we can. This bill builds on our progress.

Intrinsic to the safety of families is the safety of children, and there is nothing more important to our government than the safety of Queensland children. There is nothing more important to any right-minded person; however, there is a small criminal element of people who seek to harm children, and in an increasingly digital landscape these criminals take advantage of technology to facilitate their crimes—social media, the dark web, media storage and encryption technologies. To protect our children it is critical that our laws keep pace with technology. This bill gives police the power to require access to social media platforms and passwords, and it also makes sure that, when police need information that may be stored on social media accounts, email accounts or other means of communication, they have the power to access that information.

Previously, ambiguities in the legislation meant that police were potentially limited to only accessing information that was physically stored on a device or in cloud applications that are specifically meant for storage such as Dropbox. This bill ensures police have the power to access the evidence they need to pursue those who would harm our children. Police who investigate child exploitation crimes deal with the absolute worst of humanity. They see things that you and I could barely imagine let alone think about. We need to make sure police are supported with the tools they need to pursue criminals who harm children.

Every Queenslanders has the right to be safe and the right to feel safe. When it comes to domestic and family violence and child safety there is always more to be done. We are committed to doing everything we can to make sure everyone is as safe as they can possibly be. This bill contributes to that.

Before I conclude I want to acknowledge the Morningside Police Station, headed up by Senior Sergeant Marilyn Jackson, and the excellent work they do in our local community to keep people safe. They are acknowledged and greatly appreciated in my local community. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.16 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I note that the bill makes amendments to several acts relating to powers and penalties, and the LNP is supportive of these provisions. We did have issues with the changes to penalties for breaches of licence conditions relating to prostitution, but I see that sensible new amendments have addressed our issues with this.

Firstly, I note that the bill seeks to amend provisions of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act in relation to the definition of storage relating to digital evidence to allow better access to police for information and evidence that is located on cloud servers or the internet, social media and the like. Access to the storage of evidence or information in relation to an offence on traditional storage mediums like hard drives, disc drives and memory sticks, for example, is clearly articulated under current laws. However, the current definition of 'stored' prescribed in the PPRA has created ambiguity with respect to accessing information and the scope of information accessible on what are commonly called cloud services. I note that the bill makes amendments to resolve this ambiguity and to make it clear that any information can be accessed within the terms of a judicial order on or through an electronic device.

In this fast-moving world it is imperative that our laws keep up with modern technology. I know that the powers are generally used with respect to child sex offences and organised crime; however, they can be used in relation to any offence that forms the basis of a search warrant application or a crime scene threshold offence that is approved by a judge or JP. In that respect, I recall as a detective during major fraud investigations many years ago—

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** Bingo! The member for Bancroft got his bingo. We can bring our experience to this parliament. These laws certainly are needed in this advancing world. To give you an example, many years ago our storerooms and property rooms would be loaded with cabinets full of documents to pour through for evidence in fraud related cases. These days those documents are likely to be stored on servers. Police are required to get access to these servers, so definitions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act do need to keep pace with these advances.

That is also particularly important when we are dealing with child sex offenders—those who would seek to commit offences against children over the internet or distribute and collect child abuse material. We cannot have them hiding behind laws that are not keeping pace with their illegal activity. We on this side of the House support these new laws and powers to allow police to gather this important evidence for the protection of our children.

I note also changes to the weapons licensing and the modification of firearms, requiring an armourer to ensure that the person they are modifying the firearm for has the required licence to possess that modified firearm. We support this sensible amendment. It is important that, as far as possible, we are able to keep tabs on the firearms in our community, who owns them and whether or not they are being held by the appropriately licensed individual.

One of the more dangerous jobs that our police undertake is to attend domestic and family violence incidents. Dealing with often agitated, violent, drug and alcohol affected individuals in a highly emotive state poses danger to police and historically has seen many tragic outcomes. I note in the explanatory notes for the bill there is information about the new powers of search for police investigating domestic violence. I note particularly that under section 134A(4) of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act a police officer may direct a person to move to another stated location—for example, a police station, police beat or courthouse—to enable the officer to carry out various functions under that section. The example provided is to serve a person with a domestic violence order or application. The explanatory notes state that that section applies if, in the police officer's opinion, it is necessary to separate persons—for instance, it may be contrary to the best interests of the aggrieved to leave the respondent at their location—while a function under that section is carried out.


Under that provision, a police officer who directs a respondent to move to a stated location is required to transport that person in a police vehicle to satisfy their legislative obligation to remain in their presence. The absence of a power to search the respondent prior to transport jeopardises the safety of police and jeopardises the safety of the respondent and others. As noted, this presents real dangers in that a respondent could easily conceal a weapon or dangerous object—such as a sharp implement, knife or cigarette lighter—that could be used on themselves or against police in these circumstances. That is a sensible provision to allow that search under those circumstances.

The LNP did not support the original bill's extreme reduction in penalty for the breach of a licence condition under the prostitution legislation. I note that, under the original bill presented, a breach of a licence condition would have been classified as a simple offence rather than an indictable offence and the penalty reduced from 200 penalty units or five years imprisonment to just 20 penalty units. That would have meant conditions such as proof of age of sex workers or sexual health matters would have only attracted a maximum 20 penalty units or around a \$2,500 fine if breached by the licensee instead of the current 200 penalty units or five years imprisonment.

As obviously recognised now by the minister, conditions such as proof of age of sex workers, sexual health matters, safety and security, sex worker autonomy, inductions for sex workers and approved managers, maintenance and cleaning are not merely administrative in nature, as noted in the original explanatory notes. Reasons provided such as 'judiciary not giving those sentences anyway' is not a reason to bow to courts and adjust sentencing based on what they are dishing out. If that were the case, we would write down most offences in Queensland, as our courts rarely get anywhere near maximum penalties for anything.

Tough penalties indeed need to be in place to promote strict compliance with these conditions because the LNP never wants to see a situation where under-age girls are being employed in this industry. That low penalty would have likely led to a lack of compliance, which is completely unacceptable. I am pleased to see that the minister recognises that, albeit late, and has made amendments, thus protecting vulnerable people and leaving a wide scope of penalty for a judge to decide on based on the seriousness of the breach.

Other than that particular clause as amended by the minister, we support the new powers that make sense moving forward.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.24 pm): Our Police Service and our police officers, like the rest of us, live in a rapidly changing world. Their job is to protect us, and they protect us in a highly and properly regulated and limited way. They are limited in the powers they have and limited in what they have to do their investigations, but we want to give them the correct powers so they can do their job and have the ability to protect us. We also need to ensure that the police, in the administration of their duties, are above reproach and continue to have the overwhelming and strong support of the public in their investigations and their actions.

This bill seeks to adapt the regulatory environment in which police do their duties to changes in our world and to different approaches that are required to protect us through our Police Service. I support the bill and recognise that these changes are happening in our own suburbs. I want to recognise the new Yarrabilba Police Station which was opened by the minister and specifically Senior Sergeant Nathan Booth, the sergeant in charge there.

**Mrs McMahon:** Hear, hear!

**Mr POWER:** You know Boothie? He will be right on top of these new police powers and giving them to the new staff there. Speaking of new technology and new access, I note they have a whole wall of monitors where they have the key intersections of Yarrabilba and Logan Village on display. Whenever they are called, they have the ability to use the closed-circuit in Logan and broadcast any particular camera they know will be useful in their investigations. We are living in a rapidly changing world.

I want to recognise Senior Sergeant Peter Waugh of the Jimboomba police. When they are dealing with domestic abuse, they deal with situations involving high emotion and often drugs and alcohol. Sometimes they need to be able to separate people during the proper course of their duties, and these police powers give the officers in Jimboomba the ability to be able to remove that person to either the Jimboomba Police Station or perhaps the new Yarrabilba Police Station and have that administration done there. In that way, they can settle it down and administer this properly.

I also note there is a set of regulations for the protection of both the officer and the person involved, and the officer must satisfy an obligation to remain in the person's presence. It is very important that they are protecting the person who is in this emotionally charged and difficult state—that is why they have asked them to be removed and separated to a different area—and also protecting themselves in case there is any concealed weapon or dangerous object.

Senior Sergeant Waugh and the Jimboomba police are on the periphery of Brisbane and they also deal with the Weapons Act. They would want the weapons register to be up to date with the types of weapons people have. That is better for the police who have to engage with those people. Overwhelmingly, they are lawful citizens who enjoy using their firearms in a safe, recreational manner or they use them on their farms or travel to a farm further out and use them for the control of pests and other animals.

Specifically, this is about those who seek to increase their magazine capacity. The armourers who do that need to ensure they are registered and have checked to see if that person has the correct type of licence to be able to hold that firearm. That is essential. When the police go to do those inspections or if there is another incident and they are checking on the weapons and the correct storage, they need to know that the weapons that are there are actually as described and that they are entitled to be held through their licence. I think that is also better for the person who holds the licence because they know where they stand.

I would like to take a moment to recognise that the police in our state are Queenslanders like us; they have families and they face the same trials and tribulations as we do. I was very moved by the member for Macalister's speech about Charmaine Leafe. Senior Sergeant Michael Leafe is the officer in charge; he has been out on secondment, but he is now back. He does a fantastic job at Browns Plains Police Station. The whole Boronia Heights and Browns Plains community feels for the Leafe family and their two kids after the passing of Charmaine. We know that police officers go through these things. That is why we want to give our police all of the tools they need to do the job. We must remember that they are trying to do a tough job and in their own lives they face the same difficulties and trials and tribulations that we do.

I also want to mention that all police—and all Queenslanders—find crimes involving the hurting of children abhorrent. We have seen that our Police Service has conducted fantastic investigations, participated in international investigations and sometimes led international investigations and found perpetrators overseas through their work, leading to arrests of people who do incredibly destructive things to children. We know that these perpetrators can move from one type of technology to the next in an attempt to hide information. It is important that through bills like this we keep up with the technology these people are using. This bill does this by recognising that there is a certain ambiguity created about the storage of images. Where those images are so destructive and criminal it is important that our police clearly have the power to search images stored in a cloud fashion not just in bits and bytes but actually physically stored on the devices they are searching. I notice there are limitations about this as well.

I commend the bill to the House and I ask that we look carefully at the responsibilities we give the police. In order to support our police, we need to make sure they continue to enjoy community support. I know that the Yarrabilba police, the Browns Plains police and the Jimboomba police certainly have that community support, and long may it be so.



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.32 pm): The LNP will not be opposing the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I wish to use my contribution to highlight some areas and indeed those issues of relevance to the Gold Coast and, more broadly, across Queensland. We should be so very proud of our police and the rule of law in society. We need to properly resource them and provide them with not just the resources to do their job but the laws to back them up.

I want to start with the access to storage of incriminating information. I am mindful of the submission made by the Queensland Law Society, and I understand and respect their position. I do, however, say that when making the decision about expanding the access to this information we do so in the knowledge that without these changes we will continue to see modern technology used against our law enforcement officers rather than in their favour. Faced with the choice between expanding that access and allowing someone who is able to prey on our children, I will fall on the side of our children every single day. I do not use those comments to cast any aspersions of negativity against the Law Society. They are putting forward an opinion in a fearless and frank manner—and so they should. However, overwhelmingly, the need to allow our officers the resources to stop these people going underground and stop these people using those new means should always come out trumps.

I also wish to make a contribution regarding the changes to the Prostitution Licensing Authority, and I recognise the minister has said that that will be sent to the Law Reform Commission for further analysis. May I respectfully ask that as part of that the government also looks at the rise of the illegal massage parlour industry? The member for Mermaid Beach has made some excellent contributions in this House about that. I understand the intent of these changes was focused on the interactions with the legal brothel industry. Our shadow minister made some excellent points as to why we were not prepared to support some of those amendments. We saw them as nothing more than allowing people carte blanche to get off lightly, to roll the dice, particularly with younger people in that industry. May I ask the government to look at this as an opportunity to find a way to clamp down on what we are seeing, particularly on the Gold Coast, although I am mindful that it is happening in other parts of Queensland?

The LNP is also supportive of changes to the Weapons Act which will help ensure that a person does not possess a weapon they are not entitled to. I make my concluding remarks around the following. The reason the LNP will not be opposing the bill is because at the heart of it the bill allows our officers to do a better job, to free up their resources—and heaven knows they need that. The growth in the Police Service has not kept pace with the growth in population. The laws in this state are making it more difficult for our law enforcement officers to do their job and surely the government is feeling that. Surely local members are hearing that when they are going into their electorates. This bill seeks to give police the resources to do their job, but we must do better. We must review the laws that we have changed in this state with a view to making it easier for our police to do their job.


When there is the situation where breach of bail is no longer an offence, why on earth would people think a young offender would comply with that? When there is a situation where a magistrate must use detention as a last resort, of course the catch and release merry-go-round will continue. These are changes that this parliament has put in place in the last half a decade. Those figures are being seen in real people's lives every day. Whether it is bikies rolling back into town on the Gold Coast or whether it is law and order out of control in northern cities like Cairns and Townsville, we must do better.

Finally, and again with a view of demonstrating how important resources are, I pay tribute, as other members have in this place, to the role of the local police in my area. The bulk of Broadwater is covered by the Runaway Bay Police Station, a station of just 24 officers. They do a mighty job. I have to pay tribute to Senior Sergeant Scott Burness, who has taken over with some significant challenges, and he is doing an excellent job as indeed are his officers at that station.

We talk about the best use of resources. Part of my electorate is covered by the Coomera police district, and that is a district that is stretched. The member for Coomera and the member for Theodore will tell honourable members how stretched officers are. As a result of that and the growing pressures in the northern part of the Gold Coast, a small part of that station in the electorate that I represent is not getting the policing presence it would like to see. I refer predominantly to the area of Hope Island but indeed there is also a small part of Helensvale that I represent. Collectively, those communities ask that they come under the Runaway Bay police district. We also need some extra resources as we do not want to see such a transfer occur without such provision being made. I have written extensively on this and have indeed communicated with the QPS on this, but it makes a lot of sense to locate that area within the Runaway Bay station. It would enable a greater policing presence and enable Coomera to focus on what is an exploding population in that northern part of the city.




Finally, I again reiterate that the LNP will not oppose this bill. We stand for good law and order. We stand for a society that puts people ahead of criminals and for a properly resourced Police Service that has the laws in place to back it up.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.40 pm): I begin by saying that my heartfelt thoughts are with everyone involved in the tragedy that occurred in Camp Hill today, especially to those residents who came to the aid of that young family and to the first responders, the police officers, the fireys and the ambulance officers. It must have been a horrific sight. Unfortunately, I found out that this situation is connected to the Capalaba area with the family involved being business owners in my electorate. No doubt, the effects of this absolute tragedy will hit home in my local community. To the friends and family involved in that, again, my heartfelt feelings go out to you on this day.

I acknowledge the terrific work of the officers in my local area, the officer in charge of the Capalaba station, David Candale, and officers at Cleveland and Capalaba police stations who service my area. They do a fantastic job. I know from having conversations with them that the No. 1 callout in the area is in regards to domestic violence. It is fantastic to see that in this bill we are going a long way to providing police powers and protections not only to make it safer for them in these situations but also for those involved. As we saw today, many things go into these situations. Obviously, they are very stressful and complex situations with which police officers and first responders deal. This bill goes towards making changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to give more powers to police officers to direct people to separate—and maybe go to the police beat, the courthouse or various locations—and to ensure that police can search for concealed weapons.

Like I said, these situations are complex. As we saw today, they are very dangerous situations. It is important that, not only are the general public and those involved in these domestic violence incidents safe, it is about ensuring that our police officers are safe, because they do a tremendous job. They put themselves on the line every single day. It is important that, in regard to police powers, we in this House take into consideration their wellbeing and give them the laws to ensure that they can protect themselves in such situations. I commend the minister, those involved in his office and the QPS for the fantastic work they do and have done in preparing this bill. It is an important bill. As we saw in today's tragic situation, unfortunately the police will use those powers and will need these protections. We need to come together and ensure that we do more to hopefully one day stop the scourge of family and domestic violence. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.45 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Bill 2019. The KAP will support most of the bill, but some parts of the bill we will need to consider in more detail. This bill goes a long way in terms of changing legislation to give police greater powers when trying to do their job out in the community. The QPS is doing a brilliant job out there, but our job as legislators is to give its members better tools to ensure that not only can they apprehend perpetrators but also investigate the perpetrators committing some of the most heinous crimes in our community.

The bill seeks to provide access to information through electronic devices. As many members in this House noted today, we are in a changing and technologically advancing world that is moving forward at a pace none of us has ever seen before. There is the fact that now we are able to store information on devices, hard copies on devices et cetera but also in the cloud. A lot of older people do not even know what the cloud is, but the criminals out there do. Clouds are not something floating around the sky right now. The cloud represents technical capabilities for perpetrators, especially sex offenders, to use these storage networks not only to hold but also store and distribute child pornography. It is absolutely disgusting that this occurs in the world, but it is good that we now are able to give police the powers to try to put an end to some of this.


We also see amendments—this is something I will not support—in terms of the voluntary transfer of ownership of vehicles to the state. There are a number of reasons why someone's vehicle might be confiscated. The explanatory notes state that 73 per cent of motor vehicles impounded are valued at less than \$500. When police and the state go through the process of storing a vehicle and perhaps auctioning it, that cost cannot be recouped. From what I understand, the bill seeks to tidy up that process by seizing a vehicle and selling it immediately. There are provisions in the bill that say that, if your vehicle is worth over \$500 and perhaps you are found not guilty of the offence relating to your vehicle's impoundment, you will be compensated. There needs to be more definition around that, because some vehicles may be worth a lot more to the person than what the vehicle is worth in terms of compensation. For example, with insurance companies we hear a lot of times from customers whose vehicle is written off that it is worth \$30,000 but they are only compensated the market value. I am very concerned about that.

We will support the measures related to reducing the holding time of property. It has been quite a burden on police in terms of storing miscellaneous objects et cetera. With advances in technology, our ability to connect with the community and find the owners of lost property has advanced.

I am happy to support the amendments in this legislation to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. One of the biggest complaints to the QPS is domestic violence and much police time is tied up—more than they would probably want being tied up—sorting out domestic violence and family problems. This bill will give the power to police to separate people to get them into a safer situation if they are in a domestic violence situation. It also gives the QPS more search powers to ensure that the perpetrator does not have a concealed weapon that could not only be used against police or someone else in the situation but also be used for self-harm. When police are transporting a perpetrator, it could be a very dire situation where they use self-harm to either get themselves out of that situation or put themselves in a position where they are sent to hospital instead of back to a cell, where they probably belong.

Other issues that raise the hairs of the KAP, Katter's Australian Party, are the amendments to the Weapons Act 1990. I am not saying that this is a completely bad thing. We have spoken to many stakeholders in Queensland who have a licence to have a weapon and asked them their point of view, but we have concerns about the definition of 'magazine'. There may be some inadvertent consequences for gun owners of licensed firearms. The definition of a magazine has always been that a magazine is something that can be removed from a firearm. There has not been a strong enough argument left or right on this. However, we are still very concerned about it because there may be some unintended consequences that will affect firearm owners in Queensland whom we strongly support.

We support the part of the bill that amends the Weapons Act that provides for an extension of the period if there has been a suspension of a licence. If a person has their licence suspended because of a mental health issue, this bill will extend the time frame from 30 days to 90 days to get that signed off by a practitioner. That will help many people, especially those in rural areas where they do not always have access to the best health services. We also support amendments in the bill with regard to regulated firearms modifications. This will give gunsmiths more ability to push back against some of their customers who ask them to make firearm modifications to a licence category that the customer is not authorised to own. We will be supporting those amendments.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As indicated earlier by those on the LNP benches, we will not be opposing this bill. Firstly, as many members have done, I want to give thanks for the amazing job that our local police services do in our local communities. Being a police officer out on the front line can be a very ungrateful job dealing with some of the toughest situations in our society, but that is something that we need to acknowledge and we need to be a lot more grateful for the work that our local police officers do in our communities. Many officers would certainly appreciate the fact that people would thank them for their hard service and their hard work for our communities.

One issue that members of my community talk about on a regular basis is the revolving door of crime. They feel that legislation is not keeping up with criminal activities and unfortunately those individuals are getting off scot-free. For a start, legislation needs to keep up with technology and I welcome the fact that there are changes in this bill that will enable that, especially when it comes to storage devices where people can keep information, whether that is for child pornography or terrorist activities or criminal activity. The problem is that the Queensland Police Service and all police services around the world are continuously playing a catch-up game with technology. As technology evolves and becomes more secure—because the commercial world and the private world are demanding more secure technology—it makes it very difficult for our police enforcement agencies to keep up.

Unfortunately, criminal gangs and crime outfits throughout the world and child pornographers will continue to exploit that weakness. I welcome any changes to bring our policing services into the modern era to keep up with this technology. However, my fear is that as technology continues to evolve we will always be one step behind these individuals. Therefore, we need to be abreast of these issues to ensure that we keep up with recommendations from law enforcement agencies across the world to make sure that our laws in this state protect the most vulnerable in our community—our children—and deal with these criminal activities. I appreciate the fact that the government is looking into this issue with this bill in order to make these changes.

The bill amends the Weapons Act 1990 where a person's licence has been suspended because a person in authority believes that the person is no longer fit to have a licence. I can certainly understand why there should be a change in terms of the period of time, especially in regional Queensland where

it may be very difficult to obtain a medical practitioner within a reasonable time if the person is on a remote station or something like that. Given the extensive load that QCAT is dealing with—I hear this on a regular basis from people who want to take their matter to QCAT—having the period in which to deal with this issue extended to 90 days is welcomed.

Referring again to concerns that residents have with the revolving door of the legal system, giving police the necessary powers to deal with these individuals is welcomed by the police. There is nothing more frustrating for a police officer than to see an individual who they know is guilty—that they know has committed the crime—get off on a technicality. That is why we need to ensure that for these individuals there should be consequences for their actions. That is very important. I was speaking to a police officer just recently who stopped at one of my regular roadsides. He said, ‘Mark, it is very frustrating when you know for a fact that these individuals are out and about and they know the law just as well as the police, if not better, and they will go out of their way to undermine the police as much as possible.’ We need to ensure that laws are in place to make it more and more difficult for these individuals and, therefore, I welcome any changes that the government makes when it comes to tightening up these issues.

I want to give a big shout-out to my local police at the Coomera station. They do a fantastic job servicing the northern Gold Coast, which is a very large area. We welcome the fact that a new station is coming in the near future at Pimpama, but it can take upwards of 45 minutes for an officer from the Coomera station to drive from one end of the police district to the other, and that is a long distance—that is, from, say, Cabbage Tree Point down to Wongawallan. That is a vast area that these individuals have to travel. We seem to forget that whilst they are doing that travelling there may be other crimes committed in the area. Unfortunately, my area has a very high DV rate. I recently put a question on notice about calls of service to DV and, unfortunately, over the years DV rates have continued to climb. The latest figures showed that it plateaued a little bit, but it is a big concern that DV is still climbing in our community and in our society. It is not just the police who have to deal with this issue; we as a society need to deal with this issue.

As one of my local officers once said to me, ‘Mark, if you took drugs and alcohol out of the system then you would actually have a situation where you would have a 50 per cent drop in DV rates.’ We need to ensure that police have adequate resources. As I stated, my area is very much a growing area and we would love to have additional officers to protect the northern part of the Gold Coast.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Crime



**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. Notes:
  - (a) Queenslanders perceive crime to be out of control across Queensland, with reports Queenslanders feel unsafe in their own homes and communities;
  - (b) youth crime gangs actively terrorise communities across South-East Queensland on a daily basis;
  - (c) the Townsville community is a powder-keg, with families' homes being invaded, cars stolen and lawlessness out of control;
  - (d) criminal bikies and organised gangs are out of control, with increasing public acts of violence including shootings and fire-bombings;
  - (e) open expressions of concern from senior police about an ‘absolute escalation of violence’ between gangs;
  - (f) several violent incidents involving young people that have shone a shocking spotlight on the problem of youth crime on the Gold Coast;
  - (g) Labor's revolving door youth justice system, with 10 per cent of all young offenders committing 44 per cent of offences;
  - (h) media reports that the Premier insisted there was no crime problem in Townsville and her Labor members should stop complaining about it;
  - (i) violence on Cape York;
  - (j) media reports that the member for Rockhampton and member for Nudgee are concerned about crime in their electorates; and
  - (k) Labor's weaker youth justice laws, removing breach of bail as an offence.
2. Condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government's appalling record on crime across Queensland, with five years of failed policies and wrong priorities that have put community safety at risk.

Firstly let me add my congratulations to the Queensland Police Service for the job it is doing. Its officers do a fantastic job with a thin blue line but they need our help: they need resources and legislation. Let us talk about the Labor government and why they are soft on crime and what proves it beyond all doubt. As a percentage of the budget, percentage of the tax that they take off Queenslanders, they are spending less on law and order than was the average for the LNP—in fact, \$234 million less a year. Over five years, \$1.173 billion less has been spent on law and order as a percentage of the Queensland budget. In addition to that, when the LNP was in office we had an average of 245 officers per 100,000 people. Under the Labor government we now have 233 officers per 100,000 people. That is 610 less officers available for call for service around Queensland. When people do not think that crime is the responsibility of the government, that somehow there is some magic going on somewhere that is causing this problem, I say to them that it is the responsibility of the government. I table Steve Wardill's article in which the Premier says she does not think there is a problem with crime.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 7 February 2020, titled 'Crime shaping as election issue' [290].

For her information, the member for Nudgee and the member for Rockhampton both think there is a problem with crime. In case the Premier has joined the Treasurer and is only interested in the real estate section of the newspaper I thought I would table some headlines so that she can catch up. The headline 'Shots fired at Moorooka home with four people inside' appeared in the *Courier-Mail* on 13 January. A news article from the ABC reads, 'Knife-related crimes on the rise in Queensland as police start campaign to educate young people'. This headline appeared in the *Courier-Mail*: 'Beenleigh jogger's killer Ratan Sandip gets three years' jail'. That is Brisbane. Let us jump up to Townsville. We have 'Operation Regenerate spends \$235,000 paying overtime to 248 police officers and liaison officers' appearing as a headline in the *Townsville Bulletin*. As reported by the ABC, 'Youth car crime surge in Townsville prompts police warning to "hide your keys"'. I table those articles.

*Tabled paper:* A bundle of news articles relating to crime in Queensland [291].

I table an article from 9News titled "Townsville listed as one of the worst crime hotspots in the world". This is Queensland! What is going on? Another headline in the *Townsville Bulletin*, 'Demand on politicians to take action on Townsville crime'.

**Ms Grace** interjected.


**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! Member for McConnel, that is enough arguing across the chamber. Member for Mansfield, return to your seat if you want to interject.

**Mr WATTS:** The best action the population of Townsville can take is to get some new members. We are very excited about our future members. I table another newspaper headline from the *Townsville Bulletin*: 'QLD Police Minister Mark Ryan silent on children bail trips'. Let us go to Cairns where they are having a terrible time. This headline appeared in the *Cairns Post*, 'Call for government action on city's youth crime crisis'. Also appearing as a headline in the *Cairns Post*, 'Cairns rated more crime riddled than Tehran.' On John Mackenzie's show, 'Resident speaks out about crime wave'. I table those articles.

The Premier and the Deputy Premier need to get their head out of the real estate section and see if they can find the news section dealing with crime. The headline 'Community rallies to fight crime wave' appears in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. Also appearing in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, 'Youth crime Gold Coast: Youth Justice Minister defends State Government's policies'. It is the government's policies that are causing the problem with youth crime! Another headline is, 'Fears a Queensland bkie war could "spiral out of control" after numerous violent incidents'. These are the stories that the Premier needs to read so that she realises that there is a crisis. 'Northside gang "worse than bikies"' reads a headline from 9News. These need to be tabled.

If anybody is left in any doubt about the problems we have in Townsville, let me give them some statistics. It will just take up a few seconds. Robbery across Queensland is up 76 per cent since Annastacia Palaszczuk became the Premier; unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 66 per cent—there are victims behind these numbers. These are the cars of real people. Shop stealing is up 49 per cent; assault is up 33 per cent; unlawful entry is up 28 per cent. They are the numbers from around the state. I call on this government to increase the budget of the police, to increase police numbers and to bring back breach of bail. This will drive crime down in Queensland. Only a LNP government will do it.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.05 pm): Those opposite like to talk about crime—they certainly like to talk it up! We have to look at what they do rather than what they say. What did those opposite do? They sacked 110 senior police.

Those opposite sacked hundreds of staff from the Queensland Police Service. Let us look at what else they did. They lied to police. Who can forget when Ian Leavers came out and said the LNP and Campbell Newman lied to their face. Ian Leavers said if you can lie to a police officer you can lie to anyone. What else do those opposite do? They ridicule our police. Who can forget when the member for Nanango laughed about members of the Road Policing Command being in her electorate.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that the member is using unparliamentary language. He would be aware of that. I ask that you ask for him to withdraw it. Several times he used unparliamentary language according to the Speaker's book.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, that is unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr RYAN:** I withdraw. If you can be dishonest to a police officer you can be dishonest to anyone. That is what the LNP does. Who can forget when the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, ridiculed our police when she laughed about members of the Road Policing Command being in her electorate.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Apart from misleading the House, I take personal offence and I ask that the minister withdraw.

**Mr RYAN:** I withdraw. All members have to do is read the *Police Journal* to see what the Police Union thinks about the Leader of the Opposition. It contains some pretty insightful comments about her. What does all this say? It says that those opposite have a police problem. They certainly do not like the police. Let us have a look at what was said yesterday by the member for Everton, who swears on a stack of Bibles. I said I would have a look at the *Hansard*. Yesterday in the House when I was speaking about one of our most senior police, Townsville's new Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor—what did the member for Everton interject and then later try to deny? He said, and it appears in the *Hansard*, 'More bureaucrats!', when he is referring to one of our most senior police. For anyone to refer to Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor as a bureaucrat is pure folly. The only B word that I would attach to Deputy Commissioner Taylor is his nickname. His nickname is Boof. If you met him you would know why. He is a big unit. Among his many roles over the years he was the boss of the Special Emergency Response Team. It is an elite squad and only the best of the best get to be in charge. That is the kind of police officer Paul Taylor is—a copper's cop. He is elite.

When those opposite call an elite police officer a bureaucrat, it speaks volumes about their attitude to police. In stark contrast, our government backs our police.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! Minister, please pause. Member for Buderim, you put in a big effort. You are now warned.

**Mr RYAN:** I understand that the member for Coomera used some unparliamentary language, to which I took offence. I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Coomera, the minister has asked you to withdraw.

**Mr CRANDON:** I withdraw.

**Mr RYAN:** Our government backs our police with a record police budget and we have more police in Queensland than ever before. We are accelerating the delivery of more police to Townsville. In fact, we have already delivered 24 new officers, four months ahead of time. We have delivered 20 extra police to the Gold Coast and 10 more are on the way to Cairns. All up, our election commitment of 535 extra police personnel is on track and will be delivered on time.


We are rolling out the equipment that those opposite never delivered. When our police officers were asking for that equipment, the LNP said no. They never delivered it. We are rolling out body worn cameras to every frontline responding officer. We are providing QLITs, more police stations, more resources. It is a plain fact that this government supports our police. There are more police in Queensland than ever before. We are funding more facilities and we are toughening up our laws.

In particular, our anti-bikie laws are the strongest and toughest laws in the nation. Our police say that they are working well. We do not see bikies wearing their colours anymore. They have to cross the border to do that. More and more bikies are handing in their colours. Patched gang membership continues to decline in this state. Many gang members are behind bars right now. There are no longer any clubhouses in this state.

Let us look at a snapshot. Taskforce Maxima is undertaking a massive operation. Major operations are being undertaken by our police to dismantle organised crime in our state. Many members of organised crime gangs are in jail right now. In fact, two members of the Bandidos are currently in custody and will face a minimum of seven years mandatory jail. Those are our tough laws. We back our police; those opposite just talk.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, you have had your go. I have a short fuse today.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.12 pm): How many Gold Coasters think that youth crime is out of control, according to a *Gold Coast Bulletin* poll of 3,100 locals? Ninety-two per cent! In fact, of 11 seats on the Gold Coast there are 10 members on this side who would attest to the fact that every day they are getting reports from locals concerned about youth crime and I bet that there is one on the other side who would say there is no problem at all. Labor can no longer deny that youth crime is an issue that is past boiling point on the Gold Coast and our residents are sick and tired of the lack of action by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This government's only action is to do more for perpetrators than for victims. Former judge Clive Wall has written in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, recently and for some years, about his concerns that recidivist juvenile offenders just receive reprimands. John White, a former president of the Law Society of South Australia, said—

The fact that someone is a youth cannot override the need to protect the community.

Stolen property, attempted carjackings, harassment, verbal assaults, stabbing, the stealing of cars—those are the crimes being carried out in the seat of Currumbin, where Laura Gerber, the candidate for the LNP, was doorknocking the other night. She told me about meeting an elderly lady who said that she was woken at 3 am by the noise of a youth gang that may have stolen a car that was subsequently discovered at Currumbin. The lady said that she was shocked to see that they were not even concerned about being spotted on the CCTV, because they know that nothing will happen.

Those crimes are happening in Bonney. We have had the tragic case of Jack Beasley, who was stabbed to death in Surfers Paradise in December. Chris McMahon of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* has written a poignant article about Jack's family's plea and plan for a foundation. I table that article. It is a remarkable but tragic story about a family from Bonney.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 15 February 2020, titled 'Gone in 40 Seconds' [\[292\]](#).

Those crimes are happening in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. They are happening in Palm Beach and Burleigh, which neighbour the electorate of Currumbin. Just last weekend, an Audi A3 was stolen from a woman who works three jobs. It was stolen by children as young as 13 years old. The 15-year-old driver was subsequently found the next day in Woodridge. It is outrageous that these things are happening.

This week a resident in my area contacted me because youths have relentlessly terrorised him and his young family. His 10-year-old's BMX bike was stolen. Youths roam the streets looking for unlocked cars and they hurl assaults at the young family in their house. That man has lived in the area for more than 20 years and has noticed a spike in crime recently. He has had to call triple 0 numerous times in the past few months, only to see the same youth criminals back on the streets, thanks to the revolving door that is the justice system under Labor.

On Saturday night, teenagers stole a car and live streamed the video of their crime on social media. Children as young as 12 years are holding up convenience stores. One particular offender in the electorate of Burleigh, as reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, was too short to see over the dock in the courtroom. That paints a sad picture of the situation we are in. Kids are carrying gel blasters, which look like guns, and knives. Teens are bashing people on public transport.

This is what Queenslanders know for sure: youth crime will never be solved as long as Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are in government. This is why: in the past week, we have heard the Premier lay the blame on parents, and police minister Mark Ryan has placed the blame on lawyers and magistrates. Other Labor ministers did not even bother to answer a query from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. Locals know that that is an absolute copout. Statewide, lawyers are furious, the police are frustrated, kids are reoffending and Queenslanders are fed up with Labor's inaction and buck-passing.

An editorial in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* hit the nail on the head, stating—

The state government cannot keep putting its head under the pillow, hoping it will disappear ... it's not just isolated to the Gold Coast, it's state wide.

A Townsville lawyer had this to say about the youth crime epidemic, after Labor attempted to shift the blame to lawyers in the courts—

The job of the courts is merely to interpret and apply the law from the government.

If anyone's weak, the Government is because the courts are applying their policies.

And judges only apply the law to the circumstances. So, a failure of the courts can and should be attributed as a failure of the Government.

There we have it: the youth crisis is a reflection of this failed Palaszczuk Labor government. We have the social and economic implications of youth crime and the police minister, the Premier and Labor have run out of moves. They can no longer shift the blame to lawyers or parents. Let the record show that it was Labor that watered down youth justice laws. They stopped magistrates naming and shaming criminal youth. They took 17-year-olds out of the adult justice system when there was nowhere else to put them. Time after time kids on bail have been freed, despite committing serious crimes.

The *Gold Coast Bulletin* has stated, 'The kindergarten crooks crisis is not going away, and neither is the Gold Coast push for it to be sorted out.' Another thing that is not going away is our determination to win the election in October and fix this system, once and for all.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Bulimba, member for Surfers Paradise, I ask that in your speeches you refer to people by their correct titles. I did not pull you up in your speech, but I ask you to remember for next time.



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.18 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. The community expects young people to be accountable for their offences, and so do we. However, the community also does not want young people to reoffend. They want to stop that pipeline of offending and reoffending. We know if year after year we keep doing the same thing in youth justice, things will never be any different.

That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has taken youth justice out of the too-hard basket and we are tackling it head-on. Community safety and community confidence are at the heart of everything that we doing. Last year, the Premier announced the establishment of the standalone Department of Youth Justice and the appointment of Bob Gee as director-general. We have committed over half a billion dollars to changing the story on youth justice for communities across Queensland. That has meant the building of an additional 16-bed facility at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre and 32 new beds at Wacol, which are due to be operational in October. I visited both of those sites last week. That brings the total of new detention beds this term to 76. Our reforms have meant \$136 million for non-infrastructure initiatives. We are starting to see the benefits of that investment: 66 per cent of the kids who do our Transition 2 Success program do not reoffend; and 77 per cent who do restorative justice do not reoffend or reduce the magnitude of their offending. Our reforms have also meant amendments to the Youth Justice Act.

The LNP loves to scaremonger because why let the facts stand in the way of a good story? The Youth Justice Act is very clear: if a young person is at risk of reoffending or is a risk to the community, then they must be detained. We have built the detention centre spaces for them to be detained.

The vast majority of young people do the right thing. Some 98 per cent of them do not come into contact with police. For Queenslanders who have been victim to youth offenders, let me be clear: we are going after those offenders. Addressing youth justice is not—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms FARMER:** We are seeing the impact of our reforms. There are fewer offenders than this time last year and about 12 per cent fewer than in 2013. We know that there are a small number of offenders who are hard nuts to crack. Clearly, the member on the opposite side has been secretly listening to me because he has heard me say that 10 per cent of youth offenders commit 44 per cent of the crime. We are going after those people. The difference between this government and those people on the opposite side is that we do not just talk about doing things; we do things and we do things that work.

Despite all their bluster, what was the one thing that they did when they were in government? It was boot camps. What a great success they were! They were such an abject failure that 66 per cent of the young people who went through were guaranteed to reoffend. They were guaranteeing to the community that people would come back to rob them, take their cars and break into their houses.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left.

**Ms FARMER:** They talk about locking kids up. How many new beds did they build at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre? Zero. How many new beds did they build at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre? Zero. How much money did they commit in the last election campaign?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Burleigh, it is not your usual seat. I ask that you cease interjecting.


**Ms FARMER:** How much money did they want to rip out of the youth justice system to committing to all these changes? They were taking \$150 million out of the youth justice budget. The only thing that we know they are promising going forward is a helicopter. From one day to the next, you just never know what they are thinking. One day, 'We want to lock them up'; another day, 'We want to be warm and fuzzy.' One day, 'They are thugs'; another day, 'They just need our support.'

The member for Burdekin and the member for Burnett were at the forum last week. What did the member for Burnett want? He wanted a helicopter; he wanted the New South Wales model for police pursuits; he wanted Crime Stoppers; he wanted an ice rehab centre. I do not know how you do all of that after ripping \$150 million out of the system. The member for Burdekin wanted something different. He wanted breach of bail; he wanted to get rid of SCAs; and he wants the helicopter as well.

The Queensland community wants a government that actually does what it says it is going to do. They want a government that is committed to this for the long haul. They want a government that will fix this issue once and for all. That is what we are doing. This is a hard, complex piece of work. We are putting the money into it. We are putting the people into it. We are committed to keeping this community safe and making sure that they can feel confident that their government has their best interests at heart.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders. The Deputy Speaker has already asked you to cease your interjections. The same warning applies to the member for Bundaberg and the member for Mermaid Beach. All of you are warned under the standing orders.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Toowoomba North. Townsville residents are in despair at the abject failure of this Labor government to address the crime problem that exists in their city, a crime problem that has escalated out of control over the past five years to the extent that residents are now leaving town. They are packing up their families in Townsville and they are leaving town because they no longer feel safe. That is a disgrace.

The Premier might like to say there is no crime problem in Townsville, but I assure members in this place that that statement from the Premier could not be further from the truth. Since the election of the current Labor government there have been more than 4,600 cars stolen, which is more than two a day, and there have been over 14,800 unlawful entry charges laid, which is eight every single day. The numbers do not lie. The people of Townsville have had enough.

Those opposite like to talk it up. Today the member for Cairns said in the *Cairns Post*, 'We have looked at what works with the Townsville model.' The member for Cairns will not have to spend much time looking. I can assure you that everything this government has tried in Townsville has failed miserably.

We just heard the contribution from the Minister for Youth. In the same article she says, 'You can be confident that we are going after those offenders.' I bet those crims out there are shaking in their boots. Talk is cheap. The facts are that the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre is only at 50 per cent occupancy, so clearly the government has not chased very hard at all. I challenge the minister and the member for Cairns to stand up in Townsville and tell the residents there that their current approach is working or that the government is going after these offenders.

We hear the denials, temper tantrums and misleading statements around crime in Townsville from the member for Thuringowa. I read to the chamber comments from the editor of the *Townsville Bulletin* of 20 November last year—

We have lost count of the number of times Mr Harper has written to this publication to lecture our readers about his government's record on crime. He cherry-picks statistics to show there has been progress, yet night after night our streets are targeted by thieves.

The editor gave the member for Thuringowa some sage advice—

Mr Harper, rather than spending time making up numbers and hurling insults this way, why not do the job you are paid to do and represent this community in Brisbane.



Last week I attended the Take Back Townsville crime forum to discuss this issue. The anger and frustration in that room on that night were palpable. The residents came looking for answers. What did they get from this government? They received more spin, more empty rhetoric and not a single commitment to do anything different to what they are doing now. There was no reinstatement of breach of bail, no acknowledgement that the changes brought in by this government to the Youth Justice Act have failed miserably and no acknowledgement that the bail house program is an absolute debacle.


This Labor government is clueless when it comes to addressing crime, not only in Townsville but also right across the state of Queensland. Their soft-on-crime approach and their custody-as-a-last-resort philosophy for juvenile offenders have left Queensland reeling from the onslaught of these offenders. You can try to polish it all you like, but the fact is that today an offender who is deemed an unacceptable risk of breaching bail can still be released if being detained will have a negative effect on his or her reputation.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr LAST:** That's right. Section 48 of the Youth Justice Act provides our judiciary with more powers and shows more regard for an offender's reputation than it does for a victim.

In a desperate attempt to divert attention away from his failings, the member for Thuringowa chose to target the event organiser of that rally last week. What a disgrace that was from someone who has the best interests of the community at heart.

Make no mistake: we are facing the worst crime epidemic this state has ever seen. The only light at the end of the tunnel is 31 October this year because on that date Queenslanders have the opportunity to elect a government that is fair dinkum about taking on these criminals and taking back control of our state.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.28 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. When I made my first ever speech in this House I brought with me a traditional island mat. For Torres Strait Islanders, that mat signifies life's journey from womb to tomb. I said at that time that, as I began my political journey, I would embrace the significance of what that mat represents—a place to sit down and create an open dialogue on various issues.

Today in this House, community safety is one of those issues. I am passionate about making a difference. That is why I joined the Labor Party. Unlike the LNP, Labor is making a real difference to people's lives. I know that under Labor there are more police in Queensland than ever before. I know that they are better trained and better equipped than ever before. This government backs police 100 per cent in what they do best—that is, keeping communities safe.

I know that regional Queensland is a big winner in Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll's vision for the future of policing. For the first time a deputy police commissioner will be permanently based in Far North Queensland. The Far North will be a separate region with its own dedicated assistant commissioner. There were 875 approved police officer positions in the Far North police district as at 31 December 2019. That is an increase in approved positions of 59 from 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2019. There are three specialist police domestic and family violence coordinators and 10 extra police to be rolled out by the end of June this year. This government has invested more than \$2.6 billion in our police in this budget, an increase of almost 20 per cent since we came to government.

Let us talk about community safety. The Greater Cairns Taskforce targets crime hotspots in the Far North. In November and December they conducted 4,484 street checks. The Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce is doing great work with at-risk young offenders helping to get their lives back on track. Project Booyah is giving at-risk young people in Cairns pathways to education, training and jobs. We have a police domestic violence high-risk team. Operation Quebec Paso boosts community safety with street checks, return to country and the seizure of drugs and alcohol. Two Police Beat officers are based at Stocklands Earlville Shopping Centre.

When it comes to capital works and resources, this government backs our police in the Far North. Some \$12 million has been set aside to refurbish the Cairns Police Station. We have delivered a new multipurpose policing facility at Woree, refurbished the Police Beat on the Cairns Esplanade and opened a new police station in Gordonvale. A tender process is underway for the Saibai community safety and security facility. Funding has been allocated towards a replacement police facility and watch house in Pormpuraaw and planning for upgrades to the police facility and watch house in Aurukun. This government established a multiagency response to support safety in Aurukun.

I know that police are working closely with other government agencies, community leaders, elders and the government coordinator. I have been assured police will continue to work in partnership with the community, liquor retailers and hoteliers in keeping with the alcohol management plan. From


July to December last year police took action in relation to 37 incidents involving alleged breaches, mainly around the possession of alcohol. Further, the Aurukun police division has provided 24-hour rostered policing since 2016 to keep the community safe. In the Far North police district we have had delivered: 515 QLITE devices for frontline police; 694 body worn cameras, with more on the way, for every uniformed, first responder police officer; 351 new tasers; 141 vehicles; and 16 vessels.

Compare our record to that of the LNP. We saw a total police budget increase of 2.8 per cent. Given the rate of inflation that is a cut to police funding in real terms. They sacked 110 senior police and cut a further 212 police positions. They cut police training, reduced firearms training, cut funding to police helicopters and forced police to pay for their own body worn cameras. They slashed the auto theft squad from 18 to three. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. They broke a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police and police training to patrol safe night out precincts. As the police union president said at the time, 'If you're going to lie to a police officer, you'll lie to anyone.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Cook, you will need to withdraw the word 'lie'.

**Ms LUI:** I withdraw. I am proud to stand in the House as part of a government that looks after the interests of all Queenslanders. When I stood in this House for the very first time I recounted the words of my grandfather, the late Getano Lui Senior: 'Do your best. Never give up.'

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.34 pm): This Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on crime. They are soft on the causes of crime. They are soft on their response to crime. They are soft in dealing with offenders. When it comes to crime, Labor is soft, soft, soft. Not only that, they have a failing memory because I remember what it was like under the Bligh government. We just heard the member for Bulimba say, 'If you keep doing the same thing you will get the same result.' They are doing the same thing and crime is going up. We are getting the same result.

Remember it was the Labor Party that did not want a helicopter for police in Queensland. It was the LNP that delivered Polair in Queensland. What have we got here? We have a Labor Party that does not want a police helicopter for North Queensland. They do not want a dedicated police helicopter. They want to share it around with everybody else because it is not important enough.

This is a debate that is both timely and important. It is timely because in the electorate of Clayfield there has been a surge in criminal activity, especially break and enters, theft and stealing cars. The debate is important because a government's, any government's, first priority is the safety and security of law-abiding citizens. We know our police work hard and the judiciary work hard, but their hands are tied by Labor's soft-on-crime policy agenda. Nothing shows this more than a Premier who, according to the media, told her own caucus members—she has been telling them a lot lately—that there is no crime problem and her MPs should stop complaining about it. I wonder what the member for Nudgee thinks about that? I wonder what the member for Stafford thinks about that? I wonder what the member for Aspley thinks about that? Do they agree there is no crime problem on the north side of Brisbane? Is that what the member for Nudgee thinks? I am getting the drum that the member for Nudgee is pretty worried about crime on the north side.

For five years we have heard and seen stories of juvenile offenders committing crimes in places like Townsville and Cairns, and it is to the great detriment of the people of those great Queensland cities. For five years we have had a Labor Premier in denial and refusing to act—a do-nothing Premier. That is why at the last election I committed the LNP to providing a dedicated police helicopter for North Queensland. I proposed tougher breach of bail laws. I proposed removing detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act to ensure courts could deal with juvenile offenders in accordance with the severity of the crimes they committed. It would result in untying the courts hands so the community could have confidence in the justice system—confidence they are losing under Labor. Labor opposed the program and still do, at great cost to communities across Queensland, including communities on the north side and in the electorate of Clayfield.

The increase has happened since the changes they brought in last year that the member for Bulimba can barely enunciate and can barely explain. According to the police statistics on the myPolice Brisbane north side website, unlawful entry in Clayfield in the Hendra division has increased from 53 in January 2018 to 164 in January 2020, a 209 per cent increase. In the last three months it has gone from 107 to 164, a 53 per cent increase. Other theft has gone from 226 to 329—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Bulimba will put her comments through the chair.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—an increase of 48 per cent. The unlawful use of a motor vehicle has gone from 44 to 71, an increase of 66 per cent. I table the crime statistics.

*Tabled paper:* Table, undated, titled 'Theft in Hendra Division' [293].

Almost every day our local community Facebook has a post from someone in Clayfield regarding intruders in garages and carports, break and enters in homes and shops and stealing. I table an extract from that page showing what is happening.

*Tabled paper:* Social media post on 4007/4010/4011 Community Noticeboard regarding a home invasion [294].

Perhaps most telling is an email I received from a 21-year-old constituent two weeks ago. I will table that email.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 3 February 2020, from constituent to the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, titled 'recent crime activity' [295].

While on holidays in January the family home was broken into. Four teenagers had allegedly stolen a car in Sandgate and driven to Clayfield. They allegedly kicked in a heavy wooden front door at about 4 pm that day. They appeared to have made themselves at home for 15 hours. They slept in the family's beds. They showered and used the family's accoutrements in the showers. They went through the whole house. They jumped in the family car at 7.15 the next morning and drove off taking cash, electronics, clothing and of course the car itself. I will read a paragraph from that email. It reads—

It is an odd feeling having known that complete strangers with not the best intentions have been through your entire house, know who you are, looked at all your family images, slept in your room etc—they have a complete profile of you.

We have gone through the police and insurance process and there is still an ongoing investigation open however, the judicial system continually seems to be in the offenders' favours and against us.

The only people who will right the balance, stand up for victims and protect the community is the LNP in Queensland.



**Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (5.39 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. When it comes to community safety in Townsville, I back our police 100 per cent in doing what they do best—and that is catching and arresting young offenders who do the wrong thing. As at 10 February, 331 offenders were arrested on 1,263 charges as part of Operation Romeo Seville. Every day our police are actively patrolling the streets of Townsville as part of this operation, and they are backed by the State Flying Squad, State Intelligence, the Road Policing Command, the Rapid Action and Patrol Group, the Tactical Crime Squad, the Property Crime Squad, CIB, the Child Protection and Investigation Unit and general duties officers.

As at 31 December last year, there were 656 approved police officer positions in the Townsville police district, and there are more on the way. We are on track to deliver an additional 53 police officers to Townsville by the end of June—this has been brought forward. In a first, we have a new deputy police commissioner based in Townsville, backed by an assistant police commissioner—again, based in Townsville. There are more police on patrol, actively targeting drugs, property crime and bad behaviour in known hotspots.

Not only have we invested in more police and a greater senior police presence in the north but we have also passed strong legislation and backed opportunities to actively undertake preventative tasks. Programs like Project Booyah and Transition 2 Success are getting young lives back on track and reducing recidivist behaviours.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Really?

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** Yes, really. We invest in school based police officers who are positioned in schools to connect with students who are at risk of offending. We have police who undertake curfew checks on those young people who have orders with specific conditions. Locking up kids and throwing away the key is not the answer. We need to break the cycle. We have delivered 392 QLITE devices for frontline police for active patrols on the beat, 335 tasers and 486 body worn video cameras. We need only to contrast this to the LNP's past history of making the police buy their own body worn cameras. It gets worse.


Under the LNP police budget in 2012-13, Townsville police were told to tighten their belt. Funding for new operational equipment for police fell from \$77.5 million to \$53.8 million. At that time, I am advised Townsville's senior police were warned that vital equipment, such as extra cars and computers, were not purchased to cater for new recruits. The LNP budget for new and upgraded equipment, including vehicles, boats and traffic cameras, was the lowest in three years. To boot, they planned to sell the Townsville police academy where those police recruits did their training.

Across the state they sacked 110 senior police and cut a further 212 police positions. They cut police training, reduced firearms training, cut funding to police helicopters and forced police to pay for their own equipment. They slashed the auto theft squad from 18 to three. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders. You have just had an opportunity to give a contribution. I would like to hear this contribution.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** They reneged on a promise to provide \$20 million for extra police and police training to patrol Safe Night Out precincts. Under Labor we will always give police the resources they need and we will always back them 100 per cent. That is the real difference between the LNP and this government. There is no one single solution to social issues like crime. Unlike those opposite, we will work with and alongside our community to ensure that they again feel safe.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.44 pm): No wonder there is a crime problem in Queensland! We have just been hit with a wet lettuce leaf from across the chamber. This Labor government has no idea. The tragedy is that people are paying the price of the ineptitude of a Labor government that is completely out of touch with what is happening in the electorates.

We know, particularly in North Queensland—in Cairns and Townsville—the litany of stories of people's lives being ripped apart with the violence of criminals who are not being touched because the police do not have the resources and they have watered down laws. I want to quote from the *Tropic Now* online newspaper. This afternoon it published a letter from a Cairns police officer which states—

Youth crime is out of control.

We are burned out.

We cannot control the crime as it's a rotating door where youth are re-offending again before I even finish my paperwork.

I will table this article in a moment. It goes on to say—

We are throwing so many resources at catching juvenile offenders that we cannot investigate other crime, including sexual crimes against children by \*peds. Too busy dealing with kids and 4-5 violent robberies every night.

It goes on to say—

Victims are left to pick up the pieces as there is zero punishment ... Every offence gets bail objected to and yet they are let out. There is no room at \*Townsville and offenders are being let out the back door.

It goes on to say—

Cairns is incredibly dangerous and the crime is significantly under reported.

In Queensland we have seen this Labor government water down the bail laws. We have seen a situation where they have taken away breach of bail as an offence in many circumstances. They have also made detention a last resort despite the severity of the crimes that some of the juveniles are committing.

We all want to see people rehabilitated, but there needs to be an appropriate response to the severity of the crime. When that does not happen, we see more of these terrible crimes committed. We see not just a broken window and minor crimes occurring; we see serious crimes occurring—robberies, rape, theft of motor vehicles, armed robbery and assaults. I table that article. There is a lot more in it. It is quite a serious situation right throughout this state.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Letter from the frontline: What a Cairns police officer has to say about the city's youth crime' [\[296\]](#).

I want to touch on the law and order issues on the Sunshine Coast because the issue of juvenile crime is being replicated in that area as well. We want to see an increase in the police budget. We want to see an increase in the laws that would ensure that those who commit these crimes are in fact able to be put behind bars and dealt with appropriately.

There is a human face to this. There are more people who are suffering because of the ineptitude of this Labor soft-on-crime government. I want to read from a letter from a mother whose son was 'allegedly' bashed. His face is swollen and he was left unconscious in the middle of a busy road in

Maroochydore last week. This is not the first time this has happened. You can understand how distressed parents are when they want their kids to be able to live independent lives. This kid was going home from Hungry Jacks where he had been working—it was not that late at night—when he became another victim of crime. She says—

On Monday [last week] my 17yr old son, with a female work colleague, were waiting for the 8:55pm bus to their homes in Sippy Downs. Two young men aged 17-18yrs old, bashed him while he was seated at the bus station. The result was a swollen face, split swollen lip and a period of unconsciousness where he laid in the middle of the main road.

This bus station is notorious for the violence which occurs around it. A news report dated nearly 1 year ago, showed a video of another such bashing at the station with calls for increased security.

She says—

We as a community need to feel our children are safe when they travel to and from their places of work.


*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 16 February 2020, to the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, titled 'Maroochydore bus station security' [297].

This is a mother's plea that we hear right throughout the state—from the Far North to the south, in Brisbane and in my region of the Sunshine Coast. She says—

This violence at Maroochydore bus station needs to stop once and for all ...

It needs to stop right throughout Queensland and we need a government that recognises that. We need tougher laws. We need to have an appropriate response to crime. We need to see more resources for the police. Under this Labor government we have seen a cut in real terms to the police budget compared to other budget areas. We have seen a reduction of over \$1 billion over the life of this government. It is a disgrace.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. This may come as a surprise—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:**—but for those of you at home—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, member for Logan. Members to my left, the member has barely begun her contribution. Cease the interjections.

**Mrs McMAHON:** As a former police officer, I saw firsthand the damage that the LNP government caused to the police service. There were cuts to staff, cuts to resources and cuts to lifesaving programs. In just under three short years of the LNP government the Coomera police district was closed—and aren't we seeing the effects of that to this day—110 senior police gone and a further 212 positions lost. The auto theft squad was cut from 18 to three. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba and unknown members to my left, I can hardly hear the speaker on her feet. The interjections will cease.

**Mrs McMAHON:** They reneged on their promise to provide \$20 million in extra police and police training for Safe Night Precincts, and we all know how the Police Union president responded to that. Here is one that I can definitely speak to: cuts to police training and cuts to firearms training for our officers. Almost immediately upon the LNP taking office the police recruit training program was restructured and training times at the academy were cut. There was less driver training time, less firearms training time and a reduction in staff-to-recruit numbers. Police recruits undertook reduced or often no station duty time during their recruit time. In fact, many graduated without having ever set foot inside a police station before graduation. When these police recruits graduated what did they face? Being stuck in a desk-bound position because they did not have the equipment to patrol their divisions. There were no accoutrements, no cars to patrol their divisions. That was the state of the police service under the LNP. The LNP does not seem to remember that many of those public servants who were subject to their 'tough love' were unsworn staff within the QPS. I can recall speaking to station OCs who were devastated at the loss of their admin staff. What the loss of admin staff meant was that uniformed staff had to take more time off the road to fill the jobs that admin staff were doing.

Can I tell the House what else disappeared under the LNP? Transparency. The QPS collects annual data and crime stats, and under the LNP they refused to release those stats to the public. They refused to let people know what was happening in their neighbourhoods, but this Palaszczuk Labor government believes in openness and transparency, and we make these stats available to the public.


Speaking of stats, I am pleased to enlighten the House that the most recent QPS annual report—if people want to actually look at statistics and data—shows an increase in public perception of safety in Queensland across a range of metrics. Luckily for Queenslanders and luckily for our police we have a Labor government in power, because that means that there are more police than ever before and they have more resources than ever before. The police budget has increased since 2015. There are an extra 1400 QLITE devices and more tasers. We are rolling out body worn cameras to all uniformed staff because the LNP expected police to pay for their own body worn cameras. There has been \$41 million spent on police vehicles—police vehicles the LNP did not bother to provide to the police when they were in power—so they can be out there in the community. There are more water police vehicles and 24 new specialist domestic violence coordinators throughout Queensland, and there has been an expansion of the specialised domestic and family violence courts to deal with these problems. There has been \$4.1 million to expand roadside drug testing as part of the Action on Ice package and \$2.4 million to make Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture. This government has taken these steps and many more to give our Queensland police the tools and resources they need to do the job. There are more police than there were under the LNP and they have more resources.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I am not sure if members opposite were paying attention, but we are currently debating a police powers bill. Yes, we are providing them with the tools, we are providing them with the resources, and we are dealing with the legislation to give them the power to do what they need to do—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lockyer, you are warned under the standing orders. I gave you pretty clear guidance.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.54 pm): The contributions of the government members to the motion before the House show what sort of parallel universe the elected members on that side of the House are living in. It is unfortunate that they have lost connection with their communities. Whether it is down the coast, up the coast, Townsville, Cairns or out west, it shows that the Labor Party has completely lost connection because they do not understand what is going on in Queensland; that is, in some of these communities people fear for their lives. Juvenile crime is out of control, and that is because the Labor Party is soft on crime.

The first priority of any government is to protect its people from violence, to protect them in their homes and to protect their belongings. No-one should ever have to live in fear. When I was a lawyer I stood up for victims of crime who had been abused, beaten and robbed. Many of them will never recover from what they suffered, and I will never forget their stories. That is why the LNP is so passionate about fixing up the crime problem in this great state of ours. It is only the LNP that will give the police the resources they are screaming out for.

Five years ago the Palaszczuk government came into this chamber and rolled back the LNP government's tough crime laws, whether it was the bikie laws or breach of bail. Mr Speaker, let me tell you a story about breach of bail. Five years ago those juveniles worked out that if they offended whilst on bail it did not matter anymore, and there has been a revolving door of juveniles committing offences since that day. Those juveniles who were 12 five years ago are now 17, and guess who they have been educating? They have been educating the next generation. Five years is all it has taken for the figures to go through the roof in this great state of ours. It is only the LNP that is prepared to stand up for our police in this great state. It is only the LNP that will give the police the resources they are asking for, and it is only the LNP that will put into this parliament members who understand. People like Laura Gerber in Currumbin, who is out there doorknocking, and people like Inspector Glenn Doyle from Mundingburra know that crime is an issue.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I hear those opposite and I see some ministers shaking their heads because they know what is coming on this side of the House. We already have our fair share of police officers on this side of the House. Well, there are more police officers coming, and they are coming to protect the people of Queensland in this chamber because both Laura Gerber and Glenn Doyle know what is needed. They know that the bikies are back on the Gold Coast. Inspector Glenn Doyle made the choice to leave the police force so he can look after and protect the people of Townsville because they want the laws changed. They want a government that stands up for their community. He knows that the Labor Party is soft on crime. He knows that people want to be protected, and that is why people



like Glenn Doyle and Laura Gerber are coming out of the woodwork to stand for the LNP because they believe that the Labor Party has let them down in their communities, whether it is from Coolangatta to the cape—

**Mr Bleijie:** Maiwar. Lauren in Maiwar.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection, and Lauren Day in Maiwar, where crime is a massive issue as well, just like it is in Clayfield, just like it is everywhere. It is only the LNP that is taking back control of this state by giving the police the resources that they are pleading for.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Well, let us look at the crime rates in Beenleigh. I will table this.


*Tabled paper:* Article from *Albert & Logan News*, dated 13 February 2020, titled 'Boxing centre opens' [298].

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired.

*(Time expired)*

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I table it so the member over there will actually wake up and read—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired. I do not want to have to give another warning. That was well and truly over time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.00 pm): Can anyone smell an election in the wind?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I have been really clear about outbursts such as that in the past. It is very unbecoming of the House.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Instead of the Leader of the Opposition spending her five minutes clearly articulating what their policies would be, she just gave a run-down of who all their candidates are around the state. That is how important this issue is. This just shows the cheap stunts of those on the other side. We all know that it is the responsibility of everybody in this House to make good laws in relation to tackling crime in this state. However, those on the other side love to prey on people's fear. They do it time and time again. That is what the LNP do, and they ramp it up at election time to try to scare people into voting for them.

It is very easy to be outraged in opposition but it is what you do in government that counts. When they were in government, they were a spectacular failure. We just heard it from the Leader of the Opposition—their bikie laws, serious overreach.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana!

**Mrs D'ATH:** How many bikies ended up convicted? Zero. Well done! They were a great success!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Then there are their breach of bail laws. It is extraordinary. We just had the Leader of the Opposition, who is a lawyer, saying that if the offender reoffends when on bail nothing happens because the breach of bail offence is not there. How many lawyers are there on that side? Can someone inform the Leader of the Opposition that when someone offends they can be charged, on bail or not? That is a reality. To say nothing happens—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I hear, 'They are not.' I take that interjection. Are they saying the police are not charging them? Are they blaming the police for not charging these individuals? I am sorry—I thought they were saying that, no, they do not blame the police and they do not blame the courts. There was so much inconsistency in these speeches tonight. It is extraordinary.

I want to pick up on some of their comments. The member for Surfers Paradise said that the LNP are going to fix the problem once and for all. Fantastic. 'Statistics do not lie,' we heard from the member for Burdekin. The member for Clayfield spoke of a 'failing memory'. We have a long memory. If they want to talk about crime statistics, I can say that the reality is that those on the other side did everything possible to bury the facts from the people of Queensland. They got rid of the annual crime statistics

reports. They certainly did not want to talk about what they did with boot camps. If we talk about the investment we have made into youth justice in this state, it is certainly not spending \$2,350 a day for a boot camp compared to \$999 for a youth detention centre bed, in which—

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Toowoomba South is warned under the standing orders. The member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH:** That was \$16.7 million over three years. What did it achieve? Let us see. The audit report at the time said that, of the 31 distinct young people who had completed the program, 73 per cent reoffended between the end of their order and 31 March 2015. It went on to say that this was well below the target of 75 per cent non-reoffending. There was a 75 per cent non-reoffending rate in the contracts, yet 73 per cent were reoffending. What did they do to try to reduce crime? By the way, a breach of bail if we look at the history did nothing to reduce offending at all.

They also cut programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Works. They cut diversionary programs, youth justice conferencing, the Murri courts and the Drug Court. They say they are going to build drug rehabilitation clinics to tackle drugs. They bragged about it in Townsville, but I remember the interjection when I asked where they were going to build them—'Not in the community because the community don't want them next door'. They are going to put them so far away from where the problem is that no-one will actually be in them so it will be another white elephant.

They are all talk. They go and promise the world and then when they get into government they fail to deliver every single time. They go out there with false promises misleading victims. The way they treat people in the community is appalling—time and time again. They should stop playing politics. One piece of advice I have for those on the other side is they should talk to their colleagues in New Zealand who have actually reached a bipartisan approach to youth justice in their country. They understand the importance of taking politics out of these things, and the LNP could learn a lot from them.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 41:**

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

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**NQF, 1—**Costigan.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 48:**


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

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

Resolved in the negative.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Paradise Dam, Release of Documents

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.11 pm): I rise to clarify the status of documents relating to Paradise Dam. The member for Bundaberg asked in this chamber that nine documents related to Paradise Dam be released. Those nine documents are being sought through a right to information application to Sunwater. Decisions concerning right to information are not made by government ministers, and Sunwater operates as an independent entity.

With any right to information process, there are a range of reasons why documents need to be assessed before a decision is made on whether they are released to the public. This includes commercial-in-confidence issues or legal privilege. I understand the member for Bundaberg has raised



this on behalf of the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, who have engaged Dr Paul Rizzo to assess safety and rehabilitation options for Paradise. Sunwater has spoken to Dr Rizzo and he has been given a tour of the dam.


In the spirit of continuing to work collaboratively with Dr Rizzo, I can advise the House that Sunwater will allow Dr Rizzo access to the requested documents to assist with his report. The ongoing safety assessment of Paradise Dam includes numerous assessments, reports and reviews, including the nine requested. I point out that all relevant documents are being made available to the independent commission of inquiry which will hold its first hearing in Brisbane tomorrow.

## **POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 472, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill is the culmination of a range of amendments to existing pieces of legislation that seek to create efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service and increase community safety. The most significant reforms include the power of law enforcement to access information on cloud services and to tighten weapon control as it relates to the sale and purchase of modified weapons. I am pleased to be informed that the government has removed earlier proposed changes to the Prostitution Act, particularly around clause 60.

It is well known that child sex offenders, drug dealers and perpetrators of other serious crimes often—and increasingly—conceal evidence of their offences on electronic devices like computers or mobile phones. Under current laws police have access to information stored on these devices. However, courtesy of the restricted meaning and interpretation of the word ‘stored’, these powers do not extend to lawfully accessing information that exists in cloud services. As a result this is hampering police investigations and the ability to prosecute offenders. The proposed amendment will ensure that evidence of crimes, including homicide, sexual offences, drug trafficking, child abuse, cybercrime such as fraud and revenge pornography, and terrorism related offences, cannot be concealed. Offenders are using ever changing, complex technologies and platforms to manage and promote their criminal activities. The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 will at last give Queensland Police the powers they urgently need to keep up with them and help deliver justice.

The Queensland Law Society submitted—and I do not necessarily agree—to the committee that this bill grants police officers extraordinarily broad powers to pry into the private affairs of people who are not suspected of committing any offence. This bill also proposes amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act that close another gap affecting police operations. Unlike persons who have been detained, police are not able to search a person whom they are transporting as part of the process of serving a domestic violence application order under section 134A of that act. Under that act a police officer may direct a person to move to another stated location, for example, a police station, police beat or courthouse, to enable the officer to carry out various functions but they cannot search them.

I know from experience that separating parties in a dispute does assist in de-escalating domestic violence situations. It is helpful to provide the opportunity for a respondent to better understand the conditions of an order or a police protection notice. It can also assist police to enforce and reiterate the seriousness of the domestic violence that has occurred. This amendment which allows an officer to ensure his or her own personal safety during transportation of a person accused of domestic violence is of course welcomed but it is yet another example of Labor playing catch-up.


Recently amendments were made to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to enhance information sharing between government agencies. Existing provisions allow a police officer to share information with other agencies. However, this alone does not reflect the reality of the operational environment where many civilian staff are employed by the Queensland Police Service in support roles. Pleasingly, another catch-up amendment has been added to the recent amendments to the domestic violence legislation which will permit authorised civilian staff to also share information.

This will enhance the collective assessment and response to serious threats to life, health or safety of people because of domestic violence and the referral of people who fear or experience domestic violence or who commit domestic violence to specialist service providers.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 also proposes practical changes to the regulation of firearms modifications. These amendments will close the gap in existing laws which allows a person to gain access to a firearm after it has been modified, hindering the QPS from keeping an accurate firearms register and weakening the control of firearm offences. Under the bill, armourers will be required to sight a person's licence before modifying any firearms to ensure the person holds a licence authorising them to possess a firearm in the new weapons category. Armourers will also be required to record any modifications in their firearms register and report same to Weapons Licensing about the modification.

The Weapons Act 1990 currently allows an authorised officer to suspend a person's weapons licence if they think he or she is no longer fit. The suspension period is only 30 days before the licence is cancelled. This period of time has been deemed inadequate and problematic and the bill makes provisions for it to be extended to 90 days. This extension will give registered weapons owners a more reasonable period of time to gather the necessary medical evidence to demonstrate their mental and/or physical fitness to own a weapon before their licence is cancelled completely.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 will fill a few potholes on the seemingly endless road to better policing and community safety. I welcome changes to the law that make it easier for police to gather evidence to identify, apprehend and successfully prosecute offenders. I will not be opposing the bill.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The policy objectives of the bill include to: clarify powers of law enforcement to access information on or through electrical devices so there is no ambiguity as to the scope of information that can be lawfully accessed; enhance the operations of the Weapons Licensing branch of the Queensland Police Service; and create efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service in general and increase community safety.

The amendments to the Prostitution Licensing Authority have been withdrawn from the bill, the most contentious part of this bill. This has obviously affected everybody's speeches, but I am very pleased to see it go from further consideration.

The LNP supports the increase of access information powers which will permit police to search the cloud services of suspected child sex offenders, terrorists, murderers or any other offender. This means the police can apply for an order that will require a person to provide a password and/or swipe pattern details to an electronic device, for example. Any measure that targets child sex offenders is supported by the LNP to ensure that the perpetrators of such terrible crimes are found in a timely manner.

As technology continues to evolve, police methods and tactics need to evolve with it. Unfortunately, we know that particularly sex offenders and terrorists are very computer savvy. They know how to hide these details and make them very difficult to find. Accessing these details and accessing the cloud is a very important part of accessing this information to go forward to bust these paedophile rings or terrorism outfits and bring them to a successful prosecution. That will be supported by this side of the House.

As I said, technology continues to evolve and the police must keep pace. In 2019 the LNP introduced a private member's bill which promoted the ongoing supervision of dangerous violent sex offenders to ensure they are monitored with tracking devices once leaving the confines of jail so as not to reoffend. That is another part of what I say: as technology evolves, this is where we need to go. Anyone who has worked with me—I do not know if any of the committee members are still here; I see that the chair is still here—knows that for so long I have raised the issue of the increased powers of departmental officers. Under the Water Act, the Fisheries Act and the vegetation management legislation—

**Mr Krause:** The tree police.

**Mr WEIR:** Exactly right, member for Scenic Rim. All these officers have been granted powers. In regard to every one of these pieces of legislation, I said to the chair, 'If you grant these powers to the police, perhaps I could support them.' I support some additional powers for the police. It is good to see, because these powers have been handed out willy-nilly by this government to departmental officers.

The next part of the bill I address concerns the LNP's support of changes to the Weapons Act 1990. There are two major changes to the act: one, the extension of suspension notices; and two, the regulation of firearm modifications. The Weapons Act 1990 currently allows an authorised officer to suspend a person's weapons licence where they suspect on reasonable grounds that the licence holder is no longer a fit and proper person. This change will ensure that a person does not possess a weapon to which they are not entitled and it safeguards community safety. The suspension period is intended to provide the licensee time in which to demonstrate that they are in fact a fit and proper person to hold a weapons licence.

Currently, a suspension can only continue for a maximum period of 30 days until the licence is cancelled. The short time frame has made it difficult for a licence holder to seek the opinion of a medical practitioner and has created a backlog in QCAT when the licensee applies for reinstatement of their licence. The bill rectifies this by extending the time during which a licence can be suspended to 90 days, giving the licence holder more time to access all the information required to renew their weapons licence. Several constituents who are licensed weapons holders have contacted the Condamine office saying that they have not received a renewal notice or other type of notification. The first information they received was a letter stating that their licence was now void. The licence holder then has to go through the process of getting their licence reinstated by reapplying from scratch, something that is not their fault. The issuing of these renewal notices is important to stop the backlog that occurs in the weapons licensing division.

The Queensland Police Service maintains a register of every firearm registered in Queensland and to who it is currently registered. Currently, only firearm owners have an obligation to notify the QPS of any modification to a firearm. The issue is that previously armourers were under no obligation to ensure that the owner of a firearm was allowed to possess the modified firearm. Additionally, they have not been required to notify the weapons licensing department about the modification. Under the bill, armourers will be required to sight a person's licence before modifying any firearm to ensure that the person holding a licensed authority has authorised them to possess the firearm in the new weapons category. Furthermore, armourers will be required to record any modifications in their firearms register and report to weapons licensing about these changes.

I hope that these changes are a very simple piece of accounting, because the Weapons Licensing branch is under strain. Many complaints come into our office about the length of time it takes to renew a licence. I am just doing that now, because my licence expires on my birthday on the 25th of this month. I need to go through that process myself.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Don't forget to renew!

**Mr WEIR:** It needs to be simple. I just hope that it is not a complicated process, because these armourers have been slugged with another security licence fee of \$200 per person by the department of natural resources for each qualified licensed employee to handle gun powder on top of their licence to handle weapons issued by the Queensland Police Service. This happened under the amended explosives legislation only last year. One ramification was that every staff member at the barn in Oakey where they sell firearms—it is not just the dealer—had to pay \$200 before they could sell gun powder. These people have enough red tape and bureaucracy; they do not need anymore. We want to ensure that this is not just another layer of bureaucracy that makes it more difficult for those dealers. As I said, we will not oppose this bill. I hope the process is nice and streamlined for those who have to comply.



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.27 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I do not have strong views on many of the amendments. I will make a quick comment in regard to electronic devices. I am sure this amendment is well intentioned and will be an improvement for police in doing their duties—and that is a good thing—but we need to be very careful. We can be complacent in terms of the way information is gathered. I know there is a lot of debate federally about that. I do raise caution when we pass legislation about how information is retained, gathered and stored. I know that it is always done with the intention of targeting criminals but, without trying to sound too much like a tinfoil hat wearer, for all sorts of reasons it should raise politicians' awareness.


Certainly, we took note of the issues relating to firearms. The suspension of a notice extension from 30 to 90 days makes a lot of sense. That is a tidying up of the laws; well done. That represents good interaction with the advisory committee, and I do not have a problem with that. Another issue concerned regulating firearm modifications. If someone is a licensed person undertaking firearm modifications, they have some rights and responsibilities to control for whom they are doing modifications. I do not have a problem with that.

It is always difficult to pass judgement on these things without thinking about the inadvertent consequences down the track. That is difficult to do with any laws, and that is particularly so with firearms. I acknowledge that the government works with the firearm advisory committee, which is a really good thing, but even it can sometimes pick up anomalies in laws.

By and large, firearms are really more the domain of rural and regional residents. Just like we do not have the majority here, fewer and fewer people are tuned into the nuances associated with firearm ownership. That leads me to the next issue, and this is an issue that I disagree with and, given the opportunity, will be voting against this clause in the bill—that is, the definition of ‘magazine’. I would not say that it is highly contentious and I acknowledge that there were no great concerns raised by anyone from the firearms industry with regard to this issue in the discussions on it. However, I make the very strong point to the House that nor was there any evidence to suggest why this should be done, and that is a central issue with so many amendments that are made with regard to firearms and weapons licensing in this state—that is, it is always the default position to diminish or reduce the rights that are available to owners. In this case, attached magazines will be categorised in the same way so there is the potential to reduce the capacity in tubes.

If people have said that there is no real impact so we do not have any objections to it, then the same argument can be used in reverse: why then do it? If there is no evidence to say why it should be done, then I would be erring on the side of caution the other way and saying not to do it because in all likelihood there could be inadvertent effects from this down the track that will impact on licensed firearm owners. As we say time and time again in this House, licensed firearm owners are not the issue of concern when it comes to firearm and weapons licensing and any offences associated with firearms. There are never any issues associated with licensed firearm owners. Even when we throw in the issue of theft of firearms from licensed firearm owners, it is still such an absolute minute fraction of any activity in that space that it does not warrant any change in legislation.

I want to dwell on that point because time and time again we see things come before the House and licensed firearm owners are always demonised with a reduction in their rights or their capacity to effectively and safely use firearms in the manner in which they are accustomed to. We will be objecting to that. There is no strong reason to object to it or not to have it, but nor is there any strong reason to have it there in the first place. On that basis, we will be opposing that part and supporting the rest of the bill.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.32 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House tonight and will focus initially on the PPR Act and the amendments in relation to technology and accessing the cloud to obtain relevant information. Technology has been around for a short period with regard to mobile telephones and indeed computers. In fact, it was only in 1983 that Motorola released its first commercial mobile phone at a cost of some \$4,000. It had 30 minutes of talk time and could store 30 phone numbers and was the size of a brick. Today the device can fit into your hand and it is amazing, when you compare the two, what the current device does in relation to what would be the size of a brick back in 1983. The issue in relation to laptops or computers has an even shorter history.

What we are faced with here is technology that has evolved quickly, and overwhelmingly people use technology for its stated purpose—that is, for self-use, for betterment and for education purposes. Sadly, the same technology outstrips the powers of the police and access to data that would lead to proof of criminal activity can now be stored on those devices and police powers at this point in time are not able to access that readily. Currently the laws allow police to access devices in relation to information stored on computers, laptops, hard disc and the like, but it is the use of the cloud services that is causing concern. With regard to the definition of ‘stored’ in the act, though it implies access to the cloud, the concern is that the scope of information that is accessible in the cloud service remains unclear and that is what the amendment before the House tonight deals with—that is, ensuring that the access can be certain so that, if a matter does reach court, there is no dispute as to the police power to utilise the services under the act to gain access to that information to pursue a prosecution.


I note clearly the objections of both the Queensland Law Society and the QPU. It is important that we acknowledge the role that those bodies play in a bill of this nature. The Queensland Law Society’s role in our society is indeed a critical one. It is one of a number of bodies our society needs to ensure our laws provide protection for our citizens but it also guards the rights of those same citizens in bills of this nature. Together with the Bar Association, the Council for Civil Liberties and our courts, such organisations perform a critical service and that should never be downplayed or in any way reduced in relation to their importance to establish the balance between the law as the parliament believes it should stand and the rights of citizens as those bodies see that they are.

However, importantly we need to consider what actions are being targeted here—that is, what is the balance being struck between the rights of the citizens and the protection that this House must provide to those same citizens? Does the crime or crimes we are targeting warrant the laws being passed here, understanding the concerns of the Queensland Law Society if we look at the offences that we are targeting—child sex offences, organised crime and serious criminal activity—that impact not just upon the individual who is the subject of the action but society as a whole? When we balance the need as opposed to whether or not the outcome is commensurate with the protection required, one must simply say yes. That balance is well met in the provisions contained in the bill in relation to the cloud and the information contained therein.

I want to touch quickly on one more issue, and that is the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. Since 2015 there have been a number of amendments before this chamber that flowed from the *Not now, not ever* report. That is the pivotal and seminal report in this state in relation to domestic violence. A bipartisan committee chaired by the Hon. Quentin Bryce produced that report in early 2015 that laid out a blueprint, the hope of which was to reduce and eventually eliminate domestic violence from our society, and that would be an enormous and great goal to achieve.

The government has on many occasions passed bills in this House in various portfolios that put into play the changes from that report, but I make this point, and it is forgotten: it was Campbell Newman who set in train that process. Those on that side of the House may attack the former premier on many fronts, but they cannot deny the man the fact that it was he and he alone who put in train a process that delivered a report that is so important to this state, and he should be accoladed for that step. He should be acknowledged as the person who put in place a bipartisan committee that developed, under Dame Quentin Bryce, a critical piece of work that today continues to direct the domestic violence legislation in Queensland.

With those few words, and as other members of the LNP have said, I will be supporting the bill. As time goes by technology continues to evolve. Technology will always outstrip this House's capacity to keep up with it and we will have this debate again because technology cannot be held back.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.40 pm): In rising to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, I acknowledge there have been amendments that have been tabled to be addressed in consideration in detail that actually remove a substantial and contentious portion in regard to the Prostitution Act. Why they were controversial has been addressed in previous speeches. They will come back to the House after the Attorney-General has referred them to the Law Reform Commission with an unspecified time frame. That aspect of this legislation is yet to be dealt with, and will potentially be dealt with in a different format, and I acknowledge that.

However, I do want to address the issue of technology and the challenges faced when dealing with crimes where there may be evidence stored in a digital format and, as has been addressed by this legislation, potentially held in the cloud which is a reality of today's world. With any opportunity that technology provides for good, unfortunately, as we have found, there is opportunity for evil. Child sex abuse and paedophilia, where there may be evidence that is stored electronically in the cloud, is tragically a very real issue. There may be other types of evidence that is stored not only on people's devices but also in the cloud. There was some ambiguity about the powers of police to access that information under the existing laws. The legislation that we are debating tonight seeks to overcome that ambiguity and to make it clear that police have the power to access that information which is stored not only on people's devices but also in the cloud.


When the Criminal Code was originally written I do not think anyone could have thought that we would be dealing with the types of crimes that we are dealing with today. Police need to use modern technology to keep up with crimes that are exacerbated by the use of modern technology. It is an extraordinary world we live in. Who knows what technology we will be addressing in 10 or 20 years time. It continues to evolve and therefore the law must continue to evolve. There have to be checks and balances. There were concerns expressed by some of our friends in the legal profession. It is right that they raise those concerns because crime is evolving and the law has to evolve to help police catch offenders.

There can be complexities in the information that people are able to access. I am sure many members in this House have much of their data stored not only on their devices but also in the cloud. We hope that the entities that store that information are doing the right thing. We know that this is a contentious issue in international realms. Various agents, some agents of state and some agents of organised crime, can gain access to that information and misuse it. We want to make sure that those

who are upholding the law also uphold the rights of the individual, that they use this information appropriately and that there are checks and balances so that not only is it for the greater good but also that the information is not misused. I wonder how many people in this place when they sign up to software these days and are asked to agree with the terms and conditions of the commercial access to that particular software, including the cloud, actually read it. Some would ask what powers they have given that, to access these types of software, they do not have an option and therefore they sign up. Quite extraordinary access and powers are given to commercial entities.

I raise that issue knowing that it is not the issue we are specifically debating tonight. With the need to empower police to address crimes where technology interfaces with their world, it raises the issue that many of us perhaps do not realise the full extent of the exposure of private information to commercial entities but trust that they will do the right thing to protect that information. It is a very valid issue and one that I raise tonight in addressing how the police use this information. I think that many people do not realise how they can be exposed to vulnerability in the storage of this information.

I note the contribution of my colleague the member for Caloundra in regard to domestic violence. There are many pieces of legislation that are amended in this bill and the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is one of them. It addresses some of the holes in systems and laws that were brought in initially by the Newman government, which should be acknowledged. This is a bipartisan effort in respect to addressing domestic violence and we acknowledge that this is something that affects all areas of our society. Domestic violence affects so many people. This legislation provides for an officer to carry out various functions to move people from a stated location if, in their opinion, it is necessary to separate persons where they deem it to be in the best interests of the aggrieved. The bill recognises that there is a need to strengthen the powers in this regard to separate people in those desperately sad and difficult but unfortunately violent scenarios where people are intimidated and do not want to pursue lodging a grievance or may underplay the issues at hand. It is necessary for police to have clear powers to be able to separate people. These are provisions I support. There are many acts that are amended here but I support the provisions with regard to technology, I support the provisions that relate to domestic violence and I will allow others to address the many other provisions in the legislation.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.48 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill aims to clarify powers of law enforcement officers to access information on or through electronic devices so there is no ambiguity as to the scope of the information that can be lawfully accessed, enhance the operations of the Prostitution Licensing Authority and the Weapons Licensing branch of the Queensland Police Service and create efficiencies for the QPS in general and increase community safety.

There is a downside to our increasingly digitised world. The downside is that it makes policing and law enforcement so much more difficult. New devices have enhanced the ability to undertake activities undercover which provides greater and quicker access to illegal material.

Detecting and investigating crime means being at the cutting edge of new developments in technology, while still recognising and honouring a right to individual privacy. Current laws provide safeguards to ensure the balance between those interests. Criminal offenders would naturally use whatever tools are at their disposal to undertake their illegal activities. Serious criminal offenders, drug dealers and child sex offenders often hide evidence of their activities on digital devices such as tablets, mobile phones and computers. Some are active on internet sites and the dark web. Police and law enforcement currently have powers to compel offenders to hand over their password or encryption codes. There are already appropriate safeguards to balance everyone's right to privacy, while trying to investigate and detect criminal behaviour.

Amendments in the bill are designed to keep pace with advances in technology. These amendments are needed because there are many ambiguities in the powers that the police have to gather evidence. The report notes that the QPS identified that, as there is no definition for 'stored information' under the current search and crime scene provisions, they could not access information from private email accounts or social media sites. The bill will ensure that the terminology used is broad enough so that incriminating evidence can be lawfully accessed, no matter whether it is stored physically on the device, in the cloud, in email accounts or on social media sites. They will ensure that evidence of crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, drug trafficking, child abuse, cybercrimes such as revenge fraud and revenge pornography, and terrorism related offences cannot be concealed.

In his introductory speech, the minister said—

This government considers the safety of our police officers and the broader community to be paramount.

Wide Bay-Burnett crime statistics show that, from 2014-15 to 2017-18, the police have been struggling to protect the public. Assaults have increased by 28 per cent, robbery has skyrocketed by 100 per cent, offences against the person are up 29 per cent, shop stealing has increased by 44 per cent and offences involving the unlawful use of a motor vehicle has increased by 62 per cent. This bill discusses measures to help police detect and investigate criminal activities. Police can only do the best they can with the resources that they have.

The bill amends the Weapons Act 1990. It will amend the definition of 'magazine' to ensure it is consistently applied across a number of acts, extend the suspension period for weapons licences from 30 to 90 days, and place new obligations on armourers who modify firearms. An armourer will be obliged to place a modified weapon in a new category under the Weapons Categories Regulation, ensure the owner is licensed to possess it under the new category, record the modification in the weapons register and notify the QPS of the modification.

The suspension period is supposed to provide a licensee time to demonstrate their bone fides, that is, that they are in fact a fit and proper person. A suspension can continue for a maximum of only 30 days before the licence is cancelled. If the licence holder needs to seek the opinion of a medical practitioner, that short time frame creates difficulties for the licence holder. It creates a backlog in QCAT when the licensee applies for the reinstatement of their licence. The bill rectifies that by extending the time for which the licence can be suspended to 90 days. I note that in its submission the Firearm Dealers Association states—

On the basis that there are safeguards and reasons for licence suspension and there is an ability for the Authorised Officer to lift the suspension earlier than the 90 days proposed, we support the amendment, which apparently seeks to assist licensees in establishing or re-establishing their eligibility for licence.

There is a world of difference between law-abiding gun owners and the criminal use of weapons. Unfortunately, after five years of this government the evidence shows that they see little difference between law-abiding weapons holders and criminals. Guns are an essential tool of trade for primary producers. They rely on various categories of weapon to successfully manage and operate their properties and businesses. They are law-abiding gun owners and weapons licence holders. Frustration with the administration of weapons licensing is often raised with my office by law-abiding firearms owners.

This bill discusses measures to help police detect and investigate criminal activities. Police can only do the best they can with the resources that they have. As I previously said, in his introductory speech the minister said that the government considers the safety of police officers and the broader community to be paramount. According to Saturday's *Courier-Mail*, QPS figures show an increase of 1,015 offences per 100,000 people, from 9,630 in 2015 to 10,065 in 2019. That article stated—

Bond University professor and former detective Terry Goldsworthy questioned whether legislative changes had been no more than window dressing.

It is disappointing that police officers are struggling to cope with inadequate staffing numbers, increasing crime and budget cuts. These are difficult conditions under which we expect police to operate. However, I do not oppose the bill.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.55 pm): Our police do a fabulous job in an increasingly challenging environment. Amendments and improvements to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 aim to improve community safety and the operational efficiency of the QPS, as we have heard quite extensively.

With the emergence of new technologies and the adaption of existing technologies, child sex crime offenders, drug dealers and perpetrators of other serious crimes, including DV, are using password protected devices and cloud services to manage, promote and conceal evidence of their criminal activities. That is increasingly frustrating for law enforcement officers and Queenslanders, as criminal investigations are often faced with laws that make it difficult for police to do their job effectively. That potential ineffectiveness allows people who are guilty of serious crimes to escape conviction, which subsequently diminishes public confidence and puts our communities at risk. Of course, any new law must maintain an acceptable degree of individual freedom and privacy. However, when it comes to keeping pace with advancing technology whilst ensuring that the police can balance the offender's right to privacy with the need to effectively detect and investigate crime, there must be no ambiguity as to the scope of information that can be accessed by our police.


This bill delivers greater clarity of terminology and definition as a priority to ensure that our police can effectively detect, investigate and prosecute offences, no matter where such information may be concealed, including in password protected accounts such as Instagram, Facebook or Outlook.com. It

also tackles outdated definitions. For example, 'controlled activities' as it refers to meetings implies the physical presence of the police officer and a person at the same location. The word 'meetings' will be replaced with the term 'communications between the officer and a person'. By replacing the word 'meetings' with this term, all methods of communication, including email, mobile phone text messaging, social networking communications or meetings may be contemplated when considering the application of the controlled activity provisions.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bolton, adjourned.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Compass Marina


 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.57 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. Today I learned from the member for Redcliffe that dozens of people who enjoy berthing rights at Compass Marina in Scarborough are facing eviction, through no fault of their own. The member for Redcliffe's office has already spoken with a number of those affected, including some who live on the water and call the marina home, and they want answers. The member for Redcliffe is very concerned about those members of her community and the challenges that they are facing. Today my department and I held urgent meetings with the member for Redcliffe as part of our efforts to assist those who live at and enjoy the marina.

What we do know is that the operator of the marina, a tenant of the state government, has not paid rent for this facility since 2012. Despite the fact that subtenants have themselves been paying rent all this time, the operator has refused to pay what is due to the state and the matter is the subject of litigation and is currently listed before the courts. The marina's operator now says it wants to cease operations, meaning that within weeks some tenants risk being kicked out. Locals are saying that they think that is unfair. I absolutely agree with them and I know that the member for Redcliffe does, as well.

On Saturday morning, the member for Redcliffe will be attending a community meeting at Compass Marina to listen to the concerns of locals and hear from the company operating the facility. I encourage all locals who are concerned about what is happening to go along to Scarborough on Saturday and have their say. I will continue to work with the member for Redcliffe and my Department of Transport and Main Roads to get the best outcome for those who live at and enjoy Compass Marina, which is a great part of Redcliffe.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Gympie Electorate, Australia Day Awards

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.00 pm): The Gympie community punches above its weight when it comes to volunteering and giving back to our community. Just how deep the commitment of many locals is was brought home on Australia Day. Three of our own—Marlene Owens, Chris Lhotka and Wayne Sachs—were honoured by our nation in recognition of their service. Marlene and Chris were both awarded an Order of Australia Medal and Wayne received the Ambulance Service Medal. They are remarkable achievements which deservingly elevates them to membership of a select group of Australians who have been recognised for outstanding achievements and services to their community.

Marlene was recognised for her extensive volunteer work across the community. She is a robust advocate and fundraiser for many community and not-for-profit organisations and an extremely dedicated and fierce campaigner for community groups and causes. Marlene's relentless drive to help plug holes in services which are underfunded or unavailable in the Gympie region are well regarded. Despite her own health challenges, Marlene continually puts others before herself. Her fundraising efforts are without fear or favour. Organisations know that with her on their side, they have a tireless hard worker who has an amazing ability to attract and garner support. Marlene is a wonderful example of the values of humility, genuineness and selflessness.

Chris was recognised for his service to the Widgee community through active involvement in the local rural fire brigade. His involvement has spanned more than 35 years, including 10 years as chairman, and now as the brigade's voluntary community education officer. He is also known as a fierce campaigner and robust advocate for the Gympie region. Recent bushfire events have shown the rest of Australia what we already know, that regional communities like Gympie rely on volunteers like Chris.



Wayne Sachs, another fierce campaigner, was recognised for his distinguished and outstanding service to Australia's ambulance organisations. Wayne has served a 46-year career as an ambulance officer, including 25 years as Gympie station's officer in charge and as a voluntary divisional paramedic for St John's Ambulance, Gympie Combined Division. His impressive career as an ambulance officer is only the tip of the iceberg of Wayne's community service. As a councillor on the Cooloola Shire and then the Gympie Regional Council, he was instrumental in promoting the Bruce Highway upgrade to make it safer. He has actively supported organisations such as the Gympie and District Historical Society, Gympie Local Disaster Management Group, Gympie Senior Citizens Association, Gympie Meals on Wheels and the Gympie Health Community Council.

Marlene, Chris and Wayne should be proud of their achievements. Gympie is proud and lucky to count them as one of us.

### **Waterford Electorate, Road Safety**



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.02 pm): I rise tonight to acknowledge and celebrate a win for Waterford. Most importantly, I thank everyone in our community who came together to help fight for change. As a result of taking community action, I am pleased to say that the Kingston and Loganlea roads intersection is getting a much needed upgrade to make it safer for drivers and safer for pedestrians. I brought this issue to the attention of the Minister for Main Roads and was overwhelmed to learn that temporary cameras set up last year to monitor driver behaviour picked up more than 200 red light runners in a single 24-hour period. This makes it one of the worst spots in Logan. In response, the community came together and I was able to present to my colleague the Minister for Main Roads over 200 petition signatures calling for more to be done to improve the safety of the intersection. Thankfully the minister listened and has delivered.

Upgrades are currently underway to roll out the new Hold the Red technology which will make the intersection safer and reduce the chances of a collision. Hold the Red uses video technology to hold red lights at intersections for a longer period of time to prevent any potential collision with a vehicle that runs a red light. The intersection will also have smart pedestrian crossings installed which will adapt the pedestrian signal walk time, depending on walking speed, meaning drivers will spend less time stopped at the lights if no-one is crossing.

With more families moving to Logan, we need to make sure that our roads are safe. The upgrade is also about preparing for Logan's growth. Along with the intersection upgrades, we have secured \$800,000 to invest in a business case so we can undertake planning to widen the increasingly busy Albert Street Bridge.

To each and every one of the 200 residents who signed our petition I say thank you. To the residents that called my office or visited me at a mobile office, this win is for you. Our fight to make Waterford even safer is not yet over. I am now calling on residents in Slacks Creek to join the campaign to make the intersection of Nujooloo and Loganlea roads safe. It is another notorious intersection in need of additional safety upgrades.

Making our community safer does not just end with road safety. I would like to end tonight by giving special thanks to Lissa Duncan, Wendy Hoppe and Annette and Bob Cleary for going above and beyond to work with me and our local police to tackle some local crime issues. Bethania is now an even safer place to live, thanks to this very special group of residents. Working together we can create a safer Waterford.

### **Bundaberg Electorate**



**Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (7.05 pm): Bundaberg is a city with so much to offer. Tonight I want to put on the record my congratulations to a number of residents, businesses and community groups that already this year have achieved a range of great things.

In the first few days of 2020, Centacare hosted their first week-long School Savvy pop-up shop in Bundy, supplying pre-loved uniforms and basic stationery supplies to those families struggling to make ends meet and help Bundy kids to start the new school year. As part of the pop-up shop, owner Aleisha Conway and the ladies from The Hair Lounge On Bourbong showed incredible generosity, donating their time to provide free haircuts for schoolkids.

I also want to voice my congratulations to Hayley, Joel and the team at Fresh Fields Bakery who raised more than \$1,200 for our rural fireys through their green and gold Australia Day lamingtons fundraiser. Hayley and Joel donated \$2 from each packet of lamingtons sold and also matched every donation from their own pocket, bringing the total to \$1,264.

**An honourable member:** How many did you eat?

**Mr BATT:** None, I did not eat any. Our much loved cafes—Water Street Kitchen, HSG At The Gardens and Indulge—have all received Readers' Choice Awards for the 2020 Australian Good Food Guide. I want to pass on my congratulations to owners Jen Cameron, Alex Cameron, Dion Taylor and Mitchell White on this fantastic recognition of their incredible businesses, each incorporating so much of our amazing local produce into their menus.


A parliament favourite, Kalki Moon Distilling & Brewing Company which brewed the Speakers Gin last year is also continuing to kick goals with their Classic Gin being voted No. 1 in the Hottest 100 gins for 2019. Their Premium Gin and Navy Strength Gin, my personal favourite, also placed in the top 15.

While on my feet, I would also like to congratulate Larine Stratham and Nikki Sorbello who, on Valentine's Day, launched Crush Magazine, Bundy's newest lifestyle magazine designed to showcase our region's best offerings in food, fashion, lifestyle, health, industry and the arts. This magazine has been a long time in the making, so a big well done to Larine and Nikki on the first of many fantastic publications.

I would also like to mention residents Ben Bartlett, Tanya O'Shea and Leslie Lowe who have been recognised for their invaluable contributions to our community. Ben received a QFES Australia Day Achievement Award for his dedication to our local SES. Tanya and Leslie are both CQ University Alumni Award winners. Tanya is the Managing Director of Impact Community Services and received an Industry Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding and significant leadership and community services. Leslie, who is the Managing Director of TechNology Indigenous Corporation, received the Social Impact Award for developing sustainable Indigenous industries.

I could go on forever. There are countless residents doing fantastic things in our city and I feel incredibly humbled to represent such a great community. Congratulations to all.

### **Miller Electorate, Road Safety; Medway Creek Rail Disaster**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.08 pm): I have been very committed to road safety since the first day I took my seat in this House. As the minister, I have brought in a range of penalties like double demerit points for repeated mobile phone use—the tougher new penalties—and we will see cameras rolled out to enforce our tougher mobile phone penalties so we can save lives on our roads. I am also equally committed to road safety in my local constituency.

Sadly, I can report to the House that we witnessed an embarrassing revelation last week from Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner. The unelected Lord Mayor last week revealed to a fellow councillor that he avoided submitting a proposal to reduce the maximum speed limit through Annerley Junction shopping strip on Ipswich Road to the Speed Management Committee because he knew what the answer would be. This has been taken as a major affront to local Annerley residents and to Junction Park State School parents who have been campaigning hard for many years to reduce the speed on Ipswich Road between Venner Road and the Annerley Police Station to prevent more pedestrian fatalities at the busy main street.


Lord Mayor Schrinner was required to submit speed limit change proposals to the Speed Management Committee for endorsement where police and Transport and Main Roads engineers could scrutinise and analyse proposals. The unelected Lord Mayor did not do this to ensure he got his way by keeping the speed at 60 kilometres per hour, effectively rorting the process. I am standing with Annerley residents and Junction Park State School parents to call on the Lord Mayor to do the right thing and submit this item to the Speed Management Committee for full consideration. This 16-year-old council has let the Annerley community down time and time again. They are still putting lives at risk on our local roads. The request is simple: put safety first and refer the speed limit of Ipswich Road to police and TMR engineers for review. Let the experts decide and not the politicians.

Junction Park State School is literally 50 metres away and yet the Lord Mayor has shamefully ignored the speed limit reduction calls that would help protect local schoolkids as young as four and five. There has already been one too many fatalities up there. We do not need another one to occur. We were led to believe that it was a review of Annerley Junction shopping strip from Venner Road down to the police station, when in fact it was the whole section from Woollongabba to Moorooka. This is again a deception of the community. Let the experts decide.

I would also like to acknowledge that Wednesday, 26 February 2020 marks 60 years since the Medway Creek rail disaster. It is one of the worst rail disasters in Queensland's history, which sadly took the lives of seven people—three train crew and four customers—and injured 43 more. The

Rockhampton-bound *Midlander* train, carrying 120 customers, plunged into the flooded Medway Creek after the bridge it was traveling on collapsed. Tonight I would like to acknowledge the actions of those brave individuals who helped and pay my respects to those who were lost in this tragic accident. Our thoughts continue to go out to all those families impacted by this tragic event.

### Airport Link Tunnel

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.11 pm): Three minutes is nowhere near enough time to deal with my concerns about the treatment of constituents of mine, Dr Gerry and Mrs Christine Winter. The Winters live at 1 Lodge Road, Kalinga in the electorate of Clayfield. Their home sits on top of the Airport Link tunnel, built by the Thiess-John Holland consortium, under an agreement entered into with the then Bligh Labor government. That government gave responsibility for overseeing the state's interest during construction to a company called City North Infrastructure, better known as CNI. The tunnel is now operated by Transurban under a lease agreement. Transurban bought the lease of the tunnel from the Airport Link consortium several years ago.

The Winter's problems began in 2011 when a large sinkhole appeared in their backyard. Dr Winter, an engineer himself, suspected the damage had been caused by the construction of the tunnels. He undertook investigations, he reviewed material and he approached many people with evidence supporting his claims, including myself. In 2012 I thought the matter had been resolved. I table a letter from CNI identifying the action taken by that organisation in addressing Dr Winter's then concerns.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 July 2012, from the Chief Executive Officer, City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd, Mr David Lynch, to the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding Mr Gerry Winter and City North Infrastructure [300].

However, that was not the case and Dr Winter has fought a long and lonely battle to get some form of acknowledgement and redress for the damage he has suffered. I wrote to the department on 8 November last year outlining Dr Winter's claims and requesting action be taken to settle his claim. I table a copy of that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 8 November 2019, from the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Neil Scales, regarding Mr Gerry Winter and City North Infrastructure [299].

I have not received a reply to the 8 November letter. Transurban has attempted to broker a resolution but to date there has been none. In my view, the Thiess-John Holland consortium and its successors are shamefully stonewalling. The department apparently accepts Dr Winter has a valid claim and in 2018 asked him to obtain valuations to assess compensation. The department also appears to be stonewalling and no one wants to accept responsibility.


This is shameful treatment of the Winters. Dr Winter is 76. Mrs Winter is suffering stress. This matter has now been strung out for over eight years. It is long past time the Winters received fair and just compensation and the courtesy of decent treatment from the department and the contractors involved. The minister and department must not avoid their responsibility. The minister and the department must act to resolve this deplorable situation and allow the Winters to move on with their lives. To do anything less would be to aid and abet a huge multinational avoid its responsibilities to an ordinary family that deserves better.

There are other issues arising from Airport Link. I will be raising in particular the issues of Ms Christine le Poidevin of Kalinga who is also suffering from a similar treatment. On behalf of the Winters and Ms le Poidevin, I will not be letting this matter rest.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Members in the gallery are not to make any noise.

### Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee; Mount Gravatt Environment Group; Pollinator Link

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.15 pm): I rise to speak about two groups and a unique project in the Mansfield electorate working towards improving our environment. The Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, known as B4C, was established as an incorporated catchment and landcare group in 1997. The Bulimba Creek catchment is a complex network of creeks and major tributaries, extending through the suburbs of Mount Gravatt, Mansfield and Carindale. B4C provides an incredible

range of programs, projects, services and events in the community. Their sustainability centre houses a nursery, community garden and ecosystems services unit depot while also delivering community workshops. It is always a pleasure working with Wayne and all the team at B4C. I commend their wonderful work in the catchment.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Mount Gravatt Environment Group. The aim of the group is the restoration and strengthening of the Mount Gravatt Conservation Reserve and linking to Bulimba Creek catchment habitats. The Palaszczuk government is supporting these great community efforts by ensuring that essential habitat for koalas is protected in the Mansfield electorate. On 7 February, Minister Enoch released new state-of-the-art koala mapping to support new koala planning regulations in South-East Queensland. These are the strongest koala protections Queensland has ever seen. Some 577,174 hectares of land across South-East Queensland is now mapped as koala priority areas. They are large, connected areas that include koala habitat as well as areas that are suitable for habitat restoration. Clearing of koala habitat areas within koala priority areas is now prohibited under these new regulations.

Contrast this with the LNP, which opposed Labor's sensible tree clearing laws. Restoring and strengthening the ecosystems on our mountain and its corridors have positive community and environmental outcomes. Wildlife does not recognise human created property boundaries or roads. Effective habitat consolidation and linking requires the cooperation of a diverse range of property owners—private, corporate, local, state and federal governments, community and sporting groups, schools, our TAFE and Griffith University. Therefore, a key part of our strategy is to identify investments in the environment that also deliver excellent community and business outcomes.

I would like to commend Michael Fox for establishing the Pollinator Link project, a not-for-profit social enterprise creating wildlife corridors for urban spaces. The concept is to use backyards, parks, school grounds and even unit block balconies to link patches of bushland habitat fragmented by our urban environment. I commend these great community leaders.

### **Whitsunday Electorate, Australia Day Awards**



**Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (7.18 pm): Tonight I rise in the people's house proudly wearing this Seaforth badge—and so I should. It was only a couple of weeks ago that one of the great men of the Whitsunday electorate—in fact, Seaforth itself—was bestowed the honour by the Mackay Regional Council as our Citizen of the Year. I speak of none other than retiree Charlie Symons.

Charlie is synonymous with our local community and various community groups and has been for a long time. He was, as I understand, a founding father of the Habana Rural Fire Brigade. He helped form the Habana & Districts Progress Association and in more times, in the last 20 years since he retired to Seaforth, the Seaforth & Districts Progress Association. He is a household name in the country and western community. He was involved also with community radio station 4CRM. I could go on and on. I am sure that I speak for many constituents, not just Seaforth but the cane fields of Habana and the Hibiscus Coast, in saying: Charlie, it is a richly deserved honour being the Citizen of the Year.


I also acknowledge the other award recipients under the auspices of the Mackay Regional Council: the Young Citizen of the Year—Olivia Swindells; the Lori Burgess Community Volunteer Award recipient—Kathryn Andrews; the Environmental Achievement Award recipient—Keith Day; the Arts and Culture Award recipient—Jana Bassan; the Junior Sports Award recipient—Cooper Whitestyles; the Senior Sports Award recipient—Emma Forster; and the Community Group Award recipient—the Mackay Hockey Association. I see the member for Mackay entering the chamber. I am sure that she would echo those sentiments in acknowledging all of those local community groups and individuals.

I want to give a really big shout-out to Flying Officer Michelle Brayford of the 110 Squadron of the Australian Air Force Cadets who is our Whitsundays Citizen of the Year. Well done, Michelle. Well done for what you have done in the community, particularly with netball. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that. Our other award recipients in the Whitsundays include Jack Handley, who was awarded our Young Citizen of the Year. He graduated from Proserpine State High School last year. Well done, Jack. I know that Don McDermott, the principal at that school, and many people were pleased—chuffed to bits—to see him pick up that award.

Our Senior Citizen of the Year is John Penhallurick. Our Senior Sportsperson Award recipient is Ramon Hutchinson. He is well known in martial arts. Our Junior Sportsperson Award recipient is Mikhaila Flint. She is a superfish. Remember the name—Mikhaila Flint. Our Sports Administrator Award recipient is Mark Erickson. He is also involved with the Cannonvale Cannons. He knows Mikhaila very well. They are doing some great things there at the Cannons.

Our Senior Cultural Award recipient is Jo-Anne Fraser. Our Junior Cultural Award is William Kelly. The Wally Hinschen Volunteer of the Year Award went to Jeni Borellini. She is a great ambassador for the Whitsundays. She puts a smile on so many faces—people from far and wide, from all corners of the earth. Well done, Jeni. The Community Event of the Year went to the Paul Bowen Challenge. It brings so many tourists to the Whitsundays. Well done to the Proserpine Whitsunday Junior Rugby League volunteers.

### Stretton Electorate, Local Restaurants

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.21 pm): It is no secret that our local restaurants are quiet at the moment. Restaurants are reporting that trade is down by up to 50 per cent and managers are talking about having to lay off staff and even close. This has been extensively covered in the *Courier-Mail* and the *Southern Star* recently. Obviously this is not something that I or anyone in the community want to see happen.

The reason people are not going to our local restaurants is not based on medical advice but is mainly simply fear. Coronavirus is not on the yum cha trolley or the banquet menu. It is not hiding in the wontons or the special fried rice, but some people seem to think that it is. I want to make it clear that our local area is safe. Chinese restaurants are safe. What we need to do is get out and support our local restaurants, support our local businesses and support our local jobs.

Madam Deputy Speaker, whether you like beef and black bean, sweet and sour pork, kung pao chicken or are keen on yum cha—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I take all of those interjections from the honourable members. I encourage all honourable members to go out to the community and support our local Chinese restaurants and also show your chopsticks in support. In that respect, I have started a campaign with the hashtag #showyourchopsticks. I note that the member for Southport will be supportive of that. I encourage everyone to get involved and support local restaurants and jobs. When you go to a local Chinese restaurant, post to social media—hold up your chopsticks #showyourchopsticks.

The Premier and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs visited our local area recently to enjoy some yum cha. I have invited the Minister for Education to come and enjoy some delicious food at Haoke in Sunnybank Hills this Friday evening.

**Dr Lynham:** What about me?

**Mr PEGG:** You are invited, Minister. I welcome you as well. It will be my shout. In fact, all honourable members are welcome to join me on Friday evening at Haoke in Sunnybank Hills. You are all welcome. In fact, after parliament adjourned last night, the member for Cook and I enjoyed some very tasty Cantonese cuisine which was great.

**Dr Lynham** interjected.


**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the minister. He makes some very good points. Of course I welcome the announcement of the \$27 million package to support Queensland's recovery from the coronavirus outbreak. What we all need to do is get out there and support our local businesses, our local restaurants and our local jobs. Finally, I say: show your chopsticks, get out there and support our local Chinese restaurants.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Will you be tabling those chopsticks, member for Stretton?

**Mr PEGG:** I am happy to table the chopsticks, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** For the good of the table office, I will decline your offer.

### Palmview, Public Transport

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.24 pm): Despite thousands of young families and retirees moving into the Palmview area in recent years, local residents still do not have access to a local bus service. There are no buses to help kids get to school, no buses to get to the doctors and no buses to get to the shops. It simply is not good enough.

The Sunshine Coast is a wonderful place to live, but with the population growth we are experiencing and the consequent increase in higher density housing, adequate public transport is more important than ever. The design of new estates across the Sunshine Coast is predicated on the provision of adequate public transport services.

Local resident and a mum of three Shirley Scott has told me about the lack of public transport services in Palmview and how it is greatly impacting on her family. She has had to resort to paying for an Uber or a taxi just to get her children to and from school every day. Shirley's daughter heads back to university at the end of the month which will mean further travel costs for her one-income family.

The lack of public transport for Palmview residents is resulting in more cars on the road which is placing more and more pressure on local roads at peak times, especially around our local schools. Families and retirees in Palmview have been very patient and they understand that planning for these services takes time, but we now have thousands of residents living in a master planned community in the middle of the Sunshine Coast with no public transport whatsoever. While locals wait, parents are forced to drive their kids to schools across the Sunshine Coast, putting even more pressure on the roads around schools—roads that cannot cope with the traffic as it is.

It is not just about young families. There are many retirees who rely on public transport services right across the Sunshine Coast. When retirees cannot drive and there is no public transport, the only option is for them to use costly taxis and Uber. The result is retirees who feel trapped. It simply is not good enough.

With 17,000 residents expected to call Palmview home in the near future, the area needs public transport and school bus services now. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has said many times that he wants to see more Queenslanders using public transport. I support that view, but actions speak louder than words. I call on the minister to put his money where his mouth is and make the provision of bus services in Palmview an immediate priority.

### Warner, Housing Development



**Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.27 pm): Last night the residents in my community slept very soundly as the Moreton Bay Regional Council unanimously rejected a development application to make one industrial lot of land into 129 small lot houses in Warner yesterday. The issue of development in Warner has been looming for a number of years now, and over time we have seen community awareness and activism grow. In fact, I went to the last election opposing council's Warner Investigation Area plan and reinforcing my commitment to protect koala habitat; to deliver congestion-busting road and intersection upgrades; and to have no heavy industry or overdevelopment, a sustainable non-industrial future for the quarry and the sandblasting site, additional public consultation and stronger laws to stop land clearing.

It became very obvious to my community that the approval of this development in Warner would be a blow to both the koala and the wallum froglet and to the ecosystem more broadly. We know there are approximately 25 koalas located through this area—16 of which are tagged and tracked thanks to CSR's efforts. We know their names and we know that they matter.

One hundred and sixty residents lodged submissions against the development voted down yesterday. They cited the lack of schools, medical centres, drainage and stormwater infrastructure, and traffic issues. I understand that the protection of the koalas in this location has been a topic of discussion in the media.

Let me put this on the record about the protection of the koalas. The Moreton Bay Regional Council wrote to the LGAQ in August stating that they were not going to provide specific local areas for inclusion in the state's mapping. As the local member, I have raised this issue and my serious concerns directly with the minister. Minister Enoch has assured me that she has asked the director-general to ensure that the parcel of land in Warner has the appropriate protections. 'Appropriate protections' means equal or greater protections prior to the recent change. Yesterday, I wrote to Minister Enoch requesting the development in Warner be included as a koala project case study in the koala conservation strategy. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 18 February 2020, from the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Nikki Boyd MP, to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leanne Enoch, regarding biodiversity [\[301\]](#).

Today, she has agreed to my request and that will occur. Let us be clear: these are the strongest koala protections that the Palaszczuk Labor government has introduced in Queensland's history. Our community expects all of us at all levels of government to work together to enhance our neighbourhoods while protecting our precious environment. That means that we need to engage, to understand and ultimately to deliver a better outcome.

I again extend my congratulations to the Warner Working Group and Save our Community Warner for the determined and impassioned campaign that they all ran. It has been a pleasure to work with you and for you for the betterment of our neighbourhood.

The House adjourned at 7.30 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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting