



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 20 February 2020

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THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2020



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 13: 2019-20—Local government entities: 2018-19 results of financial audits*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report 13: 2019-20—Local government entities: 2018-19 results of financial audits [\[302\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 28 January 2020 the member for Toowoomba North wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House during statements made on 17 October 2019.

The member's complaint relates to two statements by the minister with regard to the member for Toowoomba North's travel to New Zealand in June 2019. First, the minister stated that the member stayed in Kerikeri; and second, the minister made imputations that the trip was not for legitimate purposes. I sought further information from the minister about the allegation made against him in accordance with standing order 296(5).

I have considered the matter, and while the minister did make a factually incorrect statement, there was no evidence that he knew the statement was incorrect at the time of making it. I note that the minister has made an adequate explanation for his statements; therefore, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

Speaker's Ruling—Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

On 28 January 2020, the Member for Toowoomba North wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House during statements made on 17 October 2019.

The member's complaint relates to two statements by the Minister in regard to the Member for Toowoomba North's travel to New Zealand in June 2019. First, the Minister stated the member stayed in Kerikeri; and second, the Minister made imputations the trip was not for legitimate purposes.

In his letter to me, the Member for Toowoomba North contended that the Minister's statements were untrue and misleading. The member stated that he was in New Zealand solely to visit three prisons, and that he only used Kerikeri as a transit location. He did not stay in Kerikeri.

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

The Minister first contended that I should not consider the matter because 103 days have passed since the statements were made. However, I note that the Member for Toowoomba North raised this matter in the House on 22 October 2019, making a personal explanation with respect to his travel to New Zealand and calling on the Minister to correct the record and apologise.

I believe the Member for Toowoomba North has then waited an appropriate period of time to allow the Minister to address the matter in the House, and as he has failed to do so, the member has now raised the matter with me. As such, I determined the allegations had been raised in compliance with standing orders and I further considered the matter.

With respect to the allegation that the member stayed in Kerikeri, on the evidence of the Member for Toowoomba North this statement was factually incorrect.

However, the Minister stated that he relied on the Annual Report of Expenditure Against the General Travel Allocation. As this report listed both Auckland and Kerikeri as destinations or centres the Member for Toowoomba North visited during his travel to New Zealand, the Minister argued that a reasonable person could draw the conclusion that the member stayed in both destinations.

With respect to the imputations that the travel was not for legitimate purposes, the Minister's statements were couched as questions, rather than statements of fact.

On the information before me, I considered that the Minister has made an adequate explanation in relation to his statements under Standing Order 269(4).

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

I will not be tabling the correspondence in accordance with the usual practice, as it refers to matters that were subsequently withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Finally, I want to make some more general comments about members making allegations against other members in the House including, but not limited to, allegations about the use or misuse of allowances and entitlements.

Members need to understand that each time an allegation is levelled at another member, especially about allowances or entitlements, it adds to the public's poor perception of members generally. Inferences and imputations across the chamber on other members reflect poorly on all members collectively. Each of us should strive to improve the public's perception of members, not seek to tarnish that reputation.

Allowances and entitlements are provided to members as tools of our trade. If members do not or cannot use them in the legitimate manner for which they are provided, then as a group we will become insular, inward-looking and bereft of the benefit of ideas and experiences elsewhere that could benefit Queensland.

I am not saying that members should be unaccountable for their actions. Far from it. However, for the reputation of not only individual members but members as a collective I urge all members to consider using the appropriate complaint mechanisms and ensure they are fully informed before making imputations and inferences against other members in this House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Anthony's school, Alexandra Hills, in the electorate of Capalaba.

PETITION

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

Ipswich, Safe Night Precinct Licence

From 163 petitioners, requesting the House to retain the current safe night precinct licence in Ipswich [\[303\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Public Health Act 2005:

[304](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation (No. 2) 2020, No. 13

[305](#) Public Health Act 2005: Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation (No. 2) 2020, No. 13, explanatory notes

[306](#) Public Health Act 2005: Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)) Regulation (No. 2) 2020, No. 13, human rights certificate

MEMBER'S PAPER

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[307](#) Nonconforming petition regarding additional bus services between Woodford and Caboolture

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Camp Hill, Deaths

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Our city, our state and our nation have been left shaken, appalled and desperately saddened at the unimaginable tragedy that unfolded in the suburbs of Brisbane yesterday. An unthinkable act of violence took the lives of three beautiful, innocent children as their mother—like thousands of other Queensland mums—left early yesterday to take her kids to school. This young mother, Hannah Baxter, died overnight from the horrific injuries she suffered in this terrible incident.

The grief being felt by the family and friends of this young woman and her children is beyond description. My deepest sympathies go out to them, to the people of Raven Street, Camp Hill, who witnessed this atrocity and tried to help, to the first responders who faced such a confronting scene and to the community who will struggle to come to terms with this tragedy. I know that every member of this House will stand by your side.

Inspector-General Emergency Management, Review

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): In 2018 Queensland joined the list of states exposed to the risks of major and widespread bushfires. Eight thousand people were evacuated from Gracemere near Rockhampton. At Eungulla, near Mackay, the rainforest burned. Years of drought and record high temperatures combined to create literal firestorms. For the first time we used the words 'catastrophic fire conditions'. At the end of the fire season the Inspector-General Emergency Management reviewed our performance in meeting those threats. He made several recommendations. As it turned out, it would be barely a year before we would be threatened again. I am pleased to say that in 2019 we passed with flying colours. Today I table the next IGEM review of what we learned from our baptism of fire, and as Premier of this state it makes me proud.

Tabled paper: Inspector-General Emergency Management: Report titled 'Queensland Bushfires Review: Report 2: 2019-20' [\[308\]](#).

It shows how what we learned in 2018 helped us to deal with what followed in 2019—for example, how targeted hazard reductions saved Stanthorpe and Peregian; how all agencies worked together proactively to guide our preparations and response; how we communicated with fire affected communities through virtual town hall meetings and emergency alerts; and how the bravery and ingenuity of Queensland personnel knows no limits. For example, standard practice for water-bombing aircraft had been for pilots to land and refill their aircraft. That was until a Queenslanders thought of a better way. In 2019 our pilots stayed in their aircraft while SES crews ran the hoses. This made their work comparable to the rapid efficiency of a Formula 1 pit crew. Our planes landed, refilled and went back to work inside three minutes.

As we have seen with fires, every minute counts. Queensland has more exposure to the worst nature can throw at us than any other state. We learn from each one and these fires are no different. The fires that engulfed communities in southern states over Christmas were terrifying. There was a lot of criticism particularly directed at the Prime Minister, but not from me. I say then—and I say now—that the best way to prepare for the next natural disaster is to learn from the last. We must listen to the experts and we must plan. Bushfires must be part of the agenda for the upcoming COAG. As we have seen, the gap between fire seasons is shrinking. Lives are at risk and time is running out.

Bushfires, Aerial Resources

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): This has been an overwhelming and tragic bushfire season for Australia. Here in Queensland we must now always be prepared for bushfire conditions we did not have in years gone by. We have seen the outstanding bravery and skill of emergency services personnel in keeping lives and property safe. I have also seen the growing role of aircraft to help—obviously the Leader of the Opposition is not interested in this at all.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am sorry, but this is really important to Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please continue. I did not hear any interjections being made. I urge you to continue with your statement.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have also seen the growing role of aircraft to help crews on the ground to better respond to and contain bushfires. These firefighting aircraft have become an integral part of our bushfire response. In particular, the potency of a large air tanker was clearly on display in September protecting Queensland communities from devastating fire fronts from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast and inland to Stanthorpe.

Water-bombing efforts were of immense value at Peregian, Sarabah, Stanthorpe and Pechey. However, while we greatly appreciate being able to request assistance in times of need in Queensland, with fires raging both sides of the border the tanker was often already busy with New South Wales fires or had to turn back en route to Queensland. That is why I asked the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services to look at Queensland securing its own large air tanker capability to ensure our communities are protected from the next bushfire season and well into the future. I am pleased to announce today that my government has acted to ensure Queensland firefighters have the aerial resources they need. We have allocated \$15.3 million over five years plus \$3.1 million in ongoing costs to enable the state to enter into a five-year arrangement, which means a large air tanker will be ready for the next bushfire season in Queensland.

Protecting the lives and property of Queenslanders is my first priority, which is why we will fund the aircraft ourselves in the absence of any federal support. I have written to the Prime Minister numerous times requesting his assistance to acquire this complex and costly strategic capability not just for Queensland but also for our nation. The Prime Minister has not provided any funding commitments beyond that announced at the height of the crisis—they are for this current season only—leaving Queensland and the other states in doubt over the federal government's commitment to aerial firefighting. It is disappointing that the federal government has not provided national leadership on strategic aerial firefighting assets. Queensland, however, remains committed to working with other states and territories, and with Canberra, to improve the nation's bushfire response capabilities overall.

North Queensland Stadium

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): I have great news for Townsville. It is a momentous time for Townsville and North Queensland with the impending opening of the North Queensland stadium. All three tiers of government have worked collaboratively to deliver this \$293 million world-class facility—a stadium built by North Queensland for North Queensland. The lion's share of it—\$190 million—was invested by my government. The stadium delivers on a major commitment that my government made to the people of Townsville and North Queensland. The North Queensland stadium is also a catalyst for regeneration in Townsville city and for investment in the North Queensland region more broadly.

This weekend the stadium is ready for the community to take a first look as part of an open day on Saturday. I will be there as well as my three MPs. The stadium open day will allow locals and visitors to get their first sneak peak of the stadium. The free community celebration is designed to allow everyone to explore the unique stadium design. Visitors will be able to walk through the various stands to find where they want to book their seats for future events, and they will also have an opportunity to view the other facilities. While tickets for the open day are free, registration is required and this is a process which will allow us to test the ticketing system prior to upcoming major events—such as the Sir Elton John concert and the first Cowboys home game—as well as allow people to travel free on the park-and-ride shuttles.

Open day will not just be a celebration for the community. It will also be a celebration for another great Queenslanders from North Queensland, Johnathan Thurston. We will officially unveil the JT statue tomorrow, marking the first opportunity for the community to see the life-sized bronze monument. This statue will stand tall in the northern plaza area and welcome those who attend games and events at this world-class stadium. It is a great honour to be able to create a tribute to a man who is such a legend both on and off the football field. Our great sporting heroes are often our children's greatest inspirations, and I hope this statue serves as a lasting reminder of not only JT's talent but also his commitment to

helping the local community get active. Let me finish by saying that the North Queensland stadium is an extraordinary venue, and I am looking forward to attending not only the open day but many more events at this stadium.

Emu Swamp Dam

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): I have good news for the Granite Belt as well as for the member for Southern Downs. You can thank me later. I am pleased to advise the House that my government will advance funds to further progress the Emu Swamp Dam towards construction. As the House knows—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, I think you require my protection!

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government has done more for the Granite Belt than any other government. For Emu Swamp Dam, we have already committed \$13.6 million, and that commitment is solid, but the proponent had asked for a special advance and we have listened. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy will advance \$6 million to Granite Belt Water to allow them to get on with early works. The advance will allow Granite Belt Water to develop and release tender documents for the design and construction of the dam. They will also be able to fund developing contracts for their irrigator customers. Importantly, Granite Belt Water will be able to start work to meet the conditions associated with the total funding for the project.

This is an \$84 million proposal to dam the Severn River and provide water to local farms via a 117-kilometre pipe network. The distribution network will include solar power generation and large-scale battery storage to power the pumps. The dam could provide up to 3,900 megalitres of water every year to local farmers. That means jobs in Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt. It means young people and families staying in the region, spending their pay packets at the local stores and sending their kids to the school. I am proud that my government is making this important contribution to a highly productive and economically significant region of Queensland.

Regional Queensland Forum

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): Finally, my government's regional Queensland forums continue to shape the economic future of Queensland's regions. The first round of forums were held in Longreach, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Toowoomba in October 2019. The second round of these forums will take place across the state next Monday. Jobs and economic development are at the heart of everything we do, and they will be discussed as key topics at the forums to be held next Monday in Roma, Winton, Weipa, Cloncurry, Moranbah, Gladstone and Cherbourg with representatives from the local community joining Queensland ministers and regional members of parliament.

Forum discussions will centre on skills and training, drought and water security, support for small businesses, emerging industries, tourism including Indigenous tourism, and access to government services. My government is committed to supporting and investing in rural and regional Queensland, and these forums give regions a strong voice to talk to government. Input from forum members today will help inform the development of local action plans.

Inspector-General Emergency Management, Review; Bushfires, Aerial Resources

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.46 am): The Inspector-General Emergency Management has now handed down its review into last year's bushfires at Stanthorpe, Sarabah and Peregian Springs. As the Premier said, the review found strong and continuous enhancement in the state's bushfire preparation, mitigation and overall firefighting response. We pride ourselves on a culture of continuous improvement in Queensland to ensure our disaster management arrangements remain world-class.

IGEM identified pre-season preparedness, hazard reduction burns and water-bombing techniques as highlights of the Queensland bushfire campaign—measures that undeniably saved homes and businesses. Community surveys found high levels of household preparedness, with two-thirds of survey respondents in the bushfire areas confirming they had partially or fully prepared a household emergency plan, an emergency kit, an evacuation plan and an evacuation kit.

The Premier mentioned a particular case study praised by IGEM, and that is the State Emergency Service aircraft handling. The purchase of a hangar at the Toowoomba City Aerodrome has provided the QFES State Air Operations Unit with a hub for training and innovation support. This has allowed

QFES to train some of its SES personnel to replenish water and foam in water-bombing aircraft—a practice successfully implemented at both Toowoomba and Stanthorpe during the September fires. It is something I know our orange army is incredibly proud of and something that QFES is committed to grow into future campaigns.

I would like to once more place on record my deep admiration and appreciation for our emergency services and those communities who endured the unprecedented and extraordinary bushfire season last year. As the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, it is my job to ensure Queensland has the necessary capability to effectively prevent and respond to the threat of bushfires in Queensland. That is why, as the Premier has announced this morning, the Palaszczuk government has committed more than \$15 million to secure a large air tanker for Queensland. Firefighting aircraft have become an integral part of our bushfire response. This commitment guarantees that, for the next five fire seasons, Queensland has its own large-scale water bomber. With both Queensland and New South Wales enduring unprecedented bushfires at the same time, it is no longer feasible for us to share this resource.

There were instances last year when the LAT was heading to Queensland from New South Wales and had to be redirected back for more urgent business. The Prime Minister refused to support a Queensland based large air tanker. The Premier said we would go it alone, and that is exactly what we have done. I thank the Premier for her drive, her commitment and her support to QFES for this project. Our firefighters are world class, and it is only fitting that their resources are too. For the next five years QFES crews can look to the sky as we add a significant and strategic overhead resource crewed by arguably some of the bravest pilots and crews on the planet.

Board of Treasurers Meeting, Native Title

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.49 am): Tomorrow in Melbourne I will be meeting with my state and territory counterparts for the Board of Treasurers meeting. The New South Wales and Victorian governments devised the Board of Treasurers forum as it was becoming increasingly clear that the Commonwealth was not bringing matters of national significance to the peak meeting of treasurers, the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

At tomorrow's meeting state and territory treasurers will discuss responses to coronavirus, the bushfires, tax reform as well as a national system of native title compensation. I will outline for my colleagues the Palaszczuk Labor government's \$27.25 million response to the coronavirus outbreak, the largest response in the country to date. I have also put the important issue of native title compensation on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

Since the Mabo decision of 1992 and the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993, native title rights have been formally recognised by federal and state governments. The Native Title Act also established a legal entitlement to compensation for native title holders for certain acts of government. It is time for all Australian governments to honour their obligations for native title compensation, not least the Commonwealth government.

The Palaszczuk government will aim to meet our legal obligations in a way that builds stronger relationships with native title holders and deliver outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that contribute to closing the gap. Today I also table the Palaszczuk government's second *Queensland Closing the Gap: Snapshot report card 2019*.

Tabled paper. Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships: Report titled 'Queensland Closing the Gap: Snapshot Report Card 2019' [[309](#)].

This report card demonstrates that, while there is still much more work to do to improve the lives of First Nation peoples, Queensland continues to play a key role in the national Closing the Gap agenda. Of the seven targets, Queensland is on track to achieve its target for early childhood education enrolment and to halve the gap in year 12 or equivalent attainment for 20- to 24-year-olds by 2020. Queensland has also demonstrated progress to close the gap in year 3 reading and has almost halved the gap in year 5 reading and numeracy and year 9 numeracy. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders continue to have the highest life expectancy nationally.

While employment continues to be challenging for all jurisdictions, the Palaszczuk Labor government is creating opportunities through investments in programs and infrastructure like the Youth Employment Program, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Works for Queensland and Remote Indigenous Land and Infrastructure Program projects. The Palaszczuk government has worked with local communities to invest \$4 million in splash parks for Mapoon, Napranum and Pormpuraaw, and another \$1 million towards the new Palm Island retail precinct. We are working with stakeholders to

ensure Closing the Gap targets that are developed deliver meaningful change for individuals and communities alike that meet individual as well as collective need through genuine partnership led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and communities.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to supporting our ongoing responsibilities to Closing the Gap, but improved social, economic and cultural outcomes need to be more than just better service delivery. They need to be founded on a better and fairer relationship. That is why our government has embarked on a journey with Queenslanders to advance the historic Path to Treaty reform, a reform grounded in the spirit of the Uluru Statement from the Heart—voice, treaty, truth. Earlier this month I was privileged to receive the report of the treaty working group and eminent panel that outlined the views of more than 1,700 Queenslanders from across the state. The Queensland government will now thoroughly consider the eminent persons panel report and recommendations and provide a response in the coming months.

Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.53 am): This week we saw the end of Holden in Australia. Holden was a symbol of the great Australian car industry, backed in by former Labor prime minister Ben Chifley but then chased out by the federal LNP government who in their heart of hearts—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs.

Mr DICK:—could not stand manufacturing and the quality, full-time, unionised jobs that went with it.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DICK: While the federal LNP seem hell-bent on turning our country into a branch office economy, the Palaszczuk Labor government is fighting hard to build up Queensland manufacturing.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Member for Maryborough and member for Chatsworth, you are quarrelling across the chamber. You are both warned under the standing orders. Member for Southern Downs, you are skating on thin ice.

Mr DICK: That is why our government made a \$30 million commitment—the only party to do so in the last state election—to establish manufacturing hubs in each regional area of Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton to drive this important sector while bolstering local jobs. I am pleased to report to the House that we have delivered on that commitment, because Labor delivers on its promises. All three regional manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton commenced operations in April 2019 from the department's regional offices.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: It is no wonder they are interjecting, because they hate Queensland manufacturing. Since they started work in April last year, the three hubs have moved into their own premises. In September last year the Townsville hub premises were opened with a strong focus on advanced metal production and food transformation, and I know how strongly the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra support this hub.

Following this I travelled to Cairns last December with Minister Fentiman to officially open the Cairns manufacturing hub at TAFE Queensland's Cairns campus. This hub is backed to the hilt by the members for Cairns, Cook, Barron River and also you, Mr Speaker. Just last week I was proud to join the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in Rockhampton to open that great Central Queensland city's manufacturing hub, located at the Central Queensland University's Rockhampton North campus.

The Cairns hub is focused on marine, aviation and food manufacturing. The Townsville hub is focused on food transformation, advanced manufacturing and advanced metal production, while the Rockhampton hub will target Central Queensland's key manufacturing strengths of metal production, food innovation and our state's mighty rail industry. The year 2019 was a busy one for the Cairns manufacturing hub. The Cairns hub has directly supported the Far North Queensland food incubator, where a group of local food experts are collaborating to support early stage food processors commercialise and scale up their products. With the incubator now up and running, FNQ's food manufacturing sector is powering ahead.

The Townsville hub is working closely with North Queensland manufacturers to build on existing local expertise, to encourage greater collaboration and to support manufacturers to access new supply and market opportunities, while the Rockhampton hub is already conducting outreach work with local businesses and, I am pleased to say, local schools showcasing to local school students possible pathways to manufacturing jobs. This \$30 million Labor investment in regional manufacturing hubs, including our \$13½ million Manufacturing Hubs Grants Program, is assisting local regional manufacturers to create jobs, improve productivity and build international competitiveness. Everyone in this House knows that only the Palaszczuk Labor government will back regional manufacturing and regional manufacturing jobs.

Queensland Ambulance Service; Coronavirus; Jobs

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): I want to start by offering my support to our ambulance staff who have had a horror week with tragedies in Cairns, Townsville and here in Brisbane. It is a reminder of what our brave frontline health staff can be confronted with, and I want them to know how grateful we are for the job they do.

I turn quickly to some good news. I can now advise that the first family who have been quarantined at the Gold Coast University Hospital were discharged overnight. Their eight-year-old son has recovered from the coronavirus and is no doubt very excited to get out of hospital. I want to thank the staff at the hospital for taking such excellent care of them.

The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to invest in Queensland jobs to support the future health of this state. This financial year will see a total of 150 construction jobs underway. These projects are building new health infrastructure to cater for the state's rapid growth and renewing existing infrastructure to ensure modern and well-equipped facilities for all Queenslanders. This construction is also playing a key role in the state's economy, supporting more than 1,200 full-time jobs, including more than 120 apprentices.

We are providing employment to Queenslanders across the state with metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities directly benefiting from Queensland Health's built infrastructure investment. One regional community being supported by this investment is Roma. The new Roma Hospital redevelopment is supporting 111 full-time jobs over three years and making a significant contribution to the regional economy through the purchase of equipment, supplies and services.

The Nambour General Hospital redevelopment is forecast to support 63 full-time jobs over four years, while the construction of a new carpark at Redcliffe Hospital is set to support 55 full-time jobs over two years. Maintaining our existing assets also supports Queensland jobs with up to 238 full-time jobs supported each year in undertaking this important work. This infrastructure investment shows no sign of slowing down. Next financial year, even more jobs will be supported through our investment in Queensland's health future. We forecast that more than 1,500 full-time jobs will be supported across the state on 176 projects. We are proud to support hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders while continuing to enhance the state's healthcare system.

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (10.00 am): We recognise that to grow our economy we must support and invest in the best and brightest Queenslanders. Since 2015 we have worked hard to stop the brain drain that occurred as a result of LNP cuts. We have invested more than \$35 million to support more than 150 projects through the Advance Queensland Industry Research Fellowship Program. This week I announced \$7.6 million for 35 projects that will solve some of the biggest challenges facing some of Queensland's most important industries, like our mining, aquaculture and medical technology sectors.

We know this program works. I want to thank the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, Peter Hoj, for joining us yesterday here at parliament. Today, like the Premier, I have even more good news for Queensland. Today I can announce that a Queensland based company, Microba, is signing a contract with one of Europe's largest laboratory-testing providers. This is only possible through the strong support from our government to support this Queensland business. This new multimillion dollar deal being struck today between Microba and a multibillion dollar company in Germany will see the business grow here in Queensland—not offshore. We will be exporting our talents and skills globally. Microba is all about improving people's gut health. We know that good gut health can help to combat cancer and reduce obesity and other chronic diseases.

Through our Advance Queensland strategy we have created and supported more than 17,800 jobs and leveraged more than \$700 million in private sector investment over the last five years. We will continue to work with the private sector, support Queensland businesses to create jobs and keep jobs in Queensland.

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.02 am): In recent times I have been pleased to proudly detail in this House the extraordinary effort of this government and my department to build eight new schools for day of the 2020 school year—the most new schools built in more than 30 years. While that accomplishment should definitely be highlighted, the Palaszczuk government is also undertaking a significant investment to renew and build new infrastructure in our existing schools right across Queensland with unprecedented investment.

For example, the \$235 million Renewing our Schools program is being rolled out at 26 schools across the state, with new classroom blocks, new halls, new sports centres, new performing arts centres and improved connectivity walkways being just some of the wonderful projects funded by this initiative. Importantly, this investment by the Palaszczuk government will help support more than 680 jobs across Queensland. For many of these schools, it will be the most significant infrastructure investment in decades. The program is delivering both new and refurbished modern learning facilities for entire school communities.

For example, at Proserpine State High School a new multipurpose performing arts centre and a refurbished administration area are being built, with construction set to commence in the coming days—part of our more than \$64 million investment in schools in the Whitsundays. At Heatley Secondary College, where I joined the member for Thuringowa on a tour of the planned upgrades with the principal and the P&C president, this government is providing multiple refurbished learning spaces and amenities, including to its performing arts centre which will be revolutionised, as well as new covered walkways, delivering state-of-the-art buildings for the students, teachers and staff of this great school.

At Murgon State High School in the seat of Nanango, we are delivering a \$6 million hall and, at Aspley State High School in the seat of Aspley, a new \$11 million multipurpose sports hall and a new music and visual arts centre is on track to be delivered next year. At Bundaberg State High School, where a refurbished learning facility was delivered for day one of the 2020 school year, the refurbishment of the sports centre is underway—all made possible due to our \$1.5 billion record infrastructure investment in schools throughout Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our schools have the best facilities so that every child, no matter where they live, gets the best start in life. By investing in these renewal infrastructure projects, we are supporting hundreds of jobs across Queensland and building the schools of the future.

Road Infrastructure; Road Fatalities

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.06 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver record investment in roads and transport for Queenslanders, supporting thousands of jobs. Importantly, this includes the jointly funded \$2.3 billion of four major M1 upgrades, creating more than 2,000 jobs, and the \$12.6 billion Bruce Highway upgrade program from Cairns to Brisbane, supporting more than 2,500 jobs. Significant Bruce Highway upgrades starting this year include: the \$1 billion Gympie bypass, worth 500 plus jobs; the commencement of the Edmonton to Gordonvale upgrade—and I know, Mr Speaker, that you will be very pleased—worth nearly half a billion dollars; the Bruce Highway up to the Sunshine Coast, worth \$662 million and 664 jobs; and, of course, the Maroochy Road and Mons Road interchange upgrade, worth \$300 million and 382 jobs.

Today I am also proud to announce more road upgrades for Queensland in terms of close to \$70 million for targeted road safety upgrades right across Queensland. From intersection upgrades and wide centre line treatments to safety barriers and audio tactile line marking, Queenslanders will see these upgrades roll out from this year with close to 90 upgrades in total. This is part of a \$1 billion investment in dedicated road safety initiatives, creating more than 800 jobs, safer roads, fewer crashes and less impact on our health system. In addition, I am pleased to advise the House that we will be delivering seven new overtaking lanes between Bowen and Ayr worth close to \$30 million. Design and preparation is underway for works to start next year. At Cowley in the Cassowary Coast region we will also deliver a \$24.9 million package to upgrade intersections and improve safety on the Bruce Highway, with design to start next year.

I am pleased to report that last year Queensland recorded the lowest number of road fatalities in more than six decades, but that was still 218 lives lost—218 mothers, fathers and children whose place at the family dinner table is now vacant and who so terribly will be missed. That is why I announce today that I have directed my transport and main roads department to transition from using the phrase ‘road toll’ to ‘lives lost’. Fatalities on our roads are not something we should accept as a given. Using a phrase like ‘road toll’ suggests that death is some kind of price we pay to use our roads. I find that absolutely unacceptable. I believe the term ‘lives lost’ is a more appropriate way to describe the horror that we still see too much of on our roads. This year we will see a record road bill which will mean more road safety and more jobs for Queenslanders.

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is well on track to meet our commitment of a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. I am pleased to advise the House that Queensland’s first community-scale battery will be fully connected to the grid next month in Townsville. The four-megawatt Tesla battery will ensure reliability for the local network at Bohle by taking pressure off substations during peak evening demand and outages. Also, Shell’s first global investment in an industrial-scale solar farm has been on Queensland soil near Wandoan. This 120-megawatt solar farm will be able to generate enough clean energy to power 50,000 homes and, most importantly, will fuel up to 200 construction jobs.

Queensland’s biggest battery will also be built at Wandoan in a deal between Vena Energy and AGL, with a 30-strong workforce. Vena Energy Australia plans to keep the momentum going and build a solar farm on the same site the very next year. Queensland is hands down the nation’s renewable energy powerhouse. We have almost 5,500 megawatts of renewable energy capacity and more underway.

Since December 2016 we have seen 36 large-scale renewable energy projects developed in Queensland, representing \$5.5 billion in investment and, importantly, nearly 5,000 construction jobs. Queensland already has 29 solar farms and more than 560,000 Queensland roofs supporting solar systems, with a combined solar generation capacity of more than 4,000 megawatts. I used to say that there was a new solar system installed on a Queensland roof every 15 minutes; now it is every nine minutes.

While new projects continue to come online, recently operational projects will ramp up their output as final construction and connection processes are completed. This includes the 453 megawatt Coopers Gap Wind Farm, currently one of the largest wind farms in this nation, which will deliver enough electricity to power about 264,000 Queensland homes. CleanCo—our new publicly owned clean energy generator—will maintain the growth, with a mandate to deliver 1,000 megawatts of new renewables by 2025. We will soon announce the next wave of renewable energy capacity as CleanCo finalises the government’s Renewables 400 reverse auction.

I am pleased to inform the House that by the end of 2020 Queensland will be generating over 20 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources. This puts us well on track to achieve our target of 50 per cent by 2030. Queensland’s continued uptake of clean energy is the direct result of this Palaszczuk Labor government leading the charge. We are the government which is bringing clean energy, investment and jobs of the future to this great state of ours.

Camp Hill, Deaths; Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.11 am): I join the Premier in taking a moment to reflect on the events that unfolded in Raven Street, Camp Hill, yesterday. It reminds us all that our children are so precious but also that they are fragile and vulnerable. Three innocent children and their loving mother gone—gone for inexplicable reasons. I hope, like so many others do, that we can continue to look for ways to stop this because it has to stop.

We are investing in the infrastructure and jobs that Queensland needs. Every job counts. Every job means dignity and income for other Queenslanders. Just over a week ago I was on the Sunshine Coast turning the sod on a new police station for Coolool. Work on that project is underway on site right now. The work is being done by a local Sunshine Coast construction company and its workers. Before that, I was at Nambour to announce a new police station there and recently I inspected progress on the new Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Centre at Wacol. This state-of-the-art facility is rapidly

taking shape. Last week I was also in Toowoomba to inspect progress on the new Newtown police facility and also inspected the onsite works for the new Highfields police complex. Combined, the Toowoomba projects are a \$4 million investment supporting local jobs for local builders and tradies.

I also recently opened the new \$11 million policing hub at Arundel on the Gold Coast and I have been advised that planning work for the new police facility at Pimpama is well underway. There are projects going on right across Queensland. In Maryborough refurbishment work has delivered the 18-officer Wide Bay Burnett Tactical Crime Squad with a larger and more contemporary working environment. Refurbishment of the building's first floor has also given the Wide Bay district office a new space and a better space. It is these kinds of investments—big and small—that our government is making which helps support jobs in local communities.

Our record police budget is delivering on the ground, and the delivery of the extra 535 police personnel across the state is on track. Recently 20 extra police have been delivered to the Gold Coast. An extra 24 police are now on the ground in Townsville, with more on the way. It is infrastructure and jobs which is what our government is all about, and it is what we are delivering.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 17 March 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Bundamba, Resignation

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.15 am): I rise to give a personal explanation. There has been much speculation and comment in the media recently about my position in this House and my future, to which I find I must respond. I intend to resign as the member for Bundamba. My reasons are contained in my letter of resignation. I now table a copy of this letter for the records of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 February 2020, from the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding the member's resignation [\[310\]](#).

Mr Speaker, I will now come up to you and hand to you the signed copy of my resignation. Thank you.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BUNDAMBA

Resignation of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been handed a letter of resignation from the member for Bundamba and, as I have received that letter, I note that the resignation takes effect immediately. The member will need to leave the chamber on the basis of having handed over that letter.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bundamba withdrew from the chamber at 10.17 am.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.18 am.

Member for Bundamba, Resignation

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.18 am): In light of her explosive resignation—
Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—will the Premier—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I have given clear guidance that questions will be heard in silence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. In light of her explosive resignation, will the Premier investigate Jo-Ann Miller's claims that Labor figures in the Palaszczuk government have forced her out of parliament?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Order! Leader of the Opposition, can you please explain where the direct correlation to the Premier's role is with this question because it does go to some aspects of the Premier's role but I do not believe directly to her portfolio responsibilities, so I would like you to clarify that or otherwise I will ask you to ask your next question?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In light of the fact that Mrs Miller made those explosive comments on ABC Radio earlier this week in relation to being forced or asked to leave her seat in Bundamba—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I am hearing an explanation.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It goes to the Premier being head of her government. There are many questions that have been raised now due to this resignation by the longstanding member for Bundamba—20 years in this parliament. The Premier has many questions she should be answering.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Can I just say, before your point of order, that there may be many questions that you would like to ask, however, I am not going to allow this one.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

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

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me, I am giving a ruling, member. Under standing order 113 the question must relate to the public affairs which the minister, in this case the Premier, is connected to or responsible for. I rule that question out of order. What is your point of order, member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: On that ruling, the comments that were made about the member for Bundamba came from the chair of the QBCC.

Mr SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to debate my ruling. If you wish to dissent to my ruling you are welcome to do so, as is any member. However, in this particular case, unless you can demonstrate that there is relevance, and I do not believe I have heard that explained adequately, I rule the question out of order.

Member for Bundamba

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Why did the Premier not support Jo-Ann Miller as she shone a light on Labor's corruption in Ipswich?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Let me say this from the outset: I would like to thank Mrs Miller, the former member for Bundamba, for her longstanding service to this parliament. I would like to also put on the record the service of the member for Currumbin, Jann Stuckey, in this parliament. Twenty years and 16 years is a long time to give to community service by representing your community in this state. As many members know, they spend a long time away from their families attending community events, school events and public events. That takes the person away from their family. I would expect it is a very tough decision for any member as they make that decision after a long period of service. Let me state publicly in this House that I wish both the member for Bundamba and the member for Currumbin all the very best for their future.

North Queensland Stadium

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Can the Premier detail what benefit local Townsville businesses have gained from the construction of the landmark North Queensland stadium?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville. As I said, this weekend will be a great weekend for the people of the great city of Townsville when they come to view the Townsville stadium. I was doing a little bit of a walk down memory lane when I remembered back to 11 December 2014 and an exclusive in the *Townsville Bulletin*: 'Labor's \$100 million stadium pledge'. We made the commitment. We were the first to come out and back that stadium. I also draw to the attention of the House a wonderful policy document from back then: 'New sports stadium for North Queensland'. I also found another advertisement that appeared in the *Townsville Bulletin*: 'New jobs, new stadium, a fair share for North Queensland' along with a picture of myself, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa. I must say that we all looked a bit younger in those photos. That is what service to the community does.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the people of Townsville. It is a landmark event. Tomorrow we will get an opportunity to thank the workers who have been involved in building what I believe is one of the greatest stadiums in Queensland. Down here in the south-east, Suncorp is iconic; in North Queensland the Townsville stadium will be iconic. Thanks to our Buy Queensland approach this has been well and truly achieved. Our Buy Queensland approach to construction, and my government's investments to support local jobs and businesses in the local community, has meant that since construction started almost three years ago more than 1.1 million construction hours have been recorded, it has created more than 750 jobs in Townsville, 488 local businesses have benefited through the supply chain and more than 85 per cent of workers on the site were North Queensland locals.

Did the LNP initially back a stadium for North Queensland? No, no, no! It took Johnathan Thurston to get the federal government—dragged kicking and screaming—to put in its share towards the Townsville stadium. Let me put it on the public record in this House that my government supports Townsville—we back Townsville, we back the jobs and we back the stadium. Tomorrow we look forward to seeing Johnathan Thurston as we unveil his statue and, of course, we look forward to the first home match between the Cowboys and the Broncos.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Up the Cowboys!

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not take personal offence to that.

Member for Bundamba, Resignation

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. In the wake of Jo-Ann Miller's explosive resignation letter today, why did the Treasurer not support Jo-Ann as she shone a light on Labor's corruption in Ipswich?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule that this is not within the portfolio responsibility of the Deputy Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in the question as asked I cannot see what the direct nexus is. If you can explain a period of time where this may have been the case, that there is a nexus between the Deputy Premier and the question that you have asked, I am happy to hear your explanation, otherwise I will rule the question out of order.

Mr MANDER: There are two reasons. The first reason is that the Treasurer was the local government minister at the time when these allegations were made and, secondly, as Treasurer, the Deputy Premier is responsible for funding of all government operations, which can include investigations into corruption and extra funding to the CCC. It is clear to me that that is what support means generally—or lack of support—that apparently the Treasurer has not shown and we are asking her that question.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: On the basis of the explanation, on the second part, although it has a central agency concern I do not believe that is the case. However, there is a link in terms of the allegations relating to the local government space.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, if I could speak before you complete or make any definitive ruling on that. The first part relates to a portfolio that the Deputy Premier previously had. It is not within her current portfolio responsibility.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. That is where I was going with the second part. On the basis of it being a previous portfolio responsibility and not a current portfolio responsibility, I rule the question out of order.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Service Delivery

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering the services that Queensland needs and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Stretton for the question. I think everyone knows that we have often said that jobs are the No. 1 priority for the Palaszczuk Labor government. Fundamentally, our economic plan is delivering for the people of Queensland. We have seen more than 235,000 jobs created in our economy. We have seen new industries emerge and more jobs. There is a reason they are resulting in jobs: we know that Queenslanders need jobs wherever they live and we are making sure that our plan is carefully targeted to that No. 1 priority.

However, we know that when it comes to the economic plan that those opposite have in store for Queenslanders, it is largely based on the economic plan that they had for Queenslanders during 2012-15. On Tuesday night in this House, we heard the member for Chatsworth talk about the tough love that Queenslanders needed to cop through 2012-15. He said that, in fact, Queenslanders needed to cop that tough love because of the economic conditions that we found ourselves in.

If we listen to those opposite, we would know that they continue to talk down our economy and continue to talk down the need to invest and to stimulate regional economies throughout our state. I went to the LNP economic plan for Queensland, which they have had up on their website for more than 18 months now. While there are a lot of promises and a lot of whingeing, there is actually not a plan on how they are going to fund anything. We know that the last time the LNP came into government they made a lot of promises and they talked down the economy. We know that they had to dish out a lot of tough love to pay for their economic plan.

I went to the economic plan to see how they were going to pay for all of their promises. We see that there are no new taxes, there is no mention of cuts, there is no mention of savings, there is no mention of sackings—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Southern Downs, that ice is broken. You are also warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: What we have is an LNP that is going around promising everything, including rainbow unicorns for every Queensland child, but with no plan to pay for it. We know that when that happens it means a lot of tough love for Queenslanders—a lot of cutting, sacking and selling.

Member for Bundamba

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Jo-Ann Miller says she was abused by members of the Palaszczuk government and, in the midst of a recent breast cancer scare, was ostracised, even by the Premier. Given the Palaszczuk government's oft-claimed policies in support of women in government, did the Premier or anyone in the Palaszczuk government threaten Jo-Ann Miller to leave parliament?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I think there are a lot of imputations in that question. I will say very clearly again to the House and to those opposite—noting that the member for Currumbin is no longer here, as well—that those in glass houses should not throw stones. I will say this very clearly—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Lockyer! Member for McConnell!

Ms PALASZCZUK: For a government that has 50 per cent women in their cabinet and the largest number of women are on this side of the House, we understand about equality. Do not come in here and lecture me.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Look at the way that you are behaving now! It is disgraceful.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Bullying me now, are you?

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the House that comments will come through the chair. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say very clearly in relation to some of the comments that the member raises that some personal issues were in Mrs Miller's letter. Those are personal issues that I do not intend to talk about in this House, especially in relation to health issues, as I will not be raising health issues that Mrs Stuckey also raised.

I will say very clearly that I wish her all the very best. As I said, community service takes its toll on families and personally on individuals. I think everybody in this House should reflect seriously on the way each and every one of you conduct yourselves and to have the highest expectations and meet the high standards that the community expects.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, correct titles will be used in this chamber.

Olive Downs Mine

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. I refer to recent media coverage of Olive Downs coalmine. Can the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's approval of the Olive Downs coalmine both protects the environment and creates jobs, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question and for her very strong support for Queensland's mighty coal industry. Yesterday I spoke about the chronic delays in the approval of the Olive Downs coalmine by the Morrison coalition government. The project is ready to go but for one single problem: the inexplicable and scandalous refusal of the Morrison government to tick off environmental approvals for the mine, which should have taken 30 days.

Today in the *Australian* we read that now there is another excuse by the federal government, which is the southern squatter pigeon. It seems that the pigeon has found an unlikely champion in the federal environment minister, Ms Sussan Ley. It is Ms Ley's concern about the southern squatter pigeon and other fauna that is holding up this significant project, but Ms Ley's is a lone voice in the scrub.

I can tell the House this: the EIS conducted by the independent Coordinator-General did not receive a single negative submission from an environmental group. I have nothing against the pigeon. I want the pigeon to prosper. The independent Coordinator-General required the proponent to do a detailed environmental impact statement, running to 1,163 pages with 25 sections, 10 appendices, two iterations of drafting and multiple rounds of public consultation. That was followed up by a 371-page report on the EIS by the independent Coordinator-General, imposing detailed conditions relating to threatened species, including the southern squatter pigeon, the koala, the greater glider and, not to be forgotten, the painted snipe and the ornamental snake.

Snipes and snakes—I am not talking about Barnaby Joyce and Matt Canavan. Whether the pigeon is squatting or standing, the snipe is painted or raw, the snake is ornamental or more practical, we will always back the protection of our wildlife. We respect the rigorous processes of our regulators, but we also back Queensland jobs. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, if you want to be the Premier of Queensland, you better be able to think on your feet and ask the questions. If you cannot do that, you cannot lead the state.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development, your comments will come through the chair.

Mr DICK: I say this to the Leader of the Opposition, if you want to show tough love, show it to Scotty—

Mr SPEAKER: No, minister. Pause the clock! Minister, your comments will be directed through the chair, not at another member.

Mr DICK: I say this to the Leader of the Opposition: if she wants to show someone tough love, show it to 'Scotty from Marketing'. Open the door to 1,500 jobs for Queensland. Stand up for Queensland. Stop showing weakness and support coal jobs in this state.

Member for Toohey

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. RTI documents which I now table reveal the member for Toohey personally signed a preferred supplier agreement with Legal Aid in 2015 after he was elected as a member of this parliament. As the Premier administers the Parliament of Queensland Act, will the Premier now seek advice as to whether the member for Toohey is even eligible to sit in this parliament?

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 June 2015, from a partner at Russo Lawyers, Mr Greg Lauritsen-Damm, to Legal Aid Queensland, regarding Russo Lawyers preferred supplier status [\[311\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for the question. I am happy to clarify it, or perhaps the member for Toohey can clarify it, but my understanding is that the member for Toohey has already sought advice from the Clerk on this matter. He received legal advice on this matter and I am happy for him to address that he has complied with the—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana and members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I want to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that he has that legal advice.

Electricity Prices

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the policies the Queensland government is implementing to deliver the lowest power prices on the east coast and advise of any alternatives?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. We understand the cost-of-living pressures faced by Queensland families. That is why we are so focused on putting downward pressure on power prices. We are putting power prices down from the Cape to Coolangatta. In fact, in the opposition leader's seat, power prices have fallen two years in a row. Over the past two years, a typical small business in Nanango is paying \$230 less per year for their power. A household is paying \$82 less. We have applied the brakes to wholesale power price increases by taking action through our government-owned generators. It is all thanks to the government's affordable energy plan—solar and battery rebates, solar for renters, supporting agricultural users and much, much more.

How does that affordable energy plan work? It works through dividends from our assets. If they sold those assets, those dividends would be decided upon in boardrooms in China, the United States and in Switzerland. We would not be able to pass those dividends back to Queensland's families. Public ownership of our assets has given Queenslanders the energy trifecta: lowest prices on the eastern seaboard, reliability and 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

I want to put on the record, for the benefit of the members of the House, the member for Nanango's history when it comes to energy prices and energy in our state. In 2012, the member for Nanango defended closing two generators at Tarong Power Station by saying, 'The decision will flow through to the entire region, but I understand the oversupplied energy market has forced down wholesale prices, leaving the major employer with little choice.' How shocking! She wanted to put up wholesale power prices by closing down two generators. She had one aim—to put up wholesale power prices. How shocking! The policy was to close coal-fired power stations to drive up power prices and prepare assets for sale. What happened? The next year, after the generators were closed, prices went up by \$440 for the average household. The Palaszczuk government is subsidising regional Queensland so they pay equivalent prices to prices in South-East Queensland.

What does the LNP stand for? They stand for closing power stations, sacking our power station workers and selling what is left over. Not under our watch.

(Time expired)

Cassidy, Councillor J

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Recently Brisbane City Councillor Jared Cassidy, the Labor leader, used Twitter to make a derogatory slur against LNP councillors and his LNP opponent Kimberley Washington, calling them dogs. Does the minister endorse this derogatory slur by a Labor local government councillor?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Local Government is responsible for a lot of things, but he is not directly responsible for the actions of any one elected councillor or candidate in the upcoming council election. I ask that you rule the question out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That may be correct, but that does not stop the minister from answering the question and commenting on these matters. Local government ministers have commented on local councillors on both sides for many, many years.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question because it is seeking for an endorsement. It is not an opinion but an approval or an endorsement, however I will give the minister latitude in the way that he responds to the question.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Warrego for the question because it allows me to clarify for the whole of the House the fact that I think the suggestions behind the question do not reflect the facts in that what I regard as the regrettable use of a particular hashtag in a tweet was—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: It did not have the intent that the member for Warrego implied. I want to say—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you argued strongly for this question to be answered by the minister. I would hope you would want to hear the answer.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I would take the opportunity equally to endorse the comments from the Premier in answer to an earlier question and seek to make sure that they are applied to all of the many hundreds, indeed potentially thousands, of candidates in the upcoming local government elections. Nominations will be open tomorrow and will close early in March. I encourage all those people who are seeking to contest the local government elections to be held on 28 March, in the 77 councils across Queensland, that they undertake the compulsory, thanks to this government and this parliament's legislation, training program of 'So you want to be a councillor?' Equally, I encourage all candidates for local government, be they sitting councillors, mayors or otherwise, to conduct themselves in ways that bring credit to local government in this state and in their community. That is something that all people engaged in the noble pursuit of public office should do. They are the standards that we should all apply to ourselves and to model to everyone we come into contact with.

I know that Councillor Cassidy regrets the way that hashtag has been interpreted. He regrets the fact that it has been seen as an attack on women, which was not intended to be the case.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for the Glass House and Minister for State Development.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I welcome the question as an opportunity to put the case that people should raise standards when it comes to the conduct of public debate and the conduct of elections, be they the local government elections happening across the state or the state election later this year.

Cultural Tourism

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy to grow Queensland's reputation as an international hub for cultural tourism?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. On the weekend I caught up with Brisbane City Councillor Kara Cook who was cat whistled in council. Pox on both their houses!

It is wonderful once again to hear from the member for the Cairns. We have had a fantastic, topical North Queensland week. It was wonderful to have the delegation from Advance Cairns down here talking to the government and everyone in this parliament about what a vital region it is for Queensland.

One thing that is very special about the very north of our state is the amazing Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander experiences we have in the region and indeed right across our state. We are seeing more and more that Australian and international visitors are choosing when they come to Queensland to have a deeper experience with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. More than 440,000 people came to Queensland last year for an authentic Indigenous cultural experience.

That is why the Premier, after significant collaboration with the sector—they wrote to us saying that they would like this year to be the Year of Indigenous Tourism—decided to celebrate 2020 as the Year of Indigenous Tourism. Today I am proud to induct 10 Indigenous young tourism leaders to promote this sector to the next generation of tourism industry professionals. I am going to read their names into *Hansard*. They are: Chanaya Warbrick, a barista from Brisbane; Anthony Cora, a cultural officer from the Aboriginal Culture Centre on the Gold Coast; Leonard Donahue, Stacia Fogarty and Tyson Kelly, senior Indigenous officers at Dreamworld Corroboree on the Gold Coast; Simon Thornalley from Saltwater Eco Tours on the Sunshine Coast; George Bell from Down Under Tours Australia in Cairns; Blake Cedar from Dreamtime dive and snorkel in Cairns; Elizabeth Lui from the Pullman Cairns International; and Chern'ee Sutton, a contemporary Indigenous artist from Bundaberg.

We know that the best way to grow the tourism industry is to diversify the experiences that we have in Queensland. That is why all government members are very proud of the significant investment we have made. We were the only side of politics that went to the last election with real funding to support the industry.

What we have seen today with the announcement from Qantas is that it has been 18 days since the Palaszczuk government first announced recovery funding for the Queensland tourism industry. Here we have 'Scotty from Marketing' 18 days later not delivering one dollar to support this industry. We have seen Qantas change their flights from Sydney to Shanghai, Sydney to Hong Kong, Melbourne to Hong Kong, Melbourne to Singapore and Brisbane to Hong Kong.

This is a national problem and it requires a national solution. We are once again calling—just as the industry has been for over a fortnight—on the Prime Minister of this nation to step up. Maybe he should step out. He needs to come to the table just like we have done and just like other state governments are doing and no longer put his head in the sand.

(Time expired)

Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Late last year the housing minister responded to mum-and-dad property investors who were angry with his proposed rental changes, calling them 'slum lords' and echoing politics of envy of failed Labor leader Bill Shorten. Will the Premier direct the minister to now restart proper consultation about his proposal and apologise to the people of Queensland for treating them with an appalling lack of dignity and respect?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I believe the question can be more carefully worded in terms of the language used. I will give you an opportunity to rephrase that question without the inferences and assertions.

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Late last year the housing minister responded to mum-and-dad property investors who were angry about his proposed rental changes, calling them 'slum lords' and echoing the policies of former Labor leader Bill Shorten. Will the Premier direct the minister to now restart proper consultation about his proposal and apologise to the people of Queensland for treating them with an appalling lack of dignity and respect?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you have not really rephrased the question at all. I ask that you resume your seat. The question is ruled out of order. Did you still have a point of order, Minister for Housing?

Mr de BRENNI: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising in relation to the question posed to the Premier by the member for Burleigh. I did not describe mum-and-dad investors in a derogatory fashion. I will write to you about that. Furthermore, I take offence at the imputation and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr HART: I withdraw.

Mental Health Services

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on what services are available for adolescent mental health and if the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Aspley for his question. As all members on this side of the House have so far done, that question was in order—well done. Those opposite continue to struggle. I know that the member for Aspley is a passionate advocate for health care in the northern suburbs of Brisbane, particularly mental health services.

Last week I was pleased to visit Prince Charles Hospital with the Premier and the member for Stafford to see the finished construction of our new adolescent extended treatment facility which is nearly ready to open. We announced that the name of the facility will be Jacaranda Place. What a wonderful and fitting name. We toured the facility. We met with the workers who helped build it. We met with some of the staff who are currently recruiting other staff to work there as well as consumers who helped us design the facility. Jacaranda Place will change lives. It will save lives.

It replaces the Barrett centre so cruelly closed by those opposite, against the advice that they received. As a result, lives were lost. That is the kind of tough love Queenslanders had to cop under the LNP and the kind of tough love they will have to cop again if the LNP ever manage their way to this side of the chamber. It should never have been closed.

We committed to build it back better than ever. That is what Jacaranda Place is. It is a place of learning. It is a place of healing. It is not just a health facility. It is also a school. I thank Minister Grace and her department for working with us on that. It is a brand-new facility for young people suffering from complex mental illnesses. It provides for overnight emergency and short-stay accommodation.

We have boosted mental health spending by more than \$200 million after those opposite cut it by \$45 million—the biggest single cut to mental health funding by any government anywhere in Australia, ever. That is the kind of cruel love that mental health sufferers copped under the LNP. Inclusive of additional services, Jacaranda Place will see us invest \$68.2 million in supporting some of Queensland's most vulnerable children.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Inquiry

Ms BOLTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. With only four sitting weeks scheduled following the budget session, will the Premier give a guarantee that recommendations from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's voluntary assisted dying inquiry will be debated by members of this parliament before the end of this term?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Noosa for her question. As I have said in this House before, it is a really important question. It is a deeply personal issue for a lot of people. I know that the parliamentary inquiry under the leadership of the chair, the member for Thuringowa, has embarked on a very extensive consultation period. Probably one of the most extensive consultation periods that has ever been conducted by this House—and conducted from both sides of the House on that committee.

I understand that the reporting date has been extended until 31 March. There has been a significant number of written submissions. The committee has held public hearings in Caloundra, Cairns, Mossman, Toowoomba, Townsville, Palm Island, Mount Isa, Longreach, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Mackay, Gladstone, Gold Coast and Brisbane. I think everyone in this House, including you, Mr Speaker, would understand that that has been very extensive.

What I will say to this House is that once I look at that report I will make further comments to this House about what the government proposes to do with that. As I have said very clearly, I need to read that report first. I think members would agree with me. I think every member would want to read that report. We look forward to the tabling of the report. Then once I have read that report I will make a definitive recommendation to this House about whether or not we proceed with that this term.

School Infrastructure

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister advise the House of the government's investment in school infrastructure in my electorate, as well as in Toowoomba and surrounding areas, and are there any other alternatives?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know she is incredibly proud of the infrastructure investment that we are making in her area, particularly at Bremer State High School—an \$8 million investment in two new two-storey buildings, which is fantastic and it has really lifted that school. I was very proud to recently open the new performing arts centre—a \$9 million investment—at Ipswich State High School, which falls in the electorate of Ipswich West. That was a fantastic centre we opened there.

This infrastructure investment includes about \$30 million to build new facilities and to spruce up existing facilities across the Darling Downs and South-West Queensland. It is supporting hundreds of jobs in that region. Toowoomba State High School, for example, is one of 17 schools across the state to benefit from our four-year \$235 million Renewing our Schools program, which I mentioned earlier.

Toowoomba schools have also benefited from our 2020 Ready program, which is all about delivering the extra classrooms and learning centres to cater for growth in our secondary schools from 2020. Under the 2020 Ready program, Centenary Heights State High School has received a new \$10.5 million two-storey performing arts centre and learning spaces and Harristown State High School has received \$14 million for learning facilities and an administration centre.

The saying is true: if you build it, they will come. Today I can confirm that construction will begin shortly on a \$7 million facility at Wyreema State School in the electorate of Condamine. This project will include new admin buildings, a tuckshop, a uniform shop, a learning centre, five new learning spaces and an extension to the library. For those members who were not here at the time, Wyreema was one of those schools that was earmarked by the LNP to be put up for sale. It was one of the 50 schools that had a 'for sale' sign on it.

The member for Surfers Paradise, the then education minister, had to face a mighty retaliation from the local members because they fought to save Wyreema. Labor was elected and we saved it. Over that time the number of students at that school has more than quadrupled. Wyreema has gone

from 40 students when those opposite wanted to shut it to nearly 170 students. It is up to the Labor government to invest in these schools. You talk about tough love—tough love to close schools, to cut teachers. They sell; we build.

(Time expired)

Office of the Premier and Minister for Trade, Photographs

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier said she was not aware that her office had been digging dirt on my wife and the girls at her school. I now table emails.

Tabled paper: Bundle of emails, dated 17 October 2019, from Mr Chris Taylor to Mr Brendon Strong, regarding photographs of Mrs Watts on Glennie School North Island, New Zealand sports trip, June 2019 [\[312\]](#).

The emails were sent between the Premier's press secretary, Chris Taylor, and dirt unit operative Brendon Strong sharing images of schoolgirls and inappropriately commenting on the images calling them 'lovely'. What action will the Premier take now that she is aware that it was her office studying my wife and her students' holiday pictures, not the Minister for Police?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I understand that those images were on public websites. I am happy to look into the matter.

Queensland Country Bank Stadium

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister provide the House with an update on construction of the Queensland Country Bank Stadium and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. This weekend will indeed be a proud one for Townsville. It will be a proud weekend for Cowboys fans. It will be a proud weekend for the Cowboys players as well. I know it will be a proud weekend for the member for Thuringowa, the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra as well. As the Premier said, this weekend will see open day on Saturday which will be just after the thank you barbecue for the tradies the night before. It will be a proud day for Johnathan Thurston as well. We all remember that statement, 'North Queenslanders deserve a new stadium'. They were the immortal words of JT after the Cowboys won the 2015 NRL premiership. Here we are—a world-class stadium built on budget and on time.

This is undoubtedly the world's most attractive sporting venue. As we have heard today, it is being built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders. As the Premier said earlier, one million construction hours have gone into the Queensland Country Bank Stadium. Because of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy, 83.4 per cent has been completed by local contractors, exceeding the 80 per cent target. With the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy, this stadium meant a job for 1,900 people who call North Queensland home including, impressively, 138 apprentices and trainees and work for 52 local subcontracting companies—work for companies like Jerry and the Tilemakers, CSF Steel Fabricators, a favourite of mine Yellow Block Road and Mendi Constructions—and work for over 530 other local businesses in the supply chain.

We have put in 23,000 tonnes of concrete, 190,000 bricks, 204 kilometres of electrical cable and, importantly, two kilometres of beer lines and 11,000 square metres of soon-to-be hallowed turf. If the LNP had their way, there would not be an open day on Saturday. In fact, there would be no stadium at all. It was the LNP who did not want the stadium. It was the shadow minister for sport who in 2015 publicly declared his opposition to the stadium. It was the LNP who came into this House and voted against supporting those 1,900 jobs when they voted against the Buy Queensland policy. They did not want Jerry and the Tilemakers. They did not want Yellow Block Road. In fact, under the LNP it would have been goodbye to the Cowboys stadium, it would have been goodbye to those Townsville jobs and it would have been goodbye Yellow Block Road.

Member for Gladstone, Declaration of Interest

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier order an investigation into connections between the Deputy Premier and her assistant minister, the member for Gladstone, apparently failing to declare a private benefit of free accommodation and hospitality at an exclusive luxury resort from a Labor Party donor and government grant recipient, foreign owned resort development Aldesta Hotels?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I am happy to take that on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: Just confirming that the question is taken on notice under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier; I have to ask.

Container Refund Scheme

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is creating jobs through the container refund scheme?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question and his continued support for the extremely successful container refund scheme in Queensland. It has been an absolutely huge success for this state. As I understand it, over 1.4 billion containers have been returned through the scheme. In terms of being able to remove those items from the litter stream it is a great environmental story. It is a great story for our community in terms of the \$140-odd million that is now circulating back into the community, supporting local organisations such as sporting groups and P&Cs to make a real difference. It is activating young people in our schools. If those opposite took the time to speak to their schools, as I know we do on this side, they would see P&Cs and schools doing incredible work in their communities.

It is a great community story and a great jobs story for our state, with more than 700 jobs being created. In particular, award-winning Kanga Bins is helping keep Queensland beautiful through its nine drop-off and refund points that stretch from Yeppoon to Gladstone and west to Capella and Springsure. Since the scheme commenced Kanga Bins has processed more than 55 million containers and created 36 brand-new jobs. That is six times the number employed by the company before the scheme began, and that story has been repeated right across the state.

In Townsville, Reef Logistics—which I had the opportunity to visit last time I was there—has more than 60 employees on their books. In Far North Queensland we know that Ken and Stef from Auswaste Environmental Services, a small business, employ 34 people across Far North Queensland. In Mackay small business operators Jo and Jason from Anything Environmental, along with others in that region, have created approximately 34 jobs. In the Wide Bay area I have been to Maryborough and Hervey Bay and I have seen some fantastic outlets there. Some 55 jobs have also been created in that area.

We know that there is a strong balance between protecting the environment by reducing litter and creating jobs, and the Palaszczuk government has supported jobs in this state while understanding the opportunity to protect the environment. The Labor Party is the only party in this state that is able to protect the environment and create jobs in the future. This is the only party that can do that. We will continue to see great strength coming from the container refund scheme and more jobs being created across the state. I want to encourage everybody to support their local outlet.

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

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Five times yesterday the Premier refused to express her support for the Treasurer on Sky News. New unemployment data today reveals that Queensland has the worst unemployment rate in the nation and is the only state with an unemployment rate above six per cent, at 6.3 per cent. Will the Treasurer advise if this is because the Treasurer has been too focused on her own job and not focused on supporting Queenslanders and their jobs?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. Can I say to the House that we have had some excellent labour force data come out today.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the outburst is uncalled for. The Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. You may have a difference of opinion, but I would like to hear the Treasurer's response.

Ms TRAD: In fact, what we do know is that in the month of January almost 5,000 jobs were added to the Queensland economy: 4,700 jobs.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: They always respond like that when we talk about jobs, don't they? Every time we talk about jobs they get a little bit unhinged.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill.

Mr Mander: The Treasurer is proud of it.

Ms TRAD: Yes, I am proud of this economy having created 4,500 jobs.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: In fact, that brings total number of jobs—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I just called the House to order and you immediately interjected. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: That brings the total number of jobs that have been created in the Queensland economy since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2015 to more than 240,500. Some 240,500 Queenslanders have jobs in our economy, our participation rate is up—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. As I hear it, the Deputy Premier is being very responsive to the question asked. There are factual pieces of information about labour force data being provided. I would like to hear the answer.

Ms TRAD: We know that before the 2012 election those opposite were doing exactly what they are doing today; that is, talking down Queensland's economy so that at the time of the election they could make all of these promises and then when they got into government, as they did in 2012, dish out some 'tough love' to Queenslanders. They had to cut services, sack workers and sell assets.

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection—14,000 Queensland workers, including nurses, doctors, teachers and road workers, were all sacked by those opposite. The member for Nanango was so very, very proud of making the tough decisions and the member for Chatsworth was so very, very proud of having delivered the 'tough love' that Queenslanders needed.

Labor is the only party in this state that is capable of governing in the interests of Queensland working families; that is capable of delivering to regional Queenslanders; and that will build the infrastructure, attract new industries, support traditional industries and make sure we are balancing environmental protections and job protections in this state. You can only rely on those opposite to dish out tough love.

(Time expired)

Police Resources

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please update the House on recent investments in the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley?

Mr SPEAKER: We may have to tune in another time to hear the answer to that question. The period for question time has expired.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek leave to move a motion without notice. Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 43:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Resolved in the negative.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Further Answer to Question, Member for Gladstone**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.23 am): Earlier today I took a question on notice about travel undertaken by the member for Gladstone. I am advised that the member for Gladstone and assistant minister was representing Minister Jones at the opening of Wilson Island on official business and that the member for Gladstone has a letter from the Clerk confirming that fact.

Jobs

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.24 am): The Palaszczuk government is creating more jobs in more industries. Labour force data released today has revealed that, since the Palaszczuk government was elected five years ago, a total of 240,500 jobs have been created in Queensland. In the first month of the new decade, 4,700 jobs were created in Queensland under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Jobs growth in January means that the Palaszczuk government has now achieved 40 consecutive months of employment growth.

Our government knows there is nothing more important to Queensland families than the security of having a job. That is why we have been proud to create more than 128,000 full-time jobs since January 2015. Under the LNP, full-time employment in Queensland went backwards, but the Palaszczuk government has created more than 2,000 full-time jobs a month. This government will continue to hold an unrelenting focus on creating more jobs in more industries.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BUNDAMBA**Seat Declared Vacant**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.25 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Bundamba has become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of Mrs Jo-Ann Miller on 20 February 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from 19 February (see p. 493), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.26 am), continuing: This bill also, as we have heard in depth, proposes several amendments to the Weapons Act and the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to provide legislative clarity for police and Crime and Corruption Commission officers so they can lawfully obtain any information accessible on or via a digital device that may reveal evidence of a broad range of serious crimes. This is essential to not only provide better protection for our victims but also ensure perpetrators are caught and put where they can no longer do any further harm.

The laws governing criminal investigation have been confusing and do not reflect current advances in technology. There is, accordingly, a great need to eliminate any vagueness and make police powers more specific and effective. I thank the committee, departments and submitters for their work and I thank the attendees of the public hearings for their contribution to the debate. To all our frontliners doing the hardest of jobs, thank you so much. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (11.27 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. It is the intent of this bill to better protect Queenslanders by enabling law enforcement to more easily access information on electronic devices such as cloud services. It is increasingly common for child sex offenders to use

various types of cloud services to upload, distribute and promote criminal activities against children, such as child pornography. The amendments within this bill—which intend to clear up any ambiguity and make it clearer that any information can be accessed by police within the terms of a judicial order—are welcomed.

The current law defines incriminating information as stored, relating to things such as hard disks and memory sticks. This bill extends that definition to any information, meaning it may include a suspect's cloud based activities, including things like Facebook, Instagram and cloud storage. As the technology people use into the future changes, this bill's new definitions should permit police continued access when a person is suspected of a crime. This bill is not only limited to child sex offenders, as we have heard; it includes anyone suspected of committing a crime in which the police would like to access information via a judicial order. This includes but is not limited to those suspected of homicide or terrorism related offences, and that is why I welcome these changes.

I note the submission received by the Queensland Law Society opposing these proposed provisions. While I accept the position that these powers could be misused, I consider the community benefit associated with the prevention of harm to the vulnerable, along with the associated facilitation of prosecutions, to outweigh these concerns.

The LNP supports tougher measures on crime, especially those which target child sex offenders. As a father of three, I will support any measure which better equips our police officers to protect children from predators. It is my hope that easier access to a suspect's electronic information by our police will assist in catching those who prey on our children's vulnerability sooner, thereby reducing further harm and damage to our communities.

Briefly, I also note the changes in relation to the Weapons Licensing branch and I share the concerns that were expressed yesterday by the member for Condamine. In my experience as a licensed firearm owner, the activities of the Weapons Licensing branch are frustratingly slow as a consequence of under-resourcing. It is clear that additional resources would improve the relationship between law-abiding firearm owners and the Queensland Police Service.

Given we are addressing matters concerning the police, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the 20 years service of the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. It would have been fitting for us to acknowledge her through the motion we just attempted to move but unfortunately Labor have blocked that. I personally would like to place on the record my acknowledgement of the contribution of the former member for Bundamba in her tireless fight against Labor's corruption in the Ipswich City Council and more broadly.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.30 am): In rising to talk to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Member for Buderim and member for McConnel, please cease your cross-chamber interaction.

Mr BENNETT: I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is important that we give a shout-out to those emergency services workers because, as the minister has articulated, this week has been a tough week for them across the state. More importantly, we continue to see these issues in our community. I do concur that we all have to do so much more to protect those who are most vulnerable.

We know that policing is not an easy job. As we move around the state we see these sorts of issues confronting us. We know that sometimes police officers feel they are not having a win. However, they should know that we in this House support them, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women in the Police Service.

The issues around the interactions with offenders in our communities, particularly those who commit child sex offences, make us all very uneasy. We all want to do the very best we can to protect those kids. When we are dealing with child sex offenders, as representatives of the community we have a responsibility to ensure our legal system is properly resourced and that the full force of our legal system is applied.

The bill deals with changes in technology, and those changes seem to be happening at an ever-increasing rate in our society. Police not having access should not be a problem because we want them to have every possible technological advancement to make sure we can get on top of child sexual offenders. I am sure that is something we all support.

Changes to the Weapons Act are another important part of the bill. Where I live in regional Queensland quite often weapons are used not only for recreation but also on farm; they are an important tool for many farmers. We have mentioned many times in this place the challenges in increasing medical services in the regions. Those challenges make issues around the suspension periods even more relevant. Other members have spoken in their contributions in the last couple of days about the backlog in QCAT. We want to ensure that licence holders have access to the required medical practitioner to support their application for a weapons licence. The requirements for an armourer to sight an appropriate weapons licence for any weapon that is modified is logical, and many who use firearms would agree. Whilst the vast majority of weapons licence holders are law abiding, we must ensure that we address any opportunity for criminals to access firearms.

I turn now to child sex offenders, and I want to go back to the committee report. An important part of my shadow portfolio responsibilities is the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and the proposed amendments that relate to it. I note some of the submissions to the committee were very brief but very enlightening. We talk to people we respect like Bravehearts, and they are always talking about the safety and protection of those affected by domestic and family violence including children and young people. Bravehearts fully supports the proposed amendments in the bill. They also talk about the findings from a number of inquests that have identified the lack of effective information sharing, and we know the bill goes a long way to try to instil better information. Bravehearts go on to talk about the amendment. They believe it will go a long way to improving the effectiveness of information sharing.

Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia stated it is necessary to legislate that information sharing be in the context of domestic and family violence. Also within the committee's report on the bill there is talk about child sex offenders and the changes that relate to them. Of course we will be supporting those. On the subject of the amendments to the child protection orders, Rape & Domestic Violence Services is supportive of the definitions of 'access information' and 'device information' within the bill. When we read through the submissions to the committee, overall we can see that the proposed legislation is a positive step forward. I note amendments were circulated yesterday that omit those parts of the bill dealing with prostitution and other matters; they are not being discussed at this point, which cuts down a lot of my speech.

In conclusion, I want to ensure that those in my community understand this bill is going to do a lot more to deal with child sex offenders and organised crime. Of course we want to make sure that child sex offenders using those cloud services and other new technologies will be dealt with under this legislation. We had to shine a light on access to storage of incriminating information, the storage of memory sticks and all those issues. I am glad this bill removes any ambiguity and allows us to get on with the job of protecting those most vulnerable.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.36 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I see the short title of the bill is precisely that. Under 'Policy objectives and the reasons for them' the explanatory notes state—

The main objectives of the Bill are to:

- clarify powers of law enforcement to access information on or through electronic devices so there is no ambiguity as to the scope of 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.

I notice throughout the report on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, report No. 55 of the 56th Parliament from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that the comments from various submitters were quite supportive. Certainly we on this side of the House are supportive of the general thrust of the bill. I note the Queensland Police Union of Employees, for example, welcomed the proposed amendments to the provisions that enable access to information on or through electronic devices. It stated—

The existing powers are extremely useful when investigating serious crimes such as paedophilia, terrorism and sexual offences such as rapes. Unfortunately, with advances in technology and the increasing use of widely available encryption, criminals have become more sophisticated in their attempts to avoid apprehension.

In that respect what we see happening now is a delay in proceedings, a delay in the prosecution of cases before the courts, because of the long delays in applying for approval to access data on electronic devices. It takes up a lot of time in our courts. It certainly takes up a lot of time in terms of police resources to take it through.

For example, in the Coomera police division where we recently fought the good fight for an additional 14 officers—still about 25 officers short of what we really need—police tell me that the amount of time it takes to process matters such as domestic violence can be up to an average of four hours for

two officers. We are talking about a full eight hours involved in the process. Often in those circumstances we find that electronic devices were used to abuse people. Domestic violence is not always just about physical violence—although that is a huge part of it—but also about psychological abuse and the abuse that can come from the use of electronic devices in terms of making threats about putting certain pieces of embarrassing material from someone's device onto the World Wide Web and social media. It really is important for these particular access rules to be put into place.

In terms of those 14 extra officers, four people are moving out of the division. Sadly, there will be a delay in replacing those officers. We are understaffed as it is. The types of cases to which I refer can have a quite significant impact in terms of the time taken by police to gather the required evidence and to process the evidence required to finally bring a case to the courts.

I refer to Soroptimist International, a fine organisation with which I have had a lot to do over the years at Beenleigh. It has some great programs for young women in particular and strongly supports the objectives to clarify powers of law enforcement to access information on or through electronic devices so that there is no ambiguity as to the scope of information that can be lawfully accessed. It is about creating efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service in general and about increased community safety.

As well, Bravehearts supports the proposed amendments to clarify the definition of the PPRA and the CPOROPOA to resolve the ambiguity around the meaning of the term 'stored' in relation to information. Bravehearts also notes and supports the amendments in line with recommendations of the 2015 Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry to clarify necessary powers to allow police to access information on or through any electronic device.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of this bill having expired, I now call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.44 am), in reply: I thank all members who made a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As technology develops, it is critical that police have the powers they need to keep communities safe and to keep pace with new and emerging methods of criminal offending. Cybercrime has the potential to impact on the most vulnerable members of our community; for instance, the elderly who are defrauded by scam emails and websites and young people on social media who run the risk of being exposed to sexual predators on the darknet. This bill provides clear guidance for those enforcing the law and leaves no room to hide for those who break the law. There are a number of sensible efficiencies in the bill that will provide more frontline police where they are needed most when they are needed most.

I now address some of the specific issues raised by members during the debate. The member for Mirani commented that the amendments around information access orders do not require a justice of the peace to be satisfied of anything before granting the order. The member also commented that, once access has been obtained, police will be able to access all information on the storage device and that that power is too wide. In response to the member for Mirani, I point out that section 154(1) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act makes it very clear that only a magistrate or judge may issue an order to access electronic information. The bill does not alter this requirement. An access information order can only be issued by a magistrate or judge—not a justice of the peace.

It is also necessary to point out that there is an existing legislative threshold requirement tied to an access information order by virtue that the access order is applied for with a search warrant or a crime scene warrant. In accordance with section 9 of the responsibilities code, when making a search warrant application under section 150 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act the application must state the information or evidence relied on to support a reasonable suspicion that evidence of the commission of an offence is at the place. From there, a magistrate or judge would then consider whether the information or evidence relied upon supports a reasonable suspicion that evidence of the commission of an offence is contained on a digital device at the place. The current legislation clearly articulates the need for these thresholds to be met.

In relation to the member for Traeger's concerns about evidence to support the amended definition of 'magazine' in the Weapons Act, I can advise that the amendment to the definition of 'magazine' in the Weapons Act will ensure that the total ammunition capacity of a weapon is captured. Further, the evidence base for this amendment in the bill ensures consistency with the national firearms agreement. This information was clearly articulated in the explanatory notes to the bill.

The National Firearms Agreement requires certain types of firearms to be categorised in accordance with their magazine capacity, with greater restrictions generally applying to weapons with greater capacity magazines. As articulated in the explanatory notes to the bill, the current definition of 'magazine' in the Weapons Act has the potential to cause confusion and create a legal inconsistency between the Weapons Act and the categories regulation. This is because the Weapons Act does not specifically cover magazines with the capacity to hold ammunition that is an integral part of the firearm itself, such as a tubular magazine. The bill addresses this by including definitions of 'magazine', 'detachable magazine', 'integral magazine' and 'magazine capacity' in the Weapons Act. This means that those definitions will automatically apply to subordinate legislation and provide consistency throughout.

This government is committed to keeping communities safe, particularly our most vulnerable members of the community, victims of domestic and family violence and young people. The measures in this bill will certainly do that and also ensure the safety and security of all Queenslanders. 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 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—



Mr RYAN (11.48 am): I move—

1 Clause 19 (Amendment of s 19 (General power to enter to make inquiries, investigations or serve documents))

Page 21, lines 16 to 20—

omit.

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

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[313\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[314\]](#).

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I note that the minister's amendment No. 1 proposes to omit clause 19.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19 omitted.

Clauses 20 to 50, as read, agreed to.

Omission of heading—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): I note that the minister's amendment No. 2 proposes to omit the heading of part 7.



Mr RYAN (11.49 am): I move the following amendment—

2 Part 7, heading (Amendment of Prostitution Act 1999)

Page 38, lines 3 and 4—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 51 to 68—



Mr RYAN (11.49 am): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr RYAN: I move the following amendments—

3 Clause 51 (Act amended)

Page 38, lines 5 and 6—

omit.

4 Clause 52 (Amendment of s 8 (Who is ineligible for a brothel licence))

Page 38, lines 7 to 15—

omit.

5 Clause 53 (Amendment of s 26 (Investigating disciplinary action))

Page 38, lines 16 to 19—

omit.

- 6 **Clause 54 (Amendment of s 34 (Who is ineligible for a certificate))**
Page 38, line 20 to page 39, line 3—
omit.
- 7 **Clause 55 (Amendment of s 52 (Investigating disciplinary action))**
Page 39, lines 4 to 7—
omit.
- 8 **Clause 56 (Omission of pt 3, div 3 (Powers of entry))**
Page 39, lines 8 to 10—
omit.
- 9 **Clause 57 (Insertion of new pt 3A)**
Page 39, line 11 to page 47, line 27—
omit.
- 10 **Clause 58 (Amendment of s 65 (Application to Magistrates Court))**
Page 47, lines 28 to 31—
omit.
- 11 **Clause 59 (Amendment of s 71 (Rescission of declaration))**
Page 48, lines 1 to 4—
omit.
- 12 **Clause 60 (Amendment of s 78 (Brothel offences))**
Page 48, lines 5 to 19—
omit.
- 13 **Clause 61 (Omission of s 84 (Complying with police requirement))**
Page 48, lines 20 to 22—
omit.
- 14 **Clause 62 (Amendment of s 111 (Licence and certificate register))**
Page 48, line 23 to page 49, line 3—
omit.
- 15 **Clause 63 (Amendment of s 132 (Evidentiary provision))**
Page 49, lines 4 to 7—
omit.
- 16 **Clause 64 (Amendment of s 133 (Disclosure of information))**
Page 49, lines 8 to 16—
omit.
- 17 **Clause 65 (Renumbering of s 164 (Application of Act to application for variation not decided before commencement))**
Page 49, lines 17 to 20—
omit.
- 18 **Clause 66 (Renumbering of pt 9, div 8 (Provisions for Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016))**
Page 49, lines 21 to 25—
omit.
- 19 **Clause 67 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 10)**
Page 50, lines 1 to 28—
omit.
- 20 **Clause 68 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))**
Page 50, line 29 to page 51, line 21—
omit.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note that the minister's amendments Nos 3 to 20 propose to omit clauses 51 to 68.

Mr WATTS: I just wanted to thank the minister for removing these clauses from the bill. This was the part of the bill that we had some grave concerns about. This part of the bill talked about reducing the penalties from five years imprisonment for a breach of the prostitution legislation to \$2,600. To be

honest, I was a little offended at some of the commentary when it was said that these amendments were purely administrative. I do not believe, and nor will I ever be convinced, that checking to see the proof of age of a sex worker to ensure they are not a minor should be an administrative matter that only attracts a small fine. I think this should always remain a serious breach, as should sexual health matters, safety and security, and sex workers' autonomy. All of those things should be protected. They can be protected by the penalty that currently exists, which is 200 units or five years imprisonment. That does not mean that a judge has to always apply the maximum, but I think it is very important that as we go forward and as this legislation is looked at in other forums and potentially comes back to this House we ensure that our judiciary has the capacity, if there is a serious breach, for someone to face serious consequences. I would put it to anybody in this House that if a legal brothel was employing a 16-year-old that would be a serious breach and should attract a much more serious penalty than just over \$2½ thousand.

I am pleased that the minister has withdrawn these clauses and that the issue will potentially go off to the Queensland Law Reform Commission. I look forward to its deliberations and I hope it takes note of my statement here that we consider these kinds of breaches as very serious. I would hope that any advice we receive back to this place would reflect the serious nature of those. As I said, the judiciary does not have to apply the maximum, but it has to have a maximum available to it. I think five years imprisonment sends a strong message as to how our community would view a breach such as employing an underage person or a minor in a legal brothel, and I think it is imperative that we hold a very strong line on these issues. I thank the minister for withdrawing these and sending them off. It means that we can support all other aspects of the bill. It is a good bill and it will empower our police with the things they need to do their jobs effectively, protecting us from some of the worst people in our community.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 51 to 68 omitted.

Clauses 69 to 97—



Mr KATTER (11.53 am): I rise to speak on clauses 81 through to 97. These clauses relate to the definition of magazine capacity. As I signalled during the second reading debate, we will be opposing these clauses. I acknowledge there was no great opposition from the firearms industry against these clauses, nor was there any evidence provided to say why we were doing that in the first place. We would rather err on the side of caution and protect the rights of licensed firearm owners. We will be voting against these clauses on that basis.

Mr ANDREW: Following on from the member for Traeger, under the current legislation in terms of categories C and D, I thought the amount of ammunition in magazines was already outlined. Together with peak bodies, I wonder if it is worthwhile going into any deeper consideration. There are already laws in place that stipulate the amount of ammunition in magazines, and that is clearly defined. I just want to make that clear.

Mr RYAN: In response to those two comments, I note my speech in reply where I outlined the reasons around these amendments and also directed members of this House to the explanatory notes which provide the evidence and the reasoning for the amendments.

Division: Question put—That clauses 69 to 97, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 81:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Whiting.

LNP, 35—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 5:

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 69 to 97, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.01 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. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.02 pm): I move the following amendment—

21 Long title

Long title, 'the *Prostitution Act 1999*,'—
omit.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCES (INTERSTATE TRANSFER) BILL

Resumed from 21 August 2019 (p. 2377).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the committee for its consideration and support of this very important bill and for the valuable work that the committee undertakes. I also thank stakeholders who made submissions and appeared before the committee. I acknowledge that stakeholders supported and welcomed the bill, recognising that it allows more flexibility in the exercise of sentencing discretion. I am aware that during the committee process stakeholders made some observations regarding decision-making time frames and processes.

In relation to feedback about corresponding community based sentences and the ability for specific conditions to be transferred interstate, Section 13 of the bill defines a corresponding community based sentence as a sentence under law that corresponds, or substantially corresponds, because a penalty and conditions of substantially the same nature can be imposed; or is a community based sentence under law declared by regulation to correspond, whether or not the sentence corresponds, or substantially corresponds, to the interstate sentence.

The inclusion of this provision supports the workability of the legislation and the overall intent of the national scheme. It recognises that each state and territory operates a community based sentencing regime that is unique to their jurisdiction's legislative framework and provides that, where a community based sentence is able to be managed by an interstate jurisdiction, the difference in sentence structure or name of the sentence is not in itself a barrier to transfer. These requirements are universal across the legislation enacted by other states and territories to facilitate the national scheme.

If an interstate jurisdiction does not have a comparable sentence or does not believe that the sentence is capable of being safely, efficiently and effectively administered in their jurisdiction, the sentence is ineligible for interstate registration. This bill acknowledges that each transfer request will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For some, it may be a simple transfer request, however, for others it may be more complex, with additional information required to appropriately consider the risks and needs of the offender.

It is important that all factors are given appropriate consideration to meet the intent of the transfer scheme and ultimately support flexibility in the administration of community based sentences, support offender rehabilitation and reintegration and ensure community safety. While supportive of a timeframe

for decision-making being provided for in the bill in principle, such an amendment is unenforceable without reciprocal arrangements in other jurisdictions' equivalent legislation. To meaningfully add such a requirement there needs to be agreement by all jurisdictions to an amended model bill.

Feedback was provided about an offender's natural justice and right to reasons when a transfer request is declined. The bill provides that a decision to decline to register an interstate sentence must be provided to the offender and interstate authority in writing. While the bill does not specify that this will include the reason for the decision, I am advised that Queensland Corrective Services will provide this information when possible. For instance, there may be situations where a full reason is unable to be provided to the offender, such as if there is a need to protect intelligence or victim information. This approach is consistent with the existing process for applications declined under the Parole Orders (Transfer) Act 1984 and guidance provided to jurisdictions in the national operating procedures that are in the process of being drafted.

In relation to an internal review process following a decline of a transfer request, it is important to note that the scheme requires the voluntary participation of all parties. An offender cannot be compelled to seek a transfer of his or her sentence and may withdraw consent to a transfer at any time before the sentence is registered in an interstate jurisdiction. A local jurisdiction may request an interstate jurisdiction to register the sentence, but it cannot do so without the consent of the offender. Likewise, an interstate jurisdiction cannot be compelled to accept the transfer of an offender's sentence. In all of these instances, there is nothing in the bill that precludes the application of the Judicial Review Act 1991 to decisions made by the local authority in Queensland or restricts an offender's ability to request, and for Queensland Corrective Services to issue, a travel permit. These decisions will continue to be considered by Queensland Corrective Services on a case-by-case basis and in close consultation with other relevant jurisdictions.

The cancellation of a travel permit does not necessarily result in breach action or imprisonment but provides a mechanism for enforcement of the sentence to ensure community safety. This includes the ability for the interstate jurisdiction to deliver the offender to the jurisdiction in which the interstate travel permit was issued. The ability for ministers to enter into arrangements regarding the management of offenders temporarily travelling to Queensland or an interstate jurisdiction not subject to a formal transfer under the scheme ensures community safety. This includes empowering an interstate authority to issue an arrest warrant if an offender fails to comply with the conditions of the travel permit or if an offender's travel permit is no longer in force. These provisions enable offenders to temporarily travel interstate, for example for short-term work, and return to their originating jurisdiction while ensuring any risk to the community for any noncompliance can be mitigated. It does not apply to offenders subject to formal transfers under the scheme.

This bill supports Queensland's participation in the national scheme to facilitate the transfer of community based offenders and brings Queensland into line with Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. It creates a new standalone act in Queensland and extends existing legislation to facilitate the interstate transfer of community based offenders. There are a number of circumstances where it is appropriate for an adult offender to be voluntarily transferred to another jurisdiction to serve the remainder of their community based sentence. This includes improving an offender's rehabilitation prospects or where offenders usually live in another state but have committed their offence in Queensland. Without this bill, no legislative authority exists for community based sentences to be transferred in or out of Queensland.

The bill complements existing transfer schemes by providing an opportunity for offenders on a community based sentence to have their sentence registered and managed interstate, ultimately transferring all responsibility for the sentence from the issuing state or territory to the receiving state or territory. When an interstate offender requests to transfer to Queensland, the bill ensures that the request is in writing and is accompanied with sufficient details regarding the offender and their sentence. Providing Queensland Corrective Services with sufficient details of the offender and the imposed sentence ensures the safety and security of local communities. This could include relevant presentence reports and psychological assessments held by the interstate jurisdiction, protection or domestic violence orders against the offender, the offender's previous criminal history or the offender's compliance with the interstate sentence or any other non-custodial sentence. Queensland Corrective Services also has the authority to request any additional information on the offender that may be held by the interstate jurisdiction.

The legislation provides consistent registration criteria and gives local authorities, including Queensland Corrective Services, the ability to ascertain whether the offender and the sentence, including conditions attached to the sentence, are able to be safely, effectively and efficiently managed in the receiving jurisdiction. The requirements include that the offender has consented to the order and

that that consent has not been withdrawn; that there is a sentence in the receiving jurisdiction that corresponds to the sentence imposed in the interstate jurisdiction; that the offender can comply with the sentence in the receiving jurisdiction; and that the sentence can be safely, efficiently and effectively administered in the receiving jurisdiction. Upon receiving a transfer request, a receiving jurisdiction can decide to register the sentence, require the offender to meet certain preconditions before registering the sentence or decline to register the interstate sentence.

With an emphasis placed on ensuring community safety, this bill provides Queensland Corrective Services with the ability to impose preconditions before registering the sentence. The imposition of preconditions allows risk mitigation strategies to be put in place to ensure safety. Importantly, the bill also provides for the ability to decline the registration of an interstate sentence, even if all eligibility criteria and/or preconditions are met. This provision provides Queensland with the ability to exercise discretion to ensure community safety, for example, where a person's safety may be compromised should an offender transfer to Queensland.

The ability for community based offenders to be dealt with by local courts is, in essence, a fundamental principle of the importance of the national scheme. These provisions allow the receiving jurisdiction to act on a breach. The bill also assists courts when dealing with breach matters that require the offender to be resentenced. When determining the penalty to be imposed for resentencing an offender, the bill requires the penalty for the offence to be taken as the penalty for the offence under the law of the originating jurisdiction. Treating breaches in this way is efficient and effective. It also ensures that the transfer does not serve to avoid the sentencing intentions of the original jurisdiction.

The bill also enables ministerial arrangements to be entered into to oversee the administration of offenders on community based sentences travelling interstate on an approved travel permit rather than a formal transfer. This bill ensures appropriate supervision is maintained and, importantly, it supports community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.14 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. I note the objective of bill, which is to establish Queensland's participation in the national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. I acknowledge that the system is already operating under an informal arrangement and that the bill effectively formalises what is already occurring. I understand that there are inefficiencies in how this informal agreement operates. For example, under the current informal arrangement when an interstate offender has been transferred to Queensland and breaches the conditions Queensland has no power to initiate breach of action. The responsibility currently rests with the interstate jurisdiction to manage prisoners from their own jurisdiction. This is problematic because if a prisoner is residing in Queensland it is imperative that Queensland has the power to deal with that prisoner as it deems necessary.

The bill seeks to overcome these obstacles by giving power back to the state where the interstate prisoner resides. Under the new scheme the local authority, such as Queensland Corrective Services, may register an interstate sentence in Queensland at the request of an interstate authority for which the sentence is in force. Practically speaking, this means that New South Wales Corrective Services may request a prisoner be transferred to Queensland provided that request is approved by Queensland Corrective Services. Conversely, the local authority may apply to an interstate authority for a Queensland prisoner to serve their sentence in another state.

While I note the improvements that come with the bill and the favourable outcome of giving power back to the state in terms of prisoners who breach their conditions, I am concerned about the impact this may have on the number of interstate prisoners who are granted the luxury and privilege of living in Queensland. Currently, Queensland is a net exporter of prisoners serving community based sentences in other states, which means there are more Queenslanders serving their sentences in other states than there are interstate prisoners in Queensland. Recently in a public briefing on the bill the QCS confirmed that there are currently 87 interstate prisoners who are being handled by Queensland Corrective Services under an informal arrangement and 147 Queensland community based sentencing orders being informally administered by other jurisdictions.

There is no doubt that this formal process will make it easier for prisoners to transfer to Queensland, and what better place for a prisoner to reside. The Sunshine State has everything to offer and we do not want this legislation to be used to attract offenders on probation. It needs to be used for the correct purpose, which is to help reduce recidivism. The constant sunshine, pristine beaches and friendly people may provide reasons for an offender on probation or any other community based order to try to move to Queensland. We need to be cautious about that.

Before I can support this bill, I ask the minister to give his commitment that Queensland will not become a dumping ground for interstate offenders or a destination of choice for interstate prisoners. While Corrective Services advised the committee that, under the proposed legislation, there is not expected to be any significant increase in the number of offenders seeking a transfer into Queensland, I want the minister himself to provide a guarantee to this House that we will not become a net importer.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The minister will have the opportunity to reply later.

Mr WATTS: I do not want Queensland to become a net importer of interstate prisoners living in the community, whom Queensland will then have to fund. The police and Corrective Services are already under-resourced and the last thing we need is for interstate offenders to take what is left of our vital crime prevention resources. Our hardworking police and Corrective Services need to be able to focus on preventing crime, which is skyrocketing here in Queensland, with robbery up 76 per cent, unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 66 per cent and assault up 33 per cent.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The bill is very specific in its purpose. It is about community based transfers. I ask you to bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been listening closely to the member's speech. By and large, he is specifically addressing the bill. I will allow him to continue.

Mr WATTS: The transfer of prisoners to Queensland will need Queensland Corrective Services and police resources to be able to manage that. It is most relevant if crime in Queensland is already on the rise and our resources are already under pressure. We need to ensure that our Police Service and Corrective Services are prioritising the community over interstate offenders. If Queensland experiences a surge in numbers of interstate offenders, then Queensland taxpayers will have to fork out for the rehabilitation, supervision and other costs and support measures to be provided to these interstate offenders. Again, this is money that could be spent on reducing recidivism rates and preventing crime in Queensland. It is for these reasons that if the minister does not want me to oppose the bill, I am seeking an assurance that Queensland will not become a net importer of interstate people serving their community orders. I do not want it to become a dumping ground for interstate prisoners in our community. If the minister can give that assurance, then we will not be opposing the bill because, largely, the bill has good, formalised elements that we need.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr WATTS: I understand the minister is saying this is a national scheme, and that is all well and good. Resource the departments appropriately in the first place and my concerns would be lessened.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.20 pm): For the benefit of the member for Toowoomba North, I outline a matter at the outset. This is a new standalone act to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based orders between Australian jurisdictions. I speak in support of the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in its report No. 51, which was tabled in this assembly on 8 October 2019, has recommended to the assembly that this bill be passed.

Mr Ryan: Was there a statement of reservation?

Mr RUSSO: There was no statement of reservation.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr RUSSO: I will take that interjection from the member for Morayfield. There was no statement of reservation. Currently, there are informal arrangements in place for supervising offenders on community based sentences when they travel or move interstate. However, a number of these issues have been identified with the current informal approach. Without Queensland's participation in the national scheme, there are no powers available to initiate breach action where an offender is not abiding by the conditions of their sentence. Currently, the responsibility to manage the sentence resides with the originating jurisdiction.

Queensland, under the informal arrangements, manages approximately 87 interstate community based offenders, predominantly from New South Wales. Under the informal arrangements, other states and territories manage approximately 147 Queensland offenders. The bill would ensure that appropriate management and supervision of community based sentences can occur in the receiving interstate jurisdiction. Queensland remains one of the only two jurisdictions across Australia which has not

implemented the model legislation as endorsed in 2011 at the meeting of the attorneys-general from all jurisdictions. There is not expected to be any significant—I repeat, there is not expected to be any significant—increase in the number of offenders under the proposed legislation either seeking transfer into Queensland or seeking transfer out of Queensland.

Queensland Corrective Services advise the bill will allow local authorities in all cases to reserve the right to refuse a transfer to Queensland, even if a person may be otherwise eligible on all other criteria. The bill would be new legislation in Queensland for the purpose of implementing agreed legislative framework facilitating the transfer of community based sentences across Australia in accordance with model legislation. The national framework for the transfer of community based sentences requires all three parties—the offender, the local jurisdiction and the interstate jurisdiction—to agree to the transfer of a community based sentence from one jurisdiction to another. The bill proposes that the national scheme will apply only to adults on community based sentences.

Mr Ryan: Not prisoners.

Mr RUSSO: Not prisoners. The member is not here to hear it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr RUSSO: The community based sentences in Queensland that may allow offender transfers under the scheme are probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correctional orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. The bill does not apply to juvenile offenders, offenders on parole, or offenders with a sentence that imposes a fine or financial penalty, or includes reparation to a particular person, for example, a victim of crime.

The bill would establish in Queensland that the local authority is the chief executive of the department that administers the scheme, that is, the Commissioner of the Queensland Corrective Services who would be enabled to delegate functions of the bill to the appropriately qualified person.

Queensland Corrective Services already has an established database in the Integrated Offender Management Scheme for registering and managing people on community based orders. The management scheme manages the current informal transfer arrangements with other jurisdictions. QCS advises there is no need to establish a new database for the implementation of the national scheme. There are no anticipated costs to government in implementing the bill as all costs involved with an offender moving interstate, including travel costs, would be incurred by the offender. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. From the outset, I respond to the interjection that was made by the minister during the contribution by the member for Toohey. I am so glad that that interjection was taken because it gives me the opportunity to speak a little bit about the committee process. I saw the smug look on the minister's face when he was talking about how there was not a statement of reservation. Since when has this government ever taken note of a statement of reservation put in by the non-government members of the committee? Since when has this government ever failed to ride roughshod over the committee process when it suited their political ends? Since when have we ever had confidence that this government would not put an amendment into a bill without putting it through the committee process? The suggestion by the minister that somehow the absence of an administrative input from the non-government members of the committee means that we support this bill is nonsense. It is, in my view, quite hypocritical to contend that the committee process is so untarnished and so pure as the driven snow that we should rely on that alone. I stand squarely with my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba South—forgive me, Toowoomba North, the shadow minister, and his contribution.

Mr Watts: You can stand with us both.

Mr LISTER: I will stand with both of them. That is a good interjection and I take that one. This bill is a good one in a technical sense only and that is that it does prescribe processes for the adoption of an understanding amongst jurisdictions on interstate transfers of those on community based corrections orders and so forth. However, it does not take into account the overriding concern of Queenslanders about crime in this state. I know, having spoken to people in my electorate about this bill, as I do on most of the bills—I have a yarn with people when I am standing in the queue at the newsagent—that we have too much crime now. The first thing that people have said to me in most cases has been, 'Will we become a destination for criminals?' That is how they have put it. Queensland is the best state. We have the best weather and the best people—we are awesome. It is not entirely a mystery that those who have an opportunity to come to Queensland and could provide the grounds for doing so would wish to.

I note that we are currently a net exporter of those serving sentences under community based orders—probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. I would fancy that most Queenslanders would say that that is a good thing because we want fewer of those people in our community not more.

My honourable friend the member for Toowoomba North posed the question: would the minister provide an assurance that we would not become a dumping ground for offenders under this arrangement? Given that government members have been so sure that it is not going to be a problem, I wonder why the minister will not give that assurance. I do not think it unreasonable to expect. In my experience I believe that that is a question that the people of Queensland would expect us to be asking. I will be very keen to hear the minister's response to that question during the course of this debate.

In places like Townsville crime is a particularly sore point. People are tired of having their vehicles stolen and their houses broken into and witnessing assaults and petty crime on the streets. That applies in my electorate too. In towns in my electorate like Goondiwindi and Warwick there is crime and it hurts people personally. It is a bad thing for society. It is quite understandable that those who have been affected by crime personally, their friends and loved ones and the community more broadly would take a dim view of moves which potentially make the lives of perpetrators better without the corresponding support for the community. What I hear all the time is that the rate of crime is rising but people cannot see anything being done about it.

There is a perception in my electorate that offenders are let off too easily and there are not the consequences there ought to be in a society where people take responsibility for themselves. I understand that perspective. On occasions when I have been the victim of crime, I have certainly felt that way myself. I would caution us all to bear in mind those understandable feelings on the part of the Queensland community. For that reason, I think it appropriate that the minister, later in the debate on this bill, offer an assurance to the House that Queensland will not become a net dumping ground for offenders under this program. I cannot see a satisfactory assurance of that yet.

As the shadow minister said, the LNP can only support this bill if that assurance is forthcoming. I know I speak for my electorate—and I guess for most Queenslanders—in saying that that is a reasonable request given the implications of having a potential net flow of offenders into our midst. I will leave my contribution at that.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill before the House. I thank the committee chair, the committee members and the committee secretariat for their work. This bill was introduced on 21 August 2019. The committee received a public briefing on 30 August from Queensland Corrective Services. I am pretty sure the deputy chair was there for that briefing. We had a public hearing on 16 September where we had the opportunity to ask questions.

Currently, judicial officers have a range of sentencing options at their disposal, including community based sentences. For the benefit of members, and particularly the shadow minister, I point out what community based sentences include. They include: probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. These orders do not include terms of imprisonment.

To use the word 'prisoner' when debating this legislation is widely inaccurate and scaremongering. The bill sets out who is included. It is not prisoners who are included. If members look at the penalties and sentencing guidance in terms of who is included members will find that it is specifically for people who have not been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. To say that this bill is going to see prisoners transferred to Queensland is grossly inaccurate. There may be some reasons people subject to a community based sentence may need to travel or move interstate following the imposition of their order. The reasons may include facilitating access to family and community support or access to jobs and educational training opportunities. In many cases, this travel actually furthers the aims of rehabilitation and reduces the likelihood of further offending.

To date, the system which allows Queenslanders to have their community based sentences transferred interstate is informal and only relies upon agencies coming to certain arrangements between them. While this may work in an ad hoc manner, it does not provide applicants with certainty or formal structures that allow them to appeal decisions. The other deficit, as highlighted by the committee chair, with the current informal arrangement is that if there is a subsequent breach of the community based sentence in another state that jurisdiction has no power to initiate the breach action.

During 2003 an agreement was made to implement a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate the transfer of community based sentences. In 2011 the model legislation was endorsed by the Council of Attorneys-General. This bill will see Queensland join a national approach to address

consistency between jurisdictions. I can clarify for the House that the bill does not apply to juveniles, offenders on parole or offenders with sentences that impose a fine or financial penalty or reparation to victims of crime.

I can advise the House that this scheme will not incur additional expenses. Figures provided by the department indicate that Queensland currently manages only 87 offenders from interstate jurisdictions and, in turn, 147 Queenslanders are currently undertaking their community based sentences in other states. An interstate offender who wishes to apply to have their sentence served in Queensland must meet certain criteria. They include: they must have consented to the interstate sentence being registered in Queensland; there is a corresponding community based sentence under Queensland law; the offender is capable of complying with the interstate sentence in Queensland; and the interstate sentence is capable of being safely, efficiently and effectively administered in Queensland. These criteria assist the person who has to make the decision decide whether the person who wishes to serve out the rest of their community based sentence in Queensland poses a risk to Queensland. Therein lies our ability to determine whether or not someone comes to Queensland.

Despite the applicant fitting the criteria, it allows us as the local authority the ability to consider other factors of an administrative nature outlined in proposed section 13(1)(d). At the end of the day, that allows Queensland to determine who comes into Queensland to serve their community based sentence. I again highlight that exactly who this bill applies to is in the legislation. I advise all members, before they start making wild accusations about the impact of this bill, to have a quick read of the legislation. If they cannot understand the terminology within this particular bill then perhaps they need to look at the referring legislation. I fully support this bill.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.37 pm): Throughout Australia many have often dwelt on the question of what to do with those individuals who fail to adhere to the rule of law. Many theories have come and gone, but three main ideas have always been at the forefront of thought. These are the theories of retribution, rehabilitation and repatriation. Though no criminal justice system could function using just one, a combination of the three has proven fairly effective around the world.

In Queensland it would be fair to say that our criminal justice system operates with a combination of all three. While serious offences are often met with retributive sentences, more minor offences are often handled through the use of reparative justice, while both are underscored by a desire for rehabilitation. Community based sentences can be considered a form of the latter of these three theories. Individuals who commit offences are often ordered to accept responsibility for their crimes and repatriate those who fall victim to them. For sentenced individuals in Queensland, this could take the form of probation orders, community service and graffiti removal orders, or drug and alcohol treatment orders, amongst others.

This form of sentencing is widely practised throughout Australia using different guises. As such, the bill I stand to speak on today intends to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal interstate transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. This would be achieved through the development of an act implementing the nationally agreed legislative framework designed to facilitate the transfer of community based sentences across Australia.

In this context of the bill, the term 'nationally agreed' needs to be taken with a grain of salt. While those opposite may agree with the framework, the LNP does not. Without a number of assurances and guarantees from the minister that this bill will not negatively impact Queensland, the LNP simply cannot support it.

Before I further outline what assurances the minister must provide Queenslanders, I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, our committee secretariat and submitters for their work on this bill. While largely supportive of the bill, submitters raised several concerns which will be highlighted in the remainder of my contribution.

Let us focus on the big one. In a recent briefing on the bill, Queensland Corrective Services confirmed that there are currently 87 interstate prisoners serving community based sentences, managed by Queensland Corrective Services under existing informal agreements. On the other hand, there are currently 147 Queenslanders serving their community based sentences in other jurisdictions. That is right: Queensland is a net exporter of offenders. Given the strain faced by our overworked and underfunded Corrective Services officers, I am sure both they and all Queenslanders would like it to stay that way. Unfortunately, under this bill, that could all change.

As the Queensland Law Society highlighted in their submission, Queensland is one of the few remaining jurisdictions that has not abolished multiple forms of community based sentence orders in favour of a single community correction order. They suggest that this may complicate the transfer of

Queensland defendants to other jurisdictions due to the difficulty in confirming whether the order placed on the Queensland defendant properly corresponds to another jurisdiction's community correction order.

The serious concern here is that, while this issue would serve as a road block to Queensland defendants seeking transfer, the same cannot be said for interstate transfers to Queensland. With multiple types of community based sentence orders in Queensland to choose from, interstate jurisdictions should have no trouble highlighting a corresponding order in Queensland for the conditions of an interstate individual's community correction order.

In other words, that means that under this bill Queensland seriously risks becoming a dumping ground for the rest of Australia's offenders. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland has already become the dumping ground for New South Wales waste. Now they would have our great state at risk of becoming the dumping ground for interstate offenders.

What is there to discourage them? Queensland is one of the greatest places in the world. We have beautiful locations and wonderful weather. I hear that the Lockyer Valley's produce is some of the best in the world. In fact, one of the most serious problems Queensland has is the Palaszczuk-Trad Labor government.

My real concern is that after Queenslanders fix that on 31 October 2020 and we have a Deb Frecklington led LNP government, I believe more interstate offenders will come rushing—

Mrs McMAHON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title of the bill. We are talking about a particular bill to achieve a particular objective.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member has been largely addressing the bill. I have allowed some latitude. I have allowed similar latitude to any speakers thus far. The member has the call.

Mr McDONALD: Thank you for that protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. My real concern is that after Queenslanders elect a Deb Frecklington LNP government interstate offenders will come rushing over the border, and we will have a change in the transfer of offenders.

Ultimately, if the government cannot find a justification, more and more interstate offenders may just feel like calling Queensland home. This cannot be allowed to happen. The government has slashed funding to our Police Service and Corrective Services per head of population. They are under more stress than ever before and have never been so desperate for more resources.

Mr Ryan: That's not true.

Mr McDONALD: I will take that interjection from the minister. The government has slashed funding per head of population. The population has grown by 5.6 per cent and the funding to police has not kept up with that. In fact, there were 245 police officers per 100,000 people in Queensland in 2015—

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Quite clearly now the member is venturing into an area totally irrelevant to the bill, talking about police numbers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I think he was responding to your interjections.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a different point of order? I have already ruled on your point of order.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am talking about the point of order on relevance. It is irrelevant about the interjections—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. I will start handing out warnings. The member has the call. Minister, I can hear your mumbblings. It sounded like you.

A government member: I was mumbling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was others. I apologise then.

Mr McDONALD: In 2015 there were 245 police officers per 100,000 people in Queensland.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know this bill quite intimately. I can share with you that the member is way off task.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you will resume your seat. The next member who raises a point of order that borders on frivolous I will warn.

Mr McDONALD: As I was saying, in 2015 there were 245 police officers per 100,000 people in Queensland—

Mr Power: Police numbers are not in the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Logan under the standing orders.

Mr Power: I was just trying to be helpful for the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you have been warned under the standing orders. You will now leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 12.46 pm.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, the last 10 or 15 minutes of the debate on this bill has become disorderly in the chamber. There have been a number of interjections. If a member takes your interjection and your interjection is off the bill or somehow related or semi-related and you take the debate off the bill, then you have to understand if the member responds to that. The member now has the call, and I do ask the member to address the bill.

Mr McDONALD: To finish that sentence, three years later, in 2019, after a question at estimates we discovered that there were 233 police officers per 100,000 head of population. That is a loss of 12 police officers. Police are more under-resourced than ever before.

Placing the responsibility of monitoring additional offenders on our already stretched police and Corrective Services officers is not only widely irresponsible but also a danger to the community. Under this government Queensland's thin blue line is only becoming thinner. While our officers continue to excel under pressure, we cannot expect them to take that responsibility.

I would like to take this moment to give a shout out to the supervisors of these orders because without quality supervision the orders are practically worthless. I have in my experience seen very good quality supervisors and poor supervisors. In fact, when you look back at country policing over the years, the best supervisors for corrective orders were the family members who would see their youth who may have done something wrong cleaning neighbours cars or doing some other form of correction. I come back to quality supervision—and I thank the supervisors of community based orders.

I know this might fall upon deaf ears of those opposite, but another consideration that must be taken into account is exactly what caring for and rehabilitating the rest of the nation's offenders will cost Queenslanders. We know the Palaszczuk Labor government is not averse to using Queenslanders as cash cows. We only need to look at its \$3.5 billion worth of taxes to see that. It must stop somewhere.

Our state is being bled dry by this government's irresponsible financial management, and we simply cannot take on the additional burden that more interstate offenders would place on Queensland. Enough is enough. Without assurances, this bill holds no benefit for Queensland. All it will do is cost Queensland taxpayers more money and make Queensland Australia's interstate offender hotspot. We cannot support this bill unless the minister assures everyone in this House that he will make every effort to avoid this.

As it stands, the informal transfer system that is currently in place in Queensland works just fine. Why should we seek to destroy this system if it is not for the betterment of our great state? I call on the minister to give the House these assurances. Show all Queenslanders that you have the best interests of Queensland at heart and fix the bill. Queenslanders do not want their state to become a dumping ground for interstate offenders. You have the chance to stop that happening, Minister. Do it now, or you will regret not doing it when a Deb Frecklington led LNP government does it for you.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. This bill creates a new standalone act in Queensland to implement a Corrective Services Ministers' Conference agreement to establish a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate the interstate transfer of community based sentences. In addition to this, the bill extends existing legislation in place to facilitate the interstate transfer of prisoners and parolees to community based offenders. That is what this bill is actually about.

In doing so, it facilitates Queensland's participation in the national scheme, joining Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. This bill supports our government's commitment to keep communities safe as outlined in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities, and enhances the flexibility of community based sentences by providing a formal process for offenders to have their sentence transferred, registered and managed interstate. That is what this bill is actually about.

I commend this government for upholding their commitment as well as key stakeholders for the time and resources they generously continued to provide during consultation on this legislative reform. It is important to note that these stakeholders supported and welcomed this bill.

The key objective of the bill is to improve the current management of offenders across a shared border. As outlined by the member for Morayfield, the honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services, the management of offenders across the Queensland and New South Wales border is particularly difficult as well as unsustainable, presenting a number of risks that are resolved through this bill. I will say again that this is what this bill is actually about.

There are several reasons why this government wants to improve the current system. Without an efficient transfer system many offenders may be far from their families and community support, unable to escape domestic violence or face little to no access to employment or study opportunities. We know that many prisoners and people who have been convicted have not had the life we have been fortunate to have. However, this reform will mean that the aforementioned opportunities can be realised by offenders and we will see a lower rate of reoffending due to a stronger support system.

As a former principal and teacher, I am no stranger to what an excellent support system can achieve. I have seen severely disadvantaged students thrive as a result of the resources, mentoring and opportunities that a school can provide. This outcome is no different for offenders; however, adequate support must be provided for them to be positively reintegrated into our society.

I am proud to be part of a government that is so committed to the rehabilitation of our citizens. The involvement of Queensland in this scheme also highlights the contribution this state is making to support a cohesive national approach to corrective services provision and enforcement. I am also very proud of government members who, as they stand before the House to deliver their speeches, are able to differentiate between Corrective Services and the police department. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.54 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill. I note that the purpose of this bill is a belated effort to align Queensland with community based sentencing in other states and to streamline the process with nationally consistent legislation. The QSAC review into community based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options recognised the need to improve current criminal justice system responses to offending.

A key feature of community based sentences is that they are non-custodial orders that provide an alternative to imprisonment and avoid the burden of building more \$1 million cells and spending \$140,000 a year to keep each prisoner locked up. Indeed, providing a mechanism of interstate transfers provides a sensible amount of flexibility to allow adult offenders who are subject to community based sentences to cross state borders for the purpose of reuniting with families and communities to provide support and rehabilitate. For many coming back home to Queensland, getting a local job is often the best way to escape a life of crime and social dysfunction. Sadly, many others do not have safe homes, and the need to go interstate is also common.

Given the tenuous nature of securing and keeping work, someone with a rap sheet usually finds it especially tough to secure a suitable job. That may well mean taking an interstate construction, agricultural or mining job. Furthermore, for those people who live in communities near state borders this bill will enable them to travel to and from a job a few miles up the road. Clearly, it makes no sense in this day and age of increased mobility to put roadblocks in front of minor offenders whom the broader society would rather see fully rehabilitated and reintegrated in the least intrusive, most culturally appropriate and effective manner possible. That being the case, I trust that suitable resources will be afforded to administer and efficiently manage these reciprocal interstate transfer measures. I will be commending the bill to the House.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.56 pm): I also rise today to support the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. This bill proposes that the national scheme will apply only to adults serving community based sentences. The community based sentences available in Queensland that may be transferred under the scheme include: probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive corrections orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. These community based sentences and the orders imposed by our courts are really important and effective ways to provide an alternative pathway to people who are convicted of a crime so that they can do their bit and give back to society without being sentenced to a period of imprisonment. In my experience, I have found that these types of orders not only can be very effective at giving something back to a community that has been impacted by a particular crime but also are an opportunity for the offender to be rehabilitated and give back to the community they have impacted through their crime.

The bill does not apply to juvenile offenders, offenders on parole, offenders with a sentence that imposes a fine or financial penalty or includes reparation to a particular person, for example, a victim of crime. As a government, we are committed to the safety and security of our community. That is

always a priority for our government. Importantly, this bill resolves the risks and issues identified with the current informal administrative interstate transfer arrangements, including the limited opportunities for enforcement or extradition action following an offender's contravention of their order without significant expenditure of resources by the multiple jurisdictions involved. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.58 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities, I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. As articulated by my colleague the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for police and corrective services, the member for Toowoomba North, the Liberal National Party has concerns regarding the possible outcomes of this bill; namely, that our state could potentially turn into a dumping ground for interstate prisoners to live in the Queensland community. To understand these concerns it is important to first note the current reciprocal arrangements that have been in place for some time.

In Queensland, convicted adult persons—and that is who we are talking about today as this bill applies to adults—can receive and serve community based sentences with respect to a number of orders, including: probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. As it stands, Queensland has in place informal arrangements that exist with other jurisdictions to supervise offenders on community based sentences when they move or travel interstate. With all jurisdictions except Queensland and the Northern Territory participating in a national legislative scheme, the objective of the legislation before the House is to formally establish Queensland's participation in this scheme to facilitate the transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian state jurisdictions.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member for Toohey

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.00 pm): Members of parliament take an oath of office when we are sworn in. That oath means something. It is serious and all members have got to take that into consideration during the time they serve in this place. As part of our oaths of office and legislation under the Parliament of Queensland Act, we are also prohibited from doing certain things. One is transacting business with the state, and these are serious, serious matters.

Last year, it became apparent that the member for Toohey's firm—Russo Lawyers—was doing work for Legal Aid Queensland. This calls into question his eligibility to sit in this parliament. I wrote to the Speaker on 17 October 2019 asking for this matter to be assessed, and I understand it is still under assessment. The opposition in the meantime, while that matter is being assessed, has lodged an application under right to information seeking evidence of this. I now table a copy of the entire RTI which contains hundreds of papers.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents released under the Right to Information Act regarding Legal Aid Queensland Preferred Supplier Agreement [\[315\]](#).

The RTI contains evidence that shows the member for Toohey has been a preferred supplier to Legal Aid Queensland since before he was elected and he had been doing legal work in 2015 for Legal Aid. In fact one of the documents in the bundle of documents I just tabled shows that the member for Toohey personally signed the contractual arrangements with Legal Aid in October 2015. The documents also show that the member for Toohey personally emailed and contracted the documents and emailed those documents to Legal Aid.

The member for Toohey has also hosted Legal Aid in the parliament. He has invited members as chair of the legal affairs committee. He has hosted people from Legal Aid in the parliament. He has invited other members of parliament to attend those functions with Legal Aid, not declaring his personal interest, his financial interest, in the contractual arrangement that he has had in his firm.

It is my belief from legal advice obtained by the Liberal National Party, which I tabled back in October when I first wrote to the Speaker, that the member for Toohey has been ineligible to sit in this parliament since October 2015. It calls into question the votes the member for Toohey has made in this parliament since 2015. I know the Speaker is assessing these serious matters at the moment subject to my complaint dated 17 October 2019. If there are questions about the member for Toohey—now

there is advice that he signed this paperwork personally in October 2015—then he ought to make a statement to this House that he has updated legal advice that he is eligible to sit in this place. It calls into question the chaos of this government and the eligibility of the member for Toohey to be in here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Kawana, that is an extensive document that you have supplied. The Clerk will actually go through each of those pages. Once he is satisfied, it will then be tabled in full.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Queensland Country Bank Stadium

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (2.03 pm): This weekend will be an exciting time for the people of Townsville when the doors will be thrown open for all of Townsville to come and experience firsthand Queensland Country Bank Stadium. It seems like yesterday that we were lining up to welcome back our home-town heroes the Cowboys after their premiership-winning game. I am so proud that the Premier has walked this journey with me, with you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, and with the member for Thuringowa since before we came into government in 2015. We knew what this infrastructure would mean to North Queenslanders—that is, jobs, tourism, the reinvigoration of the city and building a sense of community and togetherness. We have delivered on this vision.

This stadium was built by North Queensland for North Queenslanders. As the minister stated this morning, one million construction hours have gone into Queensland Country Bank Stadium. Because of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach, 83.4 per cent has been completed by local subcontractors. Because of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach, the stadium has meant a job for nearly 1,900 North Queenslanders during construction, including 138 apprentices and trainees, 52 local subcontractors and work for over 530 other local businesses in the subcontractor supply chain.

By any measure, the building of the stadium is a significant achievement and all this work will be on display at open day on 22 February. We have had 16,000 Townsvillians who have registered for free tickets, but I want to continue to put the invitation out to anyone who is in Townsville on Saturday to come along and enjoy the fun. They can register online, but if they cannot do that they can turn up on the day and they will be able to grab an entry pass. There are a range of transport options to help people get there, but the important thing for families to know is to get on to the stadium website and work out their transport game plan. We encourage them to catch a free event bus or use the showgrounds park-and-ride. They can also consider using free event buses which leave from Kirwan and Belgian Gardens. There is also taxi and rideshare access.

As the Minister for Disability Services, I am particularly pleased with the planning options to make sure that the stadium is accessible. All accessible transport options will have dedicated support staff to assist patrons. There is also a dedicated accessibility zone for drop-off and pick-up on Pride Close. People with wheelchairs can use the stadium car park via a prebooked service, so book early. Accessible buses will also operate at the Townsville Showgrounds to provide transport to and from the stadium.

I thoroughly look forward to a wonderful open day on Saturday. I encourage everyone who is attending to continue enjoying our city afterwards by visiting local restaurants and bars on their way home. The weekend is something to look forward to.

Water Prices

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.07 pm): I stood in this chamber last May with some optimism that finally this government would stop treating our farmers as cash cows and start respecting and supporting them. Unfortunately, as regional Queenslanders have become all too accustomed to, this has not happened and in fact it has gotten worse. The release of the QCA's rural irrigation price review final report paints a dire picture for the future of water affordability and irrigation in this state. The final report handed to government has completely ignored the concerns of farmers and industry groups around the unsustainable cost increases associated with water prices for SunWater and Seqwater scheme customers.

Last year I toured Queensland meeting face to face with these farmers after initial water price increases looked bad. There was genuine and rightly placed concern over what their future held if prices were to increase year on year to reach what the government determines to be cost-reflective pricing.

At the time the minister mocked the LNP and me for sitting down with farmers who were concerned about these prices. We were called 'scaremongers' and assured that these prices would not be in the final version. I say to the minister that we have the final version and the price increases are through the roof and completely unsustainable. None of the concerns the farmers and irrigators raised have been taken into account, like the minister and his government promised they would.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO, Dr Georgina Davis, was very clear when she said that the final QCA report 'dismissed farmers' concerns' and 'provided little clarity for farmers who will be hardest hit by the price recommendations put forward'. Cost-reflective prices will see tariff groups like those in the Callide Valley face a fixed cost increase of 281 per cent, from \$18.50 per megalitre in 2019-20 to \$70.53 per megalitre in 2020-21. Water users in the Three Moon Creek groundwater tariff group would see a fixed cost increase of 116 per cent, from \$23.58 per megalitre to \$51 per megalitre. Make no mistake: if these price increases are brought in, there will be job losses.

There will be farmers going to the wall and there will be rural communities throughout this state that will crumble—communities like the small town of Giru in my electorate. Giru is home to a 13,568 megalitre aquifer that is used to supply irrigation water for canegrowers and, just as importantly, to stop rising groundwater drowning the community. For the last 30 years the Giru benefitted groundwater area has been subject to a scheme that actually stops 'rising groundwater affecting properties'. However, the QCA recommendations have ignored this by hiking the prices. Failing to acknowledge the unique circumstances facing Giru farmers, who will need to pay an additional 40 per cent for irrigation water over the next four years, is simply unacceptable.

Stretton Electorate, School Infrastructure



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (2.10 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Stretton, we have problems with your microphone again.

Mr PEGG: I am glad to be working with an appropriate microphone. Given some of the recent events I must have worn out my microphone over the years extolling the virtues of the electorate of Stretton.

Government members interjected.

Mr PEGG: On this particular occasion I take all those interjections from the minister. Today I want to speak about school infrastructure in my electorate. As I said in my maiden speech, I am a proud product of state schooling and so are my brothers. We all know—and you know yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker—to have a great learning environment you need great teachers and staff. I am very pleased to update the House on what is going on in relation to my electorate, and I have quite a few updates.

At Stretton State College the new performing arts centre has been completed, which is a fantastic result for my local community. Stretton State College is well-known for the performing arts. They had a fantastic musical last year that they had to hold at the Logan Entertainment Centre. I am really pleased to see that future musicals and school performances will be held in Stretton at the new performing arts centre. In addition to that, there are 10 new classrooms and a specialist learning centre.

Last week I went out to Sunnybank Hills State School, where 20 new classrooms are being constructed. Construction is well underway. I met with the principal there. We enjoyed some wonderful Lunar New Year celebrations at Sunnybank Hills State School. Those classrooms are much needed at that particular school.

I recently visited Runcorn Heights State School and met with the new principal, Janine Leach, who has some great ideas for the school. The fantastic thing is that construction of six new classrooms is about to start. There is also a two-storey general learning centre, a new prep playground, extension to the drop-off and pick-up zone, a new car park and a new school entry. There is plenty happening at Runcorn Heights State School.

In the second week of term I also visited Kuraby State School with Phil McLucas, the principal. He has done a wonderful job over the years. There is a new outdoor learning centre there. I met with the school captains and they showed me how they were using the new outdoor learning centre, which is fantastic. Speaking about Phil McLucas, unfortunately he has a health issue. I know that he is going to be stepping aside very soon. He has been a pillar of our community and he has made a huge contribution to our local area. I want to say to Phil: please get well soon. I know that I and the whole community are behind him.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.13 pm): Today I renew my calls for an independent inquiry into the entire process—both before and after—of the sacking of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service CEO, Adrian Pennington. Despite our concerns and, more importantly, the concerns of staff, doctors and nurses, the cover-ups and secrecy continue. This does nothing to address the morale levels and the health and safety concerns of those residents I am proud to represent. On behalf of those whose voices have been silenced and whose complaints to the Crime and Corruption Commission have been referred back to Queensland Health for further investigation, I must represent their calls for answers.

Our community deserves real action from the health minister, who has never addressed the cloud of secrecy that surrounds the Labor appointed Wide Bay health service board chair's decision to sack our high-performing CEO. It is now clear that the minister and the board were well aware of many serious allegations and concerns as far back as July 2019. What is disturbing is what appears to be a cover-up or, worse, a deliberate attempt to hide the issues around the deputy chair of the board including nepotism and the board chair's involvement in contract negotiations between the Wide Bay health service and his private company GenesisCare worth around \$5 million. With many health professionals and staff sharing information, the evidence of nepotism, bullying and harassment, possible fraud, breaches of policy, cover-ups and issues of interference in appointments and much more should be investigated immediately.

What has concerned many is the board chair's use of private emails for correspondence, which would breach the Premier's own policy introduced last year. We know ministers were caught out in this place using private emails. The board used private lawyers and billed Queensland Health, including an unprecedented interference in the recruitment and selection process of a junior officer, Lisa Desmond, about whom I have spoken previously. It is understood that Ms Desmond has been harassed into quitting her role and has left the region. More recently, the Wide Bay health service board chair used a private law firm during mediation and hearings to deal with the fallout from last year's sacking. We believe the estimated cost to taxpayers is around \$80,000.

Staff in the Wide Bay health service are suspicious and nervous about the engagement of Simon Rumore. It is understood Mr Rumore was engaged on a weekly retainer with staff unsure of his role. One function that has been exposed is Mr Rumore was engaged to assist in the sacking of Mr Pennington and was responsible for meeting and escorting Mr Pennington from the hospital on the first day Mr Pennington returned to work from health related leave. Allegations are circulating around the health service about Mr Pennington's dismissal. Most of us just want the answers. There are allegations that the board chair has quoted support from senior public servants including the Director-General, Mr John Wakefield, in its decision to terminate Mr Pennington. Our community deserves to know whether Mr Wakefield, the Director-General, knew of and agreed to the sacking of Adrian Pennington before he was marched out of the hospital.

It is a sad and sorry state of affairs when there continue to be delays in the announcement of the new level 5 hospital due to this process. I believe the firm engaged to recruit our new chief executive has never taken on such a high level recruitment before. We know that interviews are underway. Our community deserves a high-performing CEO to take us forward.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Kurwongbah, member for Pine Rivers, I want your reassurance that the mobile phone you had was not used to snap a photo in the House.

Ms Boyd: No.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.16 pm): I rise today to update the House and members of my electorate on the progress of some very important local transport infrastructure projects. As most of us are now back at work and our kids are back at school, we are also back on the roads, back on the trains and back on the buses. I do not know many people who like sitting in traffic, which is why I am proud to be part of a state Labor government that prioritises investment in transport infrastructure.

I have been working for a number of years to get transport outcomes for the people of Kurwongbah, projects like the upgrade of the Bruce Highway interchange at Deception Bay and New Settlement roads. That is a \$150 million project jointly funded with the federal government. We have recently seen the approved designs released for this. The member for Bancroft is equally ecstatic about it.

A couple of weeks ago I was out doorknocking and talking to Burpengary residents about this project. Almost everyone I spoke to reported having received information about this project in the letterbox—and most people actually read it, which speaks volumes about how important this upgrade is to the people around the Burpengary area. I want to commend the Department of Transport and Main Roads for getting this info out and keeping our residents informed. There is one feature I would like to see added to the final design, and that is a bike and pedestrian access to allow locals safe passage from parts of Narangba south of New Settlement Road up to schools and shops in Burpengary, and I have been working on having that added.

I also promised to overhaul the choked up traffic bottleneck at Petrie roundabout. The final plans are out and the first stage of service relocations are kicking off soon. The congested roundabout will be replaced by a signalised T-intersection, similar to the new Rothwell-Deception Bay traffic interchange for those who know that area. This Petrie intersection project is expected to support more than 60 jobs, which is great news for our local economy.

It does not end there. I promise to continue securing station improvements across my electorate, with projects currently funded at Lawnton station, adding a heap of extra car parks and at Dakabin, where a \$39 million accessibility program has begun. Next stop is Burpengary station; I just put that out there for the minister. Additionally, for bus commuters in my patch I understand design work is starting on the \$750,000 project to relocate the southbound bus stop closer to its northbound equivalent near the long-suffering residents of Burpengary Pines Village, including new pedestrian paths and refuge crossing islands. I know this comes as welcome news to Burpengary Pines residents who have consistently raised with me safety and convenience issues at this stop.

In other good news for residents in the southern part of my electorate, I have just announced funding for a dedicated right-turn lane from Dayboro Road into Vores Road at Whiteside. With Lake Kurwongbah and quarries just around the corner, local families and workers often share this stretch of Dayboro Road with heavy vehicles. Road safety is paramount. That is why I fought for extra funding to build on minor improvements that were made last year. I look forward to seeing the new project design soon. I am committed to delivering on my commitments to Kurwongbah residents.

Unemployment; Mount Coolum, Drainage

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.19 pm): The new ABS data released today shows that Queensland is leading Australia with a statistic that we do not want to see: the worst unemployment rate in the country after 17,000 people were added to the unemployment queue last month. At 6.3 per cent, Queensland has the worst unemployment rate. Queensland is the only state that has an unemployment rate higher than six per cent. While Labor tries to blame everybody else, why is it that Labor in Queensland has the worst rate compared to any other state? Only the LNP has a plan to build a strong economy, to again get businesses going and to rebuild small business confidence. Under this state government, it absolutely has taken a nosedive. The figures do not tell a mistruth; they tell the story that Queensland has the wooden spoon when it should not. We should be the leading state for driving business confidence and for the best unemployment rates rather than being the worst in the nation.

I want to address a local issue of great concern to my constituents. I call on the state government to slash red tape, to urgently approve the cleaning out of major drains in Mount Coolum and surrounding areas to improve safety and to cut the risk of flooding. Local residents have contacted me as they are concerned that drains were compromised due to red tape which has seen the width of drainage near the Mount Coolum Golf Club shrink from 30 metres to only a few metres. I table the before and after photos of when this drain near the Mount Coolum golf course was first constructed and widened to where it is today where it is only a few metres wide.

Tabled paper: Photographs depicting drains in Mount Coolum golf course [\[316\]](#).

These drains serve a suburban environment. Blocked drains can make flooding impacts worse. These drains are blocked with mangroves and siltation, meaning that it takes water longer to drain. After last week's downpour when people were flooded, I was contacted by the golf course and local residents. I have been in discussion with Councillor Jason O'Pray and council as we want to see a solution put in place urgently.

Council is normally responsible for drains, but in this case it needs environmental approvals from state agencies to remove the vegetation, which includes mangroves, and to widen the channel and the drain. I understand that past approvals have really limited the size of the drain. I support any application that council makes to widen the drainage channels properly. Further, there should be standing approvals in place with the state so that council can act to keep the integrity of the stormwater and flood

management system. It is ridiculous that red tape is making it harder for council to do its job and is compromising public safety. I have written to the ministers about this. I urge them to cut the red and green tape.

Police Charity Ball, Townsville Hospital Foundation

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.22 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I note your nice tie! In December last year we three Townsville MPs—I joined yourself and the member for Mundingburra—attended the second annual police charity ball at Brothers Rugby League Club in my electorate of Thuringowa. This is an excellent event where our hardworking local police and, importantly, their families get to relax, but their aim is to raise funds for the Townsville Hospital Foundation and the children's oncology ward. On that point, I commend a veteran police officer in Townsville, Inspector Roger White, for his work and the entire organising team for the effort they put into making this event a success. Last year, my wife, Amanda, purchased this jacket on our wedding anniversary. As an aside, she actually purchased it from Hermit Park, from New Park Menswear. That facility had been flooded but now is back up on its feet. It is good to support local business.

Amanda said to me, 'Look, I want you to stand out,' but I needed to wear something newer than my previous pink floral jacket that I wore in this House in 2015 to raise money for the hospital foundation. I do not mind bringing some colour into the parliament for a good cause. I never back away from a challenge.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: I only got to wear it once. During that police charity ball, there were auctions. I was asked to come up on stage where I found out that a trap had been set for me to become a live auction—the jacket anyway. Then I had to model said jacket to the delight and pleasure of the local police and their partners. A dare was put up by local copper TJ, Tony Jacobs, who I know is putting in for the OIC at Rollingsstone Police Station. Incidentally, in 2016 I ran a night shift with him at the QPS RAP Hub in Thuringowa. As a result, we got an additional 20 officers to boost it to 40. TJ said to me, 'I dare you and I will pay you \$500 to purchase the jacket if you wear it to parliament.' We will donate that money to the Townsville Hospital Foundation and he will become the new owner of the jacket. TJ, this one is for you. I am pleased to say that not only will your money make a difference but the members for Mundingburra, Barron River, Rockhampton, Redlands, Nudgee, Waterford, Maryborough, Gaven, Miller and the Premier of Queensland—who always supports us in North Queensland—have helped me raise an additional \$1,000. This takes the total amount that the police charity people will donate to the Townsville Hospital Foundation to \$20,000. I think that deserves a 'Hear, hear!' Well done to our local coppers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: A very stylish tie; you have great taste!

Public Hospitals, Waiting Times; Miller, Mrs J

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.25 pm): Labor's surgery waiting lists are out of control and our sickest Queenslanders are paying the price. Some 55,916 Queenslanders are waiting for surgery across Queensland, 623 of whom are waiting longer than clinically recommended. These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet. It is people like Ralph on the Gold Coast, Kate from Far North Queensland or your mum, son or grandma. These are real people with real stories. What is clear is that, while Labor's health minister gives them false hope, it is only the LNP that will give our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics the support they need. It is only the LNP that has a plan to slash hospital waiting lists and to get our hospitals working again. We will not waste money on renaming hospitals or on endless digital disasters. We will make patient care the No. 1 priority.

As a registered nurse of almost 40 years, I know how hard it is on the front line. I know what life is like, the focus and determination that our health staff show on every shift and the toll that that takes. We will not be silenced in speaking out and raising these issues, and this week proves why. After breast cancer survivor Kate Yeoman bravely told her story and showed the world her physical scars on the front page of the *Sunday Mail*, she was given more false hope from a foolish health minister. It is thanks to the public pressure of Kate and the other breast cancer survivors that we were able to shine a light on one part of Labor's surgery waiting list horrors that helped 25 women waiting for breast reconstructive surgery after battling and beating breast cancer get flown to Brisbane to finally get their surgeries booked in.

We also saw the brave battle of Ralph Jones from my electorate, who desperately needs a bilateral hip replacement, waiting over 233 days just to see a specialist. Like many Queenslanders waiting for care, the longer Ralph has waited the worse things have become. He struggles to put on his

shoes, cannot ride his beloved motorbike and is reliant on painkillers. He was told the waiting list just to see a clinical specialist was 674 days. As a category 2 orthopaedic patient, he should be waiting just 90 days. Ralph is one of 15,088 Queenslanders waiting on the category 2 list of more than 2,000 on the Gold Coast in that category alone. Unfortunately, he has to speak out publicly in the media to get some attention to try and get the surgery that he so desperately needs.

While I am on my feet, I want to say a few words about Jo-Ann Miller. I know the Labor members will not, especially the Premier and the Deputy Premier. She might be on a different side of politics to me and we might disagree about many policy positions, but she is a dear friend, a warrior for her community and someone I deeply respect. From me and my family, I wish Jo and her family all the best in retirement and congratulate her on 20 years of service to Queensland. She will be sorely missed.

Jordan Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.28 pm): Schools are well and truly back, much to the relief of many parents I am sure. We are so fortunate to have fantastic schools and students in the Jordan electorate. It is very important to me that we continue to invest in new classrooms, equipment and of course quality teaching staff.

I was very pleased that all state schools in Jordan have been funded for air conditioning. This has been warmly—or coolly, you could say—welcomed by all of my school communities. This additional funding will ensure that classrooms, specialist spaces and staff rooms will be air conditioned. All schools in the Jordan electorate are at the delivery stage or have signed contracts, with two schools now fully air conditioned.

On the first day of the school year I stopped by Augusta State School in Augustine Heights to get a quick tour of the brand-new \$6.3 million learning hub for its prep and year 1 students which has opened this year. This new building includes two specially designed prep learning spaces, six additional general learning spaces and a massive undercroft for potential future growth, along with a fantastic new playground and outdoor learning area. Augusta State School is a very popular school in my electorate and it has been wonderful to deliver these new classrooms and facilities, and the students were clearly loving their new spaces.

Late last year the Minister for Education officially opened the new \$9.9 million Springfield Central State High School sport and community hall—a fantastic space for students and the broader Ipswich community. Until this hall was built, the school could never hold a whole-of-school assembly because it simply did not have the space, so I was particularly excited to see the first school assembly of 2020 which included every student from year 7 to year 12 in attendance. There is more good news for Springfield Central State High, with another \$10 million committed for the school for additional classrooms, with construction to begin this year.

Woodcrest State College, another fantastic school in my electorate, has also received funding to deliver two great new projects this year—a new outdoor learning area and a community hub—and I cannot wait to see these progressed. Camira State School had a \$150,000 upgrade at the start of this year to ensure that any students with disabilities attending this great school are able to get around more easily—something that I believe is so important, particularly in our older schools where these things were previously not considered.

When it comes to the education of our kids in the Jordan electorate, I do not believe in tough love, which we really know is just LNP shorthand for cutting school funding, sacking schoolteachers and selling school sites. I believe in expanding educational opportunities for all of our students and I am already thinking beyond 2020, actively advocating for the planning of a new state secondary school in Greater Springfield, a new primary school for Greenbank and new facilities and education programs in our Flagstone schools to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our growing student population.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Economy

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.31 pm): Last week was the fifth anniversary of the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I know those Labor members opposite will be celebrating and pleased with themselves and patting themselves on the back, but Queenslanders certainly have nothing to celebrate. Just look at today's announced unemployment rate of 6.3 per cent. It is the worst rate in the nation when compared to other state jurisdictions. Last week the Queensland Auditor-General also confirmed what we on this side of the House have always known—that the Palaszczuk Labor government simply cannot manage the state's finances, let alone Queensland's great economy.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the minister interjecting, but I will come to him soon. The Auditor-General's report was scathing—to quote the *Australian* newspaper, a 'grim assessment'—which painted a very bleak outlook for the future of the state's finances and gave Queenslanders every reason to further doubt the ability of the Premier and her Treasurer to properly manage taxpayer dollars. We know that debt in Queensland is heading towards \$91.8 billion by 2022-23. That is \$16½ thousand on the credit card that every Queenslanders owes—every man, woman and child in Queensland—and when it reaches that level that will be an interest bill of \$10 million a day, \$70 million a week or \$280 million a month.

The consequences of Labor's inept financial and economic management are adversely impacting every Queensland community, especially in the western suburbs of Brisbane and across the electorate of Moggill. Labor has effectively gone out of its way to ensure that residents and families in the electorate of Moggill receive less infrastructure and less investment in our schools and services and are paying higher taxes, higher fees and more government charges. We just have to look at traffic congestion on Moggill Road.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I again hear the Minister for Transport and Main Roads interjecting—no progression on the Moggill Road corridor planning study for cyclist safety, no progression on solutions to deal with traffic congestion on Moggill Road, a lack of public transport that the Labor government is still not focusing on not only in the electorate of Moggill but right across the western suburbs of Brisbane. This Labor government will not even invest in a new hall for Kenmore State High School to accommodate the over 2,000 students who are there.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Dr ROWAN: Labor simply does not care; I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. If Labor's neglect of the western suburbs has not been intentional, it has been grossly negligent. The only thing that we can confidently say here in Queensland is that we have skyrocketing debt. This is intergenerational debt which is a shameful legacy on our next generation of our children and grandchildren. There is \$3½ billion in additional and higher taxes, fees and charges that this government has allocated over the last few years. As I have said before, the unemployment rate in Queensland is 6.3 per cent—the highest and worst rate in our country. This government is an abomination to the people of Queensland. It is not doing its job. It needs to do more.

Toohy Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohy—ALP) (2.34 pm): As we are aware, the coronavirus has had a huge impact on the Australian economy, especially impacting on the Queensland economy and in particular in my electorate of Toohy. On 19 February 2020 the *Courier-Mail's* Queensland Taste contained an article titled 'Use your noodle' regarding the economic impact on local restaurants. The article spoke about the mistaken belief by people that there is a health risk in dining at Chinese restaurants and, as a result, people are avoiding Chinese restaurants, especially in the electorate of Toohy and in the vibrant suburb of Sunnybank where my electorate office is on Mains Road. The article sent out a message to the people of Brisbane to return to their favourite restaurants and that there is no health risk from dining in Chinese restaurants.

Tony Ching runs a successful tour company at Sunnybank taking people from all over Brisbane to restaurants and also taking them to specialist Chinese grocery stores, helping them find that hard-to-find ingredient that they want to use in their own cooking. In the article Landmark was recognised as a Brisbane institution, serving the best yum cha in Brisbane and a place where my community has many of its functions. The Premier also recently visited this restaurant to show her support for my community and enjoyed yum cha, and I thank the Premier for attending my electorate. The article also stated—and I agree—that Landmark has the best egg custard tarts in Brisbane. The restaurant also has yum cha trolleys where you can grab dim sims, steamed pork buns and chicken legs. I want to take this opportunity to also acknowledge the manager of Landmark restaurant, Norman Wu, and his hardworking staff who, as I can vouch for, are always friendly and efficient.

As outlined by the Premier at the beginning of the sitting week and as I highlighted at the opening of my private member's statement, the coronavirus outbreak has the potential to impose a wide range of direct and indirect costs on the Queensland economy. I thank the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government, especially the Premier for her leadership on this matter. The government has acted quickly following advice from industry on how tough business has been after the coronavirus struck in January. That immediately led to the industry recovery package valued at \$27.25 million.

Public Housing

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to update the House on the complete mess that the Minister for Housing and Public Works has made of the public housing system. The opposition asked a couple of questions on notice late last year, and I table both of those questions on notice for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Response to question on notice No. 1953 asked on 28 November 2019 [\[317\]](#).

Tabled paper: Response to question on notice No. 1850 asked on 26 November 2019 [\[318\]](#).

One of those shows that when the LNP came to government in 2012—the only figure we have is from December onwards—there were 23,550 applications for public housing. We have to keep in mind that there may be three or four people involved in each of those, so there could be 100,000 people waiting for housing. By the time we left government in February 2015, that number had fallen by 7,076 to 16,474. What has this minister managed to do in the five years since he has been in power and controlling this? He has managed to push the applications out, as at 31 October last year, to 24,354. While the LNP got public housing figures down by over 7,000, the minister has pushed them up by 7,880.

In fact, the minister has overseen an increase in the very high need segment of public housing of over 1,100 applications—possibly 4,000 or 5,000 people—in the last two months of these figures alone. The other question on notice that I tabled shows the story about homelessness. Unfortunately the answer we received back only breaks it down into regions so I went to the dataset for homelessness and public housing and I broke it down from 30 June. The Gold Coast has 2,204 people on the high need and very high need waiting list and 768 who are homeless. I broke that down further into Burleigh and, just for interest, Currumbin. In Burleigh there are 64 people on the very high need or high need waiting list but in Currumbin there are 491 people on the very high need or high need waiting list. That is why we need a very good member down in Currumbin like Laura Gerber. On 28 March the people of Currumbin will get the opportunity to elect a member who can be part of an LNP government on 31 October that can fix this problem because quite clearly the Labor Party cannot fix this. It is incapable of taking care of the vulnerable people of Queensland. It will take a new LNP government to fix this problem.

Ipswich Electorate, Schools

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.40 pm): Queensland was privileged to open eight new state schools this year. Two of those eight schools, Ripley Valley State School and Ripley Valley State Secondary College, are in Ipswich. Ripley Valley is one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland, with thousands of young families moving in each year. To meet this growth, the Palaszczuk government invested \$95 million to build these two new state schools in the area. I am pleased to see that my constituents in Ripley now have the opportunity to send their kids to quality state schools close to home.

I had the opportunity to visit Ripley Valley State Secondary College for its foundation parade late last month. It was a fabulous experience to join the school's foundation students in celebrating the launch of their new school and seeing the students receive their foundation badges. It was a wonderful ceremony, including an address by the new principal, a presentation of flags to the school, a traditional smoking ceremony as part of the welcome to country and a signing of a school diary that will be put into a time capsule to be buried on school grounds.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the two foundation principals of the new Ripley Valley schools: Brendan Krueger, the principal of Ripley Valley State Secondary College; and Naomi Meerwald, principal of Ripley Valley State School. As foundation principals they have a formidable task ahead of them. They will be instrumental in shaping the school's future, its culture, its values and community. I wish them well in the days and years ahead and I trust that their drive and passion for education will create a thriving learning environment for Ripley students.

The Palaszczuk government is standing up for education in Queensland and putting kids first. We are delivering funding to upgrade facilities at older schools and we are building new schools in areas where they are needed most. For example, in the past two years Bremer State High School in my electorate has received \$7.2 million to build 12 new classrooms and received \$190,000 to upgrade its junior oval. In November last year the Palaszczuk government fast-tracked \$50 million to fund air conditioning for schools outside the Cooler Schools Zone. As a result of this funding three schools in my electorate have now had air conditioning installed and a further five schools have had contracts awarded to install air conditioning. The Palaszczuk government is building new schools and upgrading facilities in older schools because, quite simply, Queensland kids are worth it.

While the Palaszczuk government opens new schools, the LNP government closes schools. While the Palaszczuk government has this year employed more than 1,000 new teachers, the LNP government cut teacher numbers after selling off schools. I believe the Palaszczuk government's proven track record on investing in education will mean we can look forward to more schools being built in Ipswich over the next decade. I can assure members that while Labor is in government Queensland schools will be in safe hands.

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.43 pm): You would have to be living under a rock not to have noticed Townsville's escalating crime problem. Yesterday and last night residents and the QPS endured one of the worst nights of crime in Townsville in recent times: nine cars were stolen, 17 homes were broken into and five cyclists were hit by a vehicle. This follows a reported 104 unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences recorded in Townsville in December and 94 in January. At this rate, who knows where the numbers will end up in February.

Let me paint a picture of what happened last night during the rampage. Seventeen homes were broken into and nine cars were stolen—three from a Townsville pizza shop. The string of crimes included a suspected stolen Domino's car crashing near a shopping centre in Kirwan at about 3.30 am on Wednesday with two boys fleeing from the scene, according to police Inspector Damien Crosby. The children, aged between 11 and 12, were found hiding behind bushes in the gardens. Once apprehended they were charged with unlawful use of a motor vehicle, entering a premise and committing an indictable offence.

As the children were aged between 11 and 12, people are asking what they are doing out on the streets and where are their parents. My opinion is if your children are out on the streets at this time of night committing these crimes you should not have the privilege of raising them. Last week, Take Back Townsville organised a forum where the public had a chance to ask questions not only of Labor Party government members but also opposition and crossbench members and hear their solutions for youth crime and crime in general in Townsville. The public made it clear that this is the last chance the Labor government will have before the state election to dramatically improve public safety in the region.

It has been identified that there are about 30 to 40 hard nuts that the current youth justice system cannot crack. This morning Elders Russell Butler and Wayne Parker spoke to Triple M Townsville breakfast announcer Steve 'Pricey' Price about the current youth crime situation. From what was discussed it would appear that they have the same opinion as the KAP: it is time to get these tough nuts out of town and on country to do their sentencing. The problem is that youth offenders are not deterred by the current laws. Our relocation sentencing policy will act as a real deterrent for those youth offenders. This would be a harsh third option for magistrates that would be perfect for offenders who have not been successfully reformed through the current youth justice system. The state government has an opportunity here to take on a community backed policy or to continue with the current approach towards Townsville's youth crime problem.

Lytton Electorate

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.46 pm): I am so privileged to have been representing the bayside since 2015. It is an honour to serve the residents of Lytton. Our vibrant community is bursting with dedicated, talented and hardworking people and industry surrounded by the natural beauty of Moreton Bay Marine Park. When I was elected in 2015 I made a commitment to baysiders that I would always listen and I would always work with the community, that I would focus on building our community, identifying and confirming priorities of each and every sector in the bayside and to make the day-to-day lives of baysiders better.

I am so proud of the Wynnum Manly community health centre Gundu Pa, our very own state-of-the-art health facility. This centre boasts best practice clinics meeting the health needs of all baysiders. Whether it is seeing a doctor in the primary care clinic any time of the day or night seven days a week or staying in either the rehabilitation beds at Pandanus Ward or the palliative care service at Camelia Lodge, or any of the other amazing clinics, baysiders' health is well and truly being taken care of by our fabulous doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and other staff in these wonderful facilities.

I back the value of a great education, our local schools, our teachers and the staff in our schools and I have been thrilled to see the investment in our local schools, including new classrooms at Wynnum State High School, Lota State School and Brisbane Bayside State College. Our bayside youngsters get a Flying Start with the compulsory prep year and a teacher aide in every prep classroom.

The introduction of coding and robotics in all state schools and boosted STEM means our kids have a head start. This year's graduating cohort have participated in a number of firsts. They were the first prep, the first year 7 in high school and this year they will be the first to graduate under the new senior assessment system. Good luck!

I, like my community, value the dignity of a job. The reintroduction of Skilling Queenslanders for Work, the introduction of free TAFE and apprenticeship training and Back to Work programs are important and valuable contributions to ensure that we have a skilled and trained workforce ready to build on the economic future of the bayside.

Through the great work of the Clean Up Wynnum Creek! group, we have seen the removal of abandoned vessels, not only from Wynnum Creek but also from creeks across the waterways in Queensland. I am really proud of our group. There is always work to be done to make the lives of baysiders better. I commit to deliver access to world-class health and education facilities and economic growth and job creation. I will continue to listen and I will continue to stand up for baysiders to ensure that we have a very strong voice in this place.

Youth Justice

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.49 pm): There were a couple of telling things about the private member's motion debated in the House last night. Firstly, we could have had nearly every member of parliament from this side of the House on the speaking list. We could have been here for a couple of hours debating that motion. The second thing about the private member's motion, which was most telling, was the geographic diversity represented by the speakers from this side of the House: from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast, from regional Queensland and Kingaroy to inner city suburbs and northern Brisbane, and most telling from ground zero and the electorate of Burdekin near Townsville, the very epicentre of this problem.

Last week the Premier sent the Minister for Police up to Townsville to try to speak to the people there. The Minister for Police got himself tied up in knots. Firstly, he said that there were 'conversations in the works' to appeal light decisions. I reckon there is nothing that scares youth offenders more than conversations in the works! I am sure they are shaking in their boots about those conversations in the works. However, the police minister did not stop there. He went on to effectively criticise the judiciary. He said that if they are not interpreting the legislation properly then the higher courts need to tell the lower courts what to do. Lawyers were furious with that statement.

I think the police minister has misunderstood the role of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I think he has been snoozing through the past five years in this House because it is the Labor government's policies and legislative prescriptions that have left us in this situation where, for example, 17-year-olds have been brought into the youth justice system without a plan. Yesterday the minister quoted the Queensland Police Union president. He should have read what the Police Union president said about 17-year-olds moving into the youth justice system without a plan or any ideas. Now we have the watch house crisis that flowed from the changes to the youth justice system. It was under the Palaszczuk Labor government that young kids' fingers were severed in watch houses around Queensland. At one stage, there were more kids in watch houses than adults in the Brisbane watch house.

When this government introduced those changes to the youth justice system, they voted against our breach of bail amendment. They turned the presumption for bail in favour of the offender. They have introduced bail houses that have been a diabolical failure and will cost \$70 million by 2032. One in six kids is reoffending. Last night in her speech, the member for Mundingburra tried to deflect from this problem, but she did not even mention bail houses.

Enough is enough. The government should change the law or get out of the road and let a Frecklington LNP government—

(Time expired)

Gladstone Hospital, Emergency Department

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak about the progress of the construction of the Gladstone Hospital's new \$42 million Emergency Department. Last week in Gladstone, I was joined by Minister Miles and industry and community leaders to tour the wonderful new facility. Construction is on track for completion by May 2020. In 2005 when I ran for office, the people of Gladstone said clearly to me that our hospital needed major infrastructure upgrades. The Palaszczuk

government listened and committed to building a brand-new \$42 million ED. When that was first announced, people said that they would believe it when they saw it. I can proudly say that today it can be seen.

The state-of-the-art ED is more than double the size of the current space. It is designed with better flow for patients and a contemporary workspace for our hardworking doctors and nurses in Gladstone. Last week the staff told me that they had input into the design and layout of the new ED and it is truly impressive. There will be a separate waiting room for kids and their parents, secure mental health treatment rooms, a quarantine room, an impressive new entrance to the hospital and so much more.

We went to the last election with a bold plan to deliver record investment in our frontline health services, to hire more frontline doctors and nurses, and to build the hospitals of the future. That is exactly what we are doing in the Gladstone region. In Gladstone we have delivered a record budget for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, 93 new doctors, 192 new nurses and a brand-new state-of-the-art ED. The new department is expected to be operational by August. Work will then start on refurbishing the current ED into a new specialist outpatient department, freeing up space in our hospital for further refurbishments and expansions. For decades, the hospital has been overlooked with no major capital spend on infrastructure or upgrades. The ED is the start of the plans for the Gladstone Hospital, not the end.

There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to health care in this state. We are being asked to do more with less funding from the federal government. There is a massive shortfall of bulk-billing doctors, with only three out of 11 medical centres in Gladstone offering bulk-billing for new patients. For those that do offer it, there is a two-week wait time just for an appointment to see a doctor. There are no fully bulk-billed practices in the Gladstone or Tannum Sands region, which increases the demand on tertiary health services at the Gladstone Hospital. As they have done for the past seven years, our dedicated staff are picking up the slack from the federal Liberal government and its failure to support the health care of the people of Gladstone and Central Queensland.

Lake Eyre Basin, Management

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.56 pm): My constituents in the Lake Eyre Basin, also known as the Channel Country, are extremely distressed that they have been left uninformed and unconsulted by the Labor government concerning major changes proposed for their region. Those changes include an alarming expansion of the mapped area to include the entire Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper Creek catchments. Equally alarming is the expansion of disallowed activity land uses and infrastructure constructions. Those will threaten the very sustainability of the local economy, which is beef, and therefore the viability of the Lake Eyre or Channel Country communities.

The only chance the majority of the Lake Eyre Basin people have had to learn about these drastic changes proposed by the department of environment and the Labor government has been at a series of forums held by AgForce. That wonderful part of Queensland has supported Indigenous traditional owners for a long time. Labor says that it consulted a group called the Lake Eyre Basin Traditional Owners' Alliance. Across the basin at those AgForce forums, traditional owners—the real traditional owners—have said that they have never heard of that group. They have expressed the opinion that it was a token put up to hide the fact that they were not being consulted. They said quite bluntly that the changes had been kept so quiet that they only heard about them through other worried stakeholders, such as the graziers and local businesses. It is no wonder that they feel so disrespected.

For over 150 years, the Lake Eyre Basin traditional owners have coexisted peacefully with the pastoral industries of sheep and cattle grazing. Not only are those two groups the foundation of life in the basin communities; it is their combined land management skills that have maintained the land and the waters in their current pristine state. Under the current pretence of protecting the same pristine state, Labor now threatens its existence. It is insulting.

We found that the government's entire presentation at the AgForce community forums was only six slides on a PowerPoint presentation. At no point did the presentation explain how the current act is inadequate to the task of protection, neither scientifically, environmentally, culturally or practically; nor was any evidence produced of a change in any of those domains that has created a need for change; nor was any regulatory impact assessment presented on the legal and economic issues for local industries and communities.

Given the success of over 25 years of evidence based regional planning in the Lake Eyre Basin, the current proposal seems to have been developed in wilful ignorance and reckless disregard for the welfare of the Lake Eyre Basin people or Channel Country people. As many people at the AgForce forums said, this is just Labor shoring up Green preferences for South-East Queensland's Labor seats at the expense of Western Queensland, again. Again, they are putting Western Queensland last.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Infrastructure and Jobs

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.59 pm): There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk government is invested in Townsville, the capital of North Australia. Maybe 'Scotty from Marketing' can learn a lesson from the Palaszczuk government and pick up our playbook on how to commit to local jobs and build infrastructure in the north because everyone in this House knows that the Morrison government cannot get any projects started under their four-year-old no-funding initiative.

Tomorrow I will be joining the Premier, the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa as we thank the local tradies and suppliers who have built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium for North Queenslanders. We will also be hosting locals to the open day on Saturday. We are expecting thousands upon thousands of people to come along to see their stadium. On 13 March, the Cowboys will flog the Broncos as they host them at the new stadium for their first game which is already sold out. While it is not quite an Origin match, for us in North Queensland it is pretty close as this is north versus south.

The investment by the Palaszczuk government into local jobs and infrastructure is not just in our stadium. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads highlighted yesterday, we are investing \$118 million in the Port of Townsville to widen the channel. While this may not be as sexy as a new world-class stadium, it will build the capacity of the largest commercial port in North Australia to provide a direct import and export port that will open more trade opportunities across the Asia-Pacific area.

While we have received some welcome rain recently and the monsoon event of last year that dumped 1.4 metres of rain in nine days, which was not so welcomed, Townsville was in drought conditions prior to those events. At a cost of \$30 million a day—that is \$30 million a day—Townsville City Council was pumping water from the Haughton Channel to supply the basic water needs of a growing city. With a population of 200,000, that pumped water was never going to sustain a large city like Townsville. I was able to convince the Premier that security of water was essential to attract industry and sustain our city. The Premier responded with \$225 million for stage 1 of the Haughton water pipeline, no strings attached, no conditions, nothing, just the money up-front. Due for completion at the end of the month, over 1,000 local workers have been part of building this vital piece of infrastructure that will futureproof our great city. This is the Palaszczuk government investing in North Queensland and investing in local jobs and infrastructure for now and for the future.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 6 February (see p. 265), on motion of Mr Russo—

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

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (3.02 pm), continuing: To ensure we continue delivering world-class emergency services, I regularly task IGEM to assess the state's emergency responses to natural disasters. Similar reviews are already undertaken in other bushfire impacted states. With the federal government now moving into a royal commission, it would be foolish to look back instead of looking forward. I quote the Deputy Leader of the National Party, David Littleproud, so those opposite can understand what I say, 'We should not put ourselves backwards in terms of looking forward.'

After releasing its *Bushfire prevention and preparedness* report in January 2019, QFES wrote to the Audit Office and advised that it considered the QAO report closed. We do not need 5-year-old recommendations from an 11-year-old fire to guide best practice. QFES will continue to evolve to ensure that they use absolute best practice to keep people safe. To do that, we need to look forwards, not backwards.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.03 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I wish to correct the record. I said '\$30 million' in my previous speech. It is \$30,000.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Thank you, member. I appreciate the correction. I now call the member—

Mr Krause: Only a few zeros.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Quiet, thank you.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, thank you. Member for Scenic Rim, I was calling the House to order when you made a comment.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from p. 552.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.04 pm): I rise to speak about the committee inquiry process into bushfire preparedness in Queensland. In order to gain meaningful understanding of the audit outcomes, the committee held a private meeting with Ms Daniele Bird, Acting Auditor-General, and Mr David Toma, Director—Performance Audit, on 1 April 2019 to discuss in detail the report. On 29 April the committee wrote to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services seeking an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations in the report.

In order to fully understand why we had such concerns about this report, we need to go back to 2014. In 2014, the Queensland Audit Office tabled its report *Bushfire prevention and preparedness* in the Queensland parliament. That report contained some alarming findings. In the report they examined whether Queensland was better able to prevent and prepare for bushfires following the 2009 Victorian bushfires, the Malone Review in 2013 and the Police and Community Safety Review in 2013.

In the original 2014 audit report, the Queensland Audit Office concluded that Queensland was not as prepared for the threat of bushfire as it could be. The Audit Office found that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was response focused to the detriment of coordinating effective mitigation programs. They also found that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was unable to efficiently target its educational activities and as a result was unaware if community members were prepared for bushfires.

That report came as a shock to me as I know the efforts our urban and rural fire brigades in the Lockyer and Somerset areas make in education are enormous. There is hardly a community event that goes by where they are not very prominent or which they do not run. I have participated in a large number of the community engagement and education programs. I extend my congratulations to all of my urban and rural fire brigades. There are five urban or auxiliary brigades in the Lockyer electorate and 18 rural brigades.

The 2014 report recommendations advised that QFES should strengthen its oversight role as lead agency for mitigating Queensland bushfire risks to an acceptable level. Fast forward to 2018 and the Audit Office concluded that QFES has made efforts to address the underlying issues that the Audit Office identified in the 2014 audit, they have increased its focus on bushfire risk mitigation activity statewide and they have also improved their engagement with key stakeholders. We were better able to coordinate and manage Queensland's bushfire risk, but I say being better is not where we need to be. Thank goodness that Deb Frecklington and the LNP have developed a 10-point bushfire management plan to overcome some of these shortfalls. What great leadership to give certainty to Queenslanders and take decisive action to get Queensland bushfire ready.

Queenslanders will welcome the 10-point bushfire plan because it will bring a governance structure and clarity. It will be a one-stop shop, taking confusion out of the mitigation burning process and helping customers. We will establish a right-to-burn model that deems an approval after 15 business days for any properly made applications. There will be a KPI for hazard reduction of 98 per cent, not 54 per cent as under this Labor government. We want to further extend the use of Indigenous rangers in conjunction with the Rural Fire Service to complement pre-existing efforts to ensure that traditional and modern burning practices are included.

Importantly, there will be a natural disaster cabinet committee monitoring progress in hazard reduction activity so that what gets measured gets done. There will also be monitored grazing in state forests. In my area there are large state forests that will benefit greatly from monitored grazing.

There will also be an urban based rural fire brigade, similar to Sydney and Melbourne. We will restore local control under a rural assistant commissioner, not under the current urban system. We will also ensure there is a rural fire brigade board to oversee the whole of these structures and improvements. We will also review our capacity for aerial firefighting. My community of Lockyer look forward to an LNP 10-point plan that will have some sensible, commonsense solutions.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.09 pm): I rise to speak to the House about the Queensland Audit Office's report No. 5 titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. The Queensland Audit Office's report is a follow-up from the 2014-15 report and was tabled in the House on 9 October 2018. It was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. In examining the Audit Office report, the committee met with the Acting Auditor-General in April 2019 and tabled its report in September 2019.

The 2018 audit came to the following conclusions. Firstly, that the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services had made efforts to address underlying issues that the Queensland Audit Office identified in its original 2014 audit. Secondly, that there had been increased focus on bushfire risk mitigation activities statewide and had also improved its engagement with key stakeholders. Finally, that QFES is now able to better coordinate and manage Queensland's bushfire risk.

The Queensland Audit Office did find that there was more work still to be done to ensure that Queensland communities are not exposed to higher levels of risk than necessary and that while some of the original 2014-15 recommendations had not been completed QFES is reliant upon the actions of others to fully implement recommendations. Since the QAO's recommendations were tabled in October 2018, QFES has provided the Audit Office with details of the ongoing work that had continued since the audit and further provided information to the committee in a report dated June 2019.

Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing summarised some of the areas where work had continued on into 2019. These included, but were not limited to, the rollout of predictive tools to over 6,800 users, including Rural Fire Service volunteers. For the information of members, while bushfire prone area mapping within the redi-portal is utilised for land use and mitigation planning, predictive tools such as Phoenix and Sabre, which model fire behaviour, better support the simulation and analysis of fire behaviour with active fires. The Inspector-General Emergency Management noted that the use of Sabre and Phoenix is a capability that is cutting edge, used by others and worth building on.

These tools, combined with the skills of fire behaviour analysts, provide QFES with valuable decision support products and intelligence. QFES continues to build its intelligence capabilities through ongoing training and development of fire behaviour analysts and the further adaption of Sabre and Phoenix outputs for bushfire risk mitigation. QFES has rolled out Sabre access to many stakeholders. There are currently over 6,800 users who have access to this predictive modelling capability.

I am extremely well aware of the importance of relying on the best intelligence products possible and highly trained analysts to respond to unfolding and developing operational and tactical issues. Firefighting is clearly no different. QFES's predictive intelligence products were critical in the development of over 800 bushfire community warnings issued during September 2019. More recently, more than 1,400 were issued during the November-December 2019 fires. My community was on the receiving end of these bushfire warnings at the end of last year as not only semirural parts of my electorate faced bushfires sweeping through backyards but also reserves located on the edge of our central business district did too.

In the more recent 2018 Queensland bushfire review report No.2 conducted by the Inspector-General for Emergency Management, special mention was made of the use of these intelligence products. Specifically, the IGEM comment that informed decision-making supported by intelligence was instrumental in preventing loss of life. I commend QFES for the increased adoption of intelligence and evidence based decision-making. It will continue to ensure that valuable bushfire-fighting resources are deployed when and where they are needed most. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.13 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to report No. 49 of the 56th Parliament titled *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 5: 2018-19: Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. Essentially, what this report from the Audit Office demonstrates is that the Queensland government has seen progress proceed at a snail's pace.

In March 2018, the QAO set out to establish whether QFES had effectively implemented the recommendations made by the QAO in the 2014 Auditor-General's report. The Queensland Audit Office found that QFES had made some progress, but has only partially implemented some recommendations. The Queensland Audit Office noted that: QFES has not fully rolled out its risk mitigation tools across all regions; more training and continuous improvement is needed to make sure they are effectively used to strengthen Queensland's approach to risk mitigation; and better engagement with local communities is also needed to understand their risk and help them prepare for bushfires.

Given we are now 12 months down the track from the bushfires that burnt out a significant part of my electorate and we have once again experienced several weeks of the entire state being declared a fire emergency, what has really happened since? The Palaszczuk government has consumed five more years rolling out administrative measures and training protocols and some high-technology tools, yet I am fielding questions from local brigades about when they are going to see tangible benefits to help them with an on-the-ground fire.

I have to agree that predictive tools for Operation Cool Burn might look good on a report, but what about delivering preventative burns or putting in place alternative measures like permanent firebreaks and preparing accesses. If it is too hot or the period of time is too short to cool burn then maybe we should put more people on the ground or adopt alternative methods from the forestry manual like thinning and clearing up excess amounts of understory and ground cover by mechanical means.

I am sure that there would be many small businesses, especially across regional Queensland, keen to be given the work. The task can start straight after the summer rain stops. Sadly, I suspect the real answer amounts to interference by very counterproductive, environmental protection and vegetation management policies that have been inflicted on government agencies and prevented local fire wardens from issuing timely burn-off permits to landowners and rural brigades during the winter months. Indeed, it might look glorious for the minister to be highlighting in his statement this morning that 3.9 billion hectares of national park have been burnt, presumably in a properly controlled manner, over the last five years. Queensland is vastly larger, encompassing 185 million hectares of land controlled by multiple state and local government jurisdictions as well as millions of private and corporate holdings.

Not all fires involve national parks, as evidenced by the recent Yeppoon and Sunshine Coast fires and bushfires. These fires were on landholdings close to urban centres, featuring town commons, future developments, nature reserves and, in many other instances, road, rail, energy and infrastructure corridors that are avenues for bushfires to be started and spread. Much should be said about the importance of fire prevention across every type of landholding.

It is now clearly evident the Queensland government under the Palaszczuk-Trad leadership has disconnected from the people and is openly pandering to the UN and the IPPC crowd. If there is no fuel load then we as a community need not bear the growing cost and disruption of rolling out thousands of rural volunteers and paying millions for aerial fire bombers for fires that often grow quickly to magnitudes more intense than they otherwise would have been.

I note that the Premier has now moved forward with record pace to commit a further \$18.1 million on a Queensland based large air tanker, which is remarkable given the extent of the unresolved priorities first identified in the Malone report and reconfirmed in multiple QAO and Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee reports since. How does the Palaszczuk government correlate the importance of putting all their cards on one single asset when so many other identified priorities are still seeking attention and funding? Might I suggest it is an absurd decision to be throwing cash on a 30-year-old C130 that at best can deliver 15,000 litres an hour on one or two fire fronts.

The sad reality is that the state government is about to see an even larger exodus of dedicated volunteer rural fire brigade members who are walking away due to a badly managed blue card rollout. This is on top of years of disenchantment with regard to how rural fire brigades get ignored as a volunteer appendage of QFES. Fair dinkum, where is the priority shown to bushfire preparedness when the Palaszczuk ALP government is now skipping out on the delivery of much needed tools for the thousands of frontline—

(Time expired)

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.18 pm): The Queensland Audit Office forms a key part of the Palaszczuk government's integrity and accountability agenda. Report No. 49 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee captures the Queensland Audit Office's report titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. The report reflects the dutiful work of the Queensland Audit Office. The committee requested a private meeting with Ms Daniele Bird, the Acting Auditor-General, and Mr David

Toma, Director of Performance Audit, from the QAO on 1 April 2019 to discuss the QAO report in detail. Further, on 29 April 2019 the committee wrote to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services seeking an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations in the QAO report.

The response received from QFES referenced the following progress amongst other strategies. QFES's ability to respond to bushfires has progressed well beyond the original QAO recommendations. Five years ago when the QAO made their recommendations even the Wishart Fire and Rescue Station in my electorate looked very different. There was a vacant dirt block where the Wishart Fire and Rescue Station training facility stands today. QFES maintains a commitment to keeping communities safe through the ongoing implementation of evidence based evaluation of events including the effectiveness of actions applied from the QAO report and the IGEM bushfire review.

A number of the initial QAO recommendations have not kept pace with best practice—an example being QFES's use of emergency alerts straight to mobile phones and landlines to provide live information. During the recent Peregian fires, EAs achieved a 90 per cent connection. EAs, as we would all note, were not recommended by the QAO in that initial report.

QFES maintains its commitment to the EA system and continues to expand its use of EAs during bushfires, with 25 emergency alerts issued during the events of September 2019. Figures for EAs later in the year from 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 was 58. QFES has exceeded the QAO report in predictive intelligence and fire behaviour modelling tools. QFES fire behaviour analysts use cutting-edge and critical decision-making tools during fire events like that of the Peregian fire in September 2019. These predictive intelligence products were critical in the development of over 800 bushfire community warnings issued during the September 2019 bushfires and more than 1,400 were issued in the November-December 2019 fires to ensure that our communities were empowered through timely advice.

There was also increased engagement with local government disaster management coordinators, particularly to explain area fire management group structures and a partnership approach to connect bushfire mitigation planning with broader disaster management planning through the local disaster management group. The rollout of predictive tools to over 6,800 users, including our Rural Fire Service volunteers and our external partners, expanded the use of predictive modelling for risk identification in Operation Cool Burn 2019.

As the commissioner has stated, 'Bushfire management is a dynamic and fast-evolving area where new technologies emerge quickly. QFES remains committed to implementing the intent of recommendations of the Auditor-General's report to ensure that Queensland's communities are as prepared and protected from the impacts of bushfires as possible.' I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.22 pm): The national bushfire crisis over Christmas was a bleak start to the New Year for many of us, including Queenslanders and Australians who had their homes destroyed, family members lost and jobs gone and who experienced significant dislocation. We had a terrible fire season—28 lives were lost and 2,000 properties were destroyed—and we know that the season is now very unpredictable.

When talking to this committee report I get distressed that we are somehow trying to sugar coat things by saying that we are getting better and we are doing well because clearly the evidence on the ground is that we are far from there. Some would argue that we can control drought and heat, but I believe that we can do practical things on the ground to better prepare and mitigate bushfires. It has been argued to justify this that if humans are causing climate change then we need to reduce the avoidable carbon emissions from large-scale bushfires. It is a must.

Fuel hazard reduction burns are no silver bullet and they do not alone prevent or arrest bushfires. They are exactly what they are called—'fuel reduction' to lower the intensity of fires. Regular low-intensity fires will reduce undergrowth and lower canopy density in balance with the forest ecology. Big, hot and intense fires will cause an explosion of eucalyptus regrowth. It looks green but it eventually chokes out the forest and leads to even bigger and hotter fires in the future without further intervention like cool burns more regularly or other low-risk mitigation works.

I acknowledge that fire is not the only fuel reduction option. There are lots of low-risk, low-intensity activities that can reduce fuel loads on site-specific and broader forest areas. Controlled grazing reduces dry fuel matter and improves forest soil health. Selective forestry practices reduce undergrowth density and fuel loads. They reduce canopy density which reduces canopy connection and canopy fires and increases light and water penetration which improves soil moisture.

We must maintain firebreaks and fire lines to allow access for our rural fireys and urban fireys to conduct fuel reduction burns and to control fires, to implement safe emergency back-burns and to segregate if a fire is wide enough. Green buffers with reduced stem density and fuel loads can allow

for fire protection and mitigation. Control of noxious weeds and woody regrowth reduces fuel loads and increases forest health. Control of feral animals reduces weed incursion and soil disturbance. Maintenance of open grass lands and open forest structures reduces fuel loads and fire intensity, reduces regrowth and acts as a buffer to less fire tolerant and sensitive forest systems.

A missing component in a lot of the debate is a shared responsibility. I welcome the federal government's intervention. Many homes and structures have been destroyed because they were surrounded by vegetation and built on woody ridges or on the tops of mountains. I emphasise the need for a shared responsibility for stronger planning controls, stronger building codes like shutters and sprinklers, and better education on the need to clear around properties.

While the First Australians implemented firestick practices, there is a large amount of scientific evidence to suggest that climate variation has had a significantly larger influence on our vegetation composition. That is why when we do these reports we must look more broadly and put a lot more effort into prevention. We need to respect and harness the prevention and firefighting knowledge in our rural and regional areas and do what we need to do to reduce this bushfire risk.

We know that most of the recent bushfires have been started in or have been exacerbated by national parks. This is shown through quite accurate and publicly available government mapping. Huge fuel loads in densely vegetated forests not only impact those forests directly but also impact adjoining land holdings. Most of the vegetation not in national parks is also heavily regulated to restrict vegetation management and fire mitigation activities.

A disturbing trend this fire season that has not been addressed was that most of these fires were deliberately lit or accidentally lit. Since the start of 2019 there have been more than 180 alleged arson cases around Australia. Police arrested 183 people for lighting fires in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

You will never stop bushfires in Australia. Our landscape and forests have evolved with and from fire. However, we can control the frequency, intensity and areas affected by bushfires. This will take more than talking about climate change or having IGEM reports on every fire. We simply must do more cool burns. It requires a wholesale review of our land and forest management and a commitment by all levels of government and all communities to implement strategic, practical and achievable bushfire mitigation measures.

We have converted vast areas of native forest into unmanaged fire traps and we have restricted human access and endeavours in the misconceived pursuit of a flawed concept of an environmental utopia. There is so much more we have to do. The result is that native forests and their biodiversity were left in ash, billions of wildlife cremated and rural communities in ruin.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 5: 2018-19: Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness* from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Firstly, let me place on the record my sincere sympathies to those families and friends who have lost loved ones in bushfires throughout Australia. There were also lives lost in last year's fires close to my electorate. I also wish to thank our rural service volunteers who have diligently and often put their lives on the line to fight these bushfires to protect property and communities. We are deeply indebted to these volunteers who not only volunteer in their own communities but often go and lend a hand interstate.

I note the report is a follow-up report on the original audit done in 2014 that concluded that Queensland was not as prepared for the threat of bushfires as it could be. This report is a damning assessment of the Labor government's management of bushfire risk. The audit found that QFES was 'response-focused' to the 'detriment of coordinating effective mitigation programs'. The Queensland Audit Office also found that QFES was unable to efficiently target its educational activities and as a result was unaware if community members were prepared for bushfires.

In March 2018 the Queensland Audit Office set out to establish whether QFES had effectively implemented the recommendations made by the Queensland Audit Office in the 2014 Auditor-General's report. The Queensland Audit Office found that QFES has made some progress but it has only partially implemented the recommendations. Lack of implementation is a consistent theme across states where we have had bushfires. If there is no fuel there is no fire; it is as simple as that.

There are suggestions of some 57 formal public inquiries, reviews and royal commissions relating to bushfires and fire management since 1939. That is about one inquiry every two years in the past 80 years. There is no shortage of reviews and recommendations about bushfires. The problem is the failure of Labor governments, which pander to a green environmental agenda, to implement these recommendations—governments like Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government, which relies on Greens preferences. It has only completed 54 per cent of the planned burns to be carried out in the

past four years. During that same period, 2016 to 2019, Queensland has seen a 40 per cent decrease in the number of firebreaks being built—the problem again is with implementation—as well as a 45 per cent reduction in bushfire community education activities—again a problem with implementation. The report also shows that QFES has only issued 12 notices to landholders to reduce fuel loads on properties and in state controlled land on national parks—again a problem with implementation. It is time for the Labor government to explain to Queenslanders why there is this lack of implementation.

What we need is the LNP's 10-point plan to get Queensland bushfire ready. The LNP's 10-point plan is a culmination of recommendations, and many of those focus on implementation. The emphasis is on implementation, which is something that has been lacking while Labor has been in government. No more reports; no more reviews. We need actions like those outlined in the LNP's plan, including: a one-stop shop for a streamlined approval process; deemed approval after 15 days under a right-to-burn model; new KPIs to achieve 98 per cent of hazard reduction activities—again it is about implementation—Indigenous rangers to undertake traditional burning; establishment of a natural disaster cabinet committee to monitor preparations; and monitored grazing in state forests and some national parks to manage fuel loads. They also need to: establish urban based fire volunteer brigades; restore local control to rural fire brigades; establish a rural fire board; and review aerial firefighting capability.

It is all about implementation, which the audit report tells us has not been happening. The 10-point plan shows that an LNP Frecklington government would be committed to decisive action and the implementation of recommendations to get Queensland bushfire ready. We have not seen that. As we have seen in these audit reports, that is not happening. We desperately need that 10-point plan.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak on the *Examination of Queensland Audit Office report 5: 2018-19: Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. This report looks at a 2018 QAO report that examined the progress of recommendations it made in 2014-15 to the QFES about bushfire preparedness. This is a report about a report reporting on a report.

The original report found that we were not as prepared as we should be for bushfire threats and that the focus on response was to the detriment of coordinating effective mitigation programs. Among the recommendations were that work had to be done on coordinating land managers' efforts to assess and mitigate bushfire risks; formalising roles to manage fuel loads, including reporting planned and conducted hazard reduction burns and effectiveness; and amending mitigation planning to address prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

It is disappointing that, while QFES has made some progress on these recommendations, it has only partially implemented them. The Auditor-General said that QFES 'has increased its focus on bushfire risk mitigation activities statewide'; however, 'more work is needed to ensure Queensland communities are not exposed to higher levels of risk than they need to be.' The Audit Office recognises this is a challenge because it involves multiple parties and often the QFES is 'reliant on the actions of others'. The report further states—

It is critical that QFES's efforts to improve its collaboration with key stakeholders continue. In particular, it should continue to engage with land managers and local governments to better identify bushfire risks and prioritise mitigation activities.

Among those mitigation measures is managing fuel loads. This parliament has frequently heard that fuel loads are an underlying problem. Over the last 18 months, on two occasions the government has negligently refused to support two inquiries looking into this. In late 2018 it blocked an open and transparent inquiry. Late last year it again blocked an inquiry. The government has been repeatedly warned about managing fuel loads. It was warned when it removed stock grazing permits and when it made back-burning and effective vegetation management more difficult.

Claims that climate change is behind all of our bushfires is a hypocritical distraction. Whenever we try to raise these issues the government muddies the issue, saying we are attacking those who fight fires. It is a cynical, politically motivated accusation that does not match the facts. Arguments about a narrowing window to conduct land management practices are misleading when government will not let landholders responsibly manage their land. The government's response is to spin, distract and deflect from the underlying causes. It prefers political measures, not practical ones.

Fires need an ignition and something to burn. Bushfire prevention and preparedness means looking at ineffective bushfire management in state controlled lands and a dramatic drop in burns by QFES and government obsession with legislation and regulation. They cannot be ignored. The IGEM report shows that the government has overseen: an 83 per cent reduction in overall fire prevention activities; a 75 per cent reduction in completed hazard reduction burns; an 82 per cent reduction in completed fire breaks; and an 88 per cent reduction in community education activities. It has slashed \$13 million from the Rural Fire Service.

Regional and rural landholders continually raise with me their serious concerns about land management practices to control their fuel loads, the management of our national parks, and what they can do to protect their properties. Bureaucratic regulations that impose onerous burdens on farmers, landholders and rural and regional businesses hinder good land management. They make it more difficult to prevent and prepare for bushfires. Irresponsible vegetation and weed management practices in state controlled land pose a risk and create ongoing issues for neighbouring landholders.

This problem has not suddenly appeared out of nowhere. The Rural Fire Brigade Association of Queensland's general manager, Justin Choveaux, told the *Gympie Times* that it has built up over the past 10 to 15 years and that parks have been run down over many years. He said that without appropriate land management, rural brigades had to fight 'prolonged fires on state land where the state has limited or no firefighting capacity due to budget constraints. Many brigades also believe rural fireys and QFES are being used as a source of free labour by some departments to manage their fire risks.'

Simply locking away the land does not prevent and prepare for bushfires. At considerable expense, and at no cost to the state, farmers and landholders can help prevent catastrophic bushfires if they can efficiently manage their land. Responsible and effective bushfire prevention and preparedness means practical and workable measures, not political ones.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.37 pm): It is disappointing that Labor will probably never fully implement these recommendations. It is disappointing that Labor continues to not follow what rural fireys and local people with local knowledge have been saying for a long time. If you want to control bushfires, look to the knowledge of the locals, believe in your first officers and make sure you do prevention first by lowering the fuel loads. Ever since the Labor Party came to power we have seen major changes in the way they deal with fuel loads in national parks and state forests. Gone are grazing leases in state forests and the opportunity to use our cattle industry to reduce our fuel loads.

Why would the Labor Party want to cause a problem such that over the past 12 months or so they have to now rely on the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and our hardworking Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel, rural fireys, SES, police officers and first responders? We all remember what happened in Gracemere and around Bundaberg in November last year, and of course it repeated itself this year. We saw massive fires in areas around Millmerran, which I visited, and in the member for Condamine's seat. The frustration on those people's faces was amazing. They are hardworking volunteers who want to do everything they can for their local community, and the first thing is to protect it. How can they protect their local community when the state Labor government of the day is possibly the worst neighbour you could ever have when it comes to bushfires?

I have seen the frustration on some of these graziers around Bundaberg, and I am talking about David Marland. We saw what happened to his leasehold property in the Bundaberg region. It was totally burnt out. The Labor Party love to say that they are the wildlife warriors when it comes to protecting our wildlife. There is nothing more eerie than going into a totally burnt out area, such as I saw around the member for Burnett's area at Baffle Creek, and experiencing the silence. Not a bird could be heard. There were no animals. They were all scorched. It is such a tragic thing.

We have seen an implementation regime from the Labor Party that has caused devastation for those areas around Eungella and Bundaberg. It will take over 20 or 30 years for that country to be repaired in some way, yet the Labor Party tell us that they are for the environment. Creating an absolute perfect scenario when it comes to bushfires, with high fuel loads in national parks—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member opposite. How about you come with me? I will take you on a trip—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock. Member for Gregory, you know very clearly that you cannot use the word 'you'. All comments must come through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would love to take any of those members opposite for a trip to some of these areas that have been hit hard. They would see the frustration and the concern on the faces of locals when it comes to these bushfires.

Once again, the LNP is left to ask the unanswered questions. Why has the Labor government only completed 54 per cent of planned burns over the past four years? The answer is important. If it is truly due to a shorter cool burn window, that is not a free pass. If we have shorter cool burn periods—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Let us get the House back to order.

Mr MILLAR: Of course after the Labor government's unscientific vegetation management laws and its threatened plant species laws, we are unable to use mechanical slashing, vegetation clearing and firebreak constructions the way we used to. Introducing legislation such as the vegetation management laws has had a dramatic effect on our ability to be prepared for the bushfire season. There is no doubt about it. Taking away the opportunity to do grazing in state forests has taken away the opportunity of being able to reduce those fuel loads in state forests and national parks. The only way we are going to get this right is hopefully on 31 October when we elect an LNP government and get it done right.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.43 pm): I too rise to address the Queensland Audit Office report into the follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness. At the start, I convey my sympathies to those families who lost loved ones, to those individuals and families who lost property and to those who lost their livelihoods in the fires we have seen over the past 12 months.

What we see in this report is that the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services did not know if Queensland's fuel loads were being managed effectively. I want to give the House a really stark contrast of what happens when you effectively manage a fuel load. I recently visited David and Wendy Clark who own and operate Bellthorpe Stays Natures Retreat on Willett Road at Bellthorpe. They are quite literally surrounded on all sides by the Bellthorpe National Park. For many years, they have been dreadfully concerned at the lack of fire reduction or hazard burns being undertaken in the national park.

Fortunately, last year—and they asked me to particularly single out the work of senior ranger Nat Smith from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service—they were able to achieve a couple of very strategic cool burns in the Bellthorpe National Park. It was just as well because during the fire season last year two consecutive fires broke out just south of Conondale and raced up towards Bellthorpe but were stopped because of the effects of those cool burns. As a result, the national park was saved, as were the animals, the birds and the wildlife in that national park. The ecosystems were saved, and the livelihoods and lives of people in Bellthorpe like David and Wendy were saved. We can compare that with what we saw at Deepwater National Park over Christmas where it is literally scorched earth. It is nothing but black sand underneath the canopy. That is the difference between using hazard reduction burns and not using hazard reduction burns.

I also want to address an ongoing concern from rural fire brigades in my area who are perplexed and angry that urban units continue to be called out before rural fire brigades for fires in rural zones. In two instances, fires broke out almost adjacent to the Narangba Valley rural fire brigade. Units in my part of the world were on stand-by as the volunteers had taken time off from their work to be in their sheds ready to be called out. They knew the conditions were dangerous enough that they would be required during the day, yet they listened to the radio as they heard urban and auxiliary units being called to these fires prior to the rural fire brigades being notified to get there themselves.

There are a couple of key concerns around this. The first is the expertise. I really appreciate the work that our urban and auxiliary firefighters do, but where does their expertise lie? In urban fires. Where does the expertise of rural fire brigade volunteers lie? In rural fires. It also concerns me that the urban and auxiliary units are then tasked to rural fires when potentially there could be an urban fire that occurs at the same time. Then we have a situation where houses are lost and lives are potentially lost. It also frustrates the volunteers themselves who, as I have said, have taken time off to prepare themselves for what could potentially happen on days like we had late last year.

The reality is that we do need an overhaul of our fire preparedness, we have to have a bushfire mitigation plan and the LNP's 10-point plan does exactly that. We will have a one-stop shop for streamlined approval processes. We will have deemed approval after 15 business days under a right-to-burn model. We will have new key performance indicators to achieve 98 per cent of hazard reduction activities. We will have Indigenous rangers to undertake traditional burning. We will establish a natural disaster cabinet committee to monitor preparations—not just the disaster itself but the actual preparations. We will monitor grazing in state forests and some national parks to manage fuel loads—that is an important step that is dreadfully necessary. We will establish urban based rural fire volunteer brigades. Again, as I said, that will lessen that requirement to call on urban and auxiliaries, and instead use our hardworking rural fireys. We will restore local control to rural fire brigades. We will establish a rural fire board. We will review aerial firefighting capabilities. We know that we are going to have more seasons like we have had. We need to be prepared. Only under an LNP government will we be prepared.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.47 pm): I think it is quite appropriate that we are talking about bushfire prevention and preparedness today—not only because of the horrific bushfire events that we had in Queensland in 2019 but also because of the political bushfires that the former member for Bundamba has lit all around Queensland today and this week through her statements and her very controversial resignation here today.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock. I bring the member back to the report before the House.

Mr KRAUSE: The Auditor-General's report about bushfire preparedness and preparation highlighted the failure of the Labor government to progress Queensland's bushfire preparedness and prevention measures. The Auditor-General has concluded that more work needs to be done in Queensland to prevent the risk of bushfires in Queensland. The Auditor-General said QFES committed in 2014 to implement all of those recommendations from the previous audit by 2015 but there remains a body of work that has not been done.

I do not think it is any coincidence that in 2015 we had a change in government and then the work on those recommendations from the previous report ground to a halt in many respects. Labor has failed us when it comes to bushfire preparation and prevention. I speak about this as a member who has been through a terrible five or six months of bushfire activity in the Scenic Rim around Canungra and also in the western parts of my electorate. I want to focus on one element of the issues that need to be addressed better, which is that better engagement with local communities is needed to understand their risks and to help them prepare for bushfires.

This was a constant theme that came out of people's mouths when they were dealing with bushfires around Canungra, Beechmont, Maroon, Rosevale, Taroom and Moogerah. Fires also affected Cunningham's Gap where so much of the national park estate has been burned and so much of the ecosystem—the flora and fauna—has been destroyed because of the lack of hazard reduction burning conducted in that national park estate not just in the last five years, but over the last 20 or 30 years. The amount of fuel that was there led to a huge inferno in many places which has permanently damaged that landscape.

We also need to engage with people to ensure that hazards around homes are dealt with so that if there is a fire, rural fireys can get in there and help them. There needs to be a willingness in the community—and this needs to be promoted by government—to engage in hazard reduction burns not just in the bush but also in peri-urban areas like Canungra and Tamborine Mountain, where bushfires can quickly travel very close to people's homes. That needs to be encouraged. On the other hand, if people do the wrong thing with hazard reduction burns there need to be some consequences. I have heard a number of stories of people getting permits to burn but then not looking after their fires. Those fires then get into neighbouring properties and damage their livelihood, damage their stock and cost them money. There need to be some consequences for that. Otherwise we will go the other way and we will not end up doing any burn-offs at all; and then we get fires that we cannot control once they start.

There needs to be respect for people who know their country and know the fire activity around the country side. I talk of people who have been there for generations and know that when a fire comes from a particular direction it is going to behave in this way. That knowledge needs to be embedded in incident control for bushfire events. One of things that has been a constant source of frustration during recent events is that a whole lot of people come into bushfire areas during a major event and take over the running of things but they do not always listen to local knowledge. During those big events I think there should be a paid position for a local fire expert, someone who has been a respected, long-term fire warden, a first officer or similar person who can advise incident control. That needs to be enabled so that decisions are not just being made on the ground by people who do not have the local knowledge required. The Auditor-General had a lot to say—

(Time expired)

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.52 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Audit Office report No. 5 of 2018-19 titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. Queensland saw an unprecedented number of fires in 2019. While unfavourable weather conditions paired with ongoing drought did not help, neither did the lack of hazard burns and bushfire mitigation works.

I met with residents from Hampton in the electorate of Condamine late last year who were extremely worried. They advised me that a controlled burn in the Hampton National Park, which is not far from their homes, had not been conducted for a number of years. Luckily for them, the fires did not reach their doorstep. However, as we know, they are not out of the woods just yet. I ask the minister,

as I did this time last year: what is the bushfire mitigation plan for the Ravensbourne, Pechey and Hampton areas? Why are Queenslanders put in this position when the facts were laid out on the table six years ago?

In 2014 the Queensland Audit Office tabled its report No. 10 of 2014-15 in the Queensland parliament titled *Bushfire prevention and preparedness*. The report examined whether Queensland was better able to prevent and prepare for bushfires following the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the Malone Review into Rural Fire Services in Queensland in 2013 and the Police and Community Safety Review 2013. The Queensland Audit Office concluded that Queensland was not as prepared for the threat of bushfires as it could be and also finding Queensland Fire and Emergency Services was response focused.

The Queensland Audit Office suggested that QFES put a major emphasis on their mitigation works, making sure they had done as much as possible to decrease the severity of potential fires if they were to break out. The report made a number of recommendations. In March 2018 the Queensland Audit Office set out to establish whether QFES had effectively implemented these recommendations. The Queensland Audit Office found that QFES had made some progress but had only partially implemented the recommendations. Despite these efforts, the Queensland Audit Office concluded that more work is still needed to ensure Queensland communities are not exposed to higher levels of risk than they need to be.

In the electorate of Condamine a fire started in the Pechey and Hampton areas near Ravensbourne on 12 November—exactly the area about which concerned locals had raised fears with me. It destroyed almost 20,000 hectares of land and several properties, vehicles and equipment. Some people in Crows Nest were forced to flee their homes as the fire came dangerously close to their township.

Lack of fire mitigation work in the area also meant vital power sources were cut. This was due to no easement being granted along the power corridor and thick regrowth growing unmanaged underneath the powerlines. These power cuts had a major impact on the water supply as power to the pumps at Cressbrook and Perseverance dams was cut off, reducing residents to domestic water use only as Ergon and the council worked to repair the network damage with water supply for firefighters given priority.

Instead of implementing these recommendations, this Palaszczuk government chooses to blame coalmines, power stations and Scott Morrison for the massive bushfire that wreaked so much damage across the state. The LNP does have a plan. It has a 10-point plan and is ready to take real action to get Queensland bushfire ready. These are simple things that have been done in conjunction with our local firefighters. As the member for Scenic Rim said, we have people in the Rural Fire Brigade with up to 50 years experience and knowledge in fighting fires in different terrains in their own home country. Fires on plain lands are different to those in mountains, gullies and hills. Those people were largely ignored and they are extremely frustrated.

I would like to thank all those firefighters for the efforts they put in not only in Ravensbourne and Pechey but across the state. I would also like to acknowledge the effort by the SES and the Salvation Army, who provided 1,500 meals during the Ravensbourne fire for their volunteer firefighters. It was a sterling effort by the community. They need all the support this government can give them.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the examination of the Queensland Audit Office report No. 5 titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. At the outset let me say that in my region we were absolutely blessed and we did dodge a tragedy. I would like to thank all of my fire brigades—Cedar Creek Wolffdene, Ormeau, Wasp Creek and Rocky Point—for their efforts in other areas not just around Queensland but also down south in New South Wales and, indeed, Victoria.

It is interesting that this report only comes to hand now. I was only recently having a conversation with our local fire warden—in fact, I was arranging a fire permit for materials that I had gathered together on my property as a responsible landowner to ensure that it could be burned as soon as we were able to get into the right type of climate, and this rain has allowed that. I have been in that area for over 20 years and the fire warden has been there all his life—60-odd years.

He was telling me that they used to do the whole hazard reduction in the Ormeau Valley, a beautiful area, over a five-year period. They have not been able to do that for the last 15 years due to strict limits on time of day and not being allowed to burn through the night. Those sorts of issues and many others have stopped them from being able to do any of the work they would like to do. As such, our valley is a disaster waiting to happen. We need to properly manage these build-ups of fuel load in

a systemic way. The QAO concluded that more work is needed to ensure that Queensland communities are not exposed to unnecessary higher levels of risk. That is not just for the Ormeau-Kingsholm area in which I live and for which I am responsible as the local member but right across the Darlington range from Cedar Creek to Ormeau. It is good news that the LNP have a 10-point plan to get Queensland ready for the next bushfire season.

Debate, on motion of Mr Crandon, adjourned.

COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCES (INTERSTATE TRANSFER) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 540, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.00 pm), continuing: As per the public briefing on 30 August 2019 by Queensland Corrective Services to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Queensland managed approximately 87 interstate community based offenders, predominantly from New South Wales. In contrast, at the time of the briefing 147 Queensland offenders were managed in other states and territories. This means that, as it stands, Queensland is a net exporter of prisoners serving community based sentences. As I alluded to earlier, there are genuine concerns that Queensland will become a dumping ground through the formalisation of these existing arrangements, which is why it is imperative that Labor not allow Queensland to become a net importer of such prisoners.

I also noted the detailed submission of the Queensland Law Society and some concerns that it raised. The facilitation, transfer and monitoring of community based transfers requires the ongoing utilisation of police resources and the efforts of our fine men and women of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services. There can be no question that an increase of interstate prisoners, particularly to the point of becoming a net importer, will only serve as a further drain on these resources. As communities right across Queensland from the Gold Coast to the Far North and everywhere in between sadly know all too well, under the Palaszczuk Labor government our police resources are already stretched enough with significant crime waves occurring not only in North Queensland but also on the Gold Coast and other parts of Queensland.

It also stands to reason that, in addition to the drain on Queensland's police resources, the Queensland taxpayer will pay for the provision of rehabilitation and other support services for interstate prisoners which already could be used for Queenslanders under such orders who have gone through the criminal justice system. Such funding could otherwise be spent on reducing recidivism rates and preventing crime right here in Queensland and should be allocated for that purpose.

Our police are at the forefront of dealing practically with community based orders and ensuring that our loyal communities remain safe. With that in mind, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Moggill electorate's own hardworking men and women of the Police Service. In particular, I welcome Senior Sergeant Lee Fortune as the recently appointed officer in charge of the Karana Downs Police Station.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member, can you return to the long title of the bill, please?

Dr ROWAN: I look forward to meeting Senior Sergeant Fortune in the coming weeks. It goes without saying that our police service, communities and citizens play an integral role in promoting and ensuring community safety and, in doing so, provide an invaluable resource and service in collaboration with other agencies. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, we know that crime rates across Queensland are skyrocketing. Police resources are already stretched to the limit and, when serious and ongoing concerns are raised about adequate policing numbers, Queensland can ill afford to find itself in a position where it becomes—

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, quite rightly you have already identified that the member is straying from the long title of the bill. The member is straying once again and I ask you to bring him back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the member's comments, but I do ask the member to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the police would have to deal with these offenders if they breached the law. It is directly relevant to the long title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Please resume your seat.

Dr ROWAN: My point is that some of the submitters and key stakeholders have valid concerns that under the legislation Queensland could become a net importer of interstate prisoners and that will have significant flow-on effects when it comes to resources. It is absolutely critical that these matters are considered as part of the debate and that is why I raise those matters.

In closing, I thank all members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their consideration of the bill. Specifically, I thank my LNP colleagues, the member for Southern Downs and particularly the member for Lockyer who, as a former serving police officer, comes to this place with a lot of knowledge and experience. I also thank all the key stakeholders who made submissions, including Sisters Inside, the Queensland Law Society and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service Queensland. Those stakeholders certainly provided invaluable input when it came to the committee process in terms of the oversight and consideration of the legislation and the implications of it for offenders not only in Queensland but also from other jurisdictions around Australia, and also what that will mean for resourcing for various agencies in Queensland and beyond.

With those closing comments, this bill needs due diligence, oversight and consideration in a methodical and considered way. That is what we should have here in this great parliamentary democracy. As the member for Moggill, I conclude my contribution.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.07 pm): I am not sure to what bill the member for Moggill was referring, but I rise in support of the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. I think the member for Moggill must have read a different bill, because he seemed not to talk about the people that this bill is talking about.

Every Queenslander has the right to feel safe and to be safe. When anyone commits a crime, they should be held to account but, importantly, Queenslanders do not want to see people reoffending. Courts have a range of sentencing options available, including community based orders. There are many reasons that a community based order may be an appropriate sentencing option. In youth justice, we know that the difference for many young people between going on to reoffend or getting back into education, employment or on the straight and narrow can be all about having the right support and community networks around them.

For instance, we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people tend to do best when connections to culture and community are nurtured and supported. Some of our most positive success stories are those where a young person has ditched their old friends and antisocial behaviours to find new social circles and support. In some cases, young people have returned home to their families or kin and committed to turning around their lives. Community based sentences are really important to give young offenders the opportunity to learn to live within the community as a contributing member. They provide opportunities for young people to engage with education and gain the skills they need to get a job to support themselves. They give them opportunities to learn what is expected of them in terms of appropriate social behaviour. They stop the pipeline of young people re-entering the youth justice system.

In terms of youth justice, the Young Offenders (Interstate Transfer) Act 1987 is in place to support young offenders' being transferred interstate when needed. For a magistrate to approve a young person's transfer interstate, all these relevant factors are taken into account—whether they will be living with or near family, whether they have access to education, training or employment and whether their medical needs can be met.

The Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill will help bring the adult correction system in line both with our youth justice system and with other states and territories. Currently, there is no formal legislative arrangement for adult community based sentences to be transferred in or out of Queensland. Until now, we had to rely on information arrangements with other jurisdictions. These are time consuming to put in place as different jurisdictions all require different processes and information to be able to accept the interstate transfer and offender. It can also be difficult to clearly determine comparable sentences and conditions when transferring an offender on a community service order between jurisdictions.

The community expects offenders to be accountable for their behaviour and that includes offenders who are serving sentences, whether community based or in custody. Participation in the national scheme will address some of the risks associated with the current practice of relying on informal arrangements and will do so by formally transferring and registering an offender's community based sentence in an interstate jurisdiction rather than relying on the originating jurisdiction to monitor compliance; making sure that the receiving jurisdiction can appropriately manage and supervise the

offender; holding offenders to account if they breach the conditions of their community based sentence and dealing with the matter promptly; and reducing costs on the taxpayer by not requiring costly enforcement and extradition action to deal with any breaches of a community based sentence.

This legislation will allow for formal arrangements for offender transfers into Queensland as well as from Queensland to interstate. The safety of the community is always paramount, and as Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence I know just how important victim safety is. We do not expect to see any change in the number of DV offenders coming into Queensland as a result of this legislation or indeed any other kind of high-risk offender. Queensland Corrective Services will continue to actively manage risks related to any domestic and family violence matters and work proactively to keep victims as safe as possible when managing offenders.

I pay my greatest respects to Corrective Services officers and the whole of Queensland Corrective Services. They work in an extremely complex and demanding area and they do an excellent job. When making decisions on a case-by-case basis whether to accept transfer of a DV offender, victim safety will be considered as a high priority and a key consideration will be whether an offender can comply with their sentence in Queensland, including all conditions around victim contact. Community safety is at the heart of everything we do and I know it is central to everything we do in the corrections system. By formalising our processes for transferring offenders on community based orders interstate, we are making sure that our processes are as safe as they can be and that offenders can be held properly to account. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.11 pm): This afternoon I rise to speak on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. I thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their deliberation of the bill and for the organisations and individuals who made submissions. The objective of the bill is to create a new standalone act to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions—a concept which was forged at the national Corrective Services Ministers' Conference in 2003.

In Queensland community based sentences include probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. Community based sentences are an important part of the criminal justice system and must be administered carefully. The transfer of offenders either permanently or temporarily to other jurisdictions is managed via informal arrangements currently in Queensland. According to a 2019 report, on any given day an average of 69,634 offenders were serving community correction orders in Australia. These offenders may be required to travel or relocate at certain times during their sentence, the careful management of which is paramount to the safety of all concerned.

Under this bill and by Queensland's participation in the national scheme, these informal transfer arrangements will provide an ability for an offender to have their community based sentence formally transferred and registered in an interstate jurisdiction; ensure that appropriate management and supervision of the community based sentence can occur in the receiving interstate jurisdiction; and ensure that any contravention of an offender's community based sentence can be dealt with in the receiving interstate jurisdiction, whereby limiting the requirement for costly enforcement and extradition action following an offender's contravention of a community based sentence interstate.

For a registered transfer to take place, the bill requires that the offender has consented to the interstate sentence being registered in Queensland; there is a corresponding CBS that operates in Queensland so that both a penalty and condition of substantially the same nature can be imposed; the offender is capable of complying with the interstate sentence in Queensland; and the interstate sentence is capable of being safely, efficiently and effectively administered in Queensland.

Under the bill, if an offender is approved for interstate transfer, the sentence is registered in the interstate jurisdiction and the offender is then managed in the new jurisdiction as though a court in the new jurisdiction has imposed the sentence. This includes dealing with any breach of the order. For the purpose of review or appeal of the sentence, the originating jurisdiction remains responsible. In addition, the bill provides the ability to impose certain preconditions prior to registration of the sentence or deny registration of an interstate community based sentence, even if all eligible criteria and conditions are met.

While all four contributors to the committee supported the passing of the bill, a number of concerns were raised. Sisters Inside raised concerns about there being no time period stipulated in the bill with respect to deciding whether to register or decline the interstate request. The Queensland Law Society highlighted in its submission that Queensland is one of the few remaining jurisdictions that has not abolished multiple forms of community based sentence orders in favour of a single community

correction order. It suggests that this may complicate the transfer of Queensland defendants to other jurisdictions due to the difficulty in confirming whether the order placed on the Queensland defendant properly corresponds to another jurisdiction's community correction order. I thank the committee for its consideration of these remarks and note that the model legislation underpinning the bill has been endorsed by all Australian corrective services ministers and the former Standing Committee on Law and Justice, now known as the Council of Attorneys-General. Why has Queensland participated informally in transfer arrangements for so long? New South Wales enacted its version of this bill in 2004, the ACT in 2005, Western Australia and Tasmania in 2009, Victoria in 2013 and South Australia in 2015.

As we heard in the public briefing on 30 August last year by Queensland Corrective Services to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Queensland manages approximately 87 interstate community based offenders, predominantly from New South Wales. In contrast, at the time of the briefing there were 147 Queensland offenders managed in other states and territories. What this means is that Queensland is a net exporter of prisoners serving community based sentences. As already outlined in my colleagues' contributions this afternoon, we do have concerns regarding the possible outcomes of this bill in that it could potentially turn Queensland into a dumping ground for interstate prisoners. As communities right across Queensland—from Cairns to the Gold Coast—know all too well, under the Palaszczuk Labor government our police are already under-resourced, understaffed and underfunded and subsequently crime is out of control. I acknowledge the police minister's presence here. I know that he does not like listening to the facts, particularly the increasing crime stats under his watch, and I have no doubt he is not going to want to hear them again now.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to two points of order. The first is I find the comments offensive and ask that they be withdrawn; and the other is about relevance. I note that you have already ruled on this very same point because the very same points have been raised previously.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): I think what you might do is just raise the point of order and I will make a ruling on the point of order. Member for Ninderry, the minister finds what you said offensive. Would you please withdraw?

Mr PURDIE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the second point of order, please stay within the principles of the bill and standing order 139 in relation to your contribution.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was just talking about police resources. We already know that across this state robberies have increased by 76 per cent, car thefts are up 66 per cent and assaults are up 33 per cent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Member, please take my guidance. Stay within the principles of the bill and the terms of standing order 139. You were straying outside of that.

Mr PURDIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. To wrap up, unlike this government, which is softer on crime than any government in Queensland history, the LNP is committed to dealing with reality, tackling crime head-on and keeping Queenslanders safe.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for examination. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles. I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Mark Ryan; committee chair, Peter Russo, member for Toohey; committee members; secretariat; Hansard; and everyone who gave their submission to this inquiry.

The committee consulted a wide range of stakeholder groups to gain a broad insight into community safety associated with this bill. This government takes community safety seriously. This bill reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to uphold community safety not only in Queensland but also nationally. The relationship that Queensland has with other states is critical and will underpin interstate bipartisan support for state laws. During his first speech to this bill the minister highlighted that this bill will create a new standalone act in Queensland that will implement a Corrective Services Ministers' Conference agreement to establish a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate interstate transfer of community based sentences.

The objective of this bill is to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. At present the arrangement Queensland has with other jurisdictions is informal in nature and, as such, prevents the effective supervision of offenders on community based sentences when they travel or move interstate. This current informal arrangement lacks substance whereby breaches may be overlooked

as the responsibility to manage the sentence resides with the originating jurisdiction. This bill is necessary because without any form of national participation it is clear that there are no powers to initiate breach action where an offender is not abiding by the conditions of their sentence. This bill not only strengthens the ties that Queensland has with other jurisdictions but also enforces laws that are consistent with supporting effective rehabilitation, reintegration and the effective supervision of offenders.

The model legislation underpinning the bill has been supported and endorsed by all Australian corrective services ministers and the former Standing Committee on Law and Justice, now known as the Council of Attorneys-General. National model legislation currently operates in relation to the interstate transfer of prisoners and those on parole and this bill extends the framework to community based sentences. By strengthening the laws around community based sentences interstate transfers means that there will be greater capacity to mitigate certain risks.

For instance, the bill provides the ability for adult offenders with a community based sentence to transfer the supervision and administration of their sentence to a new jurisdiction provided the requirements of the legislation are satisfied and once a sentence is registered in the interstate jurisdiction the offender will then be managed in the new jurisdiction as if a court of the new jurisdiction had imposed the sentence. It also provides authority for ministers to enter into arrangements to facilitate the administration of community based sentences for offenders travelling to or residing in Queensland or an interstate jurisdiction and not subject to transfer and registration under the scheme.

The bill has been developed based on model legislation that all Australian jurisdictions agreed to implement, providing jurisdictions the flexibility to agree to or decline the transfer of an offender on a community based order if it is in the interests of community safety and in the public interest. In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that this bill is absolutely vital towards maintaining ongoing community safety and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the bill before the House, the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill, and in particular note that the bill is to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. The scheme is currently available in Queensland but at this point in time it only covers offenders in relation to probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders and drug and alcohol treatment orders. The bill, however, does not apply to juvenile offenders, offenders on parole or offenders with a sentence that imposes a fine or financial penalty.

The current arrangement being used is informal as between Queensland and other jurisdictions to supervise those on community based sentences when they travel or move interstate. The national scheme will give powers to Queensland to initiate breach action where an offender is not abiding by the conditions of their sentence. The responsibility to manage the sentence resides with the originating jurisdiction.

There has been some debate about the question of whether or not Queensland does become a dumping ground. It is, in fact, a point that is touched upon at page 4 of the report by the committee where the QCS advised the committee that there is not expected to be 'any significant increase' under the legislation of offenders either seeking a transfer into Queensland or one out of Queensland. The point raised by the shadow minister in relation to the question as to whether that issue of a dumping ground is valid under standing order 139 of the House and it is therefore valid to seek from the minister some form of guarantee that, as the QCS is reported at page 4 as stating, we will not see a massive increase in numbers of people transferring into Queensland.

If one takes the phrase 'any significant increase' it may well be argued that there will not be a major increase, but again I repeat that the shadow minister's request, based upon the content of page 4, is valid. It also then, of course, does raise the issue that if there is an increase, even if it is not a significant increase, what is the increase in costs in Queensland of the oversight of additional people who are offenders moving into the state. If there is a significant increase one then has the right to question such things as will there be an increase in manpower, will there be an increase in technology and will there be an increase in funding requirements going forward. Those are legitimate questions because they were definitely raised within the terms of the report tabled in the House by the committee.

It is also important that when this parliament, which is a sovereign parliament, considers a national proposal, that the parliament look at it from the point of view of Queensland. This House is not a rubber stamp. We have the obligation to ensure that what is proposed in this House that derives from a national initiative actually is for the better government of this state. Again the questions raised by the shadow minister fall clearly within that confine.

The issue before the House also revolves around the monitoring of people who come into Queensland as a consequence of this bill. Can we be assured that those who are coming to Queensland, given the background that they already have, will not reoffend in this state? Can we be assured that the people who come to Queensland under the terms of this bill that are increasing in number are such a number that does not pose a continuing and ongoing threat to the people of the state and, indeed, the assets of those people?

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for McConnel, that was a bit of unparliamentary language I heard. I will ask you to withdraw that. I heard the cross chamber chatter. I would ask that you withdraw it.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw.

Mr McARDLE: I take the comment made by the member for McConnel that it is a national scheme. That seems to give the Labor government the imprimatur to say we then must fall in line with that automatically. That is a ridiculous notion.

The opposition will always have the right to question whether or not a bill is fit and proper for this state. The opposition will continue to question bills that we have real issues with. If we do not do that we fail in the clear obligation of any opposition, whether it be the LNP or the ALP.

The shadow minister has made it very clear that the LNP want to support this bill. There are valid points within the bill, but it is not impossible to simply ask a question of the minister to clarify whether or not Queensland will suffer as a dumping ground as a consequence of this bill and, more importantly, to assure the opposition that we will have, if that does occur, and it is referred to in the report, the relevant resources, manpower and funding to assure the people of Queensland that what we are agreeing to will be in their best interests.

Those are simple questions. They can be answered very quickly by the minister and the matter can then move to a second reading call and then, potentially, a third and final call.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (4.29 pm): In Queensland, community based sentencing includes probation, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. For the majority of those orders, depending on specific conditions imposed, there are comparable community based sentences in other jurisdictions around Australia. We have all heard that.

How did we get to this point? In 2003 at the Corrective Services Ministers' Conference, agreement was made to implement a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate the transfer of community based sentences between jurisdictions. We have all heard that. In his speech the member for Toowoomba North stated that Corrective Services people and police will have their time taken up supervising those prisoners, rather than keeping our community safe, and that Queensland will become a dumping ground for those criminals. That is absolute hysteria generated by those opposite. The member for Lockyer talked about cost blowouts for the police, but the police are not involved in this. It is not their gig.

The Queensland Corrective Services advised the committee that under the proposed legislation there will not be any expected significant increase of offenders seeking a transfer either into Queensland or—believe it not, member for Toowoomba North—out of Queensland. I know that we all find it hard to believe that people would leave Queensland, but they may want to. The QCS also advised that, if passed, the bill will allow local authorities in all cases to reserve the right to refuse a transfer into Queensland, even if a person may otherwise be eligible on all criteria.

The QCS has established a database, the Integrated Offender Management System or IOMS, for registering and managing people on community based orders. The management system manages the current informal transfer arrangements with other jurisdictions—it is already happening. During the hearing, the QCS also advised the committee that there was no need to establish a new database for the implementation of a national scheme as proposed by the bill.

I agree with the member for Toowoomba North when he says that people want to come to Queensland, and why wouldn't they? We see more and more people moving north because of our climate, our great people, the beautiful beaches and, of course, plenty of job opportunities. However, having listened to the member for Toowoomba North, it seems that he would have us build a wall to prevent those prisoners from coming to Queensland.

I will be clear about this bill. This is not about prisoners. It is not a program under which the New South Wales-Queensland border will become the Korean 'Bridge of No Return' which is used by North Korea and South Korea to exchange political prisoners at midnight, amongst swirling fog and

surrounded by machine gun wielding guards. That is not what this is about. The member for Toowoomba North has been watching too many James Bond action movies. This is purely agreeing to a nationwide approach to community based sentencing. We should not allow the member for Toowoomba North and those opposite to create further fear and hysteria in our community. I support the bill.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.33 pm): The criminal justice system presents complex challenges, particularly in the achievement of an appropriate balance between punishment and the rehabilitation of offenders. The Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019 aims to eliminate some of this complexity by aligning Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions.

In Queensland, community based sentences include probation orders, community service orders, graffiti removal orders, intensive correction orders, and drug and alcohol treatment orders. The bill enhances the flexibility of community based sentences by providing a formal process for offenders to have their sentences transferred, registered and managed interstate. Queensland Corrective Services advises that, if passed, the bill will also allow local authorities, in all cases, to reserve the right to refuse a transfer to Queensland, even if a person may be otherwise eligible on all other criteria.

According to the *Report on government services 2019*, in 2017-18, on any given day, an average of 69,634 offenders were serving community corrections orders. The Queensland Parole System Review identified the importance of community based sentences being flexible and supporting effective rehabilitation, reintegration and supervision opportunities for offenders. The community understandably has a keen interest in justice being served, with convicted offenders being appropriately punished for the crimes they have committed. However, it is also in the longer-term interests of the community that offenders do not graduate through the criminal justice system to prison because of reoffending and are rehabilitated. The support of their families, communities and workplaces can be instrumental in this. Community based sentences have the potential to be an effective alternative to imprisonment for some offenders.

Whilst these options can be more cost effective than prison sentences, it is important that they are managed effectively, with the safety and security of our communities paramount. Undertaking paid community work can provide offenders with the opportunity to give back to the community for their offending behaviour, as well as assist in their rehabilitation by developing and improving work-related skills and integration to community through connectivity that is both physical and emotional. These valuable resources could be utilised where they are needed the most, in communities across Queensland where currently specific needs are not being addressed, including the building of off-road bike pathways, and environmental and waterway management, just to mention a couple of examples, with many projects incorporating accredited training. Let us use our resources well and give offenders a place and space for their contributions. I thank the committee, departments and submitters for their work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. It is interesting that all Australian corrective services ministers support and endorse this bill, as far too often we see a disagreement between the states based on which government is in power. We have to be very careful when we align ourselves with other states and there is an agreement between the states, because sometimes—as we have seen in Queensland over the years—we have a better policy for our different and diverse region. There are times when we may not want to align ourselves with the other states. However, obviously there is merit in this bill and the changes it proposes.

Operating under a national scheme will allow Corrective Services to work under a streamlined scheme aimed at cutting down on bureaucracy and paperwork, which is something that I would always support. The bill includes additional powers for the receiving interstate jurisdiction to be provided with and request additional information to consider a transfer request, such as relevant victim information. That is a great initiative to allow the receiving jurisdiction to understand the full nature of the offence, including the impact on victims.

As I understand it, this piece of legislation also provides an opportunity for low-risk offenders to remove themselves from social circumstances that may lead to repeat or more serious offences, giving them a chance to make a fresh start for themselves and get out of the cycle of criminal behaviour. This is a common-sense approach and addresses those individuals who have fallen through the cracks and been forgotten by the system while on parole under community based sentencing.

Far too often the average person does not understand the impact that bills have on their everyday life. I want to highlight a particular submission on the bill from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. They said they were able to provide specific examples of circumstances that show how impactful the availability of transfer and travel permits will be. One example from the submission is as follows—

Ben* is a young man who got into a fight in a shopping centre over what he saw as disrespectful treatment of a girl. On conviction, Ben was given community service order and probation. In the time between the offence and his sentencing, his family had returned to New South Wales. Ben was effectively homeless, couch surfing at friends, not able to access Centrelink and finding it increasingly difficult to comply with his Community Service Order including travelling to locations to perform his community service. His family wanted him to move to New South Wales where he would have accommodation and family support and supervision. The Bill will make it easier for Ben to comply with his order and have positive support.

There are numerous examples. We are very supportive of the relocation sentencing policy because when the offenders are committing crimes within the community and it is getting out of hand, the judge has the power to send them out to areas in the outback where they are forced to work and contribute to the local community. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.40 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. At the outset it needs to be stated that the LNP cannot support the bill unless the minister can guarantee that Queensland will not become a dumping ground for interstate offenders living in the community as a result of becoming a net importer of these offenders.

I note the policy objective of the bill is to establish Queensland's participation in a national scheme for the formal transfer and enforcement of community based sentences between Australian jurisdictions. According to the explanatory notes, the policy objectives are achieved by creating a new standalone act in Queensland to implement the nationally agreed legislative framework, facilitating the transfer of community based sentences across Australia. The bill applies to persons serving community based sentences. Community based sentences currently available in Queensland that will be eligible to be transferred under the scheme are: probation orders; community service orders; graffiti removal orders; intensive correction orders; and drug and alcohol treatment orders. The bill does not apply to juvenile offenders, offenders on parole or offenders with a sentence that imposes a fine or financial penalty.

This raises a question in my mind that the minister may like to answer. If a breach of an order occurs—let's say a breach of an intensive correction order—and an individual is incarcerated, will that prisoner, as they would now be, be sent back to the jurisdiction where the original offence occurred to complete their sentence? I ask this in light of the current situation where informal arrangements are in place between Queensland and other jurisdictions to supervise offenders on community based sentences when they travel or move interstate. Without participation in the national scheme, there are no powers to initiate breach action where an offender is not abiding by the conditions of their sentence. As I understand it, under these circumstances, we would simply send the offender back to the originating jurisdiction as it is their responsibility to manage the sentence breach, not ours. Otherwise, would we be stuck with them in our overcrowded system?

I have other concerns. For example, we have the highest unemployment rate in the country. Sadly, people in the corrective services system are discriminated against when it comes to employment. Based on the figures I have seen, there will be a net increase to the numbers coming to Queensland. Where will they attain work? Where will they live? Not all will have accommodation available to them. Sadly, people in the corrective services system are discriminated against when it comes to accommodation.

I have provided assistance to incarcerated individuals as a result of family representations to be transferred to other jurisdictions, both to and from Queensland, to complete their sentence. There have been good reasons to do so, mainly to enable family support and family connection. Research confirms that support networks around offenders assist in the rehabilitation process, as well as with mental health issues. Are we properly weighing up the overall benefits to the community here in Queensland, as well as benefits to individuals, by allowing a huge net increase in numbers back into Queensland of offenders who, for whatever reason, chose to live and commit crimes in other jurisdictions?

I note there were four submissions made on the bill. These submissions were from Sisters Inside, the Queensland Law Society, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and an individual. Of interest to me, which raises a further question, is the fact that the Queensland Law Society raised concerns about the registration criteria which relates to requirements of the need to be a corresponding community based sentence under the law of Queensland. This is because in some jurisdictions, probation orders, community service orders and intensive correction orders—all present in Queensland—have been abolished in favour of a community correction order. They queried the effect

that this has on a Queensland defendant who wishes to apply for an interstate transfer. Are we going to be left with offenders who do not have a corresponding community correction order in other jurisdictions, yet are able to receive all and sundry from other jurisdictions? Queensland should not be a dumping ground for offenders or a destination of choice for interstate prisoners, which is why Labor should only agree to the formalisation of existing arrangements as long as Queensland does not become a net importer of these interstate offenders.

The Queensland Police Service is already low in officer numbers and resources. The last thing Queensland needs is for valuable police resources to be used to monitor interstate offenders. Consideration must also be given to the safety of the community. The more offenders we have running around the state, the more the community is at risk from harm. Further, it would cost Queensland taxpayers to provide rehabilitation and other support services for interstate offenders which is money that should be spent reducing recidivism rates and preventing crime in Queensland.

In closing, I take the opportunity to wish the retired member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller, all the very best in her future endeavours, in her future life. Jo-Ann and I have had our moments at various times where we have not agreed on particular matters, however we have also vehemently agreed on others. I wish you well, Jo-Ann. God be with you.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.47 pm), in reply: This bill formalises Queensland's longstanding participation in the agreed national legislative scheme to facilitate the interstate transfer of community based offenders across Australia. Without this legislation in place, no legislative authority exists for community based sentences to be transferred formally in or out of Queensland. Without this legislation, there is significant risk for Queensland. The best interests of community safety are served by having a formal scheme in place. This bill ensures the ability for contraventions of a community based order to be swiftly dealt with, ensuring community safety. Under informal arrangements, as exists now, this is not the case, with states forced to pursue slow and costly enforcement and extradition action following an offender's contravention of their order. Without this bill, Queensland will remain exposed to these more costly arrangements.

I am advised by Queensland Corrective Services that if Queensland does not formalise these arrangements, other jurisdictions may start to refuse transfers from Queensland under the informal arrangements. At the end of last year, the number of interstate offenders supervised by Queensland Corrective Services was nearly half the number of Queensland offenders supervised interstate. I assure the House that Queensland Corrective Services has advised that this conservative approach to deciding who is allowed to be supervised in Queensland will not change with the passage of this bill. Importantly, I assure the House that under this bill, Queensland maintains the right to decline a transfer request even if all transfer criteria is met. These assurances should allay the concerns raised by members.

I remind members that this bill does not include the transfer of prisoners. This occurs under another act, the Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act, which has been in place in Queensland since 1982, almost 40 years. As it has been raised, I will use it as a predictor and comparator of numbers.

Last year more prisoners wanted to be transferred from Queensland to interstate facilities. This was more than three times the number of requests from prisoners wanting to transfer to Queensland. Queensland Corrective Services has advised that they do not expect this to change as a result of the passing of the bill.

The member for Coomera asked a question about where an offender who breaches their community service order will be incarcerated? The answer is: in the jurisdiction where the breach occurs, as is appropriate. If we were to adopt the terminology of those opposite, as a net exporter of offenders this would benefit Queensland, but that benefit is only achieved when we formalise these arrangements through the passing of this bill.

To put it beyond doubt for those opposite, I can assure the House that if this bill is not passed then Queensland Corrective Services will be exposed to more costly arrangements, Queensland will not have a formal legislative right to refuse a transfer and other states may start to refuse transfers from Queensland, thereby stopping the so-called export of prisoners from Queensland. This bill is very important for formalising these arrangements—informal arrangements that already exist. Queensland Corrective Services has already given a number of assurances. I join Queensland Corrective Services in giving those assurances that this bill will benefit Queensland and community safety in Queensland. 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 32, as read, agreed to.
Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.
Motion agreed to.
Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.52 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.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.52 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's report No. 11 of 2019-20 titled *Queensland government state finances: 2018-19 results of financial audits* and report No. 13 of 2019-20 titled *Local government entities: 2018-19 results of financial audits* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee and Auditor-General's report No. 12 of 2019-20 titled *Managing coal seam gas activities* be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.53 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

Following the resignation of the member for Bundamba, the member for Greenslopes be appointed to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.
Motion agreed to.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (GDA2020) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 23 October 2019 (see p. 3535).

Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.54 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its consideration of the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. I note that the committee tabled its report on 6 December 2019. The earth is moving. The committee recognises the earth is moving too because the committee's report recommended that the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 be passed by parliament. The submissions to the committee process generally supported the GDA2020 related amendments in this bill.

This bill makes several amendments across the natural resources and transport legislation to support the adoption of the latest national standard of measurement of position—GDA2020—in Queensland. Most of the practical, technical implementation issues around the adoption of GDA2020 will be dealt with through changes to software. My department and its national counterparts have been working with major software providers to ensure a smooth transition.

Evolution of technology and our communities' increasing demand for accurate digital spatial data mean that changes to Australia's datum are inevitable. To ensure our legislation is responsive to future changes in Australia's datum, the bill identifies a single point of truth to ensure efficient adoption of any changes to the national standard of measurement of position. The national Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute commended the use of a single point of truth under the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003 to set the standard for the collection and provision of position information.

Accurate digital spatial data is the core element for building digital twins. Digital twins, such as the Cross River Rail model, are a dynamic model of a real world object or system across our built and natural environment and can enable more effective use of data to understand place based policy and planning issues, test potential interventions and deliver more sustainable planning and development. We are only now discovering the potential of digital twins and the insights they can bring to place based policy, planning and service delivery through analysis, modelling and simulation of our data about real world objects or systems. The adoption of GDA2020 in Queensland is one step towards ensuring Queensland continues to have a precise positioning framework that will underpin the development of Queensland placed digital twins.

While this bill sounds largely technical in nature, if this issue is not addressed it could have some very profound and real world consequences. While we know Australia is moving seven centimetres each year with continental drift, under the current datum which is static, GDA94, it means that coordinates of features including fences, roads and buildings are becoming misaligned. Historically, location differences of a metre, or even five metres, have not been an issue. In fact, when GDA94 was first adopted, it was accepted that GPS positions were only accurate within 100 metres. Since then, technology has spectacularly evolved—hand-held devices such as iPhones allow instant satellite positioning at our fingertips. As such, Queenslanders will increasingly notice discrepancies with the previous datum. In anticipation for the growing use and reliance on positioning technology including driverless buses, passenger vehicles, boats and even tractors, the time has come to update to GDA2020 to harness the next wave of spatial technologies.

I can assure the House that when it comes to driverless technologies, 1.8 metres starts to become a problem. For example, driverless tractors could drive through fences, driverless vehicles could overshoot their turnoff or even remotely controlled equipment could lack precision. It should be noted that stage 2 of GDA2020 will allow for the implementation of a dynamic datum that will not necessitate legislative change in the future.

The proposed amendments to the Land Act 1994 will improve and modernise a number of processes including making model by-laws for trust land, allocating land by ballot and the renewal of term leases. In relation to term lease renewals, currently, a lessee must lodge an application to renew a lease before the chief executive can offer to renew the lease. Allowing the chief executive to make an offer of a new lease before receiving an application from a lessee will provide a more efficient process for lease renewal and reduce the number of steps a lessee must undertake. Importantly, a lessee would still need to accept this offer, and no changes are being made to what must be considered in offering a new lease.

Further proposed amendments to the Land Act 1994 address a need to have broader and more flexible land granting options for implementing outcomes of Indigenous land use agreement negotiations. For example, granting deeds of grant to the native title parties could form part of the overall consideration in an Indigenous land use agreement settlement package without, importantly, requiring the surrender of native title to the equivalent value.

In response to some concerns raised by stakeholders during the committee review process, I would like to reiterate that this amendment is intended to provide the state with an additional option for granting land when negotiating current and future Indigenous land use agreements. The department has not pre-empted or committed to this outcome in any existing Indigenous land use agreements. This amendment to the granting powers under the Land Act will maintain the right to negotiate through the Indigenous land use agreement process where the parties document their agreement to the consideration payable for the grant of the freehold.

The bill also amends the Land Act 1994 and Land Title Act 1994 to enhance and clarify titling processes, including by facilitating digital processing of leases and clarifying requirements for registration of electronic conveyancing documents.

The proposed amendment to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 will enable the Cape York region boundary to be redefined. The new boundary will add seven properties, totalling 31.8 hectares into the Cape York Peninsula region, which is estimated currently to be about 22 million hectares. This amendment will enable the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and the state to consider how these seven parcels can be jointly managed in a future partnership arrangement. I thank the committee for their time in considering the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 on behalf of the LNP. From the outset I want to clarify that the LNP will not opposing this bill as it includes many sensible, pragmatic and run-of-the-mill amendments that are needed to ensure our state continues to tick over and operate. I note too that the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee only had one recommendation, and that was for the bill to be passed. In saying that, I will work through the details of the bill and highlight a number of stakeholders' concerns with particular aspects that I would ask the minister to address.

With regard to the GDA2020, one of the primary focuses of the bill is to implement the new national standard of measurement of position, Geocentric Datum Australia 2020, for the future collection and provision of location data. The Australian government adopted GDA2020 as the standard for measurement of position by making a determination under the Australian government's National Measurement Act 1960 in 2017. ANZLIC agreed that all Australian jurisdictions would adopt GDA2020 by 30 June this year.

This bill includes legislative amendments required in Queensland to support the adoption of GDA2020. In Australia, coordinates for features on our maps—for example, roads and buildings—most commonly use the Geocentric Datum Australia 1994, GDA1994. GDA1994 is 'static', meaning that coordinates for features are fixed in relation to Australia's continental plate and do not change over time. In contrast, global satellite positioning system coordinates for features on the earth's surface will change over time, as these systems take into account the movement of tectonic plates.

By 2020, Australia will have moved about 1.8 metres in a north-easterly direction since the adoption of GDA94. I just want to acknowledge how good it is to see Queensland making a firm jump to the right! In all seriousness though, with increased use of devices that provide precise satellite positioning for smartphones, people will notice discrepancies between a satellite position and GDA94 mapped features.

With the adoption of GDA2020, there will be better alignment between Australia's national datum and satellite positioning measurements. While position information has always been important for the mapping and surveying community, its importance to our technologically advanced community is increasing. Examples of where position is important include automated vehicles, remote controlled industrial equipment—for example, in the mining or agricultural sectors—and drone technology. All Australian jurisdictions have been collaborating since 2015 to define and implement GDA2020. I can certainly attest to the importance of GPS systems on agricultural machinery. When you are talking about sugarcane farming, for example, distances as small as 10 centimetres or 20 centimetres can make a big difference. It is important that we get this technology right.

The bill makes necessary legislative amendments to support the adoption of GDA2020 in Queensland by the implementation date. The bill amends the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Minerals and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Regulation 2014 and the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994.

By making these amendments Queensland ensures it clarifies the historical datum for position references or upgrade position references to GDA2020, where appropriate, as well as ensuring that Queensland legislation is responsive to national measurement standards as they evolve or new ones are adopted. All these amendments associated with introducing GDA2020 are uncontroversial and are welcomed and supported.

Another aspect of the proposed bill is to improve the effectiveness of processes for renewing term leases, land title registration, making model by-laws for trust land and conducting ballots for interests in state land. Under the current provisions in the Land Act, renewal of a term lease is contingent on the lessee lodging an application. I note that the bill will amend the Land Act to enable the chief executive to make an offer of a new lease prior to the lessee lodging an application. The bill also seeks to fix issues associated with granting freehold land under an Indigenous land use agreement.

The Queensland government regularly enters into Indigenous land use agreements under the Native Title Act 1993 where the grant of land to First Nation peoples is a key component of the agreement. This can be readily achieved where native title has not been extinguished, as the native title holders meet the priority criteria for granting land without competition under the Land Act. This is not the case where native title has been extinguished and can prevent the terms of the Indigenous land use agreement from being met, frustrating the aspirations of First Nation peoples and other parties to the agreement.

To avoid lengthy and costly processes, the bill provides for the grant of land, without competition, to the people who would have otherwise held native title but for historical extinguishment of their native title. The Land Act currently provides that the Governor in Council may by regulation make model by-laws for trust land. The model by-laws are optional to adopt. The process for making and publishing by-laws is both time consuming, outdated and cumbersome, particularly when compared to the process for making and publishing model local laws under the Local Government Act 2009.

The bill amends the Land Act to allow the minister to make the model by-laws and to permit their publication on a Queensland government website. Under the Land Act, interest in state land may be made available with or without competition. Where interests in land are to be made available by competition, the Land Act provides that the processes which may be used are auction, tender or ballot. The current ballot process prescribed in regulation is certainly outdated.

This bill replaces the current head of power for conducting ballots with new provisions that provide the chief executive with the power and flexibility to adopt an appropriate, modern, competitive process. That is certainly long overdue in this state. The new provision specifies the matters the chief executive must take into account when determining the ballot process to be followed. The bill also addresses land titling and minor consequential amendments.

The amendments to the Land Titles Act and corresponding provisions of the Land Act will assist in digital processing. The bill included minor consequential amendments to the South Bank Corporation Act to certificates of title that will be amended to align with March 2019 amendments to the Land Title Act made by the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019.

This bill also addresses issues associated with Cape York Peninsula region maps through amendments. The Department of Environment and Science and DNRME jointly administer the Cape York Heritage Peninsula Heritage Act 2007. This act enables the identification of the significant natural and cultural values of Cape York Peninsula and its cooperative and ecologically sustainable management. The boundary of the Cape York Peninsula region is identified in a map referenced in section 7 of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act, and the map is published on the DNRME website. The Cape York Peninsula region map was last updated in 2013 to include lands in the suite of 2007 Eastern Kuku Yalanji Indigenous land use agreements, including the iconic Daintree National Park.

Under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, national parks and state land in the Cape York Peninsula region, including that identified under the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act, can be transferred to Aboriginal ownership. Parts of the national parks and state land may also be converted to national parks which are jointly managed national parks in that area.

The bill amends the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act to update the boundary of the Cape York Peninsula region to include additional land parcels. These additional land parcels are: four land parcels added to the Daintree National Park since 2007; two parcels of unallocated state land; and a road parcel adjacent to the park. The three parcels of state land were identified through a statewide land allocation program. The amendment ensures that the additional land is able to be transferred to Aboriginal ownership and parts of the land dedicated as national park area, providing that the Cape York Peninsula protected area estate is managed uniformly by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and the department of

environment. The amendment supports negotiations underway with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, represented by the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, about the transfer of land to Aboriginal ownership in the Cape York Peninsula region.

While there were not a large number of submissions, those that were received were of note. The submission from the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute approved of the GDA2020 amendments but raised issues and recommended amendments to the Land Act. They expressed concern that the state government may have already committed to grants of unallocated state land under an ILUA in the way that would be allowed under the proposed new section 123A amending the Land Act. While DNRME advised that the state government has not committed any freehold grants of unallocated state land without competition under an ILUA, I request that the minister address these particular concerns in his reply.

The Queensland Law Society's submission overall was supportive of the bill; however, there is one item of note. Their submission states—

However, we have some concern with proposed section 123A(3)(b) where the purchase price for the land is '(a) if consideration is provided for under the indigenous land use agreement—that consideration; or (b) otherwise—the consideration decided by the Minister in the way prescribed by regulation'.

The QLS is concerned that this potentially impacted on the right to negotiate and submitted that any additional process for the grant of land should be carefully considered to avoid any risk of unfairness to traditional owner groups in negotiated settlements. In its response DNRME clarified that the right to negotiate will be maintained through the Indigenous land use process where the parties are expected to document their agreement to the consideration payable for the grant of the freehold. Proposed section 123A(3)(b) in the Land Act is provided to ensure that there is a default fallback position should the parties not decide to document their agreement to the consideration payable in the agreement. If the minister could respond to the QLS's concerns when summing-up, that would be beneficial to the House.

As I said at the beginning of my contribution, the LNP will not oppose this bill, which is both practical and sensible having regard to the changes proposed.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.14 pm): I rise to support the GDA2020 bill. I want to start by questioning the assertion of the member for Burdekin that Queensland is slowly drifting to the right. I think it is more akin to the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*: it's a jump to the left and then just a step to the right.

We have used different kinds of data over the centuries to tell us where we are, where we are going and where we need to go. Datum is the set of data that records what is on the earth—a model of the earth—the geographic features and where we can find them. Centuries ago it could have been a hand-drawn map, maybe a star map for sailors or longitude and latitude on a map, that sort of thing, but we know that nothing is as accurate as the satellite data we have these days. Satellite data is accurate because it focuses on the centre of the earth and not the geographical features sitting on the tectonic plate, but the official data we still use are controlled by fixed principle points on the Australian continent. If you go up a mountain, there is a cairn with a survey point affixed to the top of that. As we have heard, these points are moving north-west at the rate a fingernail grows. That may seem slow but it means they have moved 1.8 metres since 1994, so the position of your car as pinpointed by a satellite will be different to the location on a map that has been drawn up according to these fixed points.

Before 2000 satellites were accurate within 100 metres; now they are accurate to within a metre. In the future they are going to be accurate within centimetres, and that is the important thing to remember. We have so many services that rely on the accuracy of satellite services; for example, farm equipment uses satellite services to plant or sow, whether now or in the future, and furrows or delivered doses of weed killer need to be delivered accurately, not placed two metres away from where they should be. From June 2020 there will be new datum, a new accurate standard of geolocation. Firstly, we will recognise that all fixed plate datum has moved 1.8 metres; secondly, we will adopt a different location reference system, and that is a dynamic one. It will not be fixed on tectonic plate features: it will be by satellite. This is a new national standard and we all need to adopt it. All relevant acts will be amended to reflect these new standards.

Another important part of the bill is about reducing red tape for leaseholders. Currently, the CEO of a relevant government body can renew a lease under the Land Act 1994 only if the lessee applies for it. This bill will amend the act so that a CEO can make the offer of a new lease without the lessee lodging that application. There will be no changes to the requirement that the CEO must make sure that all provisions are met before deciding to offer a new lease.

Finally, I want to mention the initiative in the bill regarding the granting of unallocated state land to First Nation people. Currently, we are granting unallocated state land to native title parties as part of an Indigenous land use agreement. It helps First Nation people establish businesses and economic opportunities. Grants can be made in exchange for other parties to the agreement to get benefit from that land. Under the current Land Act we cannot grant the land in freehold if it does not go to a competitive tender, and any land exchanged must involve land of equal value, which is a provision that has been weakened under a recent High Court decision. These amendments once again go towards reducing red tape and give broader and more flexible land settlement options. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Petition

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 18 February 2020 e-petition No. 3287 titled 'Noxious odours over Ripley' was posted to the parliament's petitions web page. I advise that this e-petition has been removed and replaced with e-petition No. 3291 on the grounds that the principal petitioner was unable to authenticate the grievance.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (GDA2020) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise to speak to the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 23 October 2019. The committee was required to report to the Legislative Assembly by 6 December 2019. This is not a contentious bill, as was evidenced by the fact that the committee only received three submissions. The committee received a written briefing on the bill prior to a public briefing from DNRME and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on 6 November 2019.

The purpose of the bill is to align Queensland with the upgrade of Australia's static plate fixed datum, the Geocentric Datum Australia 1994, to the Geocentric Datum Australia 2020. The explanatory notes state that the bill proposes to: implement the new national standard of measurement of position, Geocentric Datum Australia 2020, for the future collection and provision of location data; clarify the historical datum for position references or upgrade position references to GDA2020; and ensure that Queensland legislation is responsive to national measurement standards as they evolve or new ones are adopted.

The committee heard that changes are being made to the system that underlines Australia's location information to bring Australia's national latitude and longitude coordinates into line with global satellite positioning systems. These changes will enable smartphones and other positioning technologies to accurately locate features marked on Australian maps. The explanatory notes state that in Australia coordinates for features on our maps—for example, roads and buildings—most commonly use the Geocentric Datum Australia 1994, or GDA94. GDA94 is 'static' meaning that coordinates for features are fixed in relation to Australia's continental plate and do not change over time.

In contrast, global satellite positioning system coordinates for features on the earth's surface will change over time, as these systems take into account the movement of tectonic plates. By 2020, Australia will have moved about 1.8 metres in a north-easterly direction since the adoption of GDA94. The member for Burdekin noted that it was moving to the right. It is the width of this aisle here, so there may be a lot of movement across this one later in 2020.

With increased use of devices that provide precise satellite positioning—for example, smartphones—people will notice discrepancies between the satellite position and GDA94-mapped features. All Australian jurisdictions have agreed to adopt GDA2020 by 30 June 2020. The bill makes

the necessary legislative amendments to support the adoption of GDA2020. This will also mean technical changes to 10 various acts. The department advised that it had been working with major software providers to ensure a smooth transition for users, as many of the practical aspects of the update to GDA2020 would be managed in software. DNRME was further undertaking a program within the department to ensure all data would be available in both datums—GDA94 and GDA2020—for the transition period.

As I stated, this bill is not contentious; however, it is something that will have an impact on almost all of us in some way that we will be totally unaware of. Global satellite positioning now plays a huge role in many industries—whether it be agriculture, fishing, mining or transport. Indeed, it would be easier to name the industries that do not rely on GPS in some form rather than those that do.

The bill further makes amendments to the granting of freehold land within Indigenous land use agreements. Division 2 of the Land Act allows for deeds of grant of unallocated state land without competition in some circumstances according to the following policy criteria. They are: the applicant is an adjoining registered owner or lessee, and selling or leasing to anyone else would be considered inequitable; or no other persons are likely to be interested in obtaining the land; or the applicant held a significant interest in the land before it became unallocated state land; or there is no dedicated access and the only practical access is through the applicant's land. The proposed amendment would allow the state to grant unallocated state land where the state is party to an Indigenous land use agreement where the native title party to the ILUA holds, claims to hold or would have held native title over the land.

There was one section of this bill that did raise some concern for the Queensland Law Society. This section states that the provisions allow for the deed of grant of the land to be granted without competition at a purchase price provided for under the ILUA or as determined by the minister and prescribed by regulation. Whilst the explanatory notes state that 'this additional provision does not affect existing competitive or non-competitive allocation provisions', the committee's report noted as follows—

The Queensland Law Society xxx submitted that it supported the intention of cl 14 of the Bill to 'minimise the delay and cost for Traditional Owner groups in navigating the process towards real tenure outcomes in the native title landscape' but that it was concerned that proposed s 123A(3)(b), regarding the purchase price of the land granted being as provided for under the ILUA or otherwise as decided by the Minister, would impact the right to negotiate.

In response to this concern, the department advised the committee—

The right to negotiate will be maintained through the Indigenous Land Use Agreement process where the parties are expected to document their agreement to the consideration payable for the grant of the freehold. Proposed Section 123A(3)(b) in the Land Act 1994 is provided to ensure that there is a default/fall-back position should the parties not decide to document their agreement to the consideration payable in the Agreement.

The bill also amends the renewal process for term leases. Under the Land Act, a lessee may apply for an offer of a term lease after 80 per cent of the existing term of the lease has expired unless there are special circumstances, and this renewal application for a new term lease is then decided by the chief executive. The bill would amend the Land Act to enable the chief executive to make a decision on the offer of a new term lease before the lessee lodges an application. The amendments would not remove the existing right of the lessee to make an application for an offer of a new lease.

This bill makes other minor amendments which are basically technical in nature. I will leave those for others to speak on. I am sure there is a significant speaking list on this exciting piece of legislation. We will not be opposing this bill.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.27 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. The policy objectives of the bill are to: implement the new national standard of measurement of position, Geocentric Datum Australia 2020, otherwise known as GDA2020, for the future collection and provision of location data; clarify the historical datum for position references or upgrade position references to GDA2020 where appropriate; ensure that Queensland legislation is responsive to national measurement standards as they evolve or new ones are adopted; improve the effectiveness of processes for renewing term leases, land title registration, making model by-laws for trust land, and for conducting ballots for interests in state land; enhance and clarify land titling processes; enable the Queensland government to give effect to commitments given as part of an Indigenous land use agreement to grant unallocated state land as freehold, without competition, to the traditional owners of the land; and, finally, extend the boundary of the Cape York Peninsula region to include additional land parcels that are either properties added to the Daintree National Park or state land adjacent to the park.

As the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy said in his first reading speech on 23 October 2019—

The Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 supports the adoption of Australia's latest standard for measuring position, the Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 or GDA2020. In addition, it will deliver improved state land decision and land titling processes. Importantly, it also will extend the boundary of the Cape York Peninsula region to include additional land parcels to deliver uniformity in the management of the Cape York Peninsula region protected area estate.

Subsequent to the minister's first reading speech, the bill was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in accordance with standing order 131. The committee chair, the member for Bancroft, tabled report No. 44 of the 56th Parliament in December 2019. The committee made only one recommendation and that was that the bill be passed.

In closing, I would like to thank the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy for bringing this important bill to the House. I would also 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, Hansard and the submitters. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.31 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. As we have heard, the objectives of the bill are to implement the new national standard of measurement of position, Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020, otherwise known as GDA2020, for the future collection and provision of location data. It also provides measures to deal with historical datum to upgrade position references to GDA2020 and to ensure that Queensland legislation is responsive to national measurement standards as they evolve.

As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee which dealt with this bill, I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members, led by the member for Bancroft, along with the secretariat for their support. I would also like to thank my friend and former colleague Mr Lee Draw for his advice in relation to the practical application of geocentric data, which greatly assisted my understanding.

As our reliance on technology like autonomous systems increases, the accuracy of geocentric datum is becoming more and more important. Applications in industries like mining, agriculture, the military, surveying and aviation are evolving all of the time. As the technology improves, the need for the accuracy of datum is becoming more and more relevant, as we heard from the minister. In applications like precision farming, companies like SwarmFarm are utilising robots to deliver significant capability advancements, resulting in productive and environmental improvements, all of which are reliant on the accuracy of geocentric datum.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock, please. One moment. Members on the government side, there is far too much talk. I am finding it difficult, believe it or not, to hear the member for Buderim.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not open for debate. If you are having conversations, take them outside.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can go louder if you would like, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can turn off your microphone if you like.

Mr MICKELBERG: You do not want to miss this, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is heavy stuff!

With Australia's tectonic plate having moved 1.8 metres in a north-easterly direction since the adoption of GDA94, this degree of inaccuracy could inhibit the development of such capabilities.

The committee received three submissions in relation to the bill, and I note the shadow minister's request for clarification on the issues raised in these submissions. I appreciate the minister's clarification earlier in relation to the assurance from DNRME in relation to no freehold grants of unallocated state land occurring without competition under an ILUA. I also note the concerns expressed by the Queensland Law Society in relation to the right to negotiate and the consequent risk of unfairness to traditional owner groups in negotiated settlements.

Despite its name and the relatively complex technology involved, the policy objectives of this bill are straightforward and cause little concern apart from the issues raised previously, so I will leave it there.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.34 pm): As honourable members can see, this bill is one of the most intense that we have dealt with! There has been a lot of negotiation and it has been incredibly controversial! Even today the committee has been going backwards and forwards—and that is why I have lost my voice. The negotiations were not actually about the bill; they were about who was allowed to tell the worst dad joke. My money is on the member for Burdekin, so well done, Dale.

This is a rare bill that our committee has easily agreed on, and that is fantastic. When the bill first came before the committee it was hard to think of a way to speak about it that would engage and interest the House. Other members of the committee have done a wonderful job in going over some of the detail. We have heard about what geocentric datum is, why datum is important and I have a list about who uses them. The short answer is everybody uses datum.

I am very excited because for the first time since I was elected my kids are coming in for dinner tonight. My mother-in-law is bringing them in and she will be relying on her GPS to do that. We all know that when driving around the city if you take a wrong turn or overshoot a turn, another 20 minutes is added to the trip. It is an absolute nightmare. The importance of things like GPS and getting those precise measurements in circumstances like that cannot be overstated. That is why it is important to me. However, as I have said, it is important to everybody. We have heard great examples about why it is important to farmers—people driving through fences, for example. As automatic cars come online, it is going to be more and more important as automated intelligence is used instead of real human intelligence.

As I said, it is a rare bill that is as uncontroversial as this. I think it is worth taking note of the datum that has been updated and when it was updated. The last datum was updated in 1994. If honourable members were really lucky they might have had access to the internet in 1994. If they were going somewhere they might have been able to—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms PUGH: I said if they were really lucky, and I do not think that is the case for any of us here. They might have been able to print a map using something like a precursor to Google—probably not. They most definitely would not have been able to do that in 1984 when the datum before that was updated. People would have been getting out the *UBD* and highlighting their route. The world certainly has come a long way, and that is why this piece of legislation is so important. We need that precision in this day and age. This bill ensures we have that precision.

I am going to leave it at that. As I said, my kids are coming in for dinner shortly. I am really excited. I hope they get here in one piece thanks to the trusty GPS. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.37 pm): As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee I rise to make a short contribution to the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. This is probably one of those times when speeches from both sides of the House are going to be pretty similar for a change. At the outset I would like to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their invaluable assistance. I would also like to thank all of those individuals and organisations who participated in the committee process.

On 23 October last year the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy introduced the bill and it was referred to the committee. On 25 October we invited stakeholders to make written submissions. When submissions closed on 11 November, as we have heard, we had only received three submissions on the bill. On 6 November we received a written briefing on the bill from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy prior to a public briefing on the bill from the department as well as the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The committee received written advice from DNRME in relation to matters raised in the submissions, and the committee tabled the report on 6 December last year.

There are several objectives of the bill, and I will go through those quickly. I know they have been mentioned already. It seeks to implement the new national standards of measurement of position of Geocentric Datum of Australia, GDA2020, for the future collection and provision of the data.

The bill also aims to clarify historical datum for position references or to upgrade position references to GDA2020 where appropriate. The bill also seeks to ensure that Queensland legislation is responsive to national measurement standards as they evolve or as new ones are adopted. It aims to improve the effectiveness or processes for renewing term leases, land title registration, making model by-laws for trust lands and for conducting ballots for interests in state lands. The bill also aims to

enhance and clarify land titling processes and enable the Queensland government to give effect to commitments given as part of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement to grant unallocated state land as freehold without competition to traditional owners of the land.

Lastly, the bill seeks to extend the boundary of the Cape York Peninsula region to include additional land parcels that either are properties added to the Daintree National Park or state land adjacent to the park. Our committee only had one recommendation—that the bill be passed. Although I am not lucky enough to have my children arrive for dinner tonight, hopefully I might see them tomorrow night!

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.41 pm): I rise today to speak to the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. Queensland is on the move, and not just in jobs and economic growth. This bill will change the reference frame for location information used in natural resources and transport legislation. To accurately locate a position, a reference framework or datum and a coordination system—latitude and longitudes—are required. A datum is a tool used to define the shape and size of the earth and provide the reference point for the coordination systems which map the earth.

Datum are used where people rely on location information, for example in surveying, cartography, geology, navigation and astronomy. Due to the continental drift and technological advancements, it is necessary to update the datum from time to time. Currently we use GDA94 coordinates which tell us where things are in Australia, but these coordinates locate features as if the location of our continental tectonic plate were fixed in 1994. But our tectonic plate moves about seven centimetres per year. Carole King got it right when she sang about feeling the earth move!

Global satellite positioning systems have a coordinate framework fixed to the centre of the earth rather than our tectonic plate. These systems regularly adjust to account for plate movement. However, the difference between Australia's current geocentric datum and global positioning systems will soon be obvious—even to smartphone users—so they need to be aligned.

This bill is to support the adoption of the Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 in Queensland legislation and will make minor amendments to the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, South Bank Corporation Act 1989 and the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007. This bill will help us catch up, so we can get to the right place that we want to go because the earth's crust has moved. Perhaps that will help opposition leader member for Nanango when she is looking for Rheinmetall next time! Probably not!

We rely on location information in many ways—from getting to places using our smartphones to running automated technology remotely, such as driverless cars and tractors, mining equipment and drones. For example, in my electorate of Lytton, operators at the Port of Brisbane use driverless cranes to load and unload containers and this technology relies on GPS. As part of the latest round of updates, Queensland is working with other Australian governments to pair up national coordinates with global positioning systems. New Zealand will also update its data. Queensland's business systems, laws, data and processes need to be geared and ready for GDA2020.

Updating to GDA2020 will benefit businesses in construction, agriculture, insurance, emergency services, mapping, surveying, transport, tourism, environmental management, scientific research, automation, telecommunications and entertainment. We are working closely with the spatial information sector to transition systems, data and processes so they are ready to adopt GDA2020 by 30 June 2020.

The Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for consideration on the 23 October 2019, with the committee required to report by 6 December 2019. The committee invited stakeholders and subscribers for submissions. Three were received. I thank the committee for their work. I commend the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019 to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019. I thank the members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee because I know they are a particularly busy committee. We now have another omnibus bill in the natural resources portfolio. We have seen quite a few of those in this portfolio during this parliament.

One policy objective of the bill is to implement a new national standard of measurement of position—a Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020—for the future collection and provision of location data. It is hoped that this will ensure that Queensland legislation is responsive to the national measurement

standards as they evolve or as new ones are adopted. We have come a very long way from when surveyors used lines to record boundaries and points on the earth. We have certainly changed in our technology.

I do not intend to speak on all of the provisions that this legislation amends; however, I have some matters I wish to raise in relation to the processes for renewing term leases and also for the ILUAs. There are provisions of the bill that enable the Queensland government to give effect to the commitments given as part of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement, or ILUA, to grant unallocated state land as freehold without competition to traditional owners of land.

I now move to the Australian government, which has adopted the GDA2020 as a standard for measurement of position by making a determination under the Australian government's National Measurement Act 1960 and National Measurement Act 1917. It has been agreed that all Australian jurisdictions would adopt the GDA2020 by 30 June 2020. The legislative amendments are required in Queensland to support the GDA2020. In Australia, coordinates for features on our maps—for instance, roads and buildings—most commonly used the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994. The GDA94 is static, meaning that the coordinates for features are fixed in relation to Australia's continental plate and do not change over time. In contrast, the global satellite positioning system coordinates for features on the earth's surface will change over time and take into account the movement of the tectonic plates. That means that the WAC chart in my office is somewhat out and that the GPS is actually a little bit more accurate when it comes to pinpointing some of those positions some of us use on a regular basis.

By 2020, Australia will have moved about 1.8 metres in a north-easterly direction since the adoption of the GDA94—and it is good to hear that Australia is moving to the right! I note the member for Burdekin's earlier comments. With the increased use of devices that provide precise satellite positioning, for instance smartphones—and we might be looking at things like drones as well—people will notice discrepancies between the satellite position and the GDA94 map features. I do not think it will stop anyone from getting lost but it will give some of the app developers fewer challenges, especially those looking for very precise calculations. For instance, the operation of drones might be in a built-up residential area. They do need a very precise latitude and longitude on which to operate. With the adoption of the GDA2020, there will be better alignment between Australia's national datum and the satellite positioning measurements.

While position information has always been important for the mapping and surveying community, it is also important as technology advances in our society. We do have people who farm using GPS. We will eventually have automated vehicles. There is a lot of remote-controlled industrial equipment in the agriculture and mining sectors. Obviously drone technology, particularly in the agricultural sector, is expanding at a fairly rapid rate.

The bill also amends the Land Act with respect to the renewal of term leases. Under the current provisions in the Land Act, the renewal of a term lease is contingent on the lessee lodging an application. The bill will amend the Land Act to enable the chief executive to make an offer of a new lease prior to the lessee lodging the application. The general provisions which the chief executive must consider before deciding whether or not to offer the new lease remain the same, and that is pleasing to see. On the odd occasion, a lessee may not receive that paperwork. Sometimes there might be an address change, the mail might go missing and emails can be missed or end up in junk email. Will these offers be sent by registered post? If the department becomes aware that the lessee has not received their offer, what actions will the department take to ensure that it makes contact with the lessee to alert them to the need for that renewal?

I will now move to the grant of freehold land under Indigenous land use agreements. The Queensland government regularly enters into Indigenous land use agreements under the Native Title Act 1993 where the grant of land to First Nation people is a key component of the agreement. This can readily be achieved where native title has not been extinguished as the native title holders meet the priority criteria for granting land without competition under the Land Act. This is not the case where native title had been extinguished—for instance, on freehold land—and can prevent the terms of an Indigenous land use agreement from being met.

Currently, the priority criteria for granting land without competition under the Land Act can be met if the First Nation people lodge a native title claim over the particular lot of land to have the previous extinguishment disregarded, which would revive their native title. This is effectively the reversal of freehold which has been granted and extinguishes native title. I do find these changes that the government is pursuing somewhat concerning. Freehold title is granted for a reason. It is the most secure form of land title in this state. Is the government saying that these amendments will reverse fee

simple for the purposes of granting land without competition? The bill provides for the grant of freehold land without competition to the people who would have otherwise held native title but for the historical extinguishment of their native title.

I am concerned with what is in the explanatory notes, which state that this is a resource intensive and lengthy process. Those processes are in place for a reason—to protect the grant of freehold title and the extinguishment of other claims over that title. The processes are there for a purpose. Fee simple is not there to be interfered with at the whim of governments. Security of tenure, as the minister well knows, is the cornerstone of Queensland's tenure system and freehold is the most secure tenure title in that system. I would appreciate an assurance to the House in the minister's summing-up that these changes will never be used for the purposes of a freehold land grab in the future.

The explanatory notes state that the amendment does not affect any existing processes or rights of people to apply for land through the existing competitive or non-competitive processes, depending on their circumstances, but they did not say anything about the value. What about the value of the freehold land? How is that affected? The Labor government needs to provide an assurance to all freehold landowners that these changes will not devalue their freehold title if there is currently an ILUA underway or a future ILUA over their freehold land.

I am concerned about the explanations that we have seen from this government about the resources and the lengthy processes and the justification it has used to change freehold tenure processes for selective purposes. I do find that concerning. We need to look much more closely and I look forward to the minister's assurances in relation to what I have raised. I would like to hear the minister's assurances, as I know many other freehold landowners in my electorate and across Queensland would like to hear those assurances, because we need to make sure that it is very clear. As we know, many people have exercised their rights to upgrade to freehold tenure. I do not want to see a situation whereby that freehold tenure is diminished in its value through whatever changes may come through in this legislation.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.54 pm): It was only 501 years ago when Magellan jumped in his ship and sailed around the world. Back in those days they thought that the earth was flat, and there are probably one or two people who still think that, in this House anyway. However, Magellan took a leap of faith. Linked with that is Lieutenant James Cook. Very few people may know this, but a lot of us understand that James Cook was sent to Tahiti to map the transition of Venus across the sun. Why was he doing that? Not to get blinded by the sunlight's rays but to determine the size of the earth, so it was used to measure the size of the earth. They needed someone in the Southern Hemisphere as well as someone simultaneously in the Northern Hemisphere to be able to track and map the time it took for Venus to transition across the sun's path and from that they could determine the size of the earth, which is roughly, give or take two or three metres, around about 40,000 kilometres in circumference. We heard from the member for Lytton who said that, according to Carole King, the earth moves under her feet. According to Graeme Connors, he travels a little further north each year. In fact, it is at seven centimetres each year that he travels a little further north.

In all seriousness, 500 years ago Magellan sailed around the world thinking that he would fall off the edge, but he did not. Some 250 years later James Cook was mapping and determining the size of the earth and then starting to use longitude and latitude to map the Southern Hemisphere, and in 1994 we had the Global Positioning System which we are now updating. I have given my contribution of two minutes and 20 seconds and a little history lesson for those in the chamber today. I support the bill.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.56 pm), in reply: With regard to the bill, I want to again thank the members of the committee who contributed so much to this bill. I also want to address the questions of the member for Warrego because she in particular had some concerns regarding this bill—more than other members in the House, and quite rightly so. In terms of the question as to whether freehold title will be used for a land grab, I can reassure the member that that is a categorical no. It will not be used for a land grab. Will it have an effect on the freehold value of the land? I can reassure the member again that freehold land will be transferred at market value and it should not have any effect whatsoever on the value of freehold land. Based on that, I can offer sincere reassurances to the member regarding this bill.

I also want to thank members for their contributions regarding the other areas of the bill, apart from the correction of datum into the datum 2020. With regard to the freehold issue that the member also mentioned in terms of the provision of the transfer of an ILUA into freehold, this provides us with a wider and more encompassing mechanism to negotiate with native title groups. As members are aware, the previous legislation had an offset arrangement—it was a one to one direct offset arrangement—but

this offers us greater scope in negotiation for the transfer of unallocated state land to traditional owner groups to freehold. Hopefully that allays another one of the member's fears that she has raised. It is quite specific. I do not believe any precedent is possible to be set over this and it is uniquely to unallocated state land that this bill relates. Hopefully that has responded to most of the questions raised by the member. 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 54, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.00 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.00 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.01 pm): After the resignation today of the member for Bundamba, I start my contribution by thanking Jo-Ann Miller for her long 20 years of service to this parliament. I note that when asked about the integrity crisis and infighting that has engulfed this current government recently, she responded with 'Trad is a four-letter word.' There are many four-letter words that are damaging this Labor government in crisis, so let us have a look at some of them.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is referring to members by their actual names, not by their titles. I ask him to conform to standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, even though you are quoting, you still need to refer to people by their correct titles. I ask you to refer to people by their correct titles.

Mr HUNT: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let us have a game of 'Treasurer Trad Scrabble'. The first four-letter word that comes to mind—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. You have just gone down that road again, member for Nicklin. Every time you refer to a member, you need to refer to them by their correct title.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that when you talk of governments, the Palaszczuk government, Treasurer Trad, Minister Bailey, that that is acceptable. That is as I understood it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine.

Mr HUNT: The first four-letter word that comes to mind is J-O-B-S, jobs, as today, once again, we have fallen to the bottom of the pile with the highest unemployment in Australia. We are stone-cold last again. In an era of low unemployment right across Australia, we continue to lag behind the rest of the nation.

The next four-letter word doing damage to this government and the rest of Queensland is B-A-I-L, bail. We have a revolving door for young offenders going in and out of our courts, with watered down youth justice laws that fail to protect our community from the small percentage of thugs who thumb their noses at the law and keep breaking into houses, stealing cars, terrorising families and destroying our communities.

Another four-letter word that terrorises this government C-O-A-L, coal. Right across the nation, Labor cannot decide whether it is for or against coal. Prior to the federal election, they were more worried about finches than jobs, suggesting people reskill. Then, miraculously, the Adani coal project gets to go ahead after their abysmal federal results. We have the federal Labor OTIS Group—another four-letter word—fighting with left factions while they try to figure out where they stand.

What about D-A-M-S, dams? Labor do not care about long-term water security. They are beholden to the Greens and have no long-term vision. Only a Frecklington LNP government will provide the vision and projects needed to secure water across Queensland.

Then there is the double-letter triple-word score albatross hanging around the neck of this government and the state of Queensland that underlies all of these problems and it is D-E-B-T, debt. After 25 of the past 30 years of financial mismanagement, they have left this state broke. It is a generation of failure.

These are the four-letter words dragging down this pathetic government and dragging down Queensland. It is the game of Scrabble that Queenslanders do not want to play any longer.

Cross River Rail

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.04 pm): Tonight I want to talk about the most important local infrastructure project happening in the Moreton Bay area, which will take one-and-a-half hours off the weekly commute for all of our people working in the city. I am not talking about the \$150 million overpass at Deception Bay Road, which I talked about last week. Tonight I am talking about Cross River Rail. That infrastructure project will have more impact on the outer urban electorates than the inner city ones. It is our project. It is the project of the members of parliament in the Moreton Bay area, Logan, Ipswich, Redlands and the Gold Coast, because it is our people who spend the most time on the trains.

Cross River Rail is a project that will change lives in our communities. It will mean that mums and dads can spend more time with their kids and that young people can have more access to more jobs. From 2036, for our locals Cross River Rail will mean trains every five minutes in morning peak hour. It will mean that you will turn up and go, and people love that. It will mean you will be able to throw away your timetable. For the commuters of Bancroft it will mean an extra 1,800 seats every morning peak hour.

Many of the jobs of our locals are still in the city, so at this stage we still have to commute to earn our living. At this stage in South-East Queensland, most of the jobs growth is still happening in and around Brisbane and the CBD. What exactly will Cross River Rail deliver to our working commuters? It will remove the bottleneck between Roma Street and Bowen Hills, which is a crucial stretch for all northern lines. Cross River Rail will bring in a new signalling system, the ETCS or European Train Control System.

Mr Butcher: A four-letter word, mate.

Mr WHITING: It is another four-letter word and what a positive one it is for our people. The electronic system will mean that we can put more trains on the lines and there will be less time between trains.

Another thing that Cross River Rail will mean is more jobs for Queenslanders. It will unlock jobs in a range of new locations as new projects emerge along the line. I am talking about Brisbane Live, the Gabba, the Boggo Road precinct and new developments at the RNA showgrounds.

It is our project, the Palaszczuk government's project. The federal LNP is not interested in this huge infrastructure project. The LNP had been critical about this project and then they were silent. That silence will go down on their permanent record. I say to the LNP: you hindered this project; you did not help; you did not lift a finger. When we needed them to lobby the feds for money to come to Queensland, they went missing in action. However, we will keep talking about this marvellous project that we are delivering.

I say to people from my area who wait on station platforms that Cross River Rail starts where you are standing. The benefits start at your own home, at your own bus station and at your own train station.

Camp Hill, Deaths

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.07 pm): Earlier today I put a post on my Facebook page. For the next two-and-a-half minutes or thereabouts, obviously I will be speaking as the proud member for Chatsworth, but really I will be conveying these words as a father. Unfortunately, my electorate has been touched by the scourge of two things that are afflicting society as a whole and, unfortunately, they came to light in my electorate of Chatsworth in the past 24 hours. On one of them, I will quote from my Facebook page. This morning I wrote—

As a politician, words normally come reasonably easy to me. Given the tragic local event yesterday, I am struggling to find the words to express the profound sorrow and grief the local community I am honoured to represent is feeling. The word 'tragedy' is used far too often out of context in modern society but sadly, on this occasion, it is entirely appropriate. To relatives, family friends, first responders and the entire Belmont Primary School community, my heartfelt condolence on this terrible loss ...

Unfortunately, the events that were all too well publicised yesterday occurred just outside of my electorate of Chatsworth. I am confident that the member for Greenslopes will be making a very heartfelt contribution straight after me. I will let him cover that aspect. Where it affects me is that two of the three children who are now sadly deceased went to one of my local schools.

I can recall only a few weeks ago when I was handing out awards and their little smiles will not leave me probably for the rest of my days. At the end of the day, you can read a stat about the fact that one woman is killed by a partner approximately every nine days in this country. I know the purists out there will say it is not just isolated to females being the victim, and that is true, but overwhelmingly the victims are female. Indeed, it is a scourge on society.

There is another matter that also touched my electorate today. Many members may have seen some of the social media vision of an intellectually disabled little Aboriginal boy, Quaden, who was bullied at school. Again, I will not mention the name of the school, suffice to say it is a school in my electorate. I was appalled by what I saw, as were, I believe, 4 million people so far throughout the world. I take this opportunity through you, Mr Speaker, to applaud the Indigenous All Stars NRL team who have reached out to this young boy, through his mum. I believe he will be running on the field in an exhibition match this weekend. The issue of domestic violence and bullying is a complete scourge on society. I urge this parliament to do everything we can to combat it.

Mr SPEAKER: Well said, member for Chatsworth.

Camp Hill, Deaths

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.11 pm) I thank the member for Chatsworth for those words. Like the majority of people in my community today, it has been impossible not to think about the three children and the mother who were tragically murdered yesterday in Camp Hill. Today is a particularly happy day for my family as we celebrate my daughter's birthday. While we try to make that special for my daughter, it has been difficult for my wife and me to put these things out of our minds. My thoughts and deep condolences are with the family and friends of those impacted by these tragic deaths.

I say to anyone who is affected by domestic violence that there is help and there is hope. There are resources, there are people and there are organisations that you can reach out to for help. Whether you are a victim or a perpetrator, whether you are struggling to leave a relationship, whether you have made a mistake and hurt someone, there is hope and there is help available. I know it is difficult, but I urge people to take that first step.

Last week, a group of people met at the Coorparoo School of Arts hall, including community groups, churches, small businesses, individuals from our community and artists. We come together and we are trying to build a permanent memorial for people affected by domestic and family violence. Little did we know that this tragic event would occur less than a kilometre from where we were meeting. We do not want this to just be a memorial for people who have been killed or injured by domestic violence; we want it to be a beacon of hope. We want it to be a guiding light for change in our society. We want a society where people are treated with respect. We want a society where relationships are based on collaboration and not based on control and fear.

Last night, like everyone else in my community, I held my family close. I was so sad for that mother and her children. However, I was particularly pleased that there were brave people in our community that ran towards danger to help a mate—tradies, local residents, police, fireys and ambos—and I thank them all. Sadly, people dying as a result of domestic violence is not unique. It happens every week somewhere in Australia.

Our community is devastated by this tragic and difficult situation. This is a peaceful area of Camp Hill. It is an area where my grandparents spent 40 years of their lives on that very street just across the road from where this tragedy occurred. As I have done for the last five years, and I will continue to do, I will work with anybody in my community who is willing to work towards that goal of establishing a society based on respect, anybody who is prepared to say 'not now, not ever' to domestic violence. Rest in peace, Hannah, Laianah, Aaliyah and Trey.

Swannell, Mr P, AM

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.14 pm): Toowoomba legend, Emeritus Professor Peter Swannell AM, a beloved husband, father, brother and loved friend to many, passed away last month. His laudable achievements have since been hailed far and wide: inspiring Vice-Chancellor at the University of Southern Queensland; Visionary Chairman of the Empire Theatre; compassionate leader of the Toowoomba Clubhouse; erudite and witty columnist for the *Toowoomba Chronicle*. There was so much more to Peter than all of that. There was colour to his life and he brought colour to our lives.

Peter and I first connected nearly 15 years ago at Heritage Bank where I observed Peter, a trained engineer, cut through financial system jargon with a pure stream of logic. I think he enjoyed my wife's singing more than my conversation and we were privileged to be welcomed by Peter and Janice into their home for beautiful meals and celebrations, always with music and generous conversation. Peter was quite the raconteur, full of humour and warm intelligence, whether it be recounting how he and Janice met rehearsing the worst play ever produced or his intense hatred of most meetings and how the 700-metre range on which Toowoomba sits means most of what we say goes over the heads of those in the south-east corner.

On the day of his funeral, I spent time poring through old correspondence between us. There were three things that jumped out at me—his humour, his thoughtfulness and, although he was a very interesting man, his deep interest in others, a very rare combination indeed. That interest was what made his column in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* unmissable. He wrote regularly of politics. I joked with him that he was Toowoomba's own Antony Green. I even had the honour of appearing in a couple of his columns, thankfully favourably.

He described his politics as purple, an amalgam of red and blue. He cherished an old friendship with Labor luminary Bill Hayden, forged during their recovery work in Jindalee during the Brisbane floods of 1974. Being purple made him the perfect person to read my draft maiden speech and in his inimitable style he delivered typically frank feedback.

As we in this House know all too well, politics pulls us away from family and friends and so it was that I last saw Peter six months ago. He was sick. That colour he brought so effortlessly to every gathering was sadly fading. I took the chance to thank him for showing an interest in so many lives, including those of a number of my dear friends, mentoring and cajoling them; for so thoughtfully at my personal level entering my life and encouraging me, much more than what I ever deserved. I will never forget him, nor will anyone else who was blessed to share Peter's life and have some of that rich, animating colour run into their lives, too. God bless you, Peter.

Logan Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.17 pm): Hazel Campbell was truly the centre of attention and soaking up all the excitement at the Logan Hospital six days ago as she was the very first patient at the new 28-bed ward we opened. I joined the member for Macalister and the health minister in the new 28-bed ward. It is a fantastic, innovative new ward. Some 77 staff will work there and look after the patients. With the minister I met occupational therapists, nurses, doctors and physios. They are all determined to get patients back to their best after their operations. The ward was erected in record time. This is the first instalment of the \$460 million Logan Hospital expansion. Soon to open will be the fantastic and innovative mental health decision unit. It is a new unit where people coming into emergency can be assessed in a more calm and controlled environment. It will be better for them and better for staff.

Another of our innovations—it is a couple of years old, but I do not forget about it—is the early years centre at the Browns Plains Community Health Centre. This service for new mums and bubs was cut by the Campbell Newman LNP government. Along with the member for Waterford, I fought hard to get this service back for mothers most in need.

I also want to mention the Family and Community Place adjacent to the brand-new Yarrabilba State School. It is an innovative model where services can meet people for consultations and provide services before they have a permanent base in the Yarrabilba area. Let us not forget the two ambulance stations that will be built in my area. In just eight days construction of the Yarrabilba ambulance station will commence.

We are experiencing such exciting things in the growing Logan area under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Is there any danger to this? There is. Under the LNP, in Logan we saw cuts not just to our maternity services but cuts to nurses. We saw no new ambulance stations built. There was no expansion of the Logan Hospital. I am worried that if we do not have the Palaszczuk Labor government and we are not there to fight and stand up to the LNP the entire expansion of Logan Hospital will be threatened. I urge people to get behind the Palaszczuk Labor government because we are interested in delivering and improving health care, and not the cutting, sacking and selling that hurt Logan so much.

Bank Levy

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.20 pm): In 2017 the South Australian Labor government proposed a modest levy on the big banks. Quite predictably, the banks hated the idea of paying a little more in tax. The levy was described as, and I quote, an 'outrageous cash grab' and a 'desperate political move'. There were even threats of court challenges, and I quote again: 'The South Australian government will face a High Court challenge if it introduces its proposed bank tax,' 'Other states will also face a constitutional challenge in the High Court if they propose to single out banks for new taxes.' These are not the words of the CEO of any big bank attacking the then Labor government in South Australia. They are the words of former Queensland premier, now CEO of the Australian Banking Association, Anna Bligh. If one wants a symbol of which side Labor are on one only has to look at where their former heroes and leaders end up—which companies and industries they end up lobbying for. What is more, since 2012 Labor and the Liberals have taken over \$7.2 million in donations from the big banks.

Tonight I am putting on the record my intention to introduce a private member's bill to introduce a big bank levy for Queensland. What I will be proposing is a modest levy of 0.05 per cent per quarter on the major source of profits for the big four banks, plus Macquarie—namely, their total liabilities, including deposits. The levy will only apply to Queensland's share of those liabilities, based on our proportion of GDP, and would raise \$4.6 billion over four years.

The Reserve Bank and the IMF agree that Australia's big banks enjoy an effective subsidy from the government which is at least equal to the amount of this proposed levy. Since they are deemed 'too big to fail', banks and investors can take big risks knowing that the government will always bail them out in a crisis. They take this subsidy as profits, but the Australian people carry the risks and the costs of a bailout. That \$4.6 billion could fund 4,000 extra teachers or nurses, 10 new schools or five new regional hospitals each and every year. To put things in perspective, the big four banks and Macquarie together made \$42 billion in pre-tax profit in the last financial year alone. That is more than Queensland's entire health and education budgets combined.

We have a choice, and that choice is especially stark now as we approach the government's pre-election budget. We know the Queensland government is struggling with revenue. We know Queenslanders are struggling with unemployment and the rising cost of living. What is it going to be? A few extra billion dollars in profit for the big banks or a modest levy on some of the most profitable banks in the world. That levy would fund the schools, hospitals, teachers and nurses that our state desperately needs. I just hope future donations that might be sought or employment prospects for retiring MPs do not cloud the judgement of my Labor and LNP colleagues in this place.

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.23 pm): Affordable and reliable transport is an important issue for the Redlands community, particularly those living on the southern end and on our Moreton Bay islands. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises that need to invest in the Redlands and plans for the needs of our growing community. That is why my government has and continues to invest in our region—the highlight being the long-awaited \$42 million duplication of Cleveland Redland Bay Road. That is a road that has been subject to broken promises by other levels of government over a decade.

This duplication builds on the Giles Road-Cleveland Redland Bay Road intersection upgrade completed in 2018. Work underway on the Old Cleveland Road on-ramp will benefit all Redlanders. In that context, this week it has been particularly disappointing to see our efforts continually undermined by the local council. I want to talk about a few fronts where that has occurred.

Last week, Redlands City Council announced its latest transport strategy for the city. That is a plan that took council almost three years to complete and a lot of ratepayers' dollars to produce. It is a document that is not a fulsome strategy and could be summarised as: the state must spend more because we are not going to. It also would have been nice to have council brief me before going straight to a media release. I do not think anybody likes seeing politics by media release. We all know that when we work together, we can get more done and we get better outcomes.

On that note, it was even more disappointing to see another media release this week on our island jetty upgrades—a project that we have been working on collaboratively with council and our community. Open houses were held in November that were really successful with our architects, engineers and the community. In terms of the council's media release, I want to correct the record. TMR officers have been urging council for months now to put their signature on the dotted line, in a better than a fifty-fifty funding deal for the \$34 million project. I want to see construction works start as soon as possible, and this is just causing unnecessary delays. Only council can explain why they have chosen to drag out the process. I am not sure why. What is disappointing is that the mayor has stated in the media release that the agreement would be signed. I can advise that as at lunchtime today it is still not signed, and we are heading close to caretaker mode.

Finally, I want to talk about the Kinross Road Structure Plan and particularly Kinross Road. Hundreds and hundreds of homes have been built off this road in recent years, including on our federal member's property. It is a road that is one way in and one way out. Kinross is a council road that connects to Boundary Road, a state controlled road, for which my government, the Palaszczuk government, has installed signalisation at the intersection. I have had representation from a number of people, including aspiring councillors, the current councillor and constituents, about making improvements to the signalised lights and intersection.

However, what has to be pointed out is that with these hundreds of homes the council is yet to upgrade Kinross Road. It is like a goat track—narrow, unmarked lines in places and with edges eroding. It is fair to assume that for each new home council has received their infrastructure charges and contributions, so I am unsure why today the road sits there not being upgraded. Before we can even look at doing any improvements to that intersection, I urge council to get on with the job, upgrade that goat track and make it a proper road for all of those residents.

Hit-and-Run Laws

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.26 pm): Tonight I would like to share with this parliament the story of a young life changed forever with a penalty that nowhere near matches the crime and to call for an appeal to fix this injustice. Last year Preston Potter was a 16-year-old excited to start his adult life. He is a proud Biggera Waters resident, with his parents, Shona and Gavin. Preston loved his footy, playing for the Parkwood Sharks, and he was set to start a plumbing apprenticeship. He liked a laugh, was a good mate and was a role model for his two younger sisters.

That all changed last June when he was hanging out with his friends at their grandma's house. They got hungry and crossed the road to get some food at the servo. While he was making his way across, Preston was struck down by a driver high on ice. Even more outrageously, the driver was speeding in an unregistered car. He drove off, leaving Preston for dead on the side of the road—a hit-and-run.

Luckily a trainee nurse was in the area and tried to resuscitate him before the ambulance arrived. Shona has said that it was this kind stranger performing CPR who saved his young life. The ambos then worked on Preston for hours on the roadside, finally putting him into an induced coma. The injuries to his head caused so much bleeding that the Potter family were told they should not see him once he arrived at the hospital. Being a mum, Shona, of course, did not listen. Nothing was stopping her from seeing her son, no matter how battered and close to death he was. That was the start of many months within our hospital system.

Preston spent week after week having multiple surgeries and rehabilitation for his brain and legs. He can walk again now but is deaf in one ear and may never be able to see normally again. Preston has severe and permanent brain damage. He is not the same person he was before. What sort of punishment would the driver receive for changing this young man's life forever? They received a \$500

fine and just a one-month suspended licence. That is half of what someone gets for using a phone while driving—and this was not the first time this driver has been charged with drug driving either. He could be back on the roads in no time if there is no change to this sentence.

The Potter family and my community are angry. Their hearts are broken by this soft sentence. They have gone to the Premier, Police Minister Ryan, the Attorney-General and the Queensland police themselves at least three to six times each. I table the email response sent to Shona by the Attorney-General's office last week and the *Gold Coast Bulletin* report from the court.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Driver's fine "a kick in guts"' [\[319\]](#).

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 February 2020, from the Office of Attorney-General, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to Shona Potter regarding investigation and prosecution of Robert Thomas Summerville [\[320\]](#).

Time is running out. Tonight I call on the Queensland Police Service to initiate an appeal. All the Potters want is for the punishment to fit the crime. They deserve justice for everything their son has lost.

Rookwood Weir

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.29 pm): Another week in parliament and again I am talking about the progress of Rookwood Weir and how we are just getting on with the job. Rookwood Weir is about 70 kilometres west of Rockhampton. As I have said previously, the Rockhampton Regional Council is delivering the \$7.5 million upgrade to Thirsty Creek Road. That upgrade is required to give heavy machinery access to the site. This work is due to be completed in May, creating local jobs for Rocky locals. Work will commence next month on the \$2 million upgrade of the Capricorn Highway intersection at Gogango, creating 15 jobs. Completion is expected in June subject to weather conditions. This will provide safe access for machinery and construction vehicles travelling to and from the weir site.

In April, the tender for the construction of the new Riverslea Bridge will be awarded. This will also create up to 15 local jobs. A new 18-metre high concrete bridge will replace the existing crossing. Works include a single 3.5-metre road lane, connecting the approaches to the bridge with the existing road, including passing bays at both ends and demolishing the existing culvert crossing. By May work will have started on site. In early October 2019 tenders were called for a major contractor to build the weir, seeking companies with the capability and expertise to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects to the highest industry standards.

The Palaszczuk government is the only government building dams and water infrastructure in Queensland. In this year alone we have committed \$848 million to water infrastructure, delivering more than 1,600 jobs. The Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy requires those who are delivering these contracts to provide job opportunities for local communities. I am pleased to be part of a Palaszczuk government that has been focused on jobs and infrastructure. We support projects like the Rookwood Weir because it is important for Rockhampton and because it supports more jobs for our local community.

The \$352 million Rookwood Weir is underway—which I might add has only been funded by the Palaszczuk government so far. I keep hearing the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, say that the money is on the table. I just do not know where that table is.

The House adjourned at 6.32 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, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting