



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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## TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2020

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 21 February 2020

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2018

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2018

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

21 February 2020

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 February 2020, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 21 February 2020 [\[423\]](#).

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The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 26 February 2020

A Bill for an Act to facilitate the implementation of a master plan for the Southport Spit, and to amend this Act, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, the Land Act 1994 and the Planning Act 2016 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Weapons Act 1990, the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 and the Weapons Regulation 2016 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to provide for the interstate transfer of community based sentences imposed in participating jurisdictions to be transferred, by registration, between participating jurisdictions

A Bill for an Act to amend the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989, the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Regulation 2014 and the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 for particular purposes

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


Yours sincerely

Governor

26 February 2020


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 February 2020, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 26 February 2020 [424].

## PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Friday, 21 February, I presented to His Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) for royal assent and that His Excellency was pleased, in my presence, to subscribe his assent in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Coronavirus, Queensland Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I would like to start today by thanking leadership on both sides of the House for taking a bipartisan approach to the issues that confront us in having this parliament operate while having some sensible agreement as to pairing and other safeguards to allow members to have social distancing. This approach is in positive contrast to the partisan approach which was taken in 1922 when an epidemic of influenza struck down members from both sides which resulted in the government of the day temporarily losing its majority until a sick member was dragged into the House on a stretcher to be counted in the vote.

In accordance with standing order 244(1), I advise that a strict seating plan will not be adhered to until I otherwise direct. This means that members may sit anywhere in the House and speak—hopefully not too much interjecting—from that seat. This will enable members to observe social distancing. I note that bottled water will be supplied to members of the House, not jugs and glasses, to reduce the risk to staff in handling glassware. I will also allow members to bring their own containers of water into the chamber if they so desire.

I also emphasise to members that during this period I will not be insisting on a high threshold of evidence for my consideration of notifications of absence in accordance with standing order 263A. If members are self-isolating subject to testing, or prudently isolating as a result of coming into contact with a person subject to COVID-19 or for any other reason or are displaying any signs of illness, I will accept their verbal assurances to the Clerk or an officer from my office. I will also accept the assurance of their party leadership. My objective is to encourage members to be absent if they present a risk to others. I trust the House will support this approach. In terms of the roll today, we will rely on whips to give the attendances of party members to attendants and crossbench members should also report their attendance to attendants.

Members, these are challenging times. We are facing a global crisis—a pandemic that will impact our state and our nation like most of us have never seen during our lifetimes. Together we can overcome it. I ask that you remain vigilant and stay safe.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## PETITIONS

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

### Pialba-Burrum Heads Road and Serenity Drive/Drury Lane Intersection

**Mr Saunders**, from 37 petitioners, requesting the House to reconfigure the traffic lights and other road infrastructure at the intersection of Pialba-Burrum Heads Road and Serenity Drive/Drury Lane to allow all possible turns and traffic direction [416]

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

**Ferny Grove State High School, Land Access**

**Hon. Furner**, from 700 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Ferny Grove State High School acquires ongoing access to the narrow parcel of land located on the eastern fence line of the school on the site of the Keperra picnic grounds [\[417, 418\]](#).

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

**Gel Blasters**

**Mr Dametto**, from 11,049 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the proposal for the regulation of gel blasters and that the “toy” exemption remains in the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 [\[419\]](#).

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

**Native Animals, Plants and Habitats**

From 1,222 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a new portfolio and coordinated framework for the protection, conservation and maintenance of Queensland’s native animals, plants and habitats [\[420\]](#)

**Weapons Categories Regulation 1997**

From 3,136 petitioners, requesting the House to re-classify suppressors as Category A weapons in the legislation Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 [\[421\]](#).

**Internal Combustion Engines**

From 281 petitioners, requesting the House to ban new internal combustion engines as soon as possible [\[422\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

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

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

21 February 2020—

- [321](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 25, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Biodiscovery and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [322](#) Manual for the National Tax Equivalent Regime October 2019 (Version 11)
- [323](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 30, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [324](#) Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 Works Deed (Attachment 2) between the State of Queensland and GoldLinQ 2 Pty Ltd, dated 28 April 2016
- [325](#) Gold Coast Light Rail Project Modification Implementation Deed (Attachment 2) between the State of Queensland, GoldLinQ Pty Ltd and GoldLinQ 2 Pty Ltd, dated 28 April 2016
- [326](#) Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland: Operation Impala—Report on misuse of confidential information in the Queensland public sector, February 2020
- [327](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 60, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [328](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

24 February 2020—

- [329](#) Speaker’s statement—Issue of Writ for Bundamba by-election
- [330](#) Letter, dated 20 February 2020, from the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, tendering her resignation as the member for Bundamba
- [331](#) Letter, dated 24 February 2020, from the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a copy of the Writ for an election to fill a vacancy in the Electoral District of Bundamba
- [332](#) Issued Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Bundamba

26 February 2020—

- [333](#) Brigooda Water Board—Final Report 2018-2019

27 February 2020—

- [334](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Pharmacist Vaccination Program
- [335](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019, dated 24 February 2020

28 February 2020—

[336](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 30, 56th Parliament, November 2019—Investigation of the closure of the Earle Haven residential aged care facility at Nerang (Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying), government response

[337](#) Commonwealth of Australia: Independent inquiry—Inquiry into events at Earle Haven (Carnell Report), Queensland government response

5 March 2020—

[338](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3275-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) from 119 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite upgrades to the Gladstone Hospital to deliver consistent level 4 services to the growing needs of the community

[339](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3268-20) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 12,921 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Palaszczuk Government to review the supply contract for Metro North Hospitals and award at least a portion to Maleny Dairies

[340](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to a paper petition (3276-20) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, and an ePetition (3255-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 346 and 4,901 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to oppose Mine Development Licence 3040 near Avondale and not let it proceed under any circumstances

[341](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to a paper petition (3277-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3225-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,221 and 2,992 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to release the technical reports relating to the structural integrity of Paradise Dam and to reinstate water being lost from Paradise Dam

[342](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3166-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 452 petitioners, requesting the House to have a plan to increase the amount of renewable energy generation from 21 percent to 100 percent by 2030 to bring electricity price relief to residents

[343](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3168-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 324 petitioners, requesting the House to have a plan to build a strong export economy around hydrogen, international HVDC connectors, and other emerging renewables export industries to balance the loss of revenue from coal

[344](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3169-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 376 petitioners, requesting the House to have a 10-year transition plan and job retraining program to make sure workers in the coal industries have the opportunity to move into the emerging renewables industry

[345](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3263-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 4,765 petitioners, requesting the House to declare a water emergency and cease commercial bottled water extraction from Tamborine Mountain

[346](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport (Hon. De Brenni), to an ePetition (3252-19) sponsored by the member for Townsville, Mr Stewart, from 1,009 petitioners requesting the House to support the Townsville Sailing Club's purchase of land through the government's sports strategy funding program "Activate! Queensland 2019-2029" and to support the sailing club and all aquatic activities to remain on their current location at The Strand

[347](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2018-19: Erratum

[348](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3189-19) sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Sorensen, from 1,696 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the current legislation to allow the inclusion of highways and motorways to Division 4, 177 and 178 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009

[349](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3236-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 438 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the Hughes Road and Bundaberg-Bargara Road intersection at Bargara to a safe standard which will cope with present and future traffic and pedestrian conditions

6 March 2020—

[350](#) Response from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Crawford), to a paper petition (3279-20) presented by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, and an ePetition (3254-19) sponsored by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, from 367 and 812 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to scrap the proposed introduction of 'blue cards' for volunteer rural firefighters

[351](#) Response from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Crawford), to a paper petition (3278-20) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, and an ePetition (3257-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 85 and 726 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reregister the Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade, along with all of its members, to provide assurance to the community that it is safely protected during this year's bushfire season

[352](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3253-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 182 petitioners, requesting the House to cancel the Coomera Connector project exiting or cutting through Oakey Creek Road in the Coomera Foreshores estate

9 March 2020—

- [353](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3283-20) presented by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, and an ePetition (3269-20) sponsored by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, from 614 and 175 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reopen the Shute Harbour boat ramp and adjacent pontoon as soon as possible

10 March 2020—

- [354](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 61, 56th Parliament, March 2020—Exempt subordinate legislation tabled 21 October 2019

13 March 2020—

- [355](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3234-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 466 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the unrestricted breeding and selling of companion animals

16 March 2020—

- [356](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 38, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 October 2019 and 26 November 2019
- [357](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 62, 56th Parliament—Electoral (Voter's Choice) Amendment Bill 2019

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [358](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (New Performing Arts Venue) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 14
- [359](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (New Performing Arts Venue) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 14, explanatory notes
- [360](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (New Performing Arts Venue) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 14, human rights certificate

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [361](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Cairns South) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 15
- [362](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Cairns South) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 15, explanatory notes
- [363](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Cairns South) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 15, human rights certificate

Health Act 1937, Health Ombudsman Act 2013, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011:

- [364](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 16
- [365](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 16, explanatory notes
- [366](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 16, human rights certificate

Water Fluoridation Act 2008:

- [367](#) Water Fluoridation Regulation 2020, No. 17
- [368](#) Water Fluoridation Regulation 2020, No. 17, explanatory notes
- [369](#) Water Fluoridation Regulation 2020, No. 17, human rights certificate

Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019:

- [370](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 18
- [371](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 18, explanatory notes
- [372](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 18, human rights certificate

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld) and by the law of States and Territories:

- [373](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 19
- [374](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 19, explanatory notes
- [375](#) Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 19, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [376](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 20
- [377](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 20, explanatory notes
- [378](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 20, human rights certificate



## Health Transparency Act 2019:

- [379](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 21
- [380](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 21, explanatory notes
- [381](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 21, human rights certificate

## Health Transparency Act 2019:

- [382](#) Health Transparency Regulation 2020, No. 22
- [383](#) Health Transparency Regulation 2020, No. 22, explanatory notes
- [384](#) Health Transparency Regulation 2020, No. 22, human rights certificate

## Major Sports Facilities Act 2001:

- [385](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events—North Queensland Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 23
- [386](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events—North Queensland Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 23, explanatory notes
- [387](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events—North Queensland Stadium) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 23, human rights certificate

## Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991:

- [388](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy Changes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 24
- [389](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy Changes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 24, explanatory notes
- [390](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) (Levy Changes) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 24, human rights certificate

## Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019:

- [391](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 25
- [392](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 25, explanatory notes
- [393](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 25, human rights certificate

## State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994:

- [394](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) (Ticketing) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 26
- [395](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) (Ticketing) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 26, explanatory notes
- [396](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) (Ticketing) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 26, human rights certificate

## Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999:

- [397](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2020, No. 27
- [398](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2020, No. 27, explanatory notes
- [399](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2020, No. 27, human rights certificate

## Regional Planning Interests Act 2014:

- [400](#) Regional Planning Interests (North Queensland Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 28
- [401](#) Regional Planning Interests (North Queensland Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 28, explanatory notes
- [402](#) Regional Planning Interests (North Queensland Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 28, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [403](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Extension of Funding and New Scheme for 2019—2020 Extraordinary Bushfires Disaster) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 29
- [404](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Extension of Funding and New Scheme for 2019—2020 Extraordinary Bushfires Disaster) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 29, explanatory notes
- [405](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Extension of Funding and New Scheme for 2019—2020 Extraordinary Bushfires Disaster) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 29, human rights certificate

## Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [406](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts
- [407](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts, explanatory notes
- [408](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts, human rights certificate

## Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [409](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts
- [410](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts, explanatory notes
- [411](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [412](#) Fisheries Authorising Declaration 2020
- [413](#) Fisheries Authorising Declaration 2020, explanatory notes
- [414](#) Fisheries (Commercial Crayfish and Rocklobster) Authorising Declaration, human rights certificate

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

#### **Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2019'

*Insert—*

'Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2020'

#### **Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2019'

*Insert—*

'Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2020'

#### **Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2019'

*Insert—*

'Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill 2020'

#### **Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019'

*Insert—*

'Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020'

#### **Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019'

*Insert—*

'Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2020'

#### **Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*


'Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2019'

*Insert—*

'Natural Resources and Other Legislation (GDA2020) Amendment Bill 2020'

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Response

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): This state is often tested by massive cyclones, floods and bushfires but at no time did we let any of them frighten us, and I refuse to be frightened by COVID-19. This state's defences to coronavirus were activated within weeks of its discovery—extra powers to enforce isolations, a stockpiling of medicines and equipment, a tripling of capacity in our emergency departments, a doubling of ICU, fever clinics set up, reinforcements of medical staff and the country's first measures to ease the economic impacts on affected industries. All of these things were done weeks ago and before they were needed. The same planning and preparation that has seen Queensland safely through 50 natural disasters is being marshalled and directed at this hideous, invisible threat, and it will not defeat us.


No-one underestimates what we are up against. Coronavirus is a health and an economic emergency. One only needs to look at the measures that have been taken over the past week to understand the gravity of this situation. The cancellation of events such as Anzac Day commemorations is unprecedented in our lifetime. Just as we put our trust in our firefighters during the bushfires, I now call on everyone to put their faith in our doctors and our nurses. The cruellest aspect of this crisis is that the people most at risk belong to that generation who built this state and made it what it is today. They survived wars and economic hardship. They raised their families through tougher times than most of us have ever seen. We are not going to repay them by shoving them out of the way in our supermarkets.

Since coronavirus is unlike any threat the modern world has faced, it will take special measures to overcome. The state Disaster Management Committee has been stood up and will oversee the government's response, and I want to thank all of my ministers and the directors-general for the amazing and hard work they are putting into this. This is a fight that none of us have been in before. It will target whatever budget and government resourcing is needed to get us through.

This virus could well be the toughest test in our lifetime. From this point on the road gets harder before it gets easier, but outside this room are people who have stood up to eight years of drought, Queenslanders who first went ashore at Gallipoli, at Villers-Bretonneux, who faced Yasi, Grantham, Debbie. There are two words you never see together—'Queenslander' and 'fear'. I know this state will come together and emerge better and stronger than ever because we always do.

Mr Speaker, I also thank you for the comments that you made this morning. I want to thank all members of this House for their cooperation. The health minister is available later today to brief senior members of the opposition as well as crossbenchers. It is very important that everyone understands the gravity of this situation and what we are dealing with and the amount of time and resources that will be needed to combat the coronavirus.

### Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): The wellbeing and safety of Queenslanders is my government's highest priority. Queensland is among the best prepared for the outbreak. My government will continue to manage the risk of the virus based on the best and latest evidence and we will listen to the expert medical advice. Let me say that again: as Queenslanders we will listen to the best medical advice. However, uncertainty about the length and extent of the outbreak is understandably impacting our economy. The crisis will have long-term ramifications on our economy across a range of industries and sectors; not only tourism but also, for example, small business, aquaculture and international education. In fact, I find it hard to think of an industry that will not be impacted.

At this stage we do not know how long the outbreak will last or exactly what its long-term economic impact will be. Initial economic modelling by Queensland Treasury estimates a potential reduction of around \$2.5 billion over three years. However, the situation is evolving dramatically every day. The federal government, in cooperation with the states, has imposed strict travel restrictions so we can do everything in our power to contain this disease and prevent its spread. All incoming travellers from international destinations, both foreign nationals and Australian citizens, must now self-isolate for 14 days when they arrive in Australia.

My government has been on the front foot acting quickly to provide immediate support for those Queensland businesses facing the most direct challenges to get through this crisis. Earlier this year I announced my government's initial industry recovery package. This package provides fee relief to

severely affected businesses, financial counsellors for small and medium sized businesses that have been impacted as well as counselling for students. These actions were not made in isolation. We listened to businesses on the most effective ways to support them. That is why, as announced by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, my government introduced payroll tax relief for small and medium sized businesses impacted by coronavirus. Eligible businesses will be able to defer their payments for six months, backdated to when the travel ban started at the beginning of February.


The community has a big part to play in supporting our tourism businesses through this tough period and I encourage members of the House, and indeed all Queenslanders, to support our industries. Our measures are designed to help support businesses to keep people in jobs. At no other time like now do we need to make sure that people have employment and can come back to that employment.

Queenslanders can also be comforted to know that the state and federal governments are working together in an unprecedented manner to see us through this period of uncertainty. For example, I welcome the federal government's recently released over \$17 billion economic stimulus package. We will continue to work closely with the federal government on responding to these economic challenges, including shaping ideas to access the \$1 billion set aside to support regions.


It is important to remember that the coronavirus outbreak is ever-changing and that all levels of government will take a balanced and considered approach to dealing with any impacts. We will be actively engaged through the national cabinet established at the Council of Australian Governments meeting last Friday to respond to the outbreak. There will be another national cabinet meeting this evening and another one on Friday. We will continue to listen to the needs of Queenslanders, whether it is business or industry, as this outbreak continues and, of course, we have families front and centre of any decision that we make at a national level.

Indeed, these are challenging times, but we have responded well to natural disasters and other challenges in the past. Queenslanders are resourceful and resilient and I know that together we will see the latest challenge through.

### **Domestic and Family Violence**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): Like thousands of other Queenslanders I have been deeply saddened by the tragic domestic violence incidents that have happened in Queensland recently. Of course, one of the most heartbreaking and confronting events that I have ever attended was the funeral of Hannah Clarke and her three children. They were killed in one of the most horrific acts of family violence ever seen in Queensland, or Australia for that matter. It is beyond time to say enough is enough and my government has been and continues to be staunchly committed to eliminating domestic and family violence and supporting those who are affected. As I have said on several occasions, our process of reform will never end.

### **Lockhart River, Plane Crash**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): Last Wednesday, 11 March, I was notified that a light plane had crashed in wild weather at Lockhart River in Far North Queensland. Tragically, pilot, Stuart Wavell, and four passengers, QBuild staff Henry Roebig, Wayne Brischke, Wayne Ganter and contractor Mark Rawlings did not survive. They were travelling to the region to carry out repairs at Lockhart State School.

I thank the Minister for Housing and Public Works, who travelled to meet with staff impacted and to offer them support. This is an absolute tragedy. No-one should ever go to work and not come home. They were fathers, brothers, sons and best mates and I offer my deepest condolences to their families and friends who will never see their loved ones again.

### **Coronavirus, Economic Response**

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): Since our last sitting we have seen a rapid escalation in the impacts of COVID-19. Today the epicentre is not China but Europe. Many of the new cases being identified in Australia are people who have travelled from the United States. So far community spread of the virus in Queensland and throughout Australia has been limited compared to what we have seen in other countries, but the economic impacts are cutting deeply. Yesterday the Australian stock market recorded its largest single day fall on record, with the ASX 200 index declining by 9.7 per cent. This follows a fall of 10.9 per cent over last week.

When the crisis struck the Palaszczuk government was first out of the blocks with our response. Our six-month deferral of payroll tax, an initiative welcomed by the Prime Minister and by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, has already been taken up by almost 300 small and medium businesses, but as the outbreak grows and intensifies so too must our measures to protect our economy and to protect Queensland jobs. That is why we are extending our payroll tax deferral initiative to all businesses in Queensland. Any Queensland business, regardless of its payroll, can defer lodging and paying payroll tax until 31 July 2020.

This means desperately needed cash flow to keep Queenslanders in work. On top of payroll tax relief our government is offering a \$500 million interest-free loan facility to help Queensland businesses retain staff. Loans of up to \$250,000 will be available to businesses for an initial 12-month interest-free period. The Palaszczuk government is playing its part in what must be a comprehensive response from all policy makers across all levels of government.


The Victorian government has announced a \$5 million tourism campaign to support businesses in that state. Western Australia has announced a freeze on household fees and charges and a package of small business grants. Queensland already provides a wide range of concessions on fees and charges totalling an estimated \$5.6 billion this financial year. In addition, Western Australia has followed Queensland's lead in providing a payroll tax deferral for businesses impacted by COVID-19. Western Australia has also reduced its payroll tax, a measure that our government brought in in last year's budget. South Australia is providing stimulus by fast tracking infrastructure maintenance projects, including upgrades to country hospitals and smaller local projects. Other states are expected to announce additional stimulus measures as the crisis continues to unfold.

I note the federal government's stimulus package announced last week and I welcome the measures to support both workers and businesses. We await the details of any further measures from the federal government but we do know that further measures are required. I am pleased that the council of federal financial regulators will be meeting the big banks later this week to discuss how best to provide credit to small businesses to help them get through a protracted downturn in economic activity. I call on the Australian banks to reach out to affected businesses to offer interest-only repayments on loans and overdrafts to help free up cash flow and relieve pressure on stressed businesses.

Already the downturn in activity and the increasing number of people being required to self-isolate is having a disproportionate impact on casual employees. These workers do not have access to leave provisions that come with permanent employment. We welcome any measures that will assist employees in casual work. The message from the governor of the Reserve Bank at last Friday's COAG meeting was crystal clear: while revenues may be falling, now is not the time to cut spending; now is the time to focus on stimulating the economy. The governor has asserted that federal and state governments should absorb this shock and keep the economy going. While the US economy and others are likely to face recession, states must be the spenders of last resort to keep the Australian economy afloat.

The economic impact of COVID-19 will be sharp, but it will be temporary. While we have made preliminary estimates of its impact, the rapidly unfolding nature of this crisis means that estimates become obsolete almost as soon as they are made. As RBA Deputy Governor Guy Debelle has said, it is just too uncertain to assess the impact of the virus beyond the current quarter. The Palaszczuk government will do everything we can to support Queensland businesses, to support Queensland workers and to support the Queensland community so that when we do get past this pandemic our economy is in the best possible position to rebound as strongly as it can.

### Coronavirus, Health Response

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is supporting our health system in the face of the novel coronavirus pandemic, now known as COVID-19. In Queensland we now have 78 confirmed cases of COVID-19. One Queenslanders has lost their life. Nationally more than 375 cases have been confirmed, and five deaths. Globally there are 181,377 cases, with 7,119 lives lost across 155 countries and regions.

From the beginning of this pandemic we have listened to the experts and we have been preparing for it. In many cases we have been the first to act. Queensland was the first state to declare a public health emergency on 29 January 2020. Queensland was the first state to bring forward elective surgery. Thanks to that investment, thousands of Queenslanders have received health care that could have had

to have been deferred during an outbreak. We were the first to enact new laws giving our Chief Health Officer greater powers to enforce home isolation. In a lot of ways, we have been ahead of the country and ahead of the virus and we intend to continue to be.

We will triple emergency department capacity. We will double intensive care unit capacity. We purchased an extra 110 ventilators and brought forward \$25 million worth of medicines, gloves and masks. We have set up fever clinics in every hospital and health service in the state, ready to be deployed at a moment's notice. At least 19 were open yesterday. We are trialling drive-through fever clinics at Caloundra and Toowoomba.

We have expanded our testing sites across the state and are performing more than 1,200 tests a day, and we have partnered with private pathology providers to test as many Queenslanders as possible. We have performed more than 10,000 tests in total in public laboratories and a similar number in the private sector. We have more testing capacity per capita than most places in the world and will continue to do so.


All of this preparation has successfully contained the spread of the virus in Queensland so far. Our goal has been to find every suspected case, isolate and test them, and if they are positive provide them with the best possible care. That approach will continue if and when we have sustained community transmission. Current modelling suggests that could be next month. Just as our efforts have delayed the start of the epidemic here, by maintaining them we can slow the spread; effectively, flatten the curve of infection. That will allow our hospitals to save more lives.

Understandably, many Queenslanders are fearful. I urge all members to help communicate accurate information. Assure the public our health system is world class and well prepared. Encourage people to only seek testing if they meet the current case criteria, that is, only seek testing if you have been overseas within 14 days or have had contact with a confirmed case—and this is important—and you have symptoms: a cough, sore throat, fever, headache or sneezing.

Because of the nature of the test, we cannot test people who are not unwell. If Queensland Health staff tell you that you cannot be tested, it is because you cannot. Please do not get angry or frustrated with them. They are working hard to keep Queenslanders safe and healthy. They do not deserve to be yelled at or abused. If you are required to self-isolate or quarantine, we will support you.

There is no need to stockpile. Think of other people who cannot afford to buy up. They could be your neighbour or your grandma. The Red Cross has already made 8,861 welfare calls to the 3,406 people already asked to self-quarantine. What the world is experiencing right now is unprecedented and so are our preparations. Facing unprecedented situations is what Queensland and Queenslanders do well. COVID-19 is no different.

### **Coronavirus, Food and Grocery Supply**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 am): Some Queenslanders are concerned about ensuring that they have enough food and groceries. They are seeing some empty shelves and they are hearing stories about panic buying. The message of our government to Queenslanders is clear: buy only what you and your family need, always think of others and have no fear, because Queensland manufacturers have got your back.

Right now, Arnott's is making Tim Tams at Virginia. In fact, each year Arnott's northside Brisbane factory makes thousands of tonnes of biscuits, including Shapes, Monte Carlos and the king—the mighty Shortbread Cream. Sanitarium makes Weet-Bix and other food products at Moorooka on Brisbane's south side. As the son of a butcher, I am very pleased to say that mince, steaks, sausages and rissoles are rolling off production lines at JBS in Townsville, at Teys Australia in Biloela, Rockhampton and Beenleigh, and at Australian Country Choice at Murarrie, amongst many other Queensland abattoirs.


Kalfresh, at Kalbar near Boonah, is processing salad and vegetables such as carrots, corn, beans, pumpkins and tomatoes, with their expansion supported by our government's coordinated project declaration. Mungalli Creek Dairy is manufacturing dairy products on the Atherton Tablelands. Swickers, also supported by our government, is making pork products at Kingaroy. Of course, at Queensland Tissue Products at Carole Park, 200 workers are working around the clock to produce 150 tonnes of toilet paper every single day.

Iconic Queensland factories are working day and night to help Queenslanders to be fed and to keep products rolling into supermarkets. I thank business owners and workers for putting their shoulders to the wheel and doing their bit for our state. Of course, we have seen supermarkets selling out of some lines. The bare shelves do not reflect fundamental supply shortages. The reality is that some people

are panicked into buying more than they really need and shelves are emptying faster than they can be restocked. Again, I say to Queenslanders: buy only what you need for you and your family and at all times please think of others.

Of course, my department has been activated and is working closely with manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and all other individuals in the supply chain up and down the Queensland coast to address these unprecedented demands. We need Queenslanders to buy only what they need and to allow the shelves to be restocked with great food and essential products made in Queensland, by Queenslanders, for Queenslanders.


### Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (9.57 am): As we have heard from the Premier and the Treasurer this morning, our government is listening to Queensland businesses and acting to keep Queenslanders in jobs. Our tourism sector, in particular, is feeling the immediate impact of international flight restrictions and tighter border controls to combat coronavirus. Our government acted swiftly to support the tourism industry and has been working closely with operators, businesses and Tourism and Events Queensland during this tough time. Today's announcement of a further half a billion dollar economic package will provide more assistance to tourism operators across the state to stay in business and to keep Queenslanders in work. These payroll tax deferrals will now benefit businesses in the tourism industry based in Queensland—larger businesses such as Dreamworld, Village Roadshow and Queensland based airline company Virgin, which employs 4,500 people in our state.

While Queensland has worked hard to support the tourism industry, we cannot do it alone. That is why I have written to the federal minister for tourism, Simon Birmingham, to work with him to ensure that Queensland secures its fair share of the \$1 billion in funding that he announced recently for communities that are disproportionately affected by coronavirus. As we know, tourism supports one in five jobs in Cairns, one in seven jobs on the Gold Coast and one in three jobs in the Whitsundays. We need to ensure that those communities secure a significant slice of that funding to keep businesses open and to keep people in work.

I have also called on the federal government to expand its package to support larger businesses, such as we have done in Queensland. Because we are the tourism state, some of the largest and most iconic tourism businesses in the nation are based in our state. We should not be penalised because our businesses are larger and more enduring. I will continue to work with tourism operators and the tourism industry to ensure that we are doing everything we can to support them during this difficult time.

### Coronavirus, Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.00 am): Queensland's education sector is well practised in implementing protocols to manage emergency responses. Dealing with the coronavirus, although unprecedented, is no different. In accordance with advice from chief medical officers around the country, Queensland state schools will remain open until further notice. The Department of Education is working closely with Queensland Health in preparing for potential scenarios that involve schools and early childhood centres. If there is a need to close individual schools, these decisions will be made quickly based on further advice from health experts. In the event of a confirmed case at a school, it is likely the school will need to close for a period of time to allow Queensland Health to assess the situation and to perform contact tracing as required to identify people and students who may have come in contact with a COVID-19 case. The department will conduct specialised cleaning of our facilities as required to ensure schools are safe for students and staff to return when clearance is given. Plans for continuity of learning and teaching are essential and principals will continue preparation in this regard.

Yesterday I met with my senior departmental officers and the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority to be briefed on how lessons and examinations could continue if students needed to isolate. As in other disaster and emergency management events, the department has online learning materials and virtual classroom capability that can be used by schools where appropriate to support sustained curriculum delivery. Teaching staff have been made familiar with these materials and online platforms so they can continue to deliver teaching, learning and assessment activities online. Further, the state, Catholic and independent schooling sectors are collaborating on their planning and response to the COVID-19 situation and a meeting of all stakeholders was held last Thursday morning.


While the advice that there is no current need for school closures, non-essential activities such as fetes, fairs and concerts et cetera, where they involve more than 500 people, are to be postponed or cancelled. In schools with more than 500 students, principals have also been advised to cease full

school assemblies, arrange staggered lunch breaks and reschedule other large in-school student gatherings and events. I am pleased to say that principals are taking this very well and are organising very cooperatively.

Schools should also pay attention to health and hygiene measures, including increasing the frequency of the cleaning of toilet facilities and providing additional soap and sanitiser. The department has worked with suppliers to ensure schools have access to adequate supplies.

Principals are ready to answer any questions parents or carers may have about individual school responses. We will continue to take the expert medical advice and we are well prepared to act quickly when required.

### Coronavirus, Community Support


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.03 am): COVID-19 is impacting all aspects of our lives and our society. Our response has to be and will be all-encompassing. We know from our experience of natural disasters that having human and social supports ready will make all the difference, particularly for our vulnerable people. We are funding the Red Cross to provide daily telephone support services to Queenslanders who have registered as in-home quarantine. Since 5 February, the Red Cross has made in excess of 8,000 calls as part of this service.

Whilst we cannot change the fact that people have to take these steps, we can ensure that there is a voice on the other end of the phone to provide whatever help is possible, including access for people in self-quarantine to food deliveries, medication or if they require psychological support or assistance. We are also intensively working with key organisations that know the needs of vulnerable Queenslanders, these being Queenslanders with Disability Network, Community Services Industry Alliance, National Disability Services and Queensland Council of Social Service. This includes getting communications right for people with disability using videos with audio captioning, closed captioning and Auslan interpretation. It also means developing materials that help organisations plan for their clients and their staff which include things like business continuity resources and quick guides and advice for providers. We are also working closely with the NDIA to make sure that planning is progressing and we are using a person-centred emergency planning framework that we developed last year.

The federal government's stimulus package included strategies for aged care, but was unfortunately silent about people with disability. As COVID-19 affects clients, staff and their families, additional resources will be required to maintain current levels of service delivery and ensure the safety and wellbeing of people with disability. While I am very confident the sector is working hard to prepare and implement a range of business continuity arrangements, additional financial support will greatly improve the ability for disability organisations to provide vital services throughout this pandemic. For this reason, I have called on federal minister Stuart Robert to have a strong focus on and provide all relevant support to disability organisations to ensure that they can continue to provide vital services throughout the pandemic.

My department is undertaking intensive planning at a state level to ensure those services we continue to deliver, such as accommodation support and respite services, can continue for clients and their families during any worsening of this outbreak. The Queensland government remains committed to ensuring that Queenslanders, particularly the most vulnerable members of our state, can access the human support that they need during this outbreak.

### Coronavirus, Local Government Elections

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): Continuity of government is paramount at a time such as this. Local government has an essential role in delivering services and supporting communities. To that end, briefings to me and the government from the Chief Health Officer have emphasised the importance of having mayors and councillors in place to lead their communities at this time. That is why the local government elections on 28 March are going ahead.

Several measures have been put in place to smooth this event and address the concerns of all voters. These measures have been informed by public health advice. A key measure is extending the hours for pre-polling if and where possible. This includes extending hours into the evening and this Saturday. I urge people to take advantage of this opportunity.



Voters in declared institutions, including nursing homes and hospitals, will be given alternative voting options, including telephone voting. Applications for postal votes through the Electoral Commission of Queensland closed at seven o'clock last night. Close to 540,000 Queenslanders have applied for a postal vote. I would like to thank all the ECQ staff working under Commissioner Pat Vidgen.

Yesterday was truly an historic day for the ECQ. Of the 540,000 postal vote applications, 160,000 were registered in the final 24-hour period. Almost 74,000 voters cast their ballot at polling stations after early polling started at 9 am yesterday. By 5 pm yesterday, 162 people had registered for telephone voting and 68 people had lodged their vote over the phone. At the weekend, staff took thousands of phone calls and emails. I know that the ECQ website over the weekend and yesterday was pushed to the limit. I know that there were some delays with phone lines. When I reflect on the figures just mentioned, I convey my deepest appreciation to the ECQ teams working right across the state.

However, as a government, we have to be nimble in an evolving situation. We are looking at legislation that will give the government all the options we need in relation to local government elections if things change. Early voting stations have opened at about 130 sites across Queensland, as I have mentioned, and that information is available on the ECQ website.

I encourage everyone voting to take your own pen or pencil, but there will be more than enough pencils available at booths and stations as an added precaution.

Yesterday the Attorney-General and I had a phone hook-up with mayors and CEOs from across the state, along with the Electoral Commissioner. That was an important opportunity to share this information and the measures that have been put in place by the ECQ with support of the government to make sure that this election period runs smoothly.

Equally, conversations are being held about volunteer staffing at polling booths, how-to-vote cards, postal vote supplies and how best to address the needs of vulnerable people, including people living with disabilities and the elderly. Indeed, the government calls on all candidates, groups and parties to, at the very least, limit their volunteers at polling places and to not hand out how-to-vote cards physically. There are further measures that we can put into place. We are working with the Electoral Commission to make sure that appropriate how-to-vote information is available to people attending polling places. These are truly extraordinary times, but times that need continuity in local government.

### **Coronavirus, Department of Justice and Attorney-General**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.10 am): I echo the words and sentiments of the Minister for Local Government in relation to the work of the Electoral Commission of Queensland. These are unprecedented times. We know that there have been challenges for the system. No-one could have predicted the sort of demands that we are now seeing on the electoral system. All of the initiatives that have just been outlined by the Minister for Local Government for local government elections equally apply to the two state by-elections.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is taking decisive action to stem the flow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yesterday, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland and the Chief Judge of the District Court of Queensland announced that all new trials that required a jury would be suspended. This approach mirrors the approach taken by other Australian jurisdictions, including Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

While the suspension will not impact any trials that have already commenced, the suspension is a necessary step to keep our community safe. Juries need to be reflective of the community, but we cannot reasonably expect older members of the community to partake in jury service for extended periods of time when they may be at a heightened risk of contracting COVID-19. Indeed, there is a risk that had jury trials proceeded many prospective jurors would simply not have shown up.


The courts have indicated that community safety will be their priority and they will continue to monitor expert advice. I can advise that the heads of jurisdictions are working very closely with the heads of Queensland Corrective Services, the Queensland Police Service and youth detention centres to determine going forward how matters will be dealt with before the courts and how we deal with and respond to the best health advice we receive on a daily basis.

I can also advise the House that as at Saturday, 21 March our JPs in the Community Program will be suspended until further notice. Our JPs play a vital role in our community. Since the early 2000s they have been providing signing services free of charge at our courthouses, at our public libraries and at our major shopping centres. However, the reality is that the vast majority of our JPs are retirees. My director-general has issued this directive in accordance with expert advice. This suspension will assist in ensuring the health of our JPs as well as the broader community.

Members of the community who need a justice of the peace or a commissioner for declaration to witness a legal document are still able to make individual arrangements. I ask members of this House and any person requiring further information to visit [www.qld.gov.au/jps](http://www.qld.gov.au/jps) or phone 1300301147. Let us aim to keep all of our community safe.

## MOTIONS

### Order of Business


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the order of business for this day's sitting be altered by omitting everything from the lunch break at 1.00 pm and in lieu inserting 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm matters of public interest and 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm automatic adjournment.

In speaking to this motion briefly, can I say that, as the Premier, every minister and you, Mr Speaker, have said this morning, we are in unprecedented times which require unprecedented measures. We know that many people are still going to work, businesses are operating and children are going to school and being taught by their teachers today. We also need to understand that in all of those environments there are new norms being created to deal with this pandemic. We have to follow suit. We want to ensure that the essential business of this parliament is attended to, but we are doing it in a responsible way and on the best health advice we have. We know that many workplaces are adjusting their behaviour right now—telling many in their workforce to work from home where they can and to work using different models.

We will follow the advice we have each day to reduce the risk for members of this parliament whom we know have a vast range of contact with the broader public because of the events we go to and the involvement we have with the community. If any one of us were to get sick with COVID-19 the risk of us passing that on to many others is great. We also have a responsibility to reduce the risk for our staff and the staff on the parliamentary precinct. That is why we propose these measures.

I acknowledge the Manager of Opposition Business and thank him very much for his cooperation in working through how we proceed with parliament this week and how we proceed going forward. I will continue, as we have agreed to do, to have dialogue around the further days of this sitting week and also future sitting weeks. I moved this motion so that we can move forward with a plan for this week which will allow us to do necessary business but also allow the government to undertake the very important work that it is needing to do outside of this chamber to continue to respond very quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic that is facing our community.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.16 am): The opposition will be supporting the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I thank the Leader of the House for the many discussions we have had over the last 24 hours—up until midnight last night—and the emails backwards and forwards with respect to the agenda for the week. We understand the importance and concern that our community has with respect to COVID-19. We are all representatives and we are getting feedback from our communities about how concerned they are. Seeing the community bulk buy and the elderly go without is stressful for our community. It is sad to see in our communities. I endorse the comments made by the ministers.

With respect to the time line for parliament, in my discussions yesterday with the Leader of the House I stressed that the opposition would certainly work with the government with respect to the issues outlined by the Leader of the House in terms of pairing arrangements and anyone having symptoms of cold or flu not being here. Mr Speaker, thank you for your support and guidance. I know things have changed rapidly. Every few hours different advice has been coming through. We will work with you on that, Mr Speaker. We will work with the government in terms of the seating arrangements in the chamber.

I thank all members on this side of the House and our backbenchers who are understandably adjusting as we all go along. I make the point to the House, as I already have to the Leader of the House, that the opposition believe it is imperative and important that the House continue to sit. It is important that the government be held to account. Yes, we have the COVID-19 crisis that is crippling the world, but as best we can, managing the circumstances, it is important that the government be held to account by the opposition and the crossbench. People need to see parliament continue, even with the additional restrictions we have put in place.

On that basis I thank the Leader of the House for maintaining question time, matters of public interest and the adjournment debate, which was negotiated only this morning between the Leader of the House and me so members of parliament have an opportunity to speak because there are serious

issues in our community that members want to talk about on COVID-19 and that they want government ministers to act upon. I would hate to see a situation where we do not come into this place. That is why question time is so important. I understand that the parliament will be adjourning early today. I understand that ministers and departments who are directly responsible for the response to COVID-19 will be looking at bringing forward legislative amendments in the chamber this week. We will work with the government in terms of the time line.

As I set out in an email to the Leader of the House, the opposition believes that the parliament should continue to operate. Queenslanders need to see that happen. The parliament's priority should be to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, and the role of parliament to hold government to account must continue. That is our position.

As we keep these negotiations and discussions occurring tomorrow or this afternoon with the Leader of the House, I hope we have an opportunity, as much as we can, to continue the normal day-to-day operations of the House including the private members' statements on Thursday and the adjournment debates. I think it is vitally important for all members to be given an opportunity to speak this week. I respectfully say that, even though we are dealing with the pandemic in Queensland and around the world, there are so many other important issues still happening as the cogs turn in Queensland—and what government does impacts on people's daily lives—that they want brought to the attention of the House. On that basis we will continue to work with the government.

Members may be surprised, but usually at this time on a Tuesday morning the Leader of the House and I are going head to head—I always win the debate of course, Mr Speaker—in the Business Committee motion debate. The Business Committee motion debate is not occurring today. I do thank the Leader of the House and I ask that she continue to work with us and observe the opposition's commitment and preference that we try to do things as normally as possible in the parliamentary sitting week to give members the opportunity to have their rightful say.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Amendments to Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.21 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the sessional orders for the temporary suspension and replacement of standing orders 103 to 106 of chapter 19 of standing orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

#### Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Standing Orders 103 to 106 of Chapter 19 are suspended by these Sessional Orders, until revoked, and replaced with the following—

#### “CHAPTER 19 DIVISIONS

##### 103. Procedure for putting question and calling a division

- (1) When the Speaker has put a question to the House, after the voices have been given, the Speaker shall declare whether the “Ayes” or the “Noes” have it.
- (2) Any member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a division by calling “divide”.
- (3) When a division is demanded, the bells shall be rung for one minute and the Speaker shall then call for a party vote in accordance with Standing Order 105.
- (4) If any member disagrees with the result of a party vote, they may call “challenge”.
- (5) When a challenge to a party vote is made, the Speaker will order the division bells to be rung for four minutes in accordance with Standing Order 105A after which time there will be a challenge vote in accordance with Standing Order 106.
- (6) If there has already been a challenge in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the division bells to be rung for one minute.

##### 104. Party vote unless a conscience issue

- (1) Where a division is demanded, a party vote or challenge vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.
- (2) If the Speaker has received prior advice from a party whip of a conscience vote, the Speaker will permit a personal vote to be held instead of a party vote.

**105. Procedure for a party vote**

- (1) When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House.
- (2) In a party vote—
  - (a) votes may only be cast for the “Ayes” or “Noes”;
  - (b) the Speaker asks the Government Whip and Opposition Whip to cast the party’s votes;
  - (c) the total number of votes cast for each party must include only those members present within the parliamentary precinct together with any properly authorised proxy votes;
  - (d) members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents present in the House must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes”.
  - (e) after the votes have been cast by parties, the Speaker asks the Clerk to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in (d) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate;
  - (f) the Speaker declares the result to the House; and
  - (g) the results of the vote will be entered in the Record of Proceedings.
- (3) For this Standing Order a minor party is any party consisting of five or fewer members.

**105A. Bars to be closed after time elapsed, for challenge vote**

- (1) The bars shall not be closed whilst the division bells are ringing.
- (2) Immediately after the lapse of the period so specified by the Speaker and the division bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall direct the bars to be closed.
- (3) After the bars are closed no member shall then enter or leave the Chamber until after the division is reported.

**106. Procedure for a challenge vote**


- (1) When the bells have finished ringing, the bars will be closed and the Speaker shall state the question to the House.
- (2) To cast their votes, members must sit in their allocated places in the Chamber. Unless they have advised their Whip that they intend to cast a contrary vote, each member of the parties that make up the government or official opposition are deemed to be voting to support the response of their party members given at the time the Speaker originally put the question.
- (3) Members of the parties that make up the government or official opposition that intend casting a contrary vote must advise their Whip. These Members must then also advise the Clerk of their intention to cast a contrary vote and indicate whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes”.
- (4) Members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes”.
- (5) The Government Whip, Opposition Whip and Clerk will report the number of “Ayes” or “Noes”. The report must only relate to votes cast by members present in the Chamber and every member present must vote. The votes will be reported in the following order:
  - (i) The Speaker asks the Government Whip to report the government party’s votes.
  - (ii) The Speaker asks the Opposition Whip to report the official opposition party’s vote.
  - (iii) The Speaker asks the Clerk to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in accordance with (3) or (4) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate.
- (6) Any Member may, before the result of the vote is announced by the Speaker, challenge the report of votes reported by the Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk. If a report is challenged, the Speaker may direct that the report stand, be corrected or that the matter be resolved by a personal vote.
- (7) The Speaker announces the result to the House.
- (8) The Government Whip and Opposition Whip will immediately provide the Clerk the names of those members of their party that were not present for the vote.
- (9) The Clerk will record the result of the vote and the names of those members voting “Aye” and “No” and publish those details in the Record of Proceedings.
- (10) If fewer than five members vote with either the “Ayes” or the “Noes”, the Clerk will record whether the question was agreed to or not in the Record of Proceedings but the result of the vote and the names of members voting will not be recorded in accordance with (9) above.
- (11) If an error occurs in any record of result, the error shall be reported to the House by the Speaker at the earliest practical time and the Record of Proceedings altered.
- (12) In this Standing Order a reference to Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk includes a reference to their delegates.’

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## REPORT

### Office of the Leader of the Opposition


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.

*Tabled paper:* Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 [425].

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.22 am.

### Coronavirus, Payroll Tax

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.22 am): My first question is to the Premier. Queensland businesses are facing tough and uncertain times while also trying to do the right thing by their workers. Will the Premier agree to cut payroll tax to protect jobs at four out of five Queensland employers while these small and medium sized businesses deal with the impacts of coronavirus and not just defer their tax bill until later?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As the Treasurer has announced, we are making that deferment possible. We are also putting in place loans. Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that never in my time in state parliament have I seen this level of cooperation between state and federal governments. It is something I have been calling on for many years in this House—and it is happening.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. I am not being cynical here. I am actually being serious here. We are in unprecedented times. We are doing whatever it takes. We have had a face-to-face COAG meeting. Tonight there is a national meeting. Let me put this in very clear English for those opposite: we are dealing with a health emergency—No. 1. My No. 1 concern is the health of Queenslanders and to make sure that we do everything we can to combat this virus. Secondly, there is a huge economic impact.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Exactly. Hence my question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is why we are addressing both of those issues. There will be more announcements to come. There is a budget to come. We are also working cooperatively in a spirit of bipartisanship with the national government as is expected by Queenslanders at this time.

Let me put on the public record that we were the first state to declare a state public health emergency back at the end of January. I had questions raised the other day: why wasn't Queensland following Victoria and following the lead of other states like Western Australia? It is because we did it at the end of January. We saw back then, at the end of January, how important this issue is.

That is why we brought the industry together, to talk about the economic impacts and how we had to put out a first initial response, listening to the industry. That is why we responded to those immediate issues at the time—which was tourism, aquaculture, small business and international education. We put that package together and we acted. Now we see national action.

There is also a big issue about casual workers. It is one that I have raised nationally. It is a serious issue because, if a casual worker is tested positive and has no sick leave or relief available, my concern is that that casual worker will go to work. We do not want the spread of this virus. What we have done from day one is we have sought to contain—

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Road Infrastructure Projects

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is to the Premier. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has a list of shovel-ready road maintenance projects worth \$5.3 billion—ready to go today. Will the Premier agree to fast-track an additional \$500 million worth of roadworks to support those local jobs in the face of this never seen before health crisis?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition probably does not know that we have had communication with the federal government asking us for our shovel-ready projects—in fact, asking all of the states and territories. That is exactly we are doing.

**Mrs Frecklington:** State shovel ready.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, that is what we are doing. I do not understand—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question as I have heard it. I ask you to listen to the answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is not the first time we have done it. Minister Bailey and I went to the M1 with the Prime Minister—

**Mr Powell:** The Premier doesn't need the Prime Minister's approval to start jobs in Queensland.

**Ms Trad:** I remember when they cut TIDS.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes—and we worked collaboratively together about how we could fast-track projects. We did that and we will continue to do that. We are continuing to compile all of that information and send it through.

**Mr Bleijie:** Just start—just get the shovel out.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I hope that after the opposition has the briefing from the health minister today they will understand the gravity and the seriousness of the issue that we are facing at the moment. I am very encouraged by the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana, cooperating with the government. More emergency measures will be put in place tomorrow as a result of our last national cabinet meeting.

Let me say very clearly: there is one thing I am concerned about at the moment, and that is Queenslanders—it is the health of Queenslanders and the most vulnerable in our community. Tonight there will be a very serious discussion about elderly people and those over 60 who have underlying health conditions and the impact that this virus will have on them. It is my No. 1 concern to protect the most vulnerable in this community. I will be giving a lot of feedback to that meeting tonight to make sure we do whatever it takes to protect them. I am talking here about loved ones in aged care. I have a grandmother in aged care. Other people have family members in aged care. If the virus gets into aged care, there is no stopping it. We need to make sure that we are ready, that we are prepared.

I need to make sure that our health professionals are ready for the challenges they are going to face. As everyone knows, this is a global crisis. There is not enough stock in the world in terms of what we are dealing with. Our health minister and Chief Health Officer have made announcements about sourcing extra ventilators, ensuring we free up beds and making sure we have the masks we need. All of Australia is in this together. We are in the fight of our lives.

You can come in here and ask questions about the economy—which is absolutely the right thing to do and we will respond to questions about the economy—but my No. 1 concern is the health of the most vulnerable in this community. We will not stop prioritising what is necessary in this climate, and I will not be diverted from that.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders. I gave clear guidance earlier in the Premier's response.

### **Coronavirus, Response Planning**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government has been preparing for the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on frontline services?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Townsville for the question. As we know, Queensland is a very decentralised state. We need to make sure that everyone across our state is prepared. Just to finish the point I made earlier, there are a lot of particularly vulnerable Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander communities. If this virus gets into some of those communities the impacts could be absolutely devastating. That is another key issue I will raise tonight at the national cabinet meeting. I know that is something that representatives right across this House have a deep concern about, and we will address that.

As we know, the health minister said there are 78 confirmed cases at the moment. He also said we are expanding our emergency department and intensive care capacity. As I said, we bought those extra ventilators ages ago, and we were preparing ages ago in terms of the purchasing of extra medicines and equipment. There are more than 12,590 beds available across Queensland and 880 extra beds already, but we know that, with what is about to come, unless we flatten the curve and slow down the pandemic, none of our hospitals across the nation will cope. It is not just Queensland; it is everywhere.

Every single government department across the nation in every state and territory is working together with the federal government. I have already tasked the Minister for State Development to look at more supplies in terms of any manufacturing we can advance. It shows the whole world that we need to have more manufacturing on home soil. We need to make sure we have more manufacturing capabilities when issues such as these arise.

The other news is that over the last five years we have hired more doctors and nurses. As we have seen in other countries, these people will be at the front line. Many of them will be required to work more than one shift—sometimes double shifts. We are preparing because we know this is coming. All of our hospital staff are having training and they have been going through all of their drills. My government did scenario testing a couple of weeks ago to work out what other measures we need to put in place. We are doing everything possible to prepare for what is coming at us. I am pleased to say that during that time we have hired 2,000 more doctors, 6,000 more nurses and midwives, 500 more paramedics and 1,800 more health professionals, but even that will not be enough. If our health professionals get the virus there will be huge impacts, so we all need to be vigilant. We all need to make sure that if someone has the virus they stay home.

*(Time expired)*

### **State Budget, Superannuation**

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Given the impact the coronavirus is having on the stock market and investment returns, will the Treasurer now guarantee that the April budget will match the Treasurer's commitment to top up the defined benefit fund against any deficit of funds after Labor's super raids, given these funds are set aside to pay future Queensland government employees' superannuation entitlements?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Everton for his question. There has been a significant amount of panic in the markets, and we have seen that reverberate through institutional investment funds and people's superannuation accounts. People are deeply worried about the impact of this virus on their retirement savings. Let me make this abundantly clear to members of the opposition and all members of this House: Queenslanders who have defined benefits accounts with the Queensland government, investments through QIC, are fully protected by Queensland law. To be abundantly clear, their defined benefits scheme is fully protected by the laws of this parliament. I want to make it very clear that any scaremongering from those opposite—around people's superannuation in the context of coronavirus—is an absolute low point.

**Mr Mander:** How much will it cost?

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Everton. If the member for Everton is interested in the impact of the coronavirus on the Queensland economy, Queensland investments or our bonds, then all he needed to do was ask me for a briefing.

**Mr Mander:** I can read the paper.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection. The member for Everton wants his economic analysis through the media. That is fine, but I think we all know that sometimes the media can get it wrong. In this place here today I extend an invitation to the member for Everton—the alternative Treasurer of this state—to avail himself of a briefing by independent Treasury officials on the impact of coronavirus on the Queensland economy, on Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs. To come into this place and try to elicit fear without even asking for a briefing I think is pretty irresponsible.

**Ms Grace:** It is actuarially based.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the education minister. It is based on actuarial advice. To reiterate, Queensland's super defined benefits scheme is protected by law and any—

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Response

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on Queensland's role in the national response to the coronavirus?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Aspley for the question. As we know, we are in uncharted waters and unprecedented times. Members of this House know that at the COAG meeting we formulated the National Partnership Agreement on COVID-19 Response. At the last meeting two decisions were made by the states and territories and the federal government: firstly, to put in place state of emergency powers so we can fine people who are not self-isolating. As I said, we already did that at the end of January. We were ahead of the curve. The other issue we all agreed on relates to mass gatherings of no more than 500. There will be legislation coming before the House later this week. Once that legislation is finalised we will have a thorough briefing with the Leader of the Opposition and crossbenchers.

As we know, this is an evolving situation and things will change over time. Let me make it very clear that we must listen to the advice of our health experts. We understand there are concerns in communities right across Queensland. People have seen images of what is happening around the world, but everyone needs to be reassured that now is not the time to panic. Now is the time to be calm and to make sure we are looking after one another. There should be no panic buying. We need to make sure that our most vulnerable receive the food and necessities they need.

We also need to look after one another and, once again, as I always say in this House, treat everyone with respect. If there are specific issues that members of the opposition want to raise today with the health minister about the preparations, we will do that.

The Queensland disaster management group has been meeting and doing scenario testing. Following the national cabinet, we will meet again on Friday and look at what further measures we need to put in place. Queenslanders are very familiar with that model in terms of the State Disaster Coordinator. Our Chief Health Officer is new to that. She will be front and centre, giving Queenslanders confidence about the information she is providing. At the moment, all chief health officers are in a meeting for two days to discuss these issues impacting across Australia. We will continue to plan and get communication out. Communication is the key. We are working with the federal government. The state agencies are putting out communication as well. As MPs, we have a duty to get that information out to our communities.

*(Time expired)*

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Payment of Suppliers

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. As the Palaszczuk government has declared a public health emergency, will the Premier immediately direct all government departments and agencies to pay all small business suppliers within 20 days to support the thousands of jobs reliant on government contracts?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The advice from my director-general is that we are actively doing that at the moment. We think that is absolutely crucial. I thank the member for that very important question.

### Coronavirus, Testing

**Mr WHITING:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please advise the House of steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to ensure that Queenslanders can access testing and treatment for COVID-19?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Bancroft for that important question. He, the Attorney-General and I were at Redcliffe Hospital just last week on the day it opened its fever clinic, and it was already very busy. We were only able to ramp up hospital capacity because of our efforts to invest in frontline health services. We have already opened 888 additional hospital beds. We have employed 2,012 additional doctors, 6,252 nurses and midwives, 511 paramedics and 1,806 health professionals—and we are going to need each and every single one of them over the coming months. Queenslanders can now be tested at fever clinics, at emergency departments, at their GP clinic, at private pathology collection points and at our drive-through fever clinics. In the future we hope that GPs will open their own fever clinics as well as do testing in the home and in nursing homes.

When Queenslanders arrive at our fever clinics, first they are screened to see that they meet the case definition and that they are symptomatic. They are asked questions about their travel history and about with whom they have been in contact. Their symptoms are assessed and, if they meet that case test, swabs taken. While they are waiting, they may be asked to sterilise their hands and/or wear a



surgical mask. Once the swabs are taken, they will be asked to isolate themselves at home until we contact them with the results of their tests. I know that many Queenslanders are anxious and concerned. Many people want to be tested for this virus but, as I outlined earlier, we can only test under those circumstances.

Our Queensland Health staff are doing a fantastic job, as are our GPs and our health professionals in the community. I urge all Queenslanders to think about what a fantastic job our Queensland Health staff are doing, and I beg them to be kind to our health workers. Do not make their job harder than it needs to be. They are doing important work. They get up every day and leave their families to take care of us. I urge all Queenslanders to be grateful for that.

### **Coronavirus, Testing**

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Premier. On Friday, in a letter to all GPs, the Australian Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, confirmed that coronavirus test kits had run out in some regions of the country. Can the Premier confirm that all Queenslanders who need coronavirus testing will be promptly tested, regardless of where they live?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am advised that at the current point in time we have enough testing kits but, as we know, the Prime Minister made statements about this in terms of national shortages of supply. As I said, national shortages of medical supplies are not unique to Australia; they are occurring in many other countries. This brings us back to the fundamental point I made earlier; that is, we need to look at more manufacturing of medical equipment locally, at home here in Australia.

In relation to national medical supplies, I will leave those issues to the federal government. In relation to Queensland, at this point in time we have enough testing. As I said, it is very important that if people have not complied with those conditions they do not need a test. At the moment, we hear anxious and worried people saying, 'I think I've got the virus; I need a test.' They do not need the test; it is just anxiousness or it could just be a common cold. We really need to free up testing for those who have come in from overseas or who have been in close personal contact with someone who has been overseas and who is indeed positive. We need to make sure that we have that strict criteria. I can assure members that is not just being applied to Queensland; it is being applied across the nation. Thank you for that very important question.

### **Coronavirus, Economy**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what actions the Palaszczuk government is taking to support our economy in the face of the worsening economic impact of coronavirus?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Jordan for the question. Worsening it is. In the past week alone we have seen a quite significant deterioration in economic conditions. In fact, as widely reported today, the United States economy is forecasting a recession. Inevitably, that will have significant repercussions for the global economy. The world is very different from what it was three weeks ago when I first announced Treasury's estimated GSP impact on the Queensland economy of some \$900 million to \$1.7 billion. Three weeks ago there were only 22 cases of coronavirus in Australia; today we have more than 330 cases and five reported deaths.

The world is definitely a different place from what it was three weeks ago. We need to take into account Reserve Bank statements that a lot of modelling and forecasting is subject to wild fluctuations because of what is happening in markets, economies and industry. With the up-to-date Queensland forecast based on a local contagion rate of a 25 per cent attack rate, which is what Queensland Health is modelling, in the 2019-20 financial year we will see a \$3.4 billion impact to GSP. That is double the impact that we had forecast only three weeks ago. Over two financial years, Queensland Treasury is estimating that the impact could be as bad as \$10 billion.

We are seeing an acceleration in the deterioration of economic conditions. I note reports in the media yesterday that the federal government was looking at a second stimulus package. I can report to the House that I had a conversation with the federal Treasurer last night, and the details of that second stimulus package are yet to be made public. I call on the federal government in particular to keep in mind those casual and insecure workers in the gig economy who, as the Premier said earlier today, do not have any option but to turn up to work. They cannot pay their rent and they cannot put food on the table. The best, most responsible thing that the federal government can do is ensure they have money to spend, to pay rent, to put food on the table and to look after their children. That is why

we have taken the steps we have taken—to extend our payroll tax deferral and to make sure that businesses have a line of interest-free credit so they can keep Queenslanders in work. We make no apology for doing whatever it takes to keep Queenslanders employed.

### Coronavirus, Treatment

**Dr ROWAN:** My question without notice is for the Premier. With doctors and medical professionals in Europe and the United States reporting shortages of ventilators and oxygen machines to treat coronavirus patients, will the Premier tell the House what steps the government has taken to ensure sustained regional staffing of intensive care units and to ensure that all Queenslanders who need a ventilator will have access to one, regardless of where they live?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for that question. As we know, the numbers that have been predicted represent a huge problem for Australia. It is not just a huge problem for Queensland. That is why we took the step of ordering an extra 100 ventilators early on, when this pandemic was first announced. That was the initiative Queensland took—to get those extra ventilators.

Unless we can do something now to protect our family members who are in aged care and those for whom there could be fatal consequences if they have an underlying condition and contract the virus, there will not be enough ventilators—for anywhere in Australia. What we have to do is act now. Tonight the national cabinet will be discussing measures for aged care and measures for the most vulnerable in our community.

Many people sitting here would have parents or grandparents who are aged in their 60s, 70s or 80s. Everyone here knows exactly how families across Queensland are feeling at this point in time. We need to do whatever it takes. We have to slow down the curve. We need to be calm. We need to be measured. We need to get the best possible health advice—the expert advice—out to the most vulnerable in our community. That is what I said I will be working on extensively today, before the national cabinet meeting tonight. Let me make it very clear: everybody is on the same page in relation to this. In relation to our Indigenous communities, as I mentioned earlier—of course it is an issue for Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland with the Torres Strait and our remote Indigenous communities. This is at the forefront of the national agenda for discussion tonight.

If we can protect the most vulnerable in our community and slow that curve down, we are in with a chance. Everyone can see what is happening around the world. I think that is what is impacting on people's fear and panic. I say to everyone: we are listening to the advice of the experts. This will be an evolving situation and things will change in the weeks and months ahead. This is not going to last weeks; it is going to last months. Everyone in this House should prepare for that. When you slow the curve, you extend the period. That is what we are trying to do—to allow our health system to respond over a longer period rather than a shorter period if we have a rapid spike.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Economy

**Mr KELLY:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is working to support the economy to manage the impacts of coronavirus?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question and for his strong support for jobs at this time. Early in this pandemic the Palaszczuk government recognised that COVID-19 would present a challenge to not only our health system but also our state's economy. That is why six weeks ago, on 2 February, our Premier led the nation when she sounded the first alarm about the unprecedented economic challenge our nation would face. The Premier called for an extraordinary national response at that time, including the need to activate disaster recovery funding arrangements, to help support businesses and communities to respond to the emerging threat. Regrettably, the Premier's call was not responded to.

Our government did not wait. Our Premier did not wait. We took action. The Premier announced a \$27 million package to support those businesses and workers hardest hit, delivering real relief to maritime operators, to the tourism industry, to fisheries and to agriculture. To my knowledge, at that time we were the only government in Australia to recognise this unique challenge and we responded with real financial power. It has been boosted again today with a new \$500 million loan facility to help business cash flows keep moving. In my portfolio, my department is working to reorient our industry support activities to supporting local businesses, delivering rapid response guidance on managing cash flows and focusing on securing supply chains. I can report to the House that our supply chains remain strong. Products are coming to market. My department will be working flat out to keep it that way.

We welcome the economic stimulus announced by the Morrison government. It is a good start. Of course, it should not be the end of the matter. I know that the member for Greenslopes would support me in that, as would all members of this House. While the Palaszczuk government has moved faster than any other government, we cannot do it alone. Queenslanders will need more help from the Morrison government to weather the economic challenges ahead. There will be disruptions. There will be very deep challenges. We need better support for casual workers in particular, who face significantly reduced income and hours. The Commonwealth will need to do more to help those Queenslanders whose working lives have been disrupted and may remain disrupted for a significant period of time. We need the Morrison government to back our record infrastructure spend as a state—Cross River Rail, backing in the Coomera Connector, 80-20 funding for key national transport routes. As we as a state fight coronavirus, COVID-19, the Palaszczuk government will continue to fight hard to ensure Queensland's voice is heard.

### **Coronavirus, Drive-Through Testing**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the health minister. The minister said three days ago that the drive-through coronavirus testing facility at Caloundra would operate from last Sunday, with patients not being required to exit their vehicles for testing; however, local residents have advised me that on Sunday they were required to get out of their cars for testing, exposing them and others to additional risks of infection. Will the minister investigate why my constituents are having to get out of their cars at what was supposed to be a drive-through clinic?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Kawana for the question. I am happy to look into the reports he has received and thank him for raising them with me. I am aware that on the opening of the drive-through fever clinic at Caloundra it was very busy—overwhelmed with the number of people seeking testing, many of them not meeting the case definition, many of them not having symptoms. That put pressure on the capacity of that clinic to see people.

As I have urged the House already several times, it is really important that we send a message to the community that only certain people should be tested right now and that we will have more testing available if and when there is community transmission. The first drive-through fever clinics in Caloundra and Toowoomba were indeed trials. They were set up precisely to see how they could function. It was hoped that by keeping people in their vehicles we could avoid the cross-infection risk that might exist in bringing people into a facility.

What I do know is that our health staff, whether that is on the Sunshine Coast or indeed anywhere in this state, are very experienced in dealing with infectious diseases. They deal with infectious diseases every single day. While this one might be new, it is no more or less infectious and our staff are well informed of the procedures that need to be followed.

Knowing how great our staff on the Sunshine Coast are, I have no doubt they will have put in place appropriate measures to protect themselves, to protect the patients presenting for testing and indeed to protect other patients. They will have had access to sterilisation equipment, to PPE equipment and to testing equipment and they will have been ensuring that they use those to avoid the risk of infection. I am happy to look into the specifics of the matters raised by the member for Kawana and come back to him perhaps at the briefing I hope to do with opposition members later in the day, but let me assure the House that our staff are well trained in how to deal with infectious diseases.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, can I just confirm that you will be taking that on notice under standing order 113?

**Dr MILES:** I said I was happy to brief the opposition, but I am also happy to take it on notice, Mr Speaker.

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

### **Coronavirus, International Education**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the minister please update the House on the challenge facing Queensland's international education sector in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that she is very passionate about ensuring that we support all industries in her local community during this tough time. At the most recent meeting I chaired of the international education sector in Queensland, Professor Nick Klomp from Central Queensland University was there. He is one of the newest members of our committee and it was wonderful to have him there representing the member for Keppel's region.

**A government member:** Great man.

**Ms JONES:** Yes, he is a great man. Since we have been in government we have worked really hard to grow international education because it supports thousands of jobs along Queensland's coastline. To date Brisbane is where the vast majority of international students choose to study, but we have worked really hard with regions such as Central Queensland and other regions across Queensland, including in your area, Mr Speaker, of Cairns, to ensure that we are getting that diversification. In fact, it is now supporting a \$5 billion industry and growing. That was until coronavirus hit. Just like tourism, trade exposed industries like international education were the first ones to feel the clampdown of the restrictions that we have seen.

We have been doing a number of things. As an industry we meet weekly through Study Queensland with international education providers in our university sector and English school providers as well as TAFE and other trade training providers to ensure that we are providing that support. In fact, we were the first state in Australia to announce a specific package to support this sector through these tough times. I am pleased to announce to the House that as of today we are now working on a new virtual technology platform to support students who are in Queensland and studying but in isolation. This follows from the work that Minister Hinchliffe and I did with regard to providing kindness and care packages for those students and the extra work that we have done to double support staff in the three student hubs on the Gold Coast, Cairns and Brisbane.

We know that many of these young students who are in Queensland right now are away from family and friends. Some who thought they would be studying with their colleagues no longer have their peers here, so this is a very tough time for them and I want to assure every member of the House that we working really hard. As the Premier has said, we absolutely understand that we will come back from coronavirus and we are keeping an eye on the fact that, when things do return to normal, the way we treat our foreign students during this tough time says a lot about who we are as a state. That is why I am so proud that in Queensland we are taking this seriously, we are providing that support and we are working with our providers so we can bounce back at that appropriate time.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Regional Queensland**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I have received information that hospitals in smaller regional centres will not be provided with adequate resources to battle a coronavirus outbreak in comparison to major centres. Considering regional communities have a large ageing population, will the minister commit to ensuring these hospitals are fully resourced to the same level as those in major centres?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. It is, of course, an important one. It is always a challenge for Queensland, given our dispersed population, to ensure that all Queenslanders have access to the same level of world-class health care, and it is entirely our intention to ensure that all Queenslanders do have that access throughout the COVID-19 potential outbreak. In this state all of our hospitals are well equipped with testing capability as well as protective equipment. It is the case, though, that for some people their best chance of survival will be intensive care, particularly ventilation and potentially ECMO treatment. Those facilities can only be supported in certain bigger regional centres. The assurance I can give the member is that, as we do with every illness, if people need a higher level of hospital service than is available where they are then we will get them to those services. We will ensure that they have access to those services.

Our larger hospitals, including our regional hospitals, have additional intensive care capability and additional emergency department capability. We are working with our aeromedical evacuation services to make sure we can get people to those bigger hospitals. That may be Townsville University Hospital or it may indeed be Brisbane depending on their location and their level of criticality, but Townsville is indeed an important northern hub for us. It is the location outside of Brisbane where we are not just collecting samples but doing testing on site. The lab at the Townsville University Hospital is doing a fantastic job, bringing to three the number of public labs we have doing testing and ensuring that we do not need to courier samples from the north all the way to Brisbane to have them tested.

The assurance that I give the member is that we are planning for every eventuality, including potential outbreaks in regional and remote and isolated communities. That is a very important part of our planning work. While our smaller regional local hospitals or health clinics might only be the front door to our hospital services, we will make sure that behind them is all of the world's best medical support so that we can keep as many Queenslanders as we can alive through this crisis.

### Coronavirus, Education Sector

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister update the House on how schools, universities and the education department are dealing with coronavirus?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question and for the feedback that he provided me with this morning. He went to a recent P&C meeting and he was very impressed in the way the principal was prepared to answer all questions of the school community. Queensland schools are responding very well in relation to the threat of COVID-19, and it is pleasing to see that no children have tested positive to the disease in Queensland at this point in time. We are responding very well because we started early. My first meeting with the Chief Health Officer was on Australia Day before school even opened. We were already planning from that day with the Minister for Health when we first heard of this and the impact that it may have on schools.

We are regularly updating schools with information. In fact, as of yesterday, the director-general of my department sent further information to all school principals and staff about the need and the requirements in relation to planning for COVID-19. That also included an update on the banning of all international travel, including New Zealand, which has imposed two weeks of self-isolation when people arrive in the country. Having to self-isolate on arrival renders travel to New Zealand unnecessary anyway.

Last week I met with all stakeholders to update them on developments. They indicated very strong confidence in the ongoing actions and communications led by my department. Yesterday I previewed the online materials that are available to schools and parents at a meeting of my senior officers, including the CEO of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, to discuss contingency plans, particularly for year 12 students.

The department has finalised its pandemic plan, which is a very comprehensive document that includes detailed descriptions of the actions we will take in each stage of our framework. It includes comprehensive communication templates and, can I say, it has been very well received by the schools.

I take this opportunity to ask all parents, carers and school communities to remain calm and listen to the official advice provided by the health experts. Please only trust the official sources of information, and if you see something on social media that looks unreliable please do not share it, as it only adds to misinformation and fear amongst parents and carers. There has been a lot of discussion within the community. This morning I spoke to the federal education minister, Dan Tehan. We talked about consistency. We know that there is concern amongst some parents when it comes to protecting their children, but we are working cooperatively around the state. Yesterday a letter from the Chief Health Officer in Queensland was sent to all schools. I table that for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 March 2020, from the Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health, Dr Jeannette Young PSM, to the Director-General, Department of Education, Mr Tony Cook, regarding school closures and COVID-19 [\[426\]](#).

I am very proud and thank my department for all its work.

### Coronavirus, Care Arrangements for Health and Emergency Services Workers

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Premier. In recognition of the critical role of medical professionals, first responders and police and their important work as we all face the COVID-19 pandemic, will the Premier advise how the government will ensure childcare and holiday care services will continue to be available to these workers to support them as they provide the vital services we all rely on?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. It is a very good question. Over the coming weeks and months we cannot guarantee that childcare centres or schools will remain open. That is a situation that will be assessed regularly. Departments are already taking pre-emptive steps in terms of splitting their workforce. It is absolutely imperative that we do that because if one team goes down we need other teams to back them in. We are putting in extra precautions around our healthcare workers as well. There will be times where family members will need to pitch in and help out. Having said that, one issue that families will need to consider is if they have ageing parents or grandparents that have one of those underlying conditions. The last thing we want is for young children to be in the care of their grandparents or elderly parents if they are in that high-risk category.

We will be giving further updates, but of course all of our frontline services will be called on to perform extraordinary duties. I think everyone in this House will note not only the work they do now in the community, but also the work they will confront in the weeks and months ahead.

### Coronavirus, Transport Sector

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister advise the House of the steps being implemented by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, maritime and port authorities and Queensland Rail to prepare for coronavirus?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Macalister for her question. Our ports, roads and rail are important to keep the state moving at such a time. Making sure that our freight continues to operate safely and efficiently means that our supermarket shelves remain stocked, businesses stay open and Queenslanders can continue to access their critical services. Over the past five years a record 50,000 ships have travelled along Queensland's trade coast. Last financial year our ports saw more than 315 million tonnes of trade. Queenslanders can have confidence that we are preparing and taking action at our ports, on our roads and across our 6,600-kilometre rail network.

All foreign trading ships scheduled to arrive in Queensland are required to report crew members or passengers who have visited known areas of infection or are showing symptoms of the virus. This directive from Maritime Safety Queensland has been in place since 31 January. Since that time 1,347 vessels have entered Queensland ports. Of those, 1,187 have reported no to both mandatory questions. Vessels who answer yes to either question have been directed to remain at sea until the mandatory quarantine period has passed. To date there is no evidence to suggest crew members or passengers have brought the virus into Queensland through our ports. Advice from our ports indicates at this stage trade continues to flow safely. Cruise ships from foreign ports will also be stopped from arriving in Australia for 30 days. The Australian government will review that time frame as containment efforts evolve.

To support our maritime tourism industries in the Far North, last month the Deputy Premier announced a package for operators in the Cairns Marlin Marina. This includes rebates for tourism operators and retailer tenants of Ports North, and Queenslanders should have confidence that we are making decisions on the best advice available. Maritime authorities will continue to work collaboratively with Queensland Health and industry groups to minimise the risks associated with coronavirus on our vital trade corridor. Again let me emphasise that all of us can reduce the impacts if we work together, obtain accurate health advice and follow that correct advice.

Let me take this opportunity to update the House in relation to public transport, which of course is a very important service in our community. Services continue to run right across Queensland, but we are responding to the pandemic and planning for what lies ahead. I directed Queensland Rail and TransLink to implement extra cleaning and hospital grade disinfectant cleaning for trains and buses in South-East Queensland. Gold Coast trams are being sanitised with disinfectant daily, and this week BCC buses will start a similar regime. Queensland Rail has also boosted its cleaning staff and started a new disinfecting cleaning process for passenger trains in South-East Queensland which includes antibacterial cleaning of handles, seats and doors on trains and other procedures.

### Local Government Elections, Postal Voting

**Ms LEAHY:** My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer to the Electoral Commission's website which failed yesterday as Queenslanders concerned about the coronavirus tried to apply for a postal vote. What steps has the Palaszczuk government taken to ensure that every Queenslanders who wanted a postal vote will get one, and why did the government not extend the postal vote application date?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. As I said in my ministerial statement this morning, the Electoral Commission's website is under extraordinary demand at the moment as a consequence of people making inquiries and seeking to make postal vote applications. I have been advised by the Electoral Commissioner that a number of people who were unable to get their applications done online have emailed the ECQ. The ECQ will accept those emails as genuine requests for applications and will be taking all of them into account in processing ballot papers.

I can advise the House that as of close of those applications last night, plus the emails that have been received, the ECQ is advising myself and the local government minister that there would be about 540,000 requests for postal vote applications. We can advise that under the current demand, and taking into account what suppliers can produce, the ECQ is confident that it can meet that demand.

There are a number of reasons why there has not been an extension of postal vote applications. Firstly, it is prescribed under law. Without the government changing the legislation the ECQ could not have changed the closing of postal vote applications last night. The first opportunity would have been today. However, to do that would have reopened applications and then determining how long they should be open for. In considering that, we have listened to the advice of the Electoral Commissioner.

We are guided by the Electoral Commissioner, who is independent and not directed by government. We are providing whatever assistance the Electoral Commissioner needs to ensure the efficient running of local government elections and by-elections.

Having said that, what I will say is twofold. If we extend the application process such that the time frames are so short, Australia Post may not be able to deliver those ballot papers, and people who are self-isolated will not be able to get to the post office anyway to post them. They are still missing out on a vote, so alternative measures are being put in place for those people. Many of those people will be able to vote by telephone and those facilities are being ramped up significantly right now. The most important thing is supply. These envelopes have secret markers for integrity. They are not the sort of envelopes that everyone can reproduce quickly. The supply chain has been hit by what has happened globally. The suppliers cannot supply us en masse large numbers of those declaration envelopes even if we were to extend. We are putting in place other measures to ensure that people still get that opportunity to vote.

### **Coronavirus, Electricity and Water Security**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the measures that are in place to ensure an ongoing reliable electricity and bulk water supply during the current coronavirus emergency?

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

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Gladstone for his question. Just as state owned power and water assets are ready for Queensland's severe weather events, they are ready for the inevitable impact of coronavirus on staffing. The energy and water GOCs and my department have triggered their business continuity and emergency management plans. I can assure Queenslanders that, should the virus spread and if staff are taken offline, well-rehearsed contingency procedures will ensure ongoing essential services.

Our generators, Stanwell and CS Energy, have stockpiled critical supplies of coal and gas. On the trading front, teams in all of our generators, including CleanCo, are on a 24-hour roster and can work remotely. The generators have also started looking at the sharing of critical staff. Scheduled outages are being assessed for possible rescheduling and critical staff such as controllers have been identified and will be increasingly segregated to reduce cross infection. For example, Energex has already split its around-the-clock control room crews to work from four venues, rather than one. Energex and Ergon have on standby around 100 mobile diesel generators strategically located around the state, ready to be transported wherever needed.

Our state owned water businesses, Seqwater and Sunwater, have stood up their emergency management teams to respond to any water supply issues. Seqwater and Sunwater have emergency arrangements with local governments and urban water utilities to coordinate their response to any disruptions to water supply. Alternative power arrangements are in place for water treatment plants and to transport water crews quickly around the state.


The latest advice I have is that there has been minimal disruption to the state's resources industry to date. Employers are implementing a range of measures, including temperature checks for people before boarding planes to or from work and when they drive in, isolating essential crews from the broader workforce and staggering meal breaks.

*(Time expired)*

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

## **TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.22 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Keno Act 1996, the Liquor Act 1992, the Photo Identification Card Act 2008, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2019, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act

1994 and the Wine Industry Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020 [\[427\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [\[428\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[429\]](#).

Today I am pleased to introduce the Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020. The bill supports the introduction and ongoing operation of the digital licence app. It also facilitates camera enforcement of mobile phone and seatbelt offences. Firstly, I want to talk about amendments to support the anticipated future introduction of the digital licence app in Queensland. These amendments are proposed to ensure that digital products can be used in the same way that physical products are.

Digital licences and the digitisation of services is becoming more prevalent with the adoption and development of digital licences in a number of jurisdictions both nationally and internationally. New South Wales successfully completed its trial and deployed its digital licence across that state in October 2019. Since its launch, over a million people have downloaded the app. We want to make it easier for Queenslanders to interact with their government and this initiative aligns with our responsive government Advancing Queensland priority. In designing the app, Transport and Main Roads has partnered with Thales, a leading aerospace, defence and security company. Thales has, in turn, partnered with two locally based Queensland companies, Code Heroes and Aliva, ensuring that the digital licence app will be designed by Queenslanders for Queenslanders.

To mitigate potential technical issues and ensure that supporting systems are robust, my department is testing the digital licence app via a controlled pilot. The pilot will commence on the Fraser Coast next month. I know that the member for Maryborough is very supportive of that. The trial will help finalise the design of the app and ensure legislation is appropriate before the app is rolled out more broadly. Given that the legislation will not be in place for the commencement of the pilot, pilot participants will be required to carry their physical licences, which is consistent with the approach implemented during the trial in New South Wales.

Subject to the trial being successful, the anticipated introduction of a digital licence app in Queensland will, for those who want to use it, provide secure and immediate access to credentials, including drivers' licences. It will also give people greater control over what information they share and with whom. The app will update dynamically, displaying up-to-date information about the status of a person's authority. The digital licence app will make it easier for Queenslanders to transact business with the Queensland government. Reminders can be sent via the app when a person's vehicle or vessel registration is due, a fine needs to be paid or their licence becomes invalid.

The digital licence app will better protect privacy and be more secure than the existing physical driver's licence. If you were to lose your phone, anyone finding that phone firstly would need to get past the security on the device. They would then need to know your app password to be able to access your digital credentials. The digital licence app will also allow people to remotely cancel access to the credentials in their app if they lose their phone. The app will also allow people to choose what information they share and with whom. For example, while a physical driver's licence shows a person's name, date of birth and address, establishing that a person is over 18 using the app may only involve showing their photo and a tick that indicates that they are at least 18 years of age. The person would not need to disclose their name, their actual date of birth or where they live.

The app will also support an electronic validation process to ensure third parties are confident that they can rely on it. The credential holder will be able to generate a QR code that, with their consent, can be scanned by a third party. In that way, the digital licence app will support the verifying and sharing of information between parties. Initially, the digital licence app will be available for drivers' licences, proof-of-age cards and recreational marine licences. However, there may also be the opportunity to include other services in the future, including updating details, renewing a licence and paying registration fees all through the app.

Importantly, the app will be optional and physical products will still be issued. If Queenslanders do not want to get a digital licence, they do not need to. The bill amends numerous pieces of transport and non-transport legislation to ensure that, where there is a regulatory requirement, digital authorities



are recognised and accepted in the same way as physical products would be. As a result of these amendments, when people need to prove their identity to government they will be able to use the app in the same way they would use a physical product such as a driver's licence.

I note that not all provisions that apply to physical products are appropriate for digital products. For example, while liquor and gaming venue staff have powers to seize a physical driver's licence, they will not be able to seize electronic devices used to display a digital product.

The bill also includes very important amendments to support camera enforcement of mobile phone and seatbelt offences. Distracted driving and failure to wear a seatbelt are serious road safety issues that contribute significantly to the lives lost on Queensland roads and to serious injuries each year. In fact, those are two of the fatal five driving behaviours. The numbers show just how serious these issues are. In 2018, 33 people lost their lives due to driver distraction. That is 33 lives too many. A further 1,359 people were hospitalised due to serious injuries from driver distraction. It is estimated that distracted driving related crashes cost the Queensland economy more than \$1.5 billion per year.

Failure to wear a seatbelt also contributes to one in four people killed in vehicle accidents. I repeat: one in four people killed in vehicle accidents are not wearing a seatbelt. This is despite research that shows and proves that seatbelts save lives—often the last line of defence in a crash. This must be addressed. I still find that data shocking and something we must act on.

Illegal mobile phone use is one of the most prevalent behaviours associated with distracted driving. Research shows that it is just as dangerous as drink-driving with a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .07 to .1. Drink-driving is now rightly viewed in the community as totally unacceptable. However, unlawful mobile phone use continues to be a danger on our roads all too often.

In 2019 I hosted a national summit on distracted driving. This brought together safety and industry experts to work out the best ways to tackle this serious problem on our roads. It became clear that more is needed to be done to educate drivers and to change community attitudes about the dangers of distracted driving. The Palaszczuk government took swift and decisive action to increase the penalties to \$1,000 for a first offence and four demerit points which came into effect on 1 February this year. I note that Western Australia has since followed Queensland's lead. Good on them. I commend them for doing so. However, this will not stop drivers using their phones if they do not believe that they will be caught doing the wrong thing. The amendments in this bill aim to deal with this in terms of enforcement and change driver behaviour for the better in Queensland and to save lives. We know that camera enforcement has already been successful in reducing road trauma from other serious driving offences like speeding and disobeying red traffic lights.

The amendments in the bill allow for camera enforcement of mobile phone and seatbelt offences under Queensland's existing Camera Detected Offence Program. This will help boost traditional enforcement of those offences by our police at the roadside.

Illegal mobile phone use is not just a problem in Queensland. New South Wales has also trialled camera detection for mobile offences to address it there. We know from the New South Wales experience that the new mobile phone detection technology is capable of producing very high quality images. It has also been identified that the technology is useful in detecting seatbelt offences. The amendments in this bill are the first step in providing for camera enforcement of mobile phone and, in an Australia first, seatbelt offences. I am also concerned about drivers using other forms of electronic devices that have the same distracting effect as mobile phones, such as iPads and cameras. This government will, therefore, also review the mobile phone rules to ensure they target broader dangerous distracted driving behaviours. We will continue our conversation with the public on these reforms to improve road safety. I note there is a lot of public support for stronger action on this front.

The amendments in this bill make sure that the necessary evidentiary provisions are in place for mobile phone and seatbelt offences. These amendments have been carefully considered and are being put in place with a view to saving Queensland lives. They will do this by ensuring that the process for issuing infringement notices and court proceedings are efficient and workable. This will allow the cameras to have the desired deterrent effect. Before the technology is deployed for enforcement, it will be thoroughly tested in Queensland conditions to ensure it is robust. This will also guide us on whether further legislative change is required in the future.

The technology initially uses machine-learning algorithms to review the images and identify patterns of behaviour. I understand that in the trial in New South Wales it achieved a high level of accuracy in a short period. The technology will not be deployed for enforcement in Queensland until we are confident it works to a high standard. In line with current practice for camera detected offences, images of possible offences will be reviewed by members of the Queensland Police Service before any

infringement notice is issued. Importantly, a person will still be able to challenge a ticket for a seatbelt or mobile phone offence as they would on any other infringement notice. The person can ask the police for a review if they have circumstances that need to be considered. They can also elect to go to court. To be effective, the cameras will need to take images of all passing vehicles. To help manage privacy, the system will delete images where no potential offence is detected. Further technical details on the operation of the camera system will be set out in regulations to be progressed later this year.

In relation to other aspects of the bill, the bill also amends the passenger transport legislation to ensure that a requirement that information is published on the government's website also includes publishing the information on the whole-of-government and TransLink websites. This amendment reflects a customer focused approach of publishing information where it is logical and easy for people to find.

The bill inserts provision for evidentiary certificates into passenger transport legislation to support the introduction of smart ticketing and to reflect the changes that are being made to the Commonwealth's vehicle standards legislation. The evidentiary certificates relate to matters that are administrative and factual in nature.

The use of evidentiary certificates does not prevent a person from disputing the content of a certificate during a court proceeding. The bill also makes amendments to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. The first of these is to preserve existing secondary legal interests, such as easements, when declaring a transport corridor. The amendments will allow uninterrupted benefit to interest holders when railway corridor or busway land is declared. The benefits include: protecting the existing legal rights of interest holders; removing the risk of litigation; significantly reducing administration time and costs; and removing the requirement to engage legal representation for the reinstatement of interests.

An amendment will also be made to section 35 and section 36 of the Transport Infrastructure Act to clarify that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is able to access and temporarily occupy land to undertake land management and environmental activities as required by legislation. The bill also includes minor and technical amendments for clarity or to improve efficiencies and streamline processes.

Put simply, this bill is about the future. It is about responding to an escalating road safety issue and saving lives. It is also about enabling the people of Queensland to take advantage of innovative technology advances and opportunities. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.36 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Transport and Public Works Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

## CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.37 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1945, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Racing Integrity Act 2016, the Racing Integrity Regulation 2016, the Weapons Act 1990, the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 and the Weapons Regulation 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [430].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [431].

*Tabled paper:* Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [432].

For our government, the safety and security of the community is an utmost priority. This bill supports the government's key objective to keep communities safe in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities. The bill supports a resolution of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management to establish a permanent national firearms amnesty and, following extensive stakeholder engagement, this bill implements one of the Queensland Police Service's proposals regarding the possession of replicas and gel blasters. The remaining aspects, which are the regulations, will align with the consultation that was undertaken with stakeholders. To be clear, the regulations will be as discussed with stakeholders and there will be no ban on replicas and gel blasters under these changes.

The bill responds to the immediate risks identified in the Crime and Corruption Commission's Taskforce Flaxton—an examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland's prisons—supports the government's implementation of the recommendations from the Queensland Parole System Review and improves operational efficiencies for Queensland Corrective Services and the Parole Board Queensland.

In respect of the permanent firearms amnesty, this bill brings into effect a permanent ongoing firearms amnesty for Queensland. This gives support to a national agreement that will see a nationwide firearms amnesty introduced before the end of this year. A permanent firearms amnesty is a powerful tool in tackling gun related crime in this state and around Australia. The amnesty aims to reduce the number of unregistered firearms in the community by removing the fear of prosecution if a person is to hand one in.

Firearms amnesties are a proven way to reduce the number of unregistered firearms in the community and thereby enhance community safety. The previous firearms amnesty in Queensland successfully used the services of firearms dealers as a collection point. The permanent amnesty will build on this success and give the public an alternative to attending a police station, by incorporating approved firearms dealers in the scheme.

I turn to the Corrective Services Act amendments. The Corrective Services Act 2006 provides the authority to humanely contain, supervise and rehabilitate the almost 30,000 prisoners and offenders right across Queensland. These operations are complex and are delivered across 11 high-security and six low-security correctional centres, 13 work camps, 36 community corrections district offices and more than 150 reporting centres across Queensland. To ensure the delivery of corrective services is strategic, innovative and evidence based, the Corrective Services Act must also be contemporary and respond to emerging needs. Since the middle of 2016, Queensland's correctional system has been under review and reform.

In 2018, the Crime and Corruption Commission's Taskforce Flaxton made 33 recommendations to reform Queensland's anti-corruption framework for correctional centres, improve oversight mechanisms and safety for staff and prisoners, increase accountability and raise performance standards. The government supported all 33 recommendations of Taskforce Flaxton and in response committed to delivering stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct and the transition of Arthur Gorrie and Southern Queensland correctional centres to public operation, and committed a further \$25.2 million to implement other Taskforce Flaxton recommendations. This bill supports implementation of key Taskforce Flaxton recommendations. The swift implementation of legislative amendments to support key Taskforce Flaxton recommendations highlights this government's commitment to ensuring all government departments act with the highest standards of integrity, ethics, accountability and transparency.

Importantly, to reflect community expectations and enhance community and correctional environment safety, this bill includes three new offences in the Corrective Services Act. There is an offence prohibiting a staff member from having an intimate relationship with an offender, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or three years in prison. There is an offence prohibiting a parolee from removing or tampering with an electronic monitoring device when it is a condition of their parole to wear one, with a maximum penalty of 30 penalty units or three months in prison—on top of any other sanction they may receive as a consequence of breaching their parole. There is also an offence prohibiting a person from unlawfully interfering with a Queensland Corrective Services staff alcohol or drug test sample, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units.

In respect of Criminal Code amendments, this bill also includes an amendment to section 340 of the Criminal Code to clarify the maximum penalty for a prisoner who seriously assaults one of our hardworking Corrective Services officers. This will ensure that in circumstances where a prisoner bites, spits, throws bodily fluid or faeces, causes bodily harm to the officer or if the prisoner is or pretends to

be armed with a dangerous or offensive weapon or instrument, the maximum penalty of 14 years can be applied. In all other circumstances the maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment remains. In this respect, I particularly acknowledge the advocacy of the Together union, their members and all staff across correctional centres as well as members of the House, particularly the member for Maryborough, in respect of this particular amendment.

Working in the correctional system carries inherent risks and challenges that are unique within the public sector. It is imperative that a prisoner who assaults a working Corrective Services officer is held accountable and is liable to receive the same penalty as an offender who does so to any other Public Service officer. This government is committed to actively addressing and preventing the causes of violence in corrective service facilities and in the community—as supported by this amendment. I take this opportunity to recognise and thank the staff who work for Queensland Corrective Services and who work on the front line of community safety. This amendment will provide a strong deterrent to this type of behaviour occurring in a closed environment and reassurance to Corrective Services officers of the importance of their health and safety.

The Queensland parole system review in November 2016, otherwise known as the Sofronoff review, made 91 recommendations, including amendments relating to the Corrective Services Act. This review resulted in the government's \$265 million commitment to implement the most comprehensive overhaul of Queensland's parole system. To date, 46 recommendations have been completed and the remaining supported recommendations are progressing as planned.

This bill makes amendments to support the government's implementation of the Queensland parole system review, including: recommendation 85 to allow persons registered on the victims register to apply to the Parole Board for an extension to provide a submission; recommendations 33 and 59 to support the establishment and maintenance of relationships between prisoners and their children; and recommendation 81 to provide that a person on the victims register will be notified of a prisoner's discharge or release as soon as practicable after Queensland Corrective Services is made aware of that information, thereby supporting earlier notifications to those listed on the victims register. This bill also includes an amendment to support the government's response to recommendation 58—that is, to provide that prisoners convicted of a sexual offence, murder or sentenced to life imprisonment are not eligible for placement in a low-security facility.

The establishment of the Parole Board Queensland was an important recommendation of the Queensland parole system review. To support the operation of the Parole Board, further amendments are proposed in this bill. The new, independent Parole Board Queensland has been in operation for two years. It is timely that amendments be progressed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its functions and the operation of legislation like the no-body no-parole laws.

A number of amendments have been requested by the board, and these are addressed in the bill. The board's requested amendments are set out in the bill and the explanatory notes. They support the effective and efficient operation of the Parole Board. This bill also makes a number of other amendments to support the efficient and effective operation of Queensland Corrective Services generally, including the repeal of some outdated provisions that are no longer applicable.

The amendments proposed in this bill will stop crime, ensure community safety and provide that Queensland's correctional system is responsive and flexible and prioritises the safety of staff, prisoners, offenders and the community. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.47 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

## RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH QUEENSLAND BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 4 February (see p. 73), on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (11.48 am): I am very pleased to rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019. It is in keeping with my desire to make a difference when it comes to workplace health and safety for those people who work in the resources sector across the great state of Queensland. We all know that Queensland would be a much poorer community without our resources sector. We have heard from various ministers of the Crown with regard to the hit to the economy posed by the COVID-19 health crisis. It is certainly an economic crisis that we do not know the depth of. I do not think anybody knows the depth of it.

The COVID-19 situation is the talk of the town, the talk of the state, the talk of the nation, the talk of the world. I am sure it is also the talk of people working today in the resources sector right across Queensland. I think any step forward to make a difference to positively reform and enhance workplace health and safety in our resources sector should be commended.

It is no secret that I have been a great advocate of the work of the former Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, of which I was a proud member in the previous parliament. I still lament the reluctance and inability of the government to implement the full recommendations of that report. It will become part of folklore, I would hope, in years and decades to come that the work of that committee was done very professionally and very dutifully in a bipartisanship way under the chairmanship of the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller, and the deputy chairmanship of the former member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg, who did a sterling job as well.

I can recall the committee travelling across many regional communities in Queensland, starting in the great mining city of Ipswich. It is a long way from North Queensland where I am from as the member for Whitsunday and the Leader of North Queensland First, but I respect the great people of Ipswich, particularly those mine-working families who dug up the black gold many decades ago before the advent of the Bowen Basin. I look back to Percy Verrall giving evidence at that committee. I was so shocked to see how sick that man was and how important it was to him, to his family, to his loved ones and to all of the other people who followed in giving evidence to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee. I recall going to Collinsville at the northern end of the Bowen Basin, just across the range from my electorate of Whitsunday, and I recall going to many other towns in the Bowen Basin—towns that popped up in the 1970s because of the advent of the coal industry: towns like Moranbah in 1971, Dysart in 1973, Glenden in 1983, and the list goes on.

I have long come to the conclusion that the government has failed those workers, particularly in relation to black lung, because one of the key recommendations of the CWP Select Committee was in fact to set up the Mine Safety and Health Authority in Mackay. That was met with great fanfare. I remember the member for Mackay. She was all over it like a cheap suit in a photo for the *Daily Mercury*. As time went on the commitment to implement the full recommendations of that committee evaporated. I come before the parliament here today in my role as the member for Whitsunday and the Leader of North Queensland First reaffirming my commitment to the concept of bringing that authority to Mackay.

The Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019 does make a difference, but I stand by what I have said many times in this place and in the community: it is not what the mineworkers expected. I know there is more to the resources sector in Queensland than the coal industry, but the coal industry is central to the Queensland economy. In fact, I go back to the royalty figures in recent years for Queensland Treasury. In the 12 months to 30 June 2018, royalties across coal—or black gold, as I like to call it—petroleum, base metals and whatever else that comes out of ports such as Townsville, Abbot Point, Hay Point and Gladstone, totalled \$4.26 billion, with royalties from coal making up \$3.7 billion of that. I did not think it was much to ask to have the Mine Safety and Health Authority headquartered in the Mackay, nor did the miners and retired miners—people like Chris Byron, who is a constituent of mine living in the northern beaches of the city that I call home, the great city of Mackay.

The Labor government has failed traditional working class people, and it is not lost on those people. They are wondering why the system was not fixed like they anticipated. Chris Byron came to the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre and bared his soul. He was not alone, but I will never forget the day he turned up and told his story. I looked at my colleagues on the CWP Select Committee and we had to pinch ourselves. He has been to hell and back, and he is not alone. There are many

others who have been diagnosed with black lung, or CWP, with the reidentification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland. This government has failed those people. We had key stakeholders on the same page, singing from the same hymn sheet, wanting reform, wanting to have best practice.


As I recall, the chair and the deputy chair of the committee—and I want to acknowledge the secretariat who backed up the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee—travelled to America to get to the bottom of this, to make the system better. While we have something that is moving in a positive direction, I would have thought that the establishment of the Mine Safety and Health Authority in Mackay was the best way to go, in close proximity to the Bowen Basin and in relative close proximity to the yet to be developed Galilee Basin.

I want to acknowledge the importance of the North West Minerals Province. Its importance is not lost on me. In fact, one of the first things I did after declaring my hand as the leader of the newly formed North Queensland First party was to go out to the north-west to those mining communities of Mount Isa and Cloncurry to hear from people in that part of the world—a long way from the beautiful white sands of Whitehaven Beach in my own electorate.

These coal workers and retired coal workers are feeling let down. They dig up that black gold, and other resources from whatever other industry they work in in the mining sector, and they want to come home. They want to be healthy. Their wives, girlfriends and partners want them to be healthy. My sister works in the mining industry. My brother-in-law works in the mining industry in the Bowen Basin. Can you imagine Queensland today trying to deal with COVID-19 without what we have been able to rip out of the ground?

We have let these people down. We have let them down badly. The government has let them down. There is no doubt about this. We cannot sugar-coat it. Resources play a central role in the Queensland economy. Hence recently on 24 February I announced my vision for royalties with North Queensland First's flagship program, a \$6 billion program—Real Royalties for Regions, quarantining \$6 billion in infrastructure spending for North, Far North and Central Queensland. Billions of dollars are going through Treasury and all we wanted was a smidgeon to set up this new authority in Mackay in keeping with the recommendations—that is the key bit: 'in keeping with the recommendations'—of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, which travelled many a mile—across the Pacific in fact—to get to the bottom of this, going to the world's leading authorities to make the system better.

We have failed coal workers and retired coal workers—people like Chris Byron in my electorate and many others who are battling with ill health. It is so disappointing that the government did not heed the advice of that committee that worked in a true bipartisan way in the former parliament. The expectation was there. All of these people have been let down. They have been seriously let down. In conclusion, as I say, it is a step in the right direction but it falls well short of what I expected, what my constituents expected and, more broadly, what the people in the coalmining industry expected, and that was the establishment of the Mine Safety and Health Authority in Mackay. It is disappointing to say the least.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.58 am): I will make a contribution to the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill. My contribution will be brief and will centre on two key elements. Firstly, I place on record the hard work of all who have been involved to get to this point—both the minister and the shadow minister, who are in the chamber today, and all of those people on the committee across recent parliaments. We do so because first and foremost we have a duty to our communities to keep them safe. At no time has that been more evident than in recent weeks with what we are dealing with with COVID-19. We realise just how important community safety is.


Safety takes many forms: it takes the form of somebody being able to go to bed at night knowing that somebody will not break into their house to take their goods; it takes the form of driving on a road knowing that somebody who is affected by drugs or alcohol does not run into you; and it takes the form of being able to go to work knowing that you will return home to tell your loved ones that you love them and you are safe and well. When we reflect on the fact that in the last year there have been eight deaths in Queensland mines, we all know that we all must do better. The point of my contribution today is not to play the blame game—far from it—but to say that this parliament comes together and acknowledges that more must be done to keep those men and women who ensure our mining industry—a great industry in this state—safe.

I want to reflect on how important mining is to the Queensland economy. Right now it is more important than ever. One in every \$5 in the Queensland economy and one in eight jobs is in some way, shape or form attributed to mining. I want to reflect on the one in \$5 because right now the one in \$5

will be a greater portion. Whilst all industries will experience great challenges when it comes to continuing employment and normality, the mining industry will be one that, whilst impacted, will continue in some capacity.

The money that the mining industry generates will need to be used to support businesses and workers in industries like hospitality and tourism that will not have bright futures for some time. It will be there to support small businesses that supply affected industries that will not have a bright future for some time. It will be used to pay the salaries of those government workers, those brave workers of this state, who will go to work every day and put themselves in harm's way to make sure that this community is as safe as it can be in troubling times. At the top of that list are our health workers who are—ironically, may I say—at the coalface.

My final contribution is the most important one: where to from here? The shadow minister has made it very clear that he wants to see a full parliamentary inquiry into mine safety. I back him entirely, because if we are serious about the future we must reflect on the past. We must see what works and what does not and why in recent times we have experienced the issues that we have. To my mind, not to embark on that process would be an error. In conclusion, I wholeheartedly back the bill. I want to make sure there is no blame game. I want to ensure that in the end the community is safer and that for years to come workers can go home and tell their families they are safe.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.03 pm): In 2017-18 the resources sector provided one in every eight jobs and \$63 billion to the Queensland economy. As we know, without the resources sector Queensland does not work. Despite all of the technological and safety advances, the resources industry can be a dangerous workplace. In 18 months we have had the tragedy of eight deaths in Queensland's mines and quarries, and that is a huge burden for families, communities and our state to cope with. We know there are solutions. We have had a couple of resets, but Queenslanders still want answers. They still want to know why there were 500 fewer mine safety inspections last year than there were four years ago. They still want to know why we have vacant mine safety inspector roles, and they still want to know about gender requirements on advisory committees.

We believe that the crucial mine safety laws currently before this parliament must be passed this week. The government needs to get on with the job and pass these important mine safety amendments with the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill. We had a false start at the beginning of this parliamentary sitting week, and if I have time I may touch on the amendments that were attached to this bill in the first instance.

In July last year the minister announced two separate independent reviews into Queensland's mine safety. These reports were meant to be finalised by the end of 2019; however, they are yet to be tabled. Mine workers and their families deserve to have those reports tabled. The LNP moved a motion, as has been clearly articulated by other speakers, for a full parliamentary inquiry into these and other issues that contributed to the deaths and injuries in Queensland's mines and quarries. The way this government dismissed that inquiry was disturbing. It was an insult to resource industry workers and their families across this state who just want to see this parliament working together to ensure we do everything we can to make extremely dangerous workplaces even safer. The LNP has never asked for a safety reset to be slowed or ceased, and we were somewhat disappointed when that was implied by some opposite. I remind members that this parliament has previously been united in the interests of the health and safety of our resources workers and we hope that will continue.

The fact that the committee report into this legislation refers to and draws from the report of the select committee proves that the LNP's motion for a parliamentary inquiry into safety in our mines and quarries was not only warranted but essential. When you look at the fact that the interim report of the CWPSC included quotes and phrases like 'massive systematic failure' and 'an absolute failure by the DNRM, its Mine Inspectorate, SIMTARS and its Health Surveillance Unit', you would have to think that the situation that led to eight deaths in 18 months may in fact deserve complete oversight.

It is not only the opportunity for a full parliamentary inquiry that has been refused by those opposite. I draw the attention of the minister and the House part 12 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act—existing legislation. This section expressly provides the minister with the power to establish a board of inquiry into 'a serious accident'. We believe this should have happened. We believe that those opposite have not exercised the power available to them, and I think that workers in the resource industry deserve to know about the workings of this parliament when it appears to fail workers. Part 12 states that the inquiry must be held in public. What does the minister not want the public of Queensland to know?


Part 12 empowers the board of inquiry to call witnesses, receive evidence under oath, seek documents and offer witnesses the same protection as a witness in a proceeding in the Supreme Court. Despite these powers and widespread calls from throughout the resources sector, this minister did not act. Queensland's resource workers deserve the truth. Why did the minister not act, and what guarantees do Queenslanders have that the minister will get it right this time around? We want to make sure that this legislation goes some way to plug the legislative reforms and anomalies that continue to be raised.

Weeks ago the parliament began debating these laws, but all of a sudden the bill was delayed without explanation. I look forward to the minister's summing-up to provide some explanation, because we were committed to making sure this was introduced as the first act of the Queensland parliament. We are somewhat disappointed, as we are already some months into the year. It was extraordinary that, after the government released long-awaited reports into mining fatalities and accidents, these laws to improve mine safety were delayed. We call for the reports to be made transparent and public. The mining industry needs to do more when it comes to safety, and we all agree in this place that we have a role and responsibility to ensure that happens.

We know the real reason why the laws were put on ice. It has been articulated before. We understand that the former member for Bundamba was not happy. She did not think they went far enough. I think she mentioned that a couple of times in this place. It was made very clear that without a full inquiry into mine safety Queenslanders will continue to die and be injured in our mines and quarries. The LNP will continue its call for a full parliamentary inquiry. We should all acknowledge the eight mining fatalities in Queensland. If these mine safety laws fail to pass this week, it is further proof that Labor has its priorities all wrong. While resource workers, their families and the LNP are concerned about the safety regime, we must remain focused on mine safety. Reports must be tabled so they can be scrutinised by members of this place and, more importantly, the public.

I refer to some of the amendments tacked to this bill in the early days of 2020 in relation to 17 different acts and regulations passed in this House in terms of Paradise Dam. Some of these amendments are somewhat confusing and still very disturbing. Certainly, I am on the public record in terms of the unprecedented acts of this place around dam safety in my part of the world. It is important to acknowledge the number of great reports. The economic costs of inaction on Paradise Dam continue to highlight the seriousness of this issue.

What about the fact that these amendments were attached to the bill? I hope that is okay. I point out that, although 25 per cent of all irrigated agriculture comes out of that region, these water issues continue. We still are suspicious of those 17 amendments. We do not believe that this needed to be such a dramatic issue but have some sympathy in terms of the minister's issues around dam safety. I commend my contribution. I look forward to this House passing this bill today to ensure that coalmine and quarry safety is at the forefront of any future activities.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.10 pm), in reply: First, I thank all members from all sides of parliament for their contribution to the debate of the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019. I thank the members and secretariat of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for their consideration of the bill and for their contributions during the earlier stage.

The Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the safety and health of Queensland resources workers. It also delivers on the government's commitment to a regulatory framework that strengthens worker trust, ensures independence and transparency, and achieves increased accountability and oversight of regulatory performance. The bill establishes an independent statutory body named Resources Safety and Health Queensland, RSHQ. RSHQ's responsibilities will include protecting the safety and health of persons in the resources industry; regulating safety and health in the resources industry; and monitoring compliance with, and the effectiveness of, the resources safety acts.

As a statutory body, RSHQ will not be part of, or subject to, oversight from an administering department such as the mines department. This will ensure the function of protecting workers is separate from the government's functions of growing and facilitating mining and exploration projects and the resources sector as a whole. RSHQ will comprise the coalmines, mineral mines and quarries, explosives and petroleum gas inspectorates. RSHQ will also include the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station, known as Simtars, and the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

The bill also creates a new, independent Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, with functions across all resources sectors; utilises the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor to prosecute offences under the resources safety legislation; and enhances the functions of the existing Coal Mining



Safety and Health Advisory Committee and Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. CMSHAC's and MSHAC's primary function is to provide tripartite technical advice to me about safety and health matters.

These advisory committees have driven many important reforms over the past several years, including new competencies for persons with safety and health obligations in the mining industry and, of course, support for the sector's response to mine dust lung disease. The advice I receive from the advisory committees is, and always will be, essential to the management of my portfolio responsibilities and has, without fail, been of the highest standard. Substantive proposals raised with me will be advanced to CMSHAC and MSHAC for their consideration. At present, CMSHAC and MSHAC are currently reviewing the Brady and UQ reports, and will provide recommendations by Easter for long-term reforms.

The government is committed to working with employers, unions and peak bodies to continue to improve protections for our workers. There is no day and no opportunity that should be lost when it comes to improving safety. Any changes to the legislative framework governing safety and health in the mining industry must be carefully considered to ensure they do not have unintended consequences on safety and health outcomes. It would be irresponsible to make changes to the legislative framework until that consideration from my advisory committees is complete. We owe it to the workers who have lost their lives or who have been seriously injured to make sure our reforms lead to genuine, tangible safety improvements in our industry.

I will now address specific issues raised by members during debate. I note that some members raised issues regarding a reduction in mine safety inspections. In administering the resources safety acts, my department's inspectorates deliver annual compliance and enforcement programs to address a wide range of current and emerging harms across industry. These compliance activities include conducting structured audits, structured inspections and unannounced inspections as well as the investigation of incidents and complaints made by coalmine workers.

There has been an increased focus on detailed, multiday audits at our surface coalmines. Audits involve teams of inspectors who typically spend around a week at a mine site, compared to regular mine inspections which are typically performed by one inspector over one or two days. There has been no reduction in the inspectorate's regulatory effort over time, but the inspectorate has changed its regulatory approach and focus to ensure it is contemporary with current and emerging risks in industry. Members do not need to be reminded that the Mines Inspectorate also investigated eight mining fatalities in the past 20 months, as well as the spontaneous combustion event and underground fire that occurred at the North Goonyella underground coalmine.

The member for Whitsunday raised the issue of the resources safety and health body being located in Mackay. It is imperative that resources safety and health best service all Queenslanders. The current natural disaster of coronavirus demonstrates the very fact that the regulator having a regional footprint and a comprehensive spread across Queensland has ensured they can continue to function instead of being isolated in one location.

I also update the member for Burnett. I have tabled the Brady review into fatalities and the UQ review of legislation. These reports, commissioned to respond to the recent fatalities in the resources sector, are already being acted upon by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Our independent mine safety advisory committees are currently reviewing the reports and will provide recommendations to me by Easter for long-term reforms. I would also like to say categorically that there are no vacant positions in the Mines Inspectorate.

The Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health will be an independent statutory office holder. It will be a matter for the commissioner regarding the resourcing of the office, but the bill allows for flexibility in staffing arrangements to ensure that the office can be adequately and appropriately staffed. The bill provides that the commissioner may arrange for the services of officers or employees of a government agency to be made available to work for the commissioner, provided the chief executive of that agency is in agreement. This may be from any government agency, including the RSHQ employing office. The commissioner may also enter into contracts or employ staff necessary for the performance of the commissioner's functions. An officer or employee whose services are made available to the commissioner will only be subject to the commissioner's direction.

The member for Burdekin has asked why I as the minister have not established a board of inquiry into recent mining fatalities. The Mines Inspectorate is, per its duty, thoroughly investigating all of these fatalities. Frequently, the mines inspectors' investigations uncover failings that the mining companies' own investigations have not. The inquiry into the Moura No. 2 mining disaster, held by a warden's court,

did not reference or recommend a board of inquiry. From that disaster a more effective legislative framework was established in 1999, superseding the previous outdated framework. It is this updated framework under which we now act.

Since the introduction of the 1999 act, thankfully there have been no multiple-fatality disasters, and successive governments have continued to build on this legislation. The courts have the ability—and have done so—to impose sentences against those who breach their obligations. Four investigations into recent fatalities have been concluded, resulting in criminal charges being laid against numerous defendants. These charges will be heard publicly by the courts of Queensland with the power to impose penalties and sentences against those who have breached their obligations. The inspectorate's investigations into other fatalities are near completion or underway.

The honourable member's call for a board of inquiry and a parliamentary inquiry, in addition to any judicial consideration, is misconceived. If the honourable member really wants to know why mineworkers have died over the past 20 years, I respectfully suggest he reads the Brady review—and I mean really reads it and understands it. Since the introduction of the mining safety and health framework 20 years ago, boards of inquiry have not been established to inquire into individual mining fatalities. The ministerial power to establish a board of inquiry is intended for mining disasters causing multiple deaths, like the tragic disaster at Moura No. 2 in 1994. For that reason, I can honestly say that this is a power I hope I never have to use.

I note that the member for Burdekin has sought assurance that fees charged by RSHQ will be tied to the cost of providing service. I can confirm that RSHQ will comply with Queensland Treasury's principles for fees and charges in ensuring that fee levels are set to recover the full cost of the regulatory activity. Fees for service relate to RSHQ's activities of a commercial nature; for example, fees and charges for use of the government explosives reserves and fees and charges levied by Simtars for activities such as testing, calibration and training activities.

The issue of consulting with the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health prior to commencing prosecutions has been raised. The commissioner will not have operational responsibilities or regulatory functions under the bill and will not have a role in prosecution action or investigation. This ensures independence and objectivity in investigations and prosecutions and in the commissioner's role in monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of regulatory activities.

The bill provides for the independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor, established under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, to prosecute serious offences under the resources safety acts. Only the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor will be able to prosecute serious offences, with other offences able to be prosecuted by the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor or the CEO or RSHQ. Utilising the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor will provide focused expertise, consistent standards and a single reference for prosecutions which are serious offences. The independence of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor will provide assurance of objectivity and integrity in the application of prosecution policy.

It will be available to all persons to request the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor to bring a prosecution. This is consistent with the same approach taken under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, section 231, which is available to all persons. The bill does not preclude a person from requesting the regulator to commence a prosecution. It is up to the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor to determine what is in the public interest in bringing a prosecution for a serious offence. In making this decision, the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor must have regard to any guidelines issued under section 11 of the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1982 which are similar to section 230(3) of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The Work Health and Safety Prosecutor may take advice, including technical and industry advice, from persons the prosecutor considers appropriate for each circumstance. The Director's Guidelines issued by the DPP provide guidance, fundamental to which is a two-tier test that a prosecution should only be initiated where there is sufficient evidence and the public interest requires prosecution.

The bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to a regulatory framework that strengthens worker trust, ensures independence and transparency and achieves increased accountability and oversight of regulatory performance. The bill establishes a new independent statutory body: RSHQ, Resources Safety and Health Queensland. The primary focus of RSHQ will be on the safety and health of Queensland resources industry workers. The bill provides an effective regulatory framework that supports the safety and health of our workers to ensure every worker in Queensland's resources industry goes home safe.

I would like to thank members for their contributions to this debate. I commend the work of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. I also thank all stakeholders for their contributions to the development of the bill. 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 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 14—



**Dr LYNHAM** (12.25 pm): I move the following amendment—

1

**Clause 14 (Appointment)**

Page 14, after line 6—

*insert—*

- (3) To be appointed as the CEO, a person must have a professional qualification relevant to the resources industry, and professional experience in the resources sector.

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

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [433].

*Tabled paper:* Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [434].

**Mr LAST:** I rise to make a brief comment regarding this amendment and more broadly the safety issues that currently exist in our mining sector across this state. There have been eight deaths in 18 months. We have heard from a number of members in this place during the course of this debate about those deaths and the consequences. I have spoken to a number of the families of those miners and quarry workers who lost their lives. To say that they are devastated and continue to struggle to come to terms with those deaths would be an understatement.

I note in the amendment moved by the minister that the CEO must have a professional qualification relevant to the resources industry and professional experience in the resources sector. That is so important to that role. The resources sector—I am talking about mines and quarries together here—is a unique sector. It employs tens of thousands of employees. By the very nature of the work they do, there are inherent risks involved on a day-to-day basis.

The minister just mentioned the word 'trust'. We still have a long way to go to bridge the divide between management and the workers or employees—I include contract labourers and day hire employees in that category—to reach a level where workers feel safe to report breaches of safety at mine sites and quarries in this state. A very real fear of reprisals and intimidation still exists. We need to get to the bottom of that.

It saddens me that we are not going down the path of having a full inquiry into mine safety in this state. I still believe that we need to get to the bottom of it. I still believe that it is warranted. I have just spent two weeks visiting a number of coalmines and communities in my electorate, where I met and spoke with a number of miners. They expressed deep concerns that they are still working in an environment where safety breaches are occurring on a daily basis and are not being addressed. We need to have confidence—the miners, the companies and Queenslanders more broadly—that the mining sector has a workplace health and safety regime in place that meets the standards and, as far as possible, guarantees that when workers go to work each day they will go home at the end of their shift. I think it is imperative that adequate and timely investigations are undertaken. I ask the minister whether this will be incorporated into the KPIs of the CEO, because we need to have confidence that these are being conducted in a timely manner with full transparency.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for his contribution. I agree that the CEO does have to have—that is why this amendment has been moved—appropriate qualifications for the significant role of protecting the health and safety of our mining workers.

I also agree with the member for Burdekin regarding the fear that is out there for workers to report significant safety incidents and I therefore look forward to his support for the bill that is before the House relating to industrial manslaughter and pushing into permanency those significant positions in the health and safety sector in our mining industry. I look forward to that support. He is right on that issue and the Brady report also addresses that issue.

I would encourage the member for Burdekin to work with the government because we have this issue lined up. It is in our sights. Watch this space. We have to make it absolutely imperative that workers have no fear to report any issue regarding health and safety—no fear, no fear of recrimination, no fear of losing their job should they report something regarding mine health and safety. I look forward to the continuing support of the opposition for our further bills that we will be introducing throughout this year regarding this very important issue of mine health and safety.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 66, as read, agreed to.

Clause 67—



**Dr LYNHAM** (12.30 pm): I move the following amendment—

**2 Clause 67 (CEO may disclose information to particular entities)**

Page 36, after line 9—

*insert—*

**WHS prosecutor** see the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, schedule 2, section 25.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 67, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 68 to 139, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.31 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. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.32 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.

## TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (DISABILITY PARKING AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 November 2019 (see p. 3762).

### Second Reading



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I begin by thanking the Transport and Public Works Committee for its consideration of the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. I also want to acknowledge the role of the committee's chair, the member for Kurwongbah, in leading the parliamentary scrutiny of these reforms. I also want to acknowledge the committee's secretariat for its continued support of the committee and the important work that it undertakes. I also want to thank Guide Dogs Queensland, the RACQ, Ms Elisha Matthews of the No Permit No Park campaign, the BCC and Queenslanders with Disability Network for the time they have taken to examine and to comment on the bill.

I also want to acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook, who introduced a private member's bill into the House on 16 October last year which also sought to amend the Traffic Regulation 1962 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to expand the eligibility criteria for the Disability Parking Permit Scheme to include vision-impaired persons. I also want to acknowledge the important work and leadership of the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, the member for Mundingburra. I acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Lytton and also the members for Hinchinbrook and Hill who have been very strong in this area and also the member for Bundaberg, who has made contributions as well.

The committee has now delivered its report and recommended that the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 be passed. The committee also made three other recommendations which I will address in more detail later in this speech. I want to highlight the main elements of the bill and the benefits that will be provided to Queenslanders who are legally blind. This bill amends the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and the Traffic Regulation 1962 to expand the Australian Disability Parking Scheme to include vision-impaired people who have been diagnosed as legally blind.

Currently, the scheme provides parking concessions to people who are either unable to walk and always rely on a wheelchair or who have a severe restriction on their ability to walk, whether on a permanent or a temporary basis. People with vision impairments are not eligible unless they have an impairment that impacts on their functional ability to walk. These parking concessions make it possible for permit holders to go about their daily business by providing access to conveniently located disability parking bays, which are wider than a standard parking bay and are available at locations such as shopping centres, hospitals, medical centres, train stations, entertainment venues and other places. These parking concessions also allow permit holders free parking in local government metered and regulated parking bays for longer than any time limit stated on a sign.

Following community feedback, a review was conducted to assess the feasibility of expanding the eligibility criteria to include people with vision impairment and the impact this would have on the current scheme and existing permit holders. This bill recognises the unique mobility challenges faced by people who are vision-impaired. It expands the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include people who are diagnosed as legally blind, whether on a permanent or temporary basis. The bill also introduces a definition of 'blind' into the Traffic Regulation 1962 that aligns with the term 'permanent blindness' relied upon by the Commonwealth government's Social Security Guide under the Social Security Act 1991. This definition aligns with the eligibility for the vision-impaired travel pass issued by TransLink. It will align Queensland with the eligibility for similar schemes in New South Wales, the ACT, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia. I believe this is an appropriate criterion for government assistance.

Expanding the scheme to include people who are legally blind is not expected to have a substantial impact on the availability of disability parking bays. However, availability of these bays can be impacted by people who do not hold a disability parking permit occupying these spaces illegally. The Queensland Police Service has the authority to issue fines to people who illegally park in a disability parking bay, and it does so. However, local governments issue most parking fines across Queensland and this bill reflects the important role that they play in enforcing the misuse of disability parking bays.

To further deter this socially unacceptable behaviour and ensure disability parking bays are left available for permit holders, the bill increases the infringement notice penalty for illegally parking in a disability parking bay from a \$266 fine to a \$533 fine, a doubling of the fine. Setting a higher penalty recognises the seriousness of illegal parking in a disability parking bay. As I mentioned when the bill was introduced, several local governments currently take the state based law as their own, so I will be working with local governments right across Queensland to encourage them to adopt this much higher penalty.

People who illegally park in a disability bay may rationalise it to themselves that they are only doing it for a few minutes. However, a consequence of their action effectively means that a person who truly needs access to the wider parking bay to access necessary services—sometimes medical services—may be forced to abandon their trip and their outing altogether. A wheelchair bound person needs the extra space to get out of a car and into their wheelchair. A vision-impaired person who has a guide dog needs extra space to get their guide dog out of the car and into the harness. These tasks cannot be done in a standard car-parking space. It is expected that the prospect of a \$533 fine will discourage people from illegally parking in disability parking bays. Of course the penalty itself is only one element of deterrence, and for this reason a range of targeted measures will be employed to encourage compliance.

For the benefit of the House, I advise that I will be calling a disability parking summit to bring together key stakeholders, such as key Queensland government agencies, local governments, vision impairment organisations, shopping centre operators, car park operators and others with a focus on education, awareness and enforcement, to share ideas about further improving access to disability parking bays for scheme members. This is to ensure that we use all available means to support the compliance measures proposed in the bill itself.

This bill will improve the lives of legally blind Queenslanders and will assist in ensuring that members of the public recognise the importance of leaving disability parking bays vacant for those members of the community who hold a disability parking permit and need them. The bill also provides grounds to amend, suspend or cancel a disability parking permit where a person no longer meets the eligibility criteria, for example where the person has had corrective surgery. This will ensure the permit scheme is robust in the longer term.

As mentioned earlier, the committee made three recommendations for my consideration. The first is that I work with other Australian jurisdictions to undertake a review of the definitions contained in the Australian Disability Parking Scheme to include vision-impaired persons who are legally blind in the eligibility criteria. As a national scheme, every state and territory is responsible for administration under its own arrangements. The schemes currently administered in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory already contain an express eligibility criterion to include persons who are legally blind, which is consistent with the amendments proposed in the bill. While not expressly stating blindness in their respective eligibility criteria, Tasmania, Victoria and South Australia also allow blindness if a medical practitioner certifies that blindness impacts the applicant in a way that meets other criteria, for instance, on mobility. Western Australia and the Northern Territory are the only jurisdictions that do not currently include blindness in their eligibility criteria.

Further, under the national scheme, each jurisdiction recognises valid interstate parking permits. This allows permit holders in each jurisdiction to use their permit when travelling interstate. As such, I will seek to have the matter of disability parking added to the agenda for the next Transport and Infrastructure Council. I will be seeking consistency in standards for disability parking permits and increased national focus on the importance of education and enforcement as part of maintaining scheme integrity nationwide.


Secondly, the committee recommended a review be undertaken of the amendments to the Disability Parking Permit Scheme 12 months after commencement and that the review examine whether the amendments have had an impact on the accessibility of disability parking spaces and whether alternative measures, including demerit points, need to be implemented. As outlined in the response I have tabled, the government supports this approach. A post-implementation review of the expanded scheme and increased infringement notice penalty was already planned as part of the bill and will be conducted 12 months after the commencement of the changes. The post-implementation review will include a review of whether the amendments have had an impact on the accessibility of disability parking spaces and will identify if further measures are needed, including the introduction of demerit points for the offence of illegally parking in a disability parking bay without a permit.

Lastly, the committee report recommended that legislative amendments be considered to authorise council officers to access areas where disability parking spaces are situated for enforcement purposes. This recommendation is not currently supported in this bill. Under existing transport legislation, owners of private property, such as car parks at shopping centres, may enter into an agreement with local governments to allow parking inspectors to access their private land and issue parking infringement notices. As transport legislation does not prescribe the form of any agreement or minimum matters it must contain, councils and property owners are free to have such arrangements that suit their own purposes. For example, Logan City Council and Gold Coast City Council have a number of these arrangements currently in place and I commend them for that.

Acknowledging the pivotal role local governments have in enforcing the misuse of disability parking bays, I will work with councils across Queensland to encourage them to adopt the higher penalty for the illegal misuse of disability parking spaces and to enter into arrangements with car park operators to ensure disability parking spaces remain available for those who need them wherever they may be. I would also have concerns about the potential impacts of such a change on private property owners. Further, this will be a matter for discussion with key stakeholders at the disability parking summit, where ideas can be shared about further improving access to disability parking bays for scheme members. Consideration of any changes to transport legislation will also be considered in the post-implementation review.

This bill also provides an explicit regulation-making power in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to recognise that regulations may also prescribe grounds for amending, suspending or cancelling approvals, such as vehicle registration. This amendment is a minor administrative change suggested by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel during drafting of a previous amendment.

Finally, the bill makes technical amendments to Queensland's rail safety legislation to remove definitions of 'level crossing' and 'rail or road crossing'. The removal of these definitions will allow the definitions contained in the rail safety national law to apply in Queensland, providing a consistent national approach. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. At the outset I congratulate the committee for the work that has been done on this bill. I would like to call out the member for Bundaberg, and I will comment further about his contribution later on in my speech. The LNP's attitude is that you do not disagree for the sake of it. This legislation before the House makes eminent sense. Recognising vision-impaired members of the community face specific mobility challenges, the LNP will support this bill. We note the main purpose is to expand the eligibility criteria for a disability parking permit to include vision-impaired persons who are legally blind. As a former shopping centre manager, I can say that some of the commentary that the minister has outlined in his contribution is on the mark. This is a very vexatious issue that has caused a lot of angst for people over many years throughout this state and this legislation is welcomed and is, I believe, long overdue.

In considering the Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, the Transport and Public Works Committee made four recommendations, the first of which was that the bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads work with other jurisdictions to review the definitions contained in the Australian Disability Parking Scheme and to include vision-impaired persons who are legally blind in the eligibility criteria; furthermore, review the amendments to the Disability Parking Permit Scheme 12 months after the commencement of this particular bill; and also a legislative amendment be considered to authorise local government officers to access areas where disability parking spaces are situated for enforcement purposes.

To be specific, the objectives of the bill are very straightforward and, amongst many, they include to extend the disability parking eligibility criteria to include vision-impaired persons who are temporarily or permanently blind; to increase the penalty that applies for using a disability parking area without a permit; to omit the Queensland-specific definitions of 'level crossing' and 'rail or road crossing' so as to rely on the national law definitions; and to provide that the grounds to amend, suspend or cancel an approval by the chief executive can be specified in a regulation under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act, the TO(RUM) Act as it is often referred to.

The specific details of the bill as it pertains to the Disability Parking Permit Scheme include that under Queensland's scheme at the moment those who are issued with a permit can access convenient parking spaces which are provided at facilities such as shopping centres, hospitals and entertainment venues and precincts. At present eligibility for the scheme is based on the applicant's ability to walk, hence the need for this particular legislation. Although vision-impaired individuals face heightened mobility challenges they are currently excluded from this scheme. Representative organisations, some of whom the minister outlined in his contribution, and the broader community have requested that eligibility for the scheme be expanded to include vision-impaired persons who are, in fact, legally blind.

Accordingly, the bill expands the eligibility criteria so that individuals who are blind will be eligible to apply for a permit and increases the penalty of stopping in a disabled parking bay without a permit. As I outlined, in my previous career as a shopping centre manager and also as a developer I have seen the amount of angst that this causes to people who are uninitiated with this area of life. At times the number of complaints and the amount of angst it causes is off the charts.

Therefore, as the opposition spokesperson I again stress that this legislation is long overdue and it will be supported by the LNP. The availability of disability parking bays is impacted by individuals who do not hold permits unlawfully occupying designated parking spaces, much to the frustration of the people who need them. The amendments in the bill increase the police issued fine amounts from two penalty units, or \$266, to four penalty units, or \$533. I note that this represents one of the highest fine categories for the offence in Australia.

The bill addresses issues with the rail safety national law and a reliance on national definitions. The committee noted that the Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017 adopted the rail safety national law as a law of Queensland to reflect the different requirements applying to signed and

unsigned crossings for heavy rail and trams. Specific Queensland definitions of 'level crossing' and 'rail or road crossing' were inserted when the law was adopted in Queensland 2017. When new national law definitions were made in 2019, a transitional regulation was required until amendments could be made to Queensland's application law to recognise those new definitions. The bill removes the Queensland-specific definitions so as to rely on the national law definitions.

The bill covers the grounds to amend, suspend or cancel an approval. For legislative clarity, the bill amends section 18 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act to insert an express regulation-making power to support the grounds on which approvals of registrations and exemptions may be amended, suspended or cancelled by the chief executive officer.

It is pretty obvious that without the benefit of sight a person's ability to judge or evaluate risk within a busy environment such as a car park is removed. This impacts and impairs their ability to move freely and increases the possibility of harm occurring. Very importantly, by expanding the eligibility criteria under the Disability Parking Scheme, the bill will improve the lives of permanently and temporarily blind Queenslanders by allowing them to access disability parking spaces, which for them are the equivalent of gold. The move to expand the eligibility criteria not only will improve the safety and independence of vision-impaired Queensland but also—and this is a very important point—will help to standardise access for permit holders between states, which is a long overdue mechanism.

It is noted that the expansion of the scheme is not expected to have a substantial impact on the availability of disability parking spaces, with an anticipated increase of approximately 7½ per cent in permit eligibility. If vision-impaired people are unable to access dedicated disability parking spaces because they have been used illegally, which very sadly happens more often than not, they and their sighted guide are obligated to negotiate a range of hazards to move around car parks into, for example, medical facilities or supermarkets.

Hopefully the increase in police issued fines associated with using a disability parking space without a permit will encourage other members of the public to leave disability parking bays vacant for those who are legally entitled to use them. To give an indication of the level of illegal usage, in the five years to April 2019 police officers issued 7½ thousand fines. I have already mentioned this twice so for the third time I can tell that House that, having worked in a shopping centre environment, it comes as no surprise to me that in the five years to April 2019 7½ thousand fines have been issued. It should be noted that that would be a relatively small percentage of detected offences given the much larger number of fines issued by local councils for illegal parking in disability spaces.

Local governments have a very important role to play. They will be encouraged to either increase their own penalties and/or increase their education and promotion activities to lift awareness around this important communal issue. Importantly, rather than relying on heavier fines to deter the illegal use of disability parking spaces, education campaigns should support an awareness of disability parking issues. Therefore, they are a key element to be included in the mix. Transport and Main Roads will aim to strengthen its education and communication efforts to help ensure that disability parking bays are used only by valid permit holders and not by unthinking people who are simply keen to secure a convenient parking spot.

The LNP recognises the support provided by organisations representing vision-impaired persons and they need to be listed in this contribution. As the minister did in his contribution, I acknowledge the work of the Queensland Blind Association, Vision Australia, Guide Dogs Queensland, Physical Disability Australia and the RACQ. Their support has led to these amendments to expand the Disability Parking Permit Scheme.

The proposed amendments to the national definitions of 'level crossing' and 'rail or road crossing' are technical in nature and will maintain consistency in the application of the rail safety national law. This is of particular relevance for operators that work across different jurisdictions. It might appear to be a bit dry, but it is an essential element of the bill.

In my remaining time, I will turn to the history around the bill. The issue was initially raised with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads by the LNP members and, in particular, the LNP member for Bundaberg, Mr David Batt. The great start-up work that the member for Bundaberg contributed to getting us to where we are today needs to be acknowledged. I salute the great work that he did. It is understood that the minister's office initially resisted the request to expand the scheme. At that time, the response was that there would be no changes to the eligibility criteria on the basis that there would be insufficient parking spaces to accommodate the extra vision-impaired permit holders. Following the tabling of a petition and further follow-up by the member, in March of last year the minister advised that the department would conduct a review into the criteria for the scheme. The LNP member for



Bundaberg, Mr David Batt, originally raised the issue with the minister. When it looked like the eligibility criteria would not be expanded, to his credit the member launched a petition, which was tabled in February, with 3,200 signatures.


Therefore, the LNP recognised the many challenges faced by people with a disability. Typically, it has listened to, planned for and acted on behalf of people with a disability, including in regard to this request to support the vision-impaired. We seek to always work in a spirit of partnership with individuals and representative organisations to ensure better opportunities are available for all Queenslanders. I would simply say that if you have a family member, a friend or a neighbour who is vision-impaired and you spend time with them, particularly going to a shopping centre, a supermarket or anything like that, you will know that their degree of frustration is absolutely echoed every single time.

This legislation comes better late than never, as they say. I firmly believe that the legislation is long overdue. I also agree with the recommendation that there be a summit to make sure that this is just the start of good dialogue and good consultation to make sure that the lives of Queenslanders are enriched, no matter their faculties.

Debate, on motion Mr Minnikin, adjourned.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Coronavirus; Domestic and Family Violence; Lockhart River, Plane Crash

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.58 pm): Queensland is facing an emergency unlike anything our generation has faced before. Queenslanders are used to facing natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and bushfires, but the threat we face today is very different and the danger is far greater. The coronavirus pandemic is the biggest public health crisis to affect Queensland in more than a century. We have already seen the damage it has inflicted in Asia and Europe, and we are still in the very early stages of the outbreak. In today's world, there is no chance that we can seal ourselves off from other countries and escape contact with the virus.

There is no way for Queenslanders to avoid the coronavirus pandemic. However, we can take steps to control how quickly and how far this disease spreads. Sadly, it is inevitable that lives will be lost in Queensland, but if we respond correctly many more lives can be saved. That is why it is essential that Queenslanders follow the official advice issued by both federal and state governments and their agencies. That advice is produced by the best health and scientific advice and experts in Australia. I ask Queenslanders not to listen to rumours on social media. Get your advice from official sources and stick to it.

All of us, each and every one of us, must take responsibility for ourselves and for each other. We must also take responsibility for our communities. There will be people in at-risk groups, particularly the elderly, who will be frightened and wondering how they will cope. I ask Queenslanders to check on your neighbours and let them know you are there to help.

We all must be calm, considerate and compassionate at this time, but that does not mean we should stop asking questions. The opposition supports the measures that the state government has implemented so far. If questions need to be asked, we will ask them.

The LNP has expressed concerns about Queensland Health for many years. There has been a steady deterioration in the performance in the Queensland health system. We have seen emergency departments at bursting point, a surge in ambulance ramping, and waiting lists for surgery growing longer and longer. I know that our frontline staff—everyone from our cleaners and the cooks to the doctors, the nurses and the paramedics—will do all they can in the coming months, but there is no doubt that Queensland Health is not as prepared as it should be.

Queensland's economy is also weaker than it ought to be. We do not know how damaging this pandemic will be for our businesses. If anyone thinks the economy will be back to normal in a few weeks time they are wrong. It may be many months before our economy starts functioning normally. In the meantime, many sectors of the economy will be damaged. Our unemployment rate was already the worst in the nation before the coronavirus pandemic. Now tens of thousands of jobs are in jeopardy. Urgent action is needed to help our economy through this crisis.

At the start of February the state LNP led the call for support for our tourism sector, including interest-free loans. It is clear now that much more help is needed. In the last few days the LNP has outlined a range of measures to support the economy and to save local jobs. Firstly, the payroll tax

threshold should be lifted from \$1.3 million to \$6.5 million for six months. This would give an urgently needed tax break to 15,000 small and medium sized businesses. The Palaszczuk government's decision to defer payroll tax is simply postponing the pain for our small and medium local businesses.

Secondly, the state government should cut its payment time to 20 days. Reducing the time it takes to pay businesses will improve cash flow and will save those local jobs. Thirdly, \$500 million should be released right now for road maintenance projects. Queensland already has a staggering \$5.4 billion in backlog of road maintenance. Now is the time to get working on that backlog. Spending on roads will create new jobs that are desperately needed in regional Queensland. These measures need to be implemented immediately. Every day and every dollar matters right now. Our economy cannot wait for the state budget. We must act now to save Queensland jobs.

The coronavirus crisis is unprecedented and eventually it will pass. I want to briefly discuss another crisis we have faced for far longer than coronavirus and that is our domestic violence crisis. I did not know Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children, Aaliyah, Lailah and Trey, but just looking at the photos of them together is enough to break your heart. Their murder on the streets of Brisbane was beyond evil. Our first instinct in the face of such a shocking crime is to flinch, to look away, because it is too hard to think about what happened to Hannah and her children, but we cannot look away. The scourge of domestic violence cannot continue. In the last five years more than 70 women have been murdered in acts of domestic or family violence in Queensland.


We have debated this issue for years and both the LNP and Labor have fully supported the *Not now, not ever* report, but *Not now, not ever* has not been enough. We need to take determined and effective action against the scourge of domestic violence. I have announced and developed a package of measures to address this problem. Firstly, the LNP is calling for a new coercive control offence, a specific domestic violence summary offence, and laws to empower police to issue domestic violence orders on the spot. Secondly, half a million dollars to fund the rollout of 200 personal safety devices to those at risk of domestic violence. Thirdly, the LNP is calling for an extra \$1 million for the Women's Legal Service, an extra \$1 million for other frontline not-for-profit agencies, and emergency assistance grants of up to \$2,000 to help victims flee from dangerous homes. Fourthly, we are seeking to introduce the toughest strangulation laws in the nation.

The LNP's plan is comprehensive and it has widespread support, but the LNP needs the support of this House for our plan to become a reality. I urge members on both sides of this House to back our plan because no Queenslanders should have to live in fear. It is during times of crisis that domestic and family violence can escalate. I call on this House to please not turn your back at this stage in relation to a plan to stop the scourge of domestic violence in Queensland.

Finally, on behalf of the LNP, I would also like to pay tribute to the five victims of the Lockhart River plane crash. We do not know what exactly caused this tragedy, but we know that the men who were lost on that flight will be greatly missed by their families, friends and workmates. On behalf of the LNP, I praise and thank our emergency services workers for their work in the aftermath of this crash. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected by this tragedy.

The LNP stands with all of our communities whilst they are facing the unknown of the coronavirus pandemic. We again call for calm and compassion. Please ensure that we are looking out for each and every one of our neighbours, our friends and our family at this extremely stressful time.

## Youth Justice

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (1.08 pm): Queenslanders have the right to be safe in their homes and in their communities. It is why community safety is at the heart of everything we do in youth justice. It is why last year we announced an over half a billion dollar package of youth justice reforms, including the building of new detention centre beds and a raft of initiatives aimed at stopping the pipeline of young people entering or re-entering the youth justice system.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to take youth crime out of the too-hard basket to achieve real solutions and we are starting to see the results. Some 16 new detention centre beds will come online in May at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, and an additional 32 beds at our new site in Wacol will come online from October. This will bring to 76 the number of new detention centre beds we will have built by the end of this term. During the LNP's term of government, zero beds were built.

Through our Transition 2 Success program we are seeing a 66 per cent turnaround in reoffending. Some 77 per cent of young people who have been through our restorative justice conferencing either do not reoffend or reduce the magnitude of their offending. During the LNP days, their only initiative aimed at reducing reoffending was boot camps. They increased by 66 per cent the

likelihood that young people would reoffend. Despite an overall 12 per cent drop in youth crime over the last few years, we know that there remain a hard core of young people who are our highest risk offenders. They are the 10 per cent who commit 44 per cent of the offences. They are the ones who are causing our community grief and they are the ones we are after.

We have listened to what the community is saying and we have acted. Last week the Premier announced a five-point plan worth over \$15 million targeted directly at those young offenders.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock! Members to my left, the minister is not taking interjections.

**Ms FARMER:** The Premier has made it crystal clear that where there is crime there must be punishment. The package of initiatives includes: tougher action on bail; a police blitz on bail—appealing court decisions where appropriate; 24/7 police strike teams, in a co-response model with youth workers and workers from non-government organisations, targeting high-risk offenders for Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane north, Rockhampton and the Gold Coast; trialling culture based rehabilitation through new on-country initiatives in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa; and 10 community based crime action committees sharing \$2 million to develop local, community based solutions. I was very pleased to be in Toowoomba, Ipswich and Mount Isa last week to talk about those particular initiatives. They were very much welcomed.


We have detailed our response and said clearly that the government and the community expects that those who are a risk to community safety should be denied bail. In addition to the recent measures we have announced, we have made a decision to amend the legislation as it relates to youth bail. There is a perception in the community that the legislation as it stands is not clear. We want to ensure that it is crystal clear. If a young person is an unacceptable risk to the safety of the community or the safety or welfare of a person they must be kept in custody. We will simplify and strengthen the law so there is no doubt in the minds of the community that their safety comes first.

These changes are aimed squarely at repeat and prolific young offenders. I repeat: 10 per cent of our young offenders are committing 44 per cent of the offences. We are aiming our initiatives quite specifically at those young people. They need to know and the community needs to know that community safety comes first. Community safety is the first principle of the Youth Justice Act, and our amendments will make it clear to all concerned that this is the case.

I pay tribute to all of the staff who are working in the youth justice space. We know that for all of the public servants and all of the staff from our NGOs who are delivering services in these areas and right across my portfolio these are already challenging circumstances. They are being made even more so by the coronavirus which is overwhelming many in the community. I pay tribute to the work they are doing and are going to do. I confirm our great faith in their work.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Economy; Youth Justice

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (1.13 pm): I rise in the House to speak about the impact of the coronavirus on the economy. There is no doubt that over the coming weeks, coming months and maybe even coming years our economy is going to be shaken to its core because of this virus. Already we have heard about the impact on the tourism industry and international education. For small businesses and the hospitality industry there are going to be hundreds if not thousands of people whose jobs will be threatened.

This morning we heard the Treasurer predict that the impact of the coronavirus might be around \$10 billion over the next two years. This will have a devastating effect on Queensland's economy. There is no state that is more vulnerable to this crisis when it comes to its economy than Queensland. We have been struggling for some time. At the moment, we have the highest unemployment rate in the country. We are the only state with a six at the beginning of its unemployment rate. We have the highest number of long-term unemployed—those who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. Over the last 12 months we have had the highest number of bankruptcies in the nation. Business confidence is at the lowest rate ever recorded. This state government is not seen by the business community as competent to cope with the future.

Is it any wonder that we on this side of the House are extremely nervous about the ability of the Treasurer, Jackie Trad, to navigate this crisis. We have already seen policies that are a cruel hoax. They talk about deferring payroll tax payments. What relief is that when in six months time people have to pay double? It is not about what they are doing at the moment. It is a political solution, not an economic solution.

I have some advice for this government. We heard them come in here today and talk about how they are going to cooperate with the federal government. They need to do more than cooperate with the federal government; they need to follow their lead. They need to follow their instructions. I have total confidence in the economic management of Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg compared to that of Treasurer Jackie Trad. The record of Treasurer Jackie Trad speaks for itself. We are at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to economics in this nation. The Leader of the Opposition has already outlined a series of stimulus packages that should be implemented immediately.

The minister, who spoke before me, spoke about crime. That has motivated me to speak about the greatest backflip since the air-conditioning announcement two weeks ago, which was the greatest backflip since the Adani decision 18 months ago. I speak about crime. This government has zero credibility when it comes to dealing with youth crime. Their latest five-point plan now makes it a 14-point plan over the last two years. Their first five-point plan was a total failure. A year ago they had a four-point plan which was a total failure. The latest five-point plan will also be a total failure. The member for Thuringowa's time in this House is limited. The member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River will all be gone as a consequence of this one issue—that is, dealing with crime.

The people of Far North Queensland and North Queensland are treating these people with contempt because they know they are all talk and no action. The member for Thuringowa said there was no crime problem. Stop speaking it up!

**Mr HARPER:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at that remark and ask that he withdraw. I never said that. I have never said that. That is on the record.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. These members come out time and time again and stand like dummies behind a minister or the Premier nodding their heads in agreement with what is about to happen. The performance of the police minister is an absolute embarrassment. He has come out and condemned the judiciary for misinterpreting their own legislation, which clearly says that we should not send these kids to jail. They are an embarrassment and they will pay at the polling booth.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Country Bank Stadium



**Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (1.18 pm): I quote the Premier's words in Friday's *Townsville Bulletin*—

No one who saw that 2015 grand final will ever forget it.

I just remember the smiles. Two Queensland teams at their absolute best—millions glued to their TVs ... an absolute thriller of a game.

All that came flooding back at the Open Day a few weeks ago. I saw mums and dads and children trying on the seats imagining what Game Day would be like.

I overheard workers proudly showing it to their families.

"I built that," they said. Their kids beamed with pride. We build good football stadiums in Queensland. Best in the world.

I met Ray on Level 5 Sky Deck of the stadium two weeks out from opening. Ray was about six foot six in the old measure and was about two pickaxe handles across in his shoulders. He told me how proud he was to be part of building that magnificent stadium. He also showed me his seat for every Cowboy game—those that will go ahead—because his kids had given him a season ticket in the new stadium as a Christmas present.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 28-21 was the final score in the Cowboys v Broncos game on Friday at the new Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville. While the game did not go to script—where the Cowboys were to beat the Broncos in extra time—we did celebrate the new stadium with Johnathan Thurston kicking the first goal just before the teams ran onto the field. While the Cowboys did not win the game on Friday night—and I have a few wagers I need to square up on that matter—it was played in front of 25,000 people. It was a full house. Every accommodation room was booked out, with visitors flooding into the city to watch the game.

At the Cowboys' club, hundreds of families and loyal families were gathered ready for the stampede as supporters dressed in Cowboys gear all walked together across Victoria Bridge and to the stadium some 600 metres away. As the stampede entered the stadium, they were met by the bronze

life-size statue of Johnathan Thurston. The statue of JT was sculptured by local artist Jane Hawkins and immortalises Thurston kicking the winning field goal that sealed the 2015 NRL premiership for the North Queensland Cowboys against the Broncos. It was JT who asked the Prime Minister at that time to help build a new stadium because Townsville deserved one.

‘Johnathan Thurston is a great Queenslander and a great Australian who has done so much to support the local communities in Townsville and North Queensland—in fact, right across our state and Australia,’ the Premier said at the unveiling. She went on to say, ‘He is best known for his amazing feats on the field. However, JT does an incredible amount of work off the field too.’


I walked down Flinders Street on Friday night with my family and friends just a few hours before kick-off time. Every bar, restaurant, pub and cafe was filled with people. City Lane, which has several bars, reminded me of Caxton Street at Origin time. People were meeting friends, having a few drinks, talking about footy. That is exactly why we built the stadium in the CBD. The vision was to activate the city around those events and to bring people back to the CBD as a hub of entertainment.

The *Townsville Bulletin* ran story after story after story on Saturday and then again on Monday of business owners talking of the success of the night and how well they were supported with people both before and after the game. Matt Merrin, owner of Jam Corner, said, ‘We now have a \$250 million magnet bringing stimulus back into the city. We have not seen a hive of activity in the city for such a long time. Confidence is returning to the CBD, with new construction and redevelopment of buildings in the city in addition to an increased number of people wanting to live close to or actually in the CBD.’

On the evening of the Elton John concert, preconcert the restaurants and bars were alive. With 20,000 people walking into the stadium, you could feel the energy. Everyone had huge smiles on their faces. Post-concert the city streets were full again. The Queensland Country Bank Stadium was built by locals for locals to a world-class standard, achieving the vision for the stadium.

With the remaining seconds I thank all of those from Watpac who did an outstanding job delivering that stadium project—2,200 people were employed to do that particular job and, of that, 83 per cent were locals. That stadium was built by locals for locals and, as we have said, to a world-class standard. We saw a world-class game played on Friday night. It was not quite the outcome we were looking for in the north, but still it was a world-class game for world-class people.

### Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (1.23 pm): It is time for Queenslanders to come together to deal with the issue of domestic violence because everyone deserves to live safe and free from violence. The latest data released by the Queensland Police Service show a shocking increase in domestic violence orders, DVOs, in Queensland. In the last 12 months from March to February 2020 alone there have been 31,759 breaches in Queensland—an increase of 14 per cent or more than 3,800 breaches compared to the same time last year.

Perpetrators are not afraid to breach their domestic violence orders because they have nothing to fear. If the current protection measures are not working to reduce the scourge of DV then the government should explore tougher laws to deal with perpetrators. We must learn that just throwing money at a problem does not help. You need to have clear goals and policy platforms as well. The shocking increase in breaches shows that Labor is failing to protect those victims and families from further harm.

We have said that a future LNP government will introduce the toughest strangulation laws in the country; immediately review the current criminal justice framework to implement new laws such as coercive control; roll out personal safety devices to people at high risk; and provide grants up to \$2,000 for emergency accommodation assistance, because we just are not providing services to these vulnerable people. We will implement new laws aimed at helping our police do their jobs and improve community safety.

Our police and courts are overwhelmed under the current system, which is not working to protect families and hold perpetrators to account. Under our plan, introduced by the Leader of the Opposition, frontline police will be given tougher laws and new powers to issue DV orders on the spot. From talking to our colleagues in this place who were former police officers, anything from three to six hours is wasted with the laws that are currently in place. This takes our hardworking police off the beat to deal with DV orders.

Whilst *Not now, not ever* was important reform, it is a government responsibility to be proactive in responding to the changing nature of DV. We should be reviewing *Not now, not ever*, not relying on it as the only reform that has been introduced in this place in a long time. An LNP government would

be relentless in ensuring domestic violence policies are up to date and working as they should be. Underlying causes of DV violence are complex, but that does not mean stopping it is without hope. Domestic violence must be prevented because the harm it causes reaches every corner of our society, particularly here in Queensland. We want Queensland to be the safest place to live, work and raise a family.


Domestic violence is above politics. The LNP is happy to work with the government to implement an immediate response to community concerns. I was hoping that the responsible minister, who stood up in this place a little while ago, might have made some comments about DV, and particularly about the tragedies that confronted us a couple of weeks ago. Unfortunately, we had a ramble about youth justice and some other reforms where they are now accepting some LNP policies. We must get these reforms on the table. The LNP—I will say it again—is willing to work with the current government to get these reforms into legislation immediately.

Domestic violence and violence survivors should not be forgotten in this current crisis and with the social distancing issue. That is why I am again taking the opportunity to make sure that everyone is aware that the LNP has an important suite of new measures to strengthen our domestic violence strategy in this state. We are determined to keep Queenslanders safe and secure by preventing violence, supporting survivors and holding offenders to account. I believe the government can do more to both prevent domestic violence and help survivors. Again, this issue should be above politics. Queensland's laws are clearly failing to protect victims and every aspect must be looked at to fix the system.

We have talked about community safety. It must come first. We must have a review of the criminal justice system, and there are also the other important reforms that we have mentioned. The LNP, as we have said, will be relentless in ensuring that these policies are up to date and are working. When we consider that in the last five years 70 women have died at the hands of a perpetrator, I think all of us in this place are looking for strong leadership and for this parliament to get on with the job. Let us review *Not now, not ever*. Let us get on with the job of introducing the new reforms that the LNP—the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Attorney-General, the shadow minister for police and others—have put together. This is something we can do together in this place.

We should be making sure that the whole domestic violence framework is reviewed. We know now, after five years, it is time to introduce new reforms to make sure that we are providing key policy platforms for those in our community who do so much to keep vulnerable men and women free from the violence of perpetrators. We know that early intervention is an important part of any strategy, but clearly with the policy vacuum we have from the current government now is not the time to do nothing.

### Stafford Electorate, Aged-Care Facilities

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (1.29 pm): The aged-care facilities in the electorate of Stafford are very important to me. They include Wheller on the Park, Delamore Retirement Community, Kedron Aged Care and Stafford Lakes Aged Care. The impacts of coronavirus are important, but I can assure residents that your facilities are maintaining infection protocols, your facilities are ready to activate their virus emergency response plans, your facilities should be making arrangements for seasonal flu vaccinations for not only yourself but also staff and volunteers, your facilities should be communicating with you frequently regarding updates on the impacts of the virus, and advice has been given to reduce visitor numbers to your facilities. As the Premier said, further measures will be considered tonight at the national cabinet meeting.

I specifically want to address an issue with Wheller on the Park. Wheller on the Park is very close to the Prince Charles Hospital. There has been a massive amount of development around that area. We were told by the councillor at the time that it was the state government's fault that all of this massive infrastructure was being built. She has been caught out because as soon as Adrian Schinnerer became Lord Mayor he admitted it was the council's fault. He corrected the situation by having the requisite number of parking spaces included in the construction of these facilities. We have streets full of parked cars because these buildings were constructed without an adequate number of car-parking spaces.

The councillor for Marchant said that it was the state government's fault, but she was caught out. She will be caught out again regarding the traffic light issue around the Prince Charles Hospital. For years we have been calling for traffic lights on Hamilton Road at Prince Charles Hospital. We just get excuse after excuse as to why they are not built. Again she says it is a state government issue, but

again she is caught out. Why were traffic lights installed by Brisbane City Council at a car park to a southside hospital at Brisbane City Council expense? It is a council road, just as Hamilton Road is a council road. She was caught out on infrastructure, and she will be caught out again with these traffic lights. When is she going to stand up to her fellow councillors and demand these traffic lights be installed?

Why was the councillor from the south side of Brisbane so successful yet she has not stood up? The councillor has failed to even turn up to the meetings she has called. The Prince Charles Hospital has cooperated fully. She said that the Prince Charles Hospital has not supplied a plan, but that is false. The council executive and council officers have seen the plans. The question must be asked whether the councillor has even been in contact with the hospital to ask about these plans.

The other issue is in relation to Kedron Park and Councillor Adam Allan. Lots of questions need to be asked of this councillor. Kedron green space is very important to the residents of Kedron, especially to those around Fifth Avenue. A public meeting was called regarding the preservation of this space. At the time Councillor Adam Allan stood up and said he would protect this space, but I am in receipt of a letter from the council which states—

The subject properties have been carefully considered in relation to Council's planning for a city-wide open space network that meets the needs of Brisbane's community, and achieves the broader Outcomes expressed in *Brisbane. Clean, Green, Sustainable 2017-31*. In this instance, Council will not make an expression of interest in these lands.

Even at zero cost council does not want to take over this land for parkland, despite Adam Allan stating that he would be happy for the council to do so. Why was the Leader of the Opposition so callous to a 95-year-old resident in stating falsely that she would be evicted because of the action of TMR? Why was this false statement made?

### Local Government Elections



**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (1.34 pm): I rise today to acknowledge those mayors and councillors who are ending their four-year term on 28 March this year. Without any fanfare, in the midst of floods, droughts, bushfires and whatever else Mother Nature or COVID-19 serves up, these hardworking people do their best to rise to the challenges in their local communities. On behalf of the LNP I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to all of the mayors and councillors who have chosen to retire at this election for their dedication to their communities. I wish those seeking re-election all the very best. In this regard, I also congratulate the mayors and councillors who have been elected unopposed. I know there is a very excited mayor at the Goondiwindi Regional Council—former member of this House, Lawrence Springborg.

**An opposition member:** The Borg is back!

**Ms LEAHY:** I am pleased to say that the Borg is back. Perhaps after the next redistribution he might be in my electorate too. There have been many reforms to transparency and integrity in local government, and perhaps this might go some way to explain the reluctance of people choosing to nominate for local government positions. The ECQ data has shown a significant drop in the number of nominations this year compared with 2016. There are about 200 fewer candidates putting themselves forward. The LGAQ also noted that they have seen more of their existing elected members choosing not to stand this time compared to historical averages. It has been suggested that, while agreeing there is a need to meet community expectations in relation to transparency and accountability, the pendulum may have swung a little bit too far and acted to curtail democracy by being a disincentive to stand and participate in community service. On a positive note, around 37 per cent of candidates nominating this year are women, representing a consistent and steady increase from previous terms.


For this election there has been no change to the voting system for local government. It is an optional preferential voting system and first past the post, thanks to the efforts of Queensland local governments that were supported by the LNP in the fight against the vote-rigging changes proposed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Unfortunately, at this local government election there has been some confusion in relation to what constitutes a how-to-vote card for candidates. Candidates have reported frustration when they have presented to the returning officer to register their how-to-vote cards. I am pleased that the Electoral Commission has updated its fact sheet and provided templates indicating what a how-to-vote card is and what electoral material is. Hopefully, these templates will reduce the workload of the ECQ in relation to this matter.

The time for postal vote applications closed last night. This is much earlier than in previous elections. We know that the Electoral Commission's website failed yesterday as many people concerned about the coronavirus tried to apply for a postal vote. It was not working too well last week

either as I was unable to lodge my application. The application closure two weeks prior to polling day is problematic at the best of times, let alone when we have concerns about COVID-19. People are concerned that they might be isolated in their homes or hospitals and would require a postal vote.

I have been disappointed by some of the candidates' behaviour in this local government election. There has been cyberbullying by the Labor opposition leader of female LNP councillors in the Brisbane City Council. Furthermore, it is unacceptable to see reports of candidates interfering with other candidates' signage. I have seen reports about mayoral candidates in Logan and allegations concerning the mayoral election in Maranoa. I suggest that all those involved leave other candidates' signage alone. Do not interfere with signage. This behaviour is unacceptable and voters will judge you accordingly. I do appeal to all volunteers at polling booths to ensure decorum and to keep their distance from those who are going to vote. COVID-19 is very serious, and I appeal to all volunteers to accept the advice and keep 1.5 metres away. These are unprecedented times, and I look forward to working with returning and future mayors and councillors towards better Queensland communities and a better future for Queensland.

### Coronavirus, Response

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (1.38 pm): We have seen a very strong, sensible and early response to COVID-19 from the Queensland government. It is certainly a very high priority for all Queenslanders right now and for the foreseeable future. That being said, we still have to respond to other challenges in our state, and we are doing that. I look forward to speaking about other actions we are undertaking in the near future, but for now all members should rightly be focused on our response to COVID-19 and how we can reassure and inform our local communities of the steps we are taking to reduce the spread of community transmission.

As chair of the health committee, I know that we must do that through listening to expert medical advice and through putting in place effective processes, but we cannot do this alone. We must take our communities with us in the challenges we face with COVID-19. In particular, I thank the Premier, the health minister and the Chief Health Officer for their strong leadership in dealing with what is a worldwide global pandemic.

In North Queensland we are used to facing the challenges of cyclones, the recent 2019 monsoonal floods, drought and bushfires, but this will be our toughest fight yet against an invisible enemy—a virus that has had a worldwide impact and seen over 170,000 infections and thousands of deaths reported across countries and regions. In Australia we are not escaping COVID-19; no-one is immune. The gravity of the situation we in Queensland face is enormous. The numbers of infected people increases daily and the economic damage is substantial. I applaud the health minister for ensuring increased capacity by the tripling of our emergency departments and doubling of our ICUs. It is about having had the foresight to purchase additional ventilators and spend over \$25 million to increase medical supplies to face the virus head-on.


By working together, we will try to save as many lives as possible. Through the Queensland government's early actions, such as declaring a health emergency back in January 2020, we have adopted swift and effective processes such as testing through fever clinics and working with the federal government to ensure that self-isolation for those international travellers is backed with strong laws to send a clear message to limit the spread of the virus by strictly adhering to self-isolation processes. It is by following accurate, expert medical advice that we see our communities adopt social distancing and improved hygiene practices. By doing this, we can limit the spread, push down that curve of infection and try our very best to reduce community transmission and save the lives of those most vulnerable—our elderly or those in rural, remote or Indigenous communities. No matter where we in Queensland live, stopping the spread through community transmission must be our priority and focus.

As the member for Thuringowa, only last night I saw images of bare supermarkets such as Coles at Kirwan. I ask my constituents to please think of those most vulnerable in our community and to purchase only what is needed. We have worked with retailers to make changes to expand retail hours to allow people to access the supplies they need. Mr Deputy Speaker, did you ever think we would need special, early hours for our elderly and pensioners to shop separately from normal shopping hours? I applaud Coles and Woolworths for adopting this practice as I do not want to see members of my community shoved out of the way in what is being described as selfish behaviour and panic buying. Queenslanders are better than and above that. Let us get back to looking after each other. Who might need assistance? Check on our neighbours and pick each other up in times of need. This is what has defined us previously as Queenslanders in natural disasters: that we do not leave behind a mate and we support each other to work together in times of great challenge. COVID-19 is no different.



In Townsville, our hospital is ready. We have a testing lab and a fever clinic. Since 2015 we have employed 124 more doctors, 151 more nurses and 61 additional health professionals—totalling 336 more staff to help tackle this virus. In 2019-20 we invested a record \$1 billion in our hospital and health services. I thank each member of our health staff for the dedication they display daily to help fight this virus and to care for their patients. You can be tested at the fever clinic if you meet the criteria: if you have travelled internationally in the previous 14 days, if you are symptomatic, if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive and if you display symptoms. Let us not overwhelm our emergency departments or abuse our health staff. There has been a significant increase in our emergency department in Townsville in terms of people wanting testing when they do not meet criteria.

### Coronavirus, Small Business

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (1.43 pm): The coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic is causing fear in the community: for our elderly and frail who worry about their health; for workers, particularly casuals, who worry about their jobs; and for businesses, particularly sole traders, who worry about survival. Certainly, this is a time of uncertainty. It is a challenging time, but together we will overcome this. We will work together to follow and distribute the best available advice but also to present the best ideas to meet and adapt to emerging problems in a very dynamic environment. As the LNP shadow minister for employment, small business, training and skills development, I wish to address the economic impact, particularly upon small businesses.

Before the pandemic hit our shores, Queensland's economy lagged behind the rest of Australia and was already in a weakened state with the lowest business confidence, the highest long-term unemployment and one of the highest bankruptcy rates. The CCIQ Pulse survey for December showed that the second consecutive quarter recorded its lowest business conditions on record for Queensland. Evidence also emerged in this survey that the introduction of the Christmas Eve part-day public holiday in Queensland materially affected retail activity over what is traditionally one of the busiest evenings of the year, with 35 per cent of businesses reporting that they decided to close their doors, 11 per cent of owners working themselves to minimise costs and seven per cent reducing staff hours. The impact of nine new and increased state taxes in Queensland was a multibillion dollar drag on jobs in Queensland. Then the pandemic hit. It hit an already hurting economy which was already struggling due to the factors I outlined. In these circumstances we all are being contacted, particularly by small businesses, outlining the quite distressing circumstances they face.

I welcome the federal government's \$17.6 billion economic stimulus package and note that it has announced further measures to come. The instant asset write-off threshold being lifted to include businesses from \$30,000 to \$150,000 across businesses with aggregated annual turnover of less than \$500 million to 30 June is just one measure. The \$3.2 billion to back business investment by providing a time limited 15-month investment incentive to support business investment in economic growth over the short term by accelerating depreciation deductions is also welcomed. Then there is the boost to cash flow for employers of up to \$25,000, with a minimum payment of \$2,000 for eligible small and medium sized businesses. This payment will provide cash flow to support businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million that employ staff between 1 January and 30 June this year. This payment will be tax free.

There is also an incentive package to hold on to apprentices and trainees, with real subsidies for their wages, as well as a stimulus package for the regions. For more detail, I urge people to keep across the links for updates. I also acknowledge measures that the state government has announced and welcome anything that will help business, but we put forward that there are other measures which go further and will have a much greater impact. We urge the government to address those. We believe that the payroll tax holiday the government has announced should in fact be a cut to payroll tax for the next six months, because otherwise it is just a doubling of the impact of payroll tax in six months.

We also believe that there is an opportunity to stimulate the local economy by fast-tracking road maintenance in particular. A half a billion dollar road maintenance package into the local economy does not have to wait for Canberra to tick off on it. The Queensland government has the power right now to get on with it. We also call for a bring-forward on the payment terms for small businesses that provide services to government. If this government took up a 20-day payment term and implemented it right now, it would help many cash flow situations for many businesses. Currently, the 30-day cash flow for which businesses must wait for payment from the state government is not even being met by some departments that still are struggling, particularly the department of environment. About 10 per cent of its small businesses are paid late. There are other measures we will be talking about, but this is about seeing as much assistance as possible to help as many people as possible keep their jobs.

### Ipswich City Council; Tully, Mr P



**Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (1.48 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, happy birthday!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you.

**Ms HOWARD:** Former Ipswich councillor Paul Tully is running for office again at Ipswich City Council. As the state MP for Ipswich and as someone who fights every day for our city, I have something to say about that. I heard rumours that Paul Tully would seek re-election and, like a lot of Ipswich residents, I recoiled in horror and disbelief at the thought. On 22 August 2018 the Minister for Local Government announced that Ipswich City Council would be dismissed. The vote in parliament was unanimous. The week before, the CCC tabled its report into Ipswich City Council after two years of investigations. The report on Operation Windage found that the ratepayers of that community 'were not well served by council members they had elected and employees whose salaries they paid'. It found evidence of 'a wide spectrum of governance and integrity failures, from inappropriate workplace interactions and consistent breaches of policy to evidence of serious criminal offences, including official corruption'.

Operation Windage identified 'significant governance failures and cultural issues that appear to have been occurring over many years and which would not have occurred in an environment in which the values of transparency, accountability and good governance were paramount'. We all know what followed. Some people were charged and convicted, but not everyone who contributed to that deeply systemic culture of poor governance, bullying, secrecy and more was charged.

The Office of the Independent Assessor ceased its investigations of councillors once the council was dismissed, as its powers ended once the councillors were sacked. In a statement last week, the OIA said that Mr Tully had misled Ipswich people by his comments at a recent candidate forum by stating he was not aware of any ongoing investigations of him. The OIA informed us that it had indeed made him very aware on several occasions that should he be elected as a councillor at any future time its investigations would recommence. Ipswich people have suffered enough. We need a fresh, new start. It is my strong view that none of the former councillors should be seeking re-election.

Mr Tully proudly states that he is the man with 39 years of experience as a councillor. He actually uses that line in his campaign material. Given what we now know, I would not be shouting that from the rooftops if I were him. It beggars belief that he has the temerity to do so. For example, Paul Tully was chair of council's planning committee. During that time the council delegations were changed at his command so that he would be privy to a draft of the council officers' report on every single development application before it was finalised. Armed with this, Tully could then deal directly with developers and council officers outside of the public scrutiny of full council meetings. No decision or recommendation could be finalised until Paul Tully had given it the nod. We know that dodgy deals were done as a result of this process, and Ipswich people are still paying the price.

Paul Tully operated his own private migration services consulting business from his council office in Goodna—more misuse of ratepayers' dollars. It comes as no surprise to me that Paul Tully has stated that divisional offices, scrapped by the interim administrator, should be reinstated. They suited him extremely well, thanks very much.


There are many damning facts about Paul Tully's performance as an Ipswich city councillor—things like his blatant misuse of discretionary funds, his establishment of the basically illegal Ipswich Motorsport Park Pty Ltd, and who could forget the Ipswich community charity fund known as the Ipswich mayor's community fund? It was originally established to help Ipswich people who had experienced natural disasters. Paul Tully is the chair of that fund, which has about \$200,000 in it, I am told. It cannot be touched by council's administration, but we really do need to know what has happened to that money.

His biggest act of arrogance stares us in the face every day in my electorate—a derelict CBD. I have been at events where Paul Tully and Paul Pisasale joked about how they came to buy the CBD. Tully has said on several occasions that the decision was made when Paul Pisasale called him at 5 am one day and said, 'I've had an idea. I think we should buy the mall,' to which Tully responded, 'Great idea. Let's do it.' Some \$121 million of ratepayers' money has been lost to that CBD through their arrogance. They saw the \$300-plus million as their own personal plaything.

Paul Tully's 39 years as a councillor is damning. He instigated shadowy and questionable development practices and decisions. He handed out council funds without probity. He demanded a quid pro quo from recipients. He routinely bullied council staff, ran a business from his council offices and squandered millions of dollars on the CBD. I would urge people in division 2 to vote for a fresh, new start on 28 March. We need it. We deserve it.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Coronavirus, Public Health Initiative

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (1.53 pm): With the rapidly evolving pandemic that is COVID-19, novel coronavirus, Queenslanders can be proud of the global leadership exhibited by our medical and health professionals. In particular, as a specialist physician and former president of the Australian Medical Association, I wish to acknowledge and update the Queensland parliament on a global public health initiative, the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease, ECMOCARD, which started right here in Brisbane and which has the capacity to guide the international intensive care unit community in how to best treat those with severe symptomatology.


Whilst most people with COVID-19 will experience only a mild illness, it is the ease of transmission which has the potential to overwhelm our healthcare system and that of other countries, particularly those people with chronic complex diseases. Importantly, Queensland and Australia still have time, but it is up to us, the community, to follow expert advice—to self-isolate, to stay at home if directed to do so, and to limit social contact. Of course, it goes without saying that if you are unwell you should seek urgent medical and health advice. There is so much that an individual can do to reduce the spread of this disease, and if we do our part individually and collectively then together we can limit the infection curve to reduce the burden on our intensive care capacity and overall health system, including our hospitals.

In times of global crisis, global collaboration is essential. This leads me to Brisbane's Critical Care Research Group, a group which counts the president of the Asia-Pacific artificial lung society as one of its members. In January of this year members of this group began communicating with colleagues across the entire Asia-Pacific region when they noticed the spike of cases across Wuhan. They worked tirelessly to create what was initially a study database and translated it into languages accessible across all of Asia. As the epidemic grew, they realised they were no longer dealing with a study but actually a public health emergency. They joined together with the University of Queensland's artificial intelligence limb and with Faethm, financial leaders of artificial intelligence in Sydney. They also joined with their colleagues and friends in intensive care units across Europe, India, North and South America and the Emirates. They came together for one common purpose: to gather as much data as possible, creating a machine-learning tool that could give real-time advice to predict best treatment and create decision support mechanisms for clinicians across the globe.

The ECMOCARD study that was born and originated in Queensland is now the largest database of all critically-ill patients requiring mechanical ventilation or life-sustaining artificial lung treatment with ECMO. The inventor of ECMO, Professor Bob Bartlett, has written to congratulate the program of research. As he says, one of the most important weapons in this time of crisis is data to predict and plan on a global scale. He went on to urge clinicians globally to work in the spirit of collaboration with organisations such as the ECMOCARD study.

I am sure all in this House join with me in acknowledging the dedicated health professionals who turn up to our various healthcare institutions and work not only during this time of crisis but also each and every day. I acknowledge Professor John Fraser for his foresight and leadership in initiating this global study. I encourage the state and federal governments to support the philanthropic financial support that has already been provided to ensure we get the best outcome in relation to this public health crisis.

### Cooler Cleaner Schools Program

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (1.57 pm): It was a very cool day a few weeks ago in the Morayfield state electorate when I was celebrating with our local school principals, P&Cs and community members the Queensland government's Cooler Cleaner Schools Program—a massive, almost \$500 million program that will ensure air conditioners will be provided in state schools not only across the Morayfield electorate but also right across South-East Queensland and will continue to be supported.

Morayfield East State School, which I attended on the morning of the announcement, had been fundraising for a number of months to put air conditioners into their classrooms. They were very excited about the announcement because they know the difference it will make. They are very happy with the government's announcement. They are very pleased that not only will the air conditioners be provided


but also an investment will be made to ensure they are maintained, repaired and replaced forever. They were also very happy to hear about the 'cleaner' side of the Cooler Cleaner Schools Program to install additional solar panels on the roofs of school buildings right across the state.

This will make a difference to the learning of our young people. It will also make a difference to the efforts of our P&Cs and school communities to support other improvements to their schools. Already the Morayfield East State School community are talking about fundraising for playground equipment because now they do not have to fundraise for air conditioners.

There were also some celebrations at other schools I attended. Burpengary Meadows State School P&C are over the moon that their hard work has been recognised. There is one of the school communities that had fundraised significantly over the past five to 10 years to install air conditioners themselves. Their hard work is recognised through this program, because, as I said, the maintenance, repair and replacement costs will now be covered by the Queensland government. Those P&Cs and school communities will never again have to put their hands in their pockets when it comes to air-conditioning their schools.

The BSM at Morayfield State High School—the BSM there is a lovely lady, Jody, who runs the school really; you know that the BSMs run the schools, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart—was talking to me about the ongoing maintenance and servicing costs that schools such as Morayfield State High School had faced over the years—about half of the school is air conditioned—and the servicing costs were many thousands of dollars each year. That is now covered by the government as well, so BSMs like Jody are very happy about the announcement. All communities are happy about the announcement. Well done, Queensland Labor government.

### Coronavirus, Response

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.00 pm): Now more than ever Queenslanders are looking to their leaders and government for reassurance, direction and leadership. It is clear COVID-19 is shaping up to have devastating effects on our economy. We must stay calm but ensure we manage the outbreak effectively. Containing and mitigating the disease itself must be our priority. However, we must also be aware of the significant economic impacts associated with the crisis.

Events are unfolding with outstanding speed. Clearly many of the people in my local community are right now feeling anxious, particularly about the health of themselves and their families but also about job security and the ability to pay the mortgage or rent, bills and put food on the table. I am very pleased to see the Morrison government has announced a \$17.6 billion economic plan to keep Australians in jobs and support businesses and households. I understand the Prime Minister is looking at more packages, and I table a copy of a letter I wrote to the Prime Minister today.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 March 2020, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison, regarding COVID-19 [\[435\]](#).


We need to ensure the Palaszczuk state Labor government steps up to the plate and commits its fair share to help households and businesses through this crisis. We know that the impacts of coronavirus to our Queensland economy are estimated to be in the billions. I urge the Premier and her government to do more. An offer of interest-free loans and a payroll tax deferral is not real help. They have to be paid back. Today the New South Wales government announced a \$2.4 billion economic package—real help by cutting fees for small businesses like cafes and also waiving payroll tax for the rest of the year—waiving, not deferring.

I worry for Queenslanders. Before coronavirus we already had the highest unemployment rate in the country, were the bankruptcy capital of Australia and had a whopping \$90 billion debt bomb. Do I have confidence that Premier Palaszczuk and Treasurer Trad are up to the job to fix this economic disaster? None at all! One of the hardest hit sectors to date is of course the entertainment and creative industries. I have been personally contacted by devastated business owners and contractors such as DJs, like my sister, musicians and pyrotechnicians concerned about their immediate future and that of the entertainment and event industry. It is essential that the state government does not leave all the heavy lifting to the federal government. At a state level we must coordinate initiatives to support Queensland workers and businesses experiencing this income loss.

This is not a time for panic, but it is important that this state government has the initiatives and framework in place to reassure the public and prevent a public health crisis from becoming a jobs crisis. We need urgent and smart responses from the state government. The LNP has already announced its plan to immediately implement measures to protect small businesses from going bust and keep people in jobs. Further to that, we should also be looking at electricity relief, cost-of-living pressures like rental and mortgage relief and building road infrastructure to get Queensland working again.

Finally, we have all witnessed the results of panic buying in our local communities which has seen many of the elderly and vulnerable people in our community miss out on the vital items that they need. I call on the Sunshine Coast community to exercise calm and kindness and be mindful of those in our communities who might need extra help at this time. I would also ask people to follow instructions and get health advice from our health experts via the Department of Health website rather than through social media, which is creating huge anxiety in our local communities.

### Macalister Electorate, Coronavirus


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.03 pm): Well may we live in interesting times. Many things are being attributed to China at the moment but, just as an aside, that phrase is not one of them. Notwithstanding this, I must admit that this is probably not the first term that I envisaged that I would have and for most people this will not be the 2020 that they envisaged at the beginning of the year. In my professional experience, such times do not tend to announce their impending arrival and it is incumbent upon committed and dedicated systems and governments to do and prepare and plan and carry on in such times when they do arrive at our door.

I am thankful—and so should everyone in Queensland be—that we as a state have been preparing for this threat since the beginning of the year, and I want to publicly thank the efforts of the Premier and the health minister in being on the front foot, even when they were being publicly accused of being alarmists and grandstanding. The level of preparedness we have now in Queensland is attributed to this leadership and foresight and we are better placed than many other jurisdictions here in Australia and abroad because of this.

This is not the speech I was planning on giving today. I had in fact planned to exhort members to attend the planned Logan food fair that was scheduled for tonight. Unfortunately but for obvious reasons, sampling some of Logan's unique produce is not exactly appropriate in the current climate, but the intention of the evening was—as was my speech, and it remains—to support our local small businesses. Although members will not be able to try our delicious Logan fare tonight, we can all support our local businesses. Whether it is Poppy's Chocolate in Beenleigh, which is manufacturing its Easter bunnies on site in Beenleigh, or the Beenleigh Rum Distillery—Australia's oldest continuing rum distillery—people can still support these businesses in the coming months and order online.

While I acknowledge the initiatives being undertaken by the major grocery chains in providing shopping times for our vulnerable community members, I would like to remind our community about the role that our small traders and independent grocers play. While the larger chains have capacity and size on their side, our family owned stores do not and they need your support. Visit your grocer, your butcher and your local baker. I want to acknowledge my local Cottage Bakery on Bryants Road. The owners there are supreme masters of the art of the upsell—I have yet to walk out of there with what I only intended to buy—but I hope the community can support our small businesses now because they are absolutely vital in providing the part-time jobs and the first jobs for our young community members. I would encourage people to support them now, because if we support them now we will continue to be able to support them in the future.


### Coronavirus, Response

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.06 pm): In 1918 Australia suffered from what was called the Spanish flu. Tens of millions of people died across the globe. We have not suffered an event of that nature since then. We are now at the start of a new pandemic. We are at the start of a virus that no-one has immunity to anywhere across the globe. We certainly hope that the outcome will be nowhere near as dire as the 1918 Spanish flu, but we need to be prepared. We need to be prepared to ensure that our health services are up to scratch; that the provision of health services means that if things turn bad and if the worst case scenario comes to be we can cope with that; that we can cope so that those who are most at risk—the elderly and those who are at risk because of illness or injury—can get the treatment they deserve and they need. It will be a lengthy, tough, hard battle and it needs this House to work together to make certain we get the outcome that this state and this nation needs. We cannot estimate how long it will be, but we know already the potential loss to our economy going forward is significant—runs into the billions of dollars—and we know that the government and the opposition will work to achieve a solution.

I want to praise the Leader of the Opposition for her speech in this House just over an hour ago when she raised new initiatives and new policies that may well assist in that recovery. I also want to put on record my belief that, though the opposition—that though any opposition—will assist and work with

the government of the day, the role of the opposition maintains its current status—that is, to put the government to the test, to put the government to the test that it is doing all that is required to be done, to question whether or not it was prepared for this eventuality as best it could be in the circumstances, and to propose alternate solutions in part or in whole. That is the role of an opposition. The opposition does not step back from what it should do on a day-to-day basis. It stands up for the people of Queensland and at times puts forward an alternative view—an alternative policy platform. I commend the Leader of the Opposition for her statement in the House today and say this to the government: we will work with you, but we will also hold you to account for what you do and do not do.

### **Coronavirus, Environment, Science and Arts Program Services; Bushfire Hazard Reduction**


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.09 pm): I would like to update the House on Queensland's environment, science and arts program services in light of coronavirus and recent announcements regarding mass gatherings. Our top priority remains the health and safety of all Queenslanders, in particular our staff, their families and the people who interact with us and with the services we provide. Significant focus has been on preparedness activity and this will continue as the situation evolves in line with advice from Queensland Health. As a service provider and stewards of the environment in which we live and of course value, the Department of Environment and Science is building flexibility into the way it operates to ensure the continuation of essential business.

To support local businesses and industry, the processing of development applications and environmental approvals will continue. Through the \$27.25 million immediate industry recovery package, the Queensland government is providing relief to tourism operators on national parks impacted by decreased patronage in the form of fee relief through to July 2020. The end of the Mon Repos nightly turtle tours has been brought forward one week to 16 March 2020 to ensure the safety of patrons and staff. The department will continue to monitor advice from health professionals and assess the need for any further park closures based on that advice. Contingency plans are being put in place to continue the management of both dangerous wildlife and stranded or entangled marine wildlife. Instances of pollution and breaches that threaten the environment will continue to be addressed proportionately and promptly. I should be clear to the House that polluters will not be able to evade the laws.

Department officers are also working with the arts sector to identify strategies and actions to best support Queensland's cultural institutions, arts companies, artists and arts workers given the nature of their business. Of course, as everyone knows, the cancellation of events attended by more than 500 people has significant and ongoing ramifications for the arts sector. While centres remain open at this time, a number of events have been cancelled or may be cancelled in the future. The Queensland Museum Network, for instance, has cancelled the World Science Festival Brisbane 2020 which was to occur between 25 and 29 March, along with some accompanying events to have occurred in Gladstone, Toowoomba and Townsville. The Queensland Performing Arts Centre is currently reviewing its forward program of events.

Lastly, a word on our important work to reduce bushfire risk. Planned hazard reduction burn programs are already well underway within our national parks and forests. They are not impacted by current events and will continue while conditions are favourable to provide the best possible protection for communities in conjunction with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

### **Kurrimine Beach, Boat Ramp**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.12 pm): Today I want to talk about one of Far North Queensland's best kept tourism secrets—Kurrimine Beach. Kurrimine Beach is a special place to live and to holiday but, unfortunately, launching and retrieving boats requires users to be waist deep in the water, sometimes 50 metres from the old boat ramp. This is causing major concerns due to the dangers of crocs, stingrays and sharks which are increasing in numbers. Another major problem is that at low tide vehicles and tractors have to be used to launch and retrieve boats, which then get bogged down in the ocean causing huge frustration and safety concerns.

Kurrimine Beach hosts a major fishing and spearfishing competition in September each year. The competition is now the biggest on the east coast north of Bowen, attracting 900 competitors and 1,500 in attendance per day for the three-day period. The competition is now one of the biggest on the east coast. The financial and recreational benefits to the community are enormous. Last year the


popular fishing show *Creek to Coast* televised the fishing competition nationally, promoting Kurrimine Beach as a must-visit destination. The Kurrimine Beach Fishing Club expects this year's competition to double in size because of the television coverage, with competitors attending from all over the state.

Kurrimine Beach is becoming more and more popular as a tourist destination and is home to a growing fishing industry. The only thing that is holding back future progress in tourism related business opportunities and recreational fisher use is the lack of a quality boat ramp providing safe access to the ocean, parking facilities and lighting. I table letters from the 300-member-strong Kurrimine Beach Fishing Club, the Progress Association Safe Boating Access Committee and other community members who passionately support safe access and express deep concern at the dangers from the currents, crocs, sharks and stingers when launching boats in the deep water. We love our fishing, the Great Barrier Reef and our islands. We are trying to get our kids active and enjoying the great outdoors. It is disappointing that the local community has fought so hard over the years to provide access to these great outdoor activities and developed tourist opportunities but has been constantly ignored.

I will be discussing this with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and asking for an urgent investigation and consultation with the Kurrimine Beach Fishing Club and Progress Association on exploring funding opportunities for boat launching facilities that provide safe access and can meet the current and expected future demand at Kurrimine Beach.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of letters and emails to the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding a boat ramp for Kurrimine Beach [\[436\]](#).

### **Pine Rivers Junior Rugby Leagues Club**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.15 pm): Today I will give an update on one of my great local clubs, the mighty Pine Rivers Bears Junior Leagues Club, which celebrated 50 years last year. I am particularly proud at the moment as they once again took out the Pine Cup against Dayboro last Saturday night. Well done! My colleague Nikki Boyd, the member for Pine Rivers, will be disappointed as she represents Samford, Dayboro and Pine Rivers, the three teams we beat. As a long-time local I have a long association with the Bears. My son, Ben, played his junior footy there before moving to the Redcliffe Dolphins. Since my election to parliament over five years ago, I have been a proud club sponsor.


I was absolutely chuffed to announce \$387,000 for the mighty Bears in last year's budget to install a new amenities block at their home ground in Petrie. This money was to assist with new change rooms to help grow participation of women in league in the area and now will be even more beneficial as the Bears have been named as a senior affiliate partner to the Redcliffe Dolphins.

The changes to the Brisbane Rugby League competition will see the Dolphins reserve grade cup squad, or BRL team, play for either the Pine Rivers Bears or the other senior affiliate partner, the Brighton Roosters. These new facilities, which will include change rooms, an officials room, toilets, showers and a multipurpose room to help support female participation and touch football, will be an even greater and timely asset to the club.

I want to put on the record that with the redistribution of council boundaries coming into effect at the election this month the Bears have gained another big fan and advocate in division 8 councillor Mick Gillam. In the relatively short time that Councillor Gillam has been involved, council has now agreed to add to our funding to make the rooms an even greater asset for the club. Once again it is always good when state and council work together. We achieve so much more for our communities. The facilities are scheduled for completion next month. Last month I was also pleased to announce another \$2,000 for the Bears under our government's Active Clubs program. These funds can be used for physical equipment and training and I am looking forward to seeing them put to good use down at the club.

On a disappointing note, recently the club was vandalised. Some copper was stripped off a couple of light poles which meant that no training could occur for several nights. This selfish act, probably to make a quick buck, left the club with a significant damage bill, a cost that will ultimately have to be absorbed by the players and supporters. The Pine Rivers Bears rocked the preseason and I cannot wait to get out there again cheering them on in whatever way I can in this new coronavirus era we have entered into. However it plays out, let the games begin!

### **Warrego Highway, Upgrade**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.18 pm): The first stage of the Warrego Highway upgrade from Toowoomba to the Kingsthorpe overpass saw the construction of a dual-carriage roadway that has made that part of the highway safer and allowed for the large volume of traffic on the road to flow more

smoothly. If only the next promised section had already started construction, but we are still waiting. On each side of that section of the Warrego Highway private landowners have been affected by the building of the new roadway, both during the active construction phase and afterwards in various ways, including access to their businesses and loss of trade.


During the planning and construction of the roadway, the Department of Transport and Main Roads did liaise with landholders and information was distributed to those affected. For many landholders the problem that has arisen from the construction is the change to the flow of water now running into their properties. Water that originally did not flow into those properties now does, due to the changes of land use and associated changes to water flows created by the roadway's construction. That large volume of water has caused considerable erosion and gouging on the affected properties.

An initial rain event in March 2019 caused damage to one property due to run-off from the highway construction and pipes installed to carry excess water that discharged directly onto the property. The damage was repaired temporarily by the owner, at their own expense, at a cost of approximately \$30,000. A compensation claim for part of that works has been submitted to the department, with no payment to the property owner as yet. During the past four weeks, more water inundation has occurred due to substantial rainfall events in the region, with further erosion and scouring.

In early December, the Condamine office was advised by the minister's office that one of the affected properties will have the original location at which the road reserve water run-off enters their property reinstated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads in accordance with the approved soil conservation plan for that property. None of that work has commenced to date. Should this not have been a consideration in the original planning of the project? Surely changing the flow of water should have been part of any investigation and planning into the effects that the road's construction could possibly have on the adjacent landholders? Why not get it right the first time?

Consultation with landholders, who have local knowledge of water run-off, may have been a good idea rather than having property owners having to fork out additional expense to fix damage not of their doing. We have received a number of those complaints. The engineers need to take this into account when designing roads. We appreciate the new roads, but they can have a heavy impact on adjoining landowners.

### **Redlands Electorate, Coronavirus**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.20 pm): My Redlands community is very strong and, of necessity, it is also very resilient, particularly within the island communities. Working together we will concur whatever COVID-19 has to throw at our community. I know that by being calm and thoughtful we can be prepared but measured in how we approach this. A really important message to put out across all of our communities is that we need to be thoughtful while planning ahead.

We have seen the frenzy going on in supermarkets, which has a knock-on effect. I have been talking with the chairman of our local Meals on Wheels. They have really big concerns around the supply chain, which is directly impacted by people stockpiling. Queensland has plenty of supply and we should not be stockpiling, as it has very significant unintended consequences. In our community in particular, we have a very high percentage of elderly and ageing people who need access to services and supplies. For that reason, I ask everybody to be measured in how they approach planning ahead.

This is a time for checking in with your neighbours, which is what strong communities do. From my office and from community organisations with which I have spoken over the past few years I know that we are doing that; we are looking out for each other. I make particular reference to our southern Moreton Bay islands. At the moment before the House there is an online e-petition that looks at the reclassification of the islands from 'metropolitan' to more 'regional and remote', as the only way that you can get there is by ferry or barge. As members can imagine, with COVID-19 and the potential that it has, there are concerns around access to medical services and hospitals. There are concerns for the 250 students who attend high schools on the mainland. There are concerns around access to groceries and supplies, as well as the gathering of people. Those are all important things that are being considered.

I have been really pleased with all of the conversations I have had with different organisations. I have spoken with SeaLink and TransLink. I know that their pandemic planning is well underway. They are enacting it as we speak. The Queensland ambulance ferry, the Kitty Kat, moves people backward and forward. Planning and preparing for how that resource will be utilised is underway. I have spoken with the supermarkets as well, which are really important suppliers to the islands as well as the



mainland. I have also spoken with our chamber of commerce. It is really important that all levels of government look at the casualisation of the workforce and what that means. There is a lot of fear around that, so from an economic stimulus point of view it is really important to look at that. Our Redland Hospital is doing a fantastic job and I thank all staff, too.

The House adjourned at 2.23 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Pugh, Richards, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson