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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 21 May 2020

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THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020


 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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


PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday, during his adjournment contribution, the member for Callide stated that Paradise Dam could be repaired for \$25 million. The member has misled the House and I will be writing to you further on this matter, Mr Speaker.

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 15 of 2019-20 titled *Education: 2018-19 results of financial audits*. I table the report for the information of honourable members.


Tabled paper. Auditor-General Report 15: 2019-20—*Education: 2018-19 results of financial audits* [\[797\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Members' Speech Notes

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I give another reminder that speech notes are required to be provided to Hansard via the email hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au. It is unfortunate that some members have only provided their speech notes after proactive follow-up or not at all. I would appreciate members' cooperation in this regard to ensure that the running of the House is as efficient as possible under the current circumstances.

Bavas, Mr J

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, some of you may be aware that today is Josh Bavas' last day in the Parliament House media gallery. Josh will continue to work for the ABC but will move away from his position as Queensland state political reporter to take up a new general news reporting role in Sydney. During his time here, Josh has established himself and earned a reputation as a journalist who is forthright, balanced with a detailed understanding of both policy and politics. Josh's presence as part of the parliamentary press gallery will be missed. I thank him for his contribution to reporting on state politics. I wish Josh all the best for his future.

Sittings of Queensland Parliament, Anniversary

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise the House that tomorrow is the 160th anniversary of the first sitting of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. On Tuesday, 22 May 1860 the Legislative Assembly first met in a converted former military and convict barracks building in Queen Street. On this day, the first members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were sworn in and the first Speaker and President were elected. Among the assembled members was a marked sense of honour as being the first parliamentarians of the newly founded colony. Such emotions touch all of the 1,161

members who have served in this place, the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, across our entire state's history. We saw these emotions with the first speeches given earlier this week by the member for Bundamba and the member for Currumbin. As such motivation spurred our first parliamentarians, our forebears, to build the fledgling colony of Queensland, let us draw on the honour of service to humbly serve the people of Queensland.

Mr Bleijie: Bring back the wigs!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

PETITION

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

4306 Postcode Classification

Dr Rowan, from 728 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that residents' concerns relating to the classification of the 4306 postcode as regional are addressed [\[798\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles)—

[799](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, interim government response

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): This week we announced our COVID-19 economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. A key part of that announcement and vital for our small businesses was the \$100 million package in small business grants and training to counter the impact of COVID-19. Small businesses are critical to Queensland's economy, regional prosperity and job creation. They represent 97 per cent of all businesses and employ more than 970,000 people or 45 per cent of the state's private workforce. We know that COVID-19 has had a crippling effect on them. That is why the \$100 million package was just the latest initiative announced to assist small businesses in dealing with the impacts of this pandemic.


Others included \$950 million in payroll tax relief; a \$1 billion concessional Jobs Support Loans scheme; a \$500 million small business and worker retraining including Jobs Finder initiative; and \$100 million in electricity bill relief. Other support measures also include six-month rent relief for government building tenants; land tax relief for commercial property owners which must be passed onto tenants in the form of rent relief; and the waiving of liquor licence fees. Already these initiatives have supported thousands of local businesses and tens of thousands of Queensland jobs.

The new Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant program, which enables small businesses to apply for grants up to \$10,000, will assist them greatly during this hibernation period to help them restructure or to significantly change their businesses or to even move them online. These grants will provide immediate support to help them get back on their feet and come out stronger on the other side.

Small businesses, including micro businesses, can apply for a share in the grants program to help pay for things like financial, legal or other professional advice, marketing and communications activities and digital or technology strategy development. They can also be used to buy specialised digital equipment or business specific software to help move their business online.

Since we announced this on Tuesday, 903 applications have been submitted. The program has been welcomed by the small business and tourism industries and small businesses across Queensland. We will continue to support our small businesses through this. We are united and we will recover together.

Aged Care, End-of-Life and Palliative Care Inquiry; Voluntary Assisted Dying

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): In November 2018, I asked the Parliamentary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to inquire into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care, including voluntary assisted dying. The inquiry enabled Queenslanders to tell their personal stories and share their views. I want to thank the committee for its thorough and comprehensive consideration of these very important matters.

In March this year the committee tabled its report *Aged care, end-of-life and palliative care*, making 77 recommendations, and its report *Voluntary assisted dying*, making 21 recommendations. My government will table an interim response to both committee reports shortly.


It is absolutely critical that the government's final response to the committee reports is informed by the views and experiences of aged-care and palliative care providers. We need to give the sector and community time to consider the reports in detail and we know that the focus in these areas is currently on addressing the risk of COVID-19.

On the specific issue of voluntary assisted dying laws for Queensland, the committee recommended draft legislation as the basis for a legislative scheme in Queensland. This draft legislation aligns closely with the Victorian and Western Australian approaches, the only two Australian states to have enacted voluntary assisted dying schemes so far. However, voluntary assisted dying is a very complex and deeply personal issue in which competing interests and views of Queenslanders and experts have to be carefully balanced and the lives of our elderly and most vulnerable people protected.

There are also a number of operational issues to work through before we can implement any kind of voluntary assisted dying scheme in Queensland at this time. For these reasons, I believe law reform in this area requires further careful consideration. We did this for the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. I have therefore asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to refer the preparation of voluntary assisted dying legislation for Queensland to the Queensland Law Reform Commission. The Queensland Law Reform Commission will report back to the Attorney-General with draft legislation by 1 March next year for the government's final consideration.

The way in which our government responds to these recommendations about reform to aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying is critical to ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable members of the community. The provision of compassionate, high-quality and accessible palliative care for persons at their end of life is a fundamental right for the Queensland community. It is critical that we get this right. The government's proposed approach to the committee's reports is a measured and careful way to achieve this, informed by views of stakeholders and other experts in these fields.


Coronavirus, Economic Response; Ekka, People's Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): This week I announced more than \$400 million worth of support for Queensland business to help the fight against COVID-19. It includes money for our regions, for roads and for small business to accelerate our economic recovery. Some \$50 million was set aside specifically for tourism, a \$27 billion industry important to our economy and hit especially hard by the global pandemic. This is not all we will do.

Today I announce a little bit more. This year's Ekka show holiday will move from Wednesday to Friday. For one year only, People's Day will become the people's long weekend. It will move from Wednesday, 12 August to Friday, 14 August. We do this with the support of the RNA. I spoke to President David Thomas yesterday and I thank him for his generosity. As he said, 'It is a shame we can't have the Ekka but it would be a greater shame to waste this opportunity to help others.'

For 144 years, the Ekka has been the time when the country comes to the city. This year I call on all of us in the city to go to the bush, go to the beach, have a break and support our tourism industry. I want to acknowledge the public for putting forward this idea, as well as the work of government and the RNA to bring this about. Local councils outside of Brisbane will have the opportunity to make similar arrangements for their show holidays. If we cannot have sample bags we might as well pack our travel bags and enjoy this one-off special Queensland holiday to support our local businesses.

Ekka, People's Day; Tourism Industry, Projects

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.41 am): I have spoken about it before in this House, but as a born and bred Brisbane girl, I am an Ekka tragic. I have gone every year of my life, with my mother and now with my own children, and I

understand the tradition of People's Day. That is why, on behalf of the whole tourism industry, I want to thank and acknowledge the leadership of the RNA board for agreeing to this one-off this year to do the right thing and support the tourism industry of Queensland during the toughest of times.

We have crunched the numbers and they look pretty good. This one holiday alone could generate up to \$60 million for tourism operators throughout the state. South-East Queenslanders will be able to hit the road and see the very best of Queensland. We are urging people to get out of the house and go exploring. As the Premier said, at Ekka time usually the bush comes to the city. This year we want the city to go bush. As Queenslanders we often take for granted that we live in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister is making a ministerial statement. It seemingly does not appear to be provocative. I would ask that we hear the statement.

Ms JONES: I can also announce that we have the bipartisan support of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, but it appears not of the LNP sitting opposite.

As tourism minister, people often say to me, 'I've always wanted to see Carnarvon Gorge. I've always wanted to get back to Airlie Beach. I haven't been there since I was young. I've always wanted to take my children snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.' As we know, often life gets in the way. Now is the time. I am also proud to announce that we are finalising an intrastate tourism campaign which we will be launching soon. We are appealing to Queenslanders to hit the road and support local businesses and our tourism industry at this time.

I also report back to the House that since the Premier announced the \$50 million package at the beginning of the week we have hit the ground running, meeting with regional tourism organisations and QTIC to identify shovel-ready tourism projects throughout the state that we can fast-track to create jobs. We have invested more in tourism than any government in Queensland's history and we will continue to work shoulder to shoulder with tourism operators who are doing it tough.

Voluntary Assisted Dying


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): I am pleased to rise today to support the Premier's announcement that voluntary assisted dying will be referred to the Queensland Law Reform Commission to draft legislation and provide to us next year. When we launched the parliamentary committee inquiry into end-of-life care, it was to look at how we can better provide for Queenslanders in their final days. That included aged care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. In considering the committee's hearings and report, it is clear that the Queensland community consider all three of these to be very important.

The Palaszczuk government has already made strengthening and expanding palliative care a priority. We know that Queensland's growing and ageing population combined with an increasing rate of chronic and life-limiting illnesses will see demand for palliative care services continue to grow. Queenslanders should have choice and control over how they spend their final days. Right now only around 10 per cent of Queenslanders who want to die at the home are able to do so. The Palaszczuk government wants to help people achieve that wish.

We have invested approximately \$114 million providing palliative care services and non-government organisations will receive a further \$9 million. We have boosted the funding provided to seven non-government palliative care organisations by \$10 million over the next four years. An additional \$17 million has also been provided to hospital and health services over two years to invest in community based palliative care services with the main aim of improving services in rural and regional areas.


We asked hospital and health services to champion projects that will help increase access to palliative care services in local communities and support Queenslanders to stay close to home and out of hospital at the end of their lives if that is what they wish. A substantial funding boost of almost \$500,000 over two years has also been given to Palliative Care Queensland to assist their statewide role as the peak body for palliative care services. We did not wait to invest in better palliative care and we will continue to do so while the Queensland Law Reform Commission considers voluntary assisted dying.

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): When it comes to our battle against COVID-19, zero days are the best days. I am proud to report we have had no new cases of COVID-19 overnight. That is out of 2,999 tests. Thanks to Queenslanders' efforts to contain the virus, we are able to do more elective surgeries and reopen more screening services.

In April, along with non-urgent elective surgery, BreastScreen Queensland services were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now opening these vital services again. There is no better example of how important this service is than the fact that we have already identified two women with breast cancer since screening restarted. That is two lives we now have the chance to save thanks to our wonderful BreastScreen staff and service. BreastScreen Queensland services have now recommenced in nine out of 11 regions across the state and we hope to be up to full operation as soon as possible.

Resources Community Infrastructure Fund

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.48 am): While COVID-19 wrought terrible damage to the lives and businesses of Queenslanders, some of our traditional regionally focused industries like mining and agriculture powered on, despite the obstacles. They have kept Queenslanders employed and continued to generate export revenue for our state, particularly our mighty coal industry. I want to thank all those workers who do such a tough job for Queensland.

The resource industry backs Queensland and the Palaszczuk government backs resource industry jobs. That is why Queensland's regional mining workers, their families and the communities they live in will be the big winners from the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund, which I agree on with industry this week. On Monday the state executed a memorandum of understanding with the Queensland Resources Council. This settles arrangements for participating resource companies to make their contributions to the fund totalling \$70 million over three years, and adds to the \$30 million contribution by the government announced in the 2019-20 state budget.

The fund is now positioned to deliver projects targeted at improving economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's resources communities. The valuable support for the fund by the participating resource companies allows the state to freeze mineral royalties for three years and provide industry certainty. I am delighted that by partnering with Queensland's mining sector, we can deliver for regional resource communities through the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund.


I was pleased that Queensland Resources Council CEO Ian Macfarlane joined me at Parliament House to mark the completion of work on this new agreement. As Mr Macfarlane said, the new fund will build on the significant contribution the resources industry provides to Queensland's regions. During that event, Mr Macfarlane said—

The contribution to this fund will be over and above the tens and hundreds of millions of dollars, which resource companies are already putting into regional communities, sustaining their local community networks, sustaining their community infrastructure. This will be a highly targeted fund that the industry is pleased to be part of.

The fund will supplement existing planned state community infrastructure, as well as the investment by resource companies, and deliver additional benefit to Queensland resource communities, for the workers and their families who live there. Allocations from the fund will aim to improve economic and social infrastructure in Queensland's resources communities.

Furthermore, an expert advisory committee, comprising government, resource community and industry representatives, will review and make recommendations for allocating funding for community infrastructure projects in Queensland resource communities. With the memorandum of understanding now signed, government, the QRC and industry are moving forward quickly to appoint the advisory committee. We will then start the all-important work of allocating funding to deliver projects for Queenslanders.

Grosvenor Mine Explosion, Board of Inquiry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.51 am): Four mineworkers remain in hospital following an underground gas explosion at Grosvenor mine near Moranbah. I am pleased to see in today's news reports that one miner has been discharged. My thoughts and prayers—and I hope I speak for all members in this chamber—are with all of them, their families and their workmates.

The burns unit at the Royal Brisbane is one of the world's leading units headed by two very good friends of mine, Dr Michael Rudd and Dr Michael Muller. These workers could not be in better hands. I flew to Moranbah immediately to meet with members of the community, including the first responders, the hospital and ambulance service. In my eyes, they are heroes.

A full investigation is underway on site. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Coal Mines and a team of inspectors have been on site since shortly after the explosion. An underground gas explosion in a coalmine is simply unacceptable in the 21st century—it is 2020! As serious as it was, it could have been far worse, as every Queensland underground coalminer and their families know. As such, with government support, I am establishing an independent board of inquiry.


The board will be able to conduct public hearings, call witnesses and make broad inquiries, findings and recommendations relating to the incident. The board members will be retired District Court Judge Terry Martin SC as chair and Professor Andrew Hopkins AO from the Australian National University, an expert in coalmine health and safety.

The board's terms of reference ask them to inquire into the incident at Grosvenor mine, as well as other high potential incidents relating to the principal hazard of methane. They have been asked to determine the nature and cause of each of the incidents and make findings about the cause of the incidents. Further, the board of inquiry is to make recommendations for improving safety and health practices and procedures to mitigate against the risk of these incidents happening again. They will report by 30 November this year. I now table the terms of reference, which will be published by gazette notice.

Tabled paper: Board of inquiry into recent incidents in Queensland coal mining—Terms of reference [800].

Queensland has the world's toughest mine safety and health laws after five years of sweeping reform under the Palaszczuk government. In regard to the tragic fatalities over the past two years, I can advise the House that five investigations are completed and four prosecutions are underway. Worker safety is fundamental to who we are as a Labor government. I look forward to this inquiry helping us bring home every Queensland worker to their friends and family at the end of their working day.

Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry, Report

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.54 am): I table electronically the report of the Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry and the Queensland government's response.

Tabled paper: Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry: Report, April 2020 [801].

Tabled paper: Paradise Dam Commission of Inquiry: Report, April 2020, Queensland government response [802].

I thank commissioners Byrne and Carter, their staff and all those who contributed to the inquiry. As I said last year in Bundaberg when I announced Justice Byrne's appointment, the government heard the local community when they said wanted answers.

We commissioned a public, independent inquiry, which has confirmed there are indeed structural and stability issues with this dam. The commission heard evidence about a litany of issues with the design and construction, some of which were ultimately found to be root causes of the present day structural and stability concerns.


The commission found that the design of the primary spillway apron is completely inadequate. It is simply not wide enough. Evidence before the commission suggested that if the 2013 floods had lasted longer, the erosion due to the insufficient downstream protection may have undermined the dam giving rise to catastrophic dam failure. If the wall itself is ultimately proven to be unstable, the commission notes that the concrete mix used to build the dam may have been intrinsically incapable of meeting the required design values.

The commission heard evidence regarding a broad range of issues including with segregation, density, compaction, and the cleaning and curing of the surface of roller compacted concrete layers during construction, also known as lift joints; the concrete mix and its peak placement during summer weather which exacerbated constructability issues; a quality assurance tool which masked rather than highlighted construction deficiencies; the treatment of and high number of what are known as cold lift joints. This is of concern when lift joint strength is so important to the overall stability of this type of dam.

Importantly, the commission considers that Sunwater's position in responding to the risks associated with the dam is reasonable. Expert testimony before the commission confirmed that more testing is needed to resolve doubts about the dam's stability. This is entirely consistent with the Building Queensland report findings handed down in March and preparations for testing are underway.

The commission made eight recommendations for future projects and, let me be very clear here, the government accepts all eight recommendations. As always, the government's priority remains community safety, with Paradise Dam to continue to provide long-term water security and underpin economic prosperity in Bundaberg and the Burnett for generations to come.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (9.57 am): Queensland's construction industry has been one of the sectors to continue through the pandemic but not without impact. It is an industry with a strong foundation that will help our state unite and recover, and it is an industry that has worked hard across the board to flatten the curve. Unions, contractors and tradies have worked together to keep Queensland tradies safe and construction sites open, implementing COVID-safe plans for months now.

This government's commitment to using investing in significant projects will play a big role in COVID-19 recovery, not just for the construction industry but supporting other sectors too. Projects managed by QBuild, worth hundreds of millions, are supporting many thousands of jobs and ensuring the very fabric of Queensland is knitted strongly together.


We are positioning the arts sector to come back strongly with a refurbishment of the Thomas Dixon Centre, supporting 183 full-time jobs in the process. We are backing our world-class tourism sector through the refurbishment and expansion of the \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre, supporting 570 jobs. We are taking advantage of isolation measures to prepare Queensland sporting success with the Gabba's \$35 million refurbishment, supporting 70 trades jobs and more jobs in the supply chain.

The Palaszczuk government is providing Queenslanders with housing security by building more affordable housing. Our Housing Construction Jobs Program will build more than 1,000 homes this financial year and the next. This alone will support more than 1,200 construction jobs.

We are investing in the education of the next generation of Queenslanders—air-conditioning more than 650 Queensland schools, supporting more than 500 construction jobs. We are supporting the justice system with the construction of the \$618.8 million Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, supporting 400 construction jobs and employing nearly 500 Queenslanders once it is complete. The \$241 million Rockhampton facility is also underway, supporting 170 construction jobs—and there is more to come.

QBuild has implemented an accelerated payment process. I know the Minister for Employment and Small Business will be pleased to hear that since 2 April this year QBuild has fast-tracked the payment of 91,106 invoices worth \$180.6 million into the pockets of Queensland small businesses. It is full steam ahead over the coming months, with a further 130 Palaszczuk government projects on track to commence construction. That is confidence-building stuff for Queensland's 70,000 building companies. It is confidence building for Queensland's 240,000 tradies and part of our rock-solid commitment to maintain the \$51.8 billion infrastructure investment program announced under our economic recovery strategy this week. Continued discussions are underway with the sector to work through the impact and responses to COVID-19 and create a blueprint for sustainability and recovery that is consensus based, practical and focused on the No. 1 priority of protecting the jobs of Queensland tradies. Queenslanders can rely on the Palaszczuk government to invest to put Queensland families first as we unite and recover.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): This week the Palaszczuk government told Queenslanders how we will continue to protect their health while backing their jobs. The Premier's announcement of hundreds of millions of dollars in support for a range of sectors was the first stage of Queensland's economic reset. It builds on the \$6 billion already committed by our government to manage the health response, support businesses and families and protect local jobs.

Every Queenslander deserves the dignity of having access to a job and the chance to earn a living. Even before the coronavirus arrived the Palaszczuk Labor government had policies that put Queenslanders first. As we have driven record investment in transport and road projects we have prioritised Queensland businesses and their workers. I am pleased to say that Transport and Main Roads is an outstanding champion of our Buy Queensland policy. Over the last four years Queensland

suppliers have consistently won Transport and Main Roads contracts at a rate of 92 per cent. Regional Queensland suppliers make up 57 per cent of Transport and Main Roads suppliers. In dollar figures, that is \$1.89 billion spent with regional suppliers over the 12 months to March 2020. That equals jobs for truck drivers, traffic controllers, machinery operators and support for Queensland businesses like equipment suppliers, engineering firms, bitumen suppliers and earthmoving companies.


In Mackay work worth more than \$152 million has been awarded to regional suppliers, subcontractors and plant hire companies. On the Mackay Ring Road almost 1,700 workers have been inducted on that site, 82 per cent of whom live within the Mackay region. South of Townsville crews have been working on North Queensland's biggest road project, the \$514 million Bruce Highway upgrade at the Haughton River, a 13-kilometre-long worksite. Nearly \$38 million has been spent with local businesses in the Burdekin since work began last April, and 800,000 tonnes of material has been sourced from quarries in Giru, Ayr and Townsville. Those materials are being transported to site by local trucks and then applied and compacted by machinery supplied from Townsville and the Burdekin. These are just some of the examples of how the Palaszczuk government's policies are seeing money flow directly into the bank accounts of Queensland workers and businesses.

The LNP talks about backing business, but history shows otherwise. They abandoned Queensland workers when they sent contracts overseas to build trains. We returned those contracts to Queensland, where they belong. Queensland Rail has an agreement with Downer that will support local rail jobs in Maryborough for years to come. This partnership supports Maryborough's economy, nurtures a new generation of skilled rail workers, and ensures projects are delivered by Queenslanders for Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Judging by those interjections, the opposition has still not learned any lessons from their mistakes of the past. The road ahead out of COVID-19 will be long and testing, but as long as we unite and keep putting Queenslanders first we will recover together.

Care Army


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.04 am): On 1 April the Premier announced the launch of the Care Army, a volunteer force dedicated to assisting Queenslanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Care Army was created to assist seniors and vulnerable Queenslanders who do not have an existing support network of family, friends or neighbours nearby to help them stay home and stay safe.

The response to the Care Army has been utterly amazing, with more than 28,000 volunteers registered to date. They have done an amazing job of connecting with vulnerable Queenslanders during the pandemic, with more than 112,000 calls made to our state's seniors. Since the Community Recovery Hotline was activated to connect people with the Care Army around 12,000 people have called in and more than 2,500 have been helped and assisted. As we are currently celebrating National Volunteer Week, I would like to extend my thanks to every one of the Care Army volunteers who are all helping in a variety of different ways and of course to the 714,000 volunteers right across the state.

The outstanding response from people wanting to volunteer means we can now look at expanding the role of the Care Army to support other vulnerable communities and people. My department has asked local governments to get on board. We have contacted over 2,000 non-government organisations across Queensland to register their need for additional volunteers. Members of the Care Army are linked with people and organisations in need in their local area and many volunteers have begun assisting with a range of tasks, including the delivery of food, stocking shelves and calling isolated Queenslanders who are in need of social connection.

In my home community, the Townsville based community organisation Youth With A Mission has been appointed to coordinate local volunteers to provide much needed support to seniors and community organisations. YWAM continues to work with Volunteering Queensland to pinpoint where Care Army volunteers are most needed. They have initially placed around 20 volunteers with local organisation Community Gro to assist with the great work they do locally through their community centres. As many Queenslanders know, recovery from any major incident can take a significant amount of time and the COVID-19 pandemic is no different. As always, when it comes to community recovery we are in it for the long haul. I encourage Queensland seniors who do not have an existing support network to contact the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 to find out what types of supports they can get from the Care Army.

Advancing Clean Energy Schools


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government's \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program—or ACES—is not only reducing energy costs at Queensland state schools through solar and energy efficiency measures but also helping to support valuable jobs in the renewables industry across the state during this COVID-19 pandemic. Through our recently announced Cooler Cleaner Schools Program we are providing a boost to our successful existing solar program with an additional \$71 million allocated to install even more solar PV systems—a total investment of around \$170 million.

These programs are installing a virtual solar farm atop Queensland's state schools and contributing enough solar generated electricity to power 25,000 homes. Our ACES program is being delivered over three phases, with phase 1 well underway and work on the initial 210 state schools nearing completion. It is amazing to see photographs of the rooftops of schools like in Tewantin, Hervey Bay and Moorooka, which are covered in PV solar panels and doing an excellent job generating electricity for the air conditioners that are being installed in those schools. Already almost 32,000 solar panels pumping out 11 megawatts of power have been installed, providing significant gains to the state schools that have received installations to date. As part of the government's commitment to unite and recover our state following the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACES program continues to support many local businesses and subcontractors in achieving the program's targets.

We are maintaining a consistent pipeline of work, in turn supporting the tradespeople who have been working in many of our communities across Queensland. Today I can announce that an additional 80 state schools originally set to benefit in future phases of the ACES program have been brought forward into phase 1 of the program. We are now leveraging our success and getting started early on some of the schools initially earmarked for future phases of the program. I can also announce the 580 schools that will be part of phases 2 and 3 of the ACES program which will be rolled out from 1 July this year. Schools in the Redlands, Brisbane south, Logan, the Gold Coast, Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast, the outback, North Queensland, Moreton Bay and the Whitsundays will all benefit from additional energy-saving measures to be installed in the coming financial year.

This ongoing solar installation program is another real example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting jobs, local businesses and the economy as it continues to support industry during the uncertainty of COVID-19. In total across the life of this initiative, more than 550 jobs will be supported across Queensland, showing Queensland state school students and their communities this government's strong commitments to jobs and a cleaner, greener energy future.

Youth Justice


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): Community safety is the Palaszczuk government's No. 1 priority and why we are continuing to make record investments in youth justice. As part of our over \$500 million investment in youth justice reform, we are increasing the capacity of our youth detention centres to continue keeping our community safe and to hold young offenders to account.

I am pleased to report to the House that construction of a new 16-bed facility with education support services at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre at Wacol has been completed by QBuild. This \$27 million investment takes the centre's capacity from 146 beds to 162 beds. The 16 beds were delivered on budget and on time despite COVID-19 restrictions. QBuild, site supervisors, subcontractors and union representatives all worked together to ensure compliance with social distancing rules. This meant adjustments to the way the site worked, but the important point is that we were able to keep tradies in work. The project, which generated 89 jobs involving over 500 people on site with 45 apprentices—and in challenging circumstances—is a credit to everyone involved.


Detention centres are not just about beds. They must include the right facilities—laundry, recreation, health services and space for visiting service providers, and training and education facilities. As part of this newest block, for instance, four extra classrooms and teaching areas were added to ensure young people's education needs are met. This will further enhance the Brisbane centre's rehabilitation services and their focus on reducing reoffending. These services include helping young people become job ready in a range of areas and preparing them for when they leave the centre. Together, these measures are protecting our community while working to break the cycle of youth crime.

Later this year, another milestone in our record youth justice investment is to become a reality. I refer here to our \$150 million investment in a new 32-bed youth detention centre being built adjacent to the existing Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. This facility is scheduled to be operational by the end of the year. The 48 beds that will come on line are in addition to the 16 new beds finalised at BYDC in July 2018 and 12 new beds at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in April 2019. This brings our total bed capacity in detention centres from 230 at the beginning of this term to 306, an increase of 33 per cent in this term. This is in stark contrast to the LNP's efforts while they were in government when, despite clear projections of increasing demand for beds, they made no investment at all in youth detention centre facilities—zero new beds in their entire three years, and going into the 2015 election a plan to cut \$150 million from the budget. By increasing this capacity as we have, the Palaszczuk Labor government is sending a very clear message that we expect young people to be held accountable for their actions and that public safety remains paramount.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice, I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 June 2020 to a place, either the Legislative Assembly chamber or the Undumbi Room, to be advised by the Speaker.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.14 am): I note that in the motion moved for the special adjournment by the Acting Leader of the House he has put parliament to sit next on 16 June. Members will know that the 16th is when the second week of estimates was meant to be. It is no surprise and no secret that the opposition has objected to the early suspension of the Queensland parliament. We have successfully shown that Queensland parliament can safely sit in a COVID-19 world, despite what the Premier has been saying. We have sat for six days in 12 weeks. Six days out of 12 weeks we have sat.

Mr Dick: What about the New South Wales parliament?

Mr BLEIJIE: I do not care what the New South Wales parliament does, Minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: I do not care what the federal parliament does because we are Queensland parliamentarians—

Mr Mander: We are Queenslanders!

Mr BLEIJIE: And we are Queenslanders and we should decide when the Queensland parliament sits, not base it on what the federal government is doing.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you will direct your comments through the chair. The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Mr BLEIJIE: The government is not handing down a budget. We have two weeks of estimates scheduled in the parliamentary calendar and we could easily sit from 9 June. As I said, we have sat six days in 12 weeks. The parliament should be sitting. We are going from adjournment to a special adjournment. There is no consistency with the government in terms of the sitting calendar.

With this new sitting week of the 16th—which should be part of a two-week estimates sitting—it will mean that parliament will only sit for five weeks before the election. We think parliament should be sitting more and sitting more often. As we have seen the rights, liberties and freedoms of Queenslanders reduced, we should be sitting more to hold the government to account. The Premier may want to run from scrutiny and may not want parliament to sit, but we do. The opposition is ready, willing and able for parliament to sit.

Ms Grace: This motion is a waste of time.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the education minister. She says I am wasting time. The Acting Leader of the House has moved a motion. We have not known when parliament is going to sit. The government is not having a budget now.


Ms Grace interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: We have two weeks of estimates scheduled for the weeks beginning 9 and 16 June. Parliament could easily come back on the 9th because that was in the calendar anyway. The questions remain. Once we sit on the 16th, is the calendar that is set down for the rest of the year going to happen? Mr Speaker, with your leadership, you have successfully made parliament be able to sit virtually. We have amended the sessional and standing orders to ensure that parliament can sit.

As I have consistently said from day dot 12 weeks ago when the Premier announced parliament would not be sitting and we sat for one day and then cut off that night and then went home and then had to come back that night to pass more legislation, members of parliament will be able to successfully sit in a COVID safe world, and we have been. Look at how the parliament is structured at the moment. Do members know what? We have the majority of members on precinct. We have over 90 members of parliament on precinct, successfully being able to work and do our job that we are paid for. I cannot understand why this Premier continually seeks to run away from scrutiny and why we cannot just sit pursuant to what is scheduled. I move the following amendment—

Omit '16 June', insert '9 June'.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (10.19 am): I note the protestations from the Manager of Opposition Business. One would think from his protestations that we are in some sort of world where things have not changed or been affected by a global pandemic. He wants to see everything revolve and spin around his little world. We need to be nimble as a government and as a state to be able to respond to what is happening in this community and respond to what is happening globally.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked you to cease your interjections and I have asked you to put your comments through the chair.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: As the proposition moved in my motion, which would normally occur at this time on a Thursday morning, was to set the next sitting date, I think it is a reasonable proposition that we meet again in a month. This is something that the Premier has made clear in the community on numerous occasions that she foresees the sitting pattern of the parliament going forward to be meetings held once a month, and there will be an opportunity to review that and respond to those circumstances as time goes forward. That is what has been proposed more broadly in the community. This is what the government has set before the parliament. To have a petulant, self-indulgent amendment thrown up so that the Manager of Opposition Business can hear his voice a bit more in this chamber is a damning indictment of the attitude of those opposite rather than the responsible attitude that this government is taking. I would urge the House to reject the amendment and support the motion.

Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.22 am.

Queensland Border Closure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.22 am): My first question is to the Premier. In a heated press conference yesterday the Premier and the Chief Health Officer insisted that the border would stay closed until September or beyond. However, the tourism minister went out yesterday and said, 'Our road map remains in place with a July opening.' Will the Premier explain these mixed messages?

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable Leader of the Opposition is misleading. I am happy to table the statement—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms JONES: She is misleading the parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not for debate. Do you find that personally offensive?

Ms JONES: Yes, I find it personally offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, are you able to rephrase your question such that the minister would find it acceptable?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. In a heated press conference yesterday the Premier and the Chief Health Officer insisted the border would stay closed until September or beyond. Then the tourism minister indicated that she backs the Palaszczuk government's road map which lists a July opening. Will the Premier explain the mixed messages?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition, who finally got the question out. Let me make it very clear. On this side of the House we will always stand up for Queensland. Perhaps the test for those opposite today is: do they support Queensland or do they support New South Wales?

Mr Mander: We support tourism.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I support tourism. They obviously support New South Wales, because on this side of the House it is about fundamentally protecting the health of Queenslanders. Our road map says—

Mrs Frecklington: It sure is, the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude!

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will put your comments through the chair. You will cease interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will always stand up for the best interests of Queensland. What we have said very clearly is at the end of each month we will review the border position. That is very clear; it is in the road map. I will listen to the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

We want to see our tourism industry thrive as soon as possible, but we want to see it open in a responsible and measured way. I am not going to be lectured to by the Premier of New South Wales, which has the highest number of cases active at the moment of any state. I need to correct the record. Yesterday I said in the House that there were over 300 cases—I think I said there were 361 in New South Wales. In New South Wales, they have 401 active cases. In Queensland we have 12. I am not going to put the health of Queenslanders in jeopardy. It would be negligent of any Premier to do so.

Mr Mander: Thousands of people go broke.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are backing New South Wales.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the comments will go through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Everton is backing New South Wales over Queensland. I will stand up for Queenslanders. What we have said very clearly today is that there will be a people's long weekend. We want to see Queenslanders backing Queenslanders. In the June school holidays we want to see Queenslanders backing their regional tourism operators and taking those breaks in Queensland. If the New South Wales government gets on with the job, wipes out those active cases and stops community transmission, I will be the first one to stand at the border and welcome them here. However, they need to get their act together. We have done such a great job here in Queensland—zero cases overnight. Queenslanders should be proud of the job they are doing. Together we will be united and we will recover.

(Time expired)

Queensland Border Closure

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. The Premier refused to release any medical advice to justify closing Queensland schools and the Chief Health Officer in Queensland later said that school closures were about messaging, not science or health. Will the Premier start treating Queenslanders like adults and release the health advice that she has relied upon to decide to keep our borders closed until September?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. If she had watched the press conference today—I know she likes watching my press conferences because she makes her decisions based on my press conferences and the advice of Dr Young. In fact, Dr Young was actually present at the press conference today as well as the health minister, who is the Deputy Premier. Dr Young was very clear in her advice to Queenslanders. We should be very thankful and honoured that we have—

Mr Mander: Table it. Present it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Can honourable members imagine if those opposite were in charge? Who would they listen to? They would not listen to the health advice. They would be acting on a whim.

Mrs Frecklington: The Premier has just said that I do listen to the health advice. Which one? Another mixed message?

Mr Mander: Who runs the state? Who makes the final decision?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am proud to run this state and I am proud that Queensland has done so well with zero cases overnight and 12 active cases. We are not going to be lectured to by another state that has so many cases when we have so few.

Mr Mander: Table the health advice.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not need to table the advice because the Chief Health Officer stood next to me and provided the advice. I am sorry she cannot come into this chamber, but she stood next to me at the press conference.

We will always back Queenslanders, and the people's long weekend is a great opportunity for Queenslanders to get out there and back their local tourism operators. In the school holidays we urge Queenslanders to back their regions and support the local businesses as well. We will always stand up for Queensland, but we have to open up in a measured and responsible way.

It is as if the opposition has its head in the sand and does not think we are in a global pandemic at the moment. They are ignorant of the fact that we are in a global pandemic. We only have to see the great response that Queenslanders have had. Why would we put all that at risk? I ask every single member in this House: why would we put all of Queensland's great work at risk? Why would we do that?

Mrs Frecklington: July or September?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know where the Leader of the Opposition gets her advice from—in the supermarket, picking everything up, juggling the fruit and vegetables. Where is she getting that advice from? Where is the Leader of the Opposition getting that advice from?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will always stand up for Queensland. It is the right thing to do. We will not be lectured to by New South Wales, which has so many active cases. They need to get that under control.

(Time expired)

CopperString 2.0

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. What does the government's \$14.8 million commitment to the CopperString power project mean for jobs and the economy in North and North-West Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that very important question, because we know that CopperString has the potential to be an enormous economic boost for the north and the north-west of our state; in fact, the over \$1 billion project will create hundreds of jobs. It will connect from the south of Townsville all the way through to Mount Isa. It will help bring down electricity prices. It will connect into the National Electricity Market. What is really important is that this is the biggest infrastructure project in the north and north-west of our state since the Great Northern Railway line was built in 1929. This is how significant this project is, and that is why my government is absolutely proud to back it. We know that it also means not just renewable electricity but also advanced manufacturing. When we talk about making sure that we are mining those minerals needed for battery manufacture, we have the opportunity to also manufacture in the north and north-west of our state. This is about future economic development. This is about jobs and about a vision for the north and north-west of our state.

I thank all of the Townsville members of parliament for supporting it. I also thank the CEO of MITEZ, Glen Graham, who said the funding was a sign of confidence and that the project was well worth backing. In fact, the *Townsville Bulletin* also said that the project was a real game changer. It will stimulate more investment and provide cheaper power. We are on track to fast-track that \$14.8 million investment and we also know that it has been well received by CopperString's Joseph O'Brien, who said—

The Queensland government has demonstrated an inspiring vision for north and north-west Queensland ...

The member for Traeger is also quoted as saying that the funding is a great win for the project and the region. Isn't it wonderful to have bipartisanship support when it comes to infrastructure and jobs in regional Queensland? We will always stand up for regional Queensland, which is why our package we announced this week, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, is firmly focused on getting Queenslanders back to work and making sure we can help power-charge the regions. Up to 3,500 jobs could have potential, especially with advanced manufacturing as well. Thank you to the member for Townsville for his strong advocacy, and it is a great win for the north and north-west of our state.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Given the crippling economic uncertainty caused by the Premier's border flip-flops, stage 3 of the road map says pubs and clubs will be able to have 100 patrons dining in at their premises from July. Can businesses have confidence to count on this road map and plan to open up fully after July, or will the Palaszczuk government put up more roadblocks?

Mr DICK: Let me say something about border closures in terms and words that even members of the Liberal National Party will understand. Queenslanders will choose who comes to Queensland and the circumstances in which they come. Let me repeat: Queenslanders will determine who comes to Queensland and the circumstances in which they come. That is our choice—as the Premier said—to keep our state safe. Even members of the Liberal Party will understand that. We are protecting jobs and we are protecting the health care of our Queenslanders. We will keep Queenslanders safe, no matter what the member for Everton wants to do. He backed the Blues when he was a referee and he is still backing the Blues. A leopard never changes its spots.

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: You haven't mentioned the Cowboys!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I respectfully withdraw. The truth of the matter is that we do not have community transmission like they have in New South Wales and Victoria. You only have to look at three examples: the *Ruby Princess*, the aged-care facility in Sydney and, now we find out today, one of Australia's largest and most prestigious secondary colleges, Saint Ignatius' Riverview, which has closed. This is community transmission writ large in New South Wales and it is writ large in Victoria as well. We saw the infection that came out of that abattoir.

It is thanks to the work of the Deputy Premier, the Premier and the very fine and outstanding work of our Chief Health Officer—whom the LNP in the member for Broadwater was very happy to criticise for cheap political points. She is a very fine and distinguished public servant who has done her absolute utmost to protect the people of our state. We should be building a statue to her. That is who we should be building a statue to, member for Broadwater. We respect her.

Every death from COVID-19 is a personal tragedy. Six people have passed away. Three of those Queenslanders came from the *Ruby Princess*. We need to keep Queensland safe. We will stick to our road map and to the commitments of the Premier and the Chief Health Officer. The decisions we make will be informed by the best chief health officer in the Commonwealth, one of the best chief health officers in the world. On a day when we had the highest number of infections in the world, 106,000, the Liberal National Party wants to open the borders? It is unacceptable. We will protect Queensland.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Federal Funding

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the status of federal and state hospital funding, and is he aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Aspley for his question. I know what a passionate advocate he is for health services on the north side, out in our neck of the woods. Today I am pleased to advise the House that, after years of negotiation, the Premier yesterday signed a new National Health Reform Agreement. I can advise the House that the agreement we signed was a much better agreement than what we first were offered. This represents Queensland securing our fair share of hospital funding. The agreement we signed involved more dollars for our hospitals. It will allow us to employ more doctors, nurses, midwives and health professionals. It will allow them to do more surgeries and provide more appointments and more treatments.

It is a better deal because we did not take the first offer from the Commonwealth like those opposite urged us to do. Back when the feds were still refusing to pay us for surgeries performed under the current agreement, the Leader of the Opposition wanted us to sign up to the first offer of a new agreement. The opposition was so loyal to her bosses in Canberra that she did not even think we should negotiate and did not even think we should advocate and push for a better deal, and that is precisely what we have managed to secure.

I want to thank and congratulate the Premier for her efforts to negotiate a better deal. I want to thank the federal health minister, Greg Hunt, and the other health ministers for working with me to get a better deal. Just imagine if those opposite had just signed up to the first offer—signed up to the first offer pre COVID back when the federal government was still trying to take money off us for surgeries we had already performed. That decision would have cost us hundreds of millions of dollars.

This new agreement guarantees us \$5 billion in funding for our hospitals this year, an increase of 6.9 per cent—a guarantee we would never have received if we had signed the agreement those opposite wanted us to sign. In 2020-21 we are guaranteed an increase of a further \$300 million—\$5.3 billion for our hospitals. Her loyalty and their loyalty to the LNP and Scott Morrison would have cost us hundreds of millions of dollars and that would have meant fewer doctors, fewer nurses, fewer surgeries and less care for Queenslanders in our hospitals right in the middle of a pandemic. Can members imagine!

Queensland Border Closure

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Does the minister support the Premier's decision to keep Queensland borders closed until September?

Ms JONES: I support the Premier 100 per cent, as I always have. I support the Premier because she will always act in the best interests of Queensland.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms JONES: I know that those opposite want to beat this up, but let us be clear: the Premier has just stood on her feet and said that, like everybody else, including the tourism industry, she would love to open the borders as soon as possible. What she has also said quite clearly, which the opposition wants to ignore, is that while we have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of cases of community transmission happening in Victoria and New South Wales the Chief Health Officer has made it very plain to the Premier and to the government that it is not safe to do so. That is the challenge we face. I call on the LNP to work with its friend—its colleague—in New South Wales to say, 'Please get community transmission under control.'

Queensland was the first state to declare a health emergency. We acted quickly. We had the fastest and quickest testing regime anywhere in the country. We were also the first state to put money into supporting the tourism industry. Those opposite come in here and pretend, as the member for Everton did, that they support the tourism industry, but when they were on the treasury benches they cut \$188 million. Quite frankly, I will take the advice of Tom Tate over a blow-in from Townsville and the Gold Coast any day of the week. He was there—never leave Townsville, supported tourism as a pillar then sat around the cabinet table and cut \$188 million. That is the honourable member for Broadwater's history on this. As I said in the statement I provided to both the *Australian* and the *Courier-Mail* yesterday, like everybody in the tourism industry of course we want to see our borders reopened to get back to business. The quickest way to ensure that that happens is for New South Wales and Victoria to get community transmission under control.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms JONES: As the Premier has said and as I have backed up, our road map remains in place and, as the Premier has said from day one, we have committed to reviewing this each and every month. The reason for that is every month we reduce restrictions on Queenslanders' movements we can see how that plays out in the community. What we do not want to see is what is happening around the world right now, and I acknowledge Tom Tate's comments on this. The worst thing that could happen for us as an industry is that we reopen only to shut down again. That is a challenge. It is a balancing act.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: Correct; they can holiday in New South Wales and they can stay. This is a tough time for governments at a federal level and at a state level. We are walking this line to protect the industry, but we—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling for the next questioner, member for Broadwater, your interjections were designed to disrupt and interrupt and I was not going to do that to the minister. You are warned under the standing orders.

Jobs

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the government is investing to support jobs in local communities and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and her strong support for business and for jobs in the Ipswich and West Moreton region, because that is what the Works for Queensland program does. It builds projects right across Queensland and it drives employment. This week as part of our economic recovery strategy the Premier announced a further \$200 million for Works for Queensland on top of the \$600 million already in the program—all designed to get growth right across Queensland and to get Queenslanders working again. I am pleased to say that Queensland mayors are backing this plan, just like the border mayors are backing our plan to keep communities safe. Tom Tate, Vic Pennisi and Lawrence Springborg—he might be known to some members in the House—are all supporting our sensible and pragmatic approach to protecting Queenslanders from a second wave of COVID-19.

I must say that I was particularly disappointed to see the LNP on a unity ticket with One Nation, choosing to ignore the clear health advice on protecting our borders on a day when the world saw a spike in infections to 106,000—the highest recorded in a single day since the pandemic started. I cannot wait to see members of the LNP stand up in the House and start blaming Bill Gates and the 5G network! Our government will always act in the best interests of Queensland, and that is what leadership looks like. This is how we protect the community and rebuild an economy suffering from a devastating and unprecedented crisis.

Someone who appears to also be having an unprecedented crisis is the member for Everton. I must admit that I do have some sympathy for him because when the Leader of the Opposition sought to contract out the leadership to attack Virgin she gave it to Peter Dutton and not to the deputy, and so that has to hurt a bit. Anyway, the member for Everton decided to take out his frustration on Twitter. When I was asked about jobs the member for Everton again made reference to Queensland's average unemployment rate. For the benefit of the member for Everton, last year to March under Labor it was 6.1 per cent and in the final year under the LNP it was 6.4 per cent.

Prior to COVID-19 the Palaszczuk government had created 250,000 jobs, 53,500 in the year to March compared to 4,600 lost in the LNP's last year. The member for Everton likes averages, so for his benefit that is an average of plus 1,112 a week for Labor and minus 88 a week for the LNP. For the further benefit of the member for Everton, ours is better than theirs. He needs to understand that there is a difference between having a plan and hatching a plot, and it appears that the member for Everton is not good at either.

Coronavirus, Testing

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. Appearing on *The Project* on Monday night, the Premier said that mandatory testing may not pick it up if a person is asymptomatic for COVID-19, yet when it was pointed out to her that it would she said, 'Yeah, okay, yeah, I'm happy to look into that.' Why is the Premier ignorant of basic medical facts about COVID-19 testing when she is making serious decisions about shutting down businesses and schools and closing the border?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It is a fact that a person may have the virus and may not test positive. That is a fact. Dr Young also confirmed that with me and we told *The Project* that in fact what I had said on *The Project* was indeed correct.

Infrastructure Projects

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister update the House on the government's strategy to stimulate Queensland's economy by delivering major infrastructure projects in Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that as the member for Greenslopes he has been singularly focused on delivering jobs for his local community as well as wonderful improvements to local schools and basically just being a great guy.

Our government is very proud that we are continuing to invest in infrastructure. As the Treasurer has said this week, we are going to maintain more than \$50 billion in infrastructure spend to support jobs right across our state. In the South-East Queensland region we have two of the largest ever projects underway to transform our state. I am talking about the Cross River Rail project and the Queen's Wharf development. In total these projects are injecting more than \$9 billion into the Queensland economy and supporting more than 10,000 construction jobs.

Thank goodness that the LNP did not get elected at the last election when they promised to scrap it. The infrastructure industry got on to them and asked them to please not scrap it and then they were going to delay it. At this time when we are going through this terrible pandemic and seeing tens of thousands of jobs shed across Queensland, we would not have had the thousands of jobs, livelihoods and pay packets going home under them. We pressed on with delivering the Cross River Rail project.

I am very pleased to inform the House that today I can confirm that on the Cross River Rail project piling works are coming to an end at the Woolloongabba site. This is a great milestone on this project which is crucial to getting those jobs moving and getting Queensland moving. When it comes to the Queen's Wharf development, once again it has been great to see those workers in William Street. There is us and them walking around William Street. I have had a chat to a number of them. They have been saying it has been very safe on site and it has been pushing ahead. They are very grateful to have a job. I spoke to a number of them out the front when I was getting some lunch and they were saying that a lot of their family members and friends have lost their jobs and they are very grateful that they are continuing to work.

Today I can confirm that the first stage, the foundations of the Queen's Wharf development at William Street, is now complete and the second stage is on track to be completed in July. Workers had to dig 26 metres underground to excavate the car park for a new integrated resort. Today I can announce that we have finally built back up to ground level. What we will now see is so exciting. Looking at the site, one can see it taking shape. We will have a new world-class facility in our backyard. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government will get on with the job of building a better Queensland through infrastructure. We know it means jobs, we know it means livelihoods and we know it means pay packets for thousands of Queensland families.

PolAir

Mr O'CONNOR: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table RTI documents showing the cabinet is considering a review into keeping PolAir on the Gold Coast.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 April 2020, from the Queensland Police Service, Senior Sergeant A. Partington, to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Coulson, regarding application under the Right to Information Act 2009 [803].

Will the Premier now table this secret report in full and guarantee that PolAir will remain based on the Gold Coast as delivered by the LNP?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I am advised that it is staying on the Gold Coast.

Olive Downs Mine

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing. Will the minister update the House on the approvals process for the Olive Downs mine project?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the honourable member for her question and for her continued strong advocacy for regional projects in her area that support jobs. I look forward to working with the member for Mackay to get even more jobs going for regional Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government continues to support a strong resource sector right across Queensland creating new opportunities and more jobs for local people in those communities. This includes projects like the \$1 billion Pembroke Resources Olive Downs project. Queensland's Coordinator-General approved the Pembroke Resources proposal for the \$1 billion Olive Downs project near Moranbah on 13 May 2019. A full year later I am pleased now to share with the member that the project has finally received the approvals that it required from the Commonwealth government. The Olive Downs project has the potential to create over 500 jobs during construction and, even better, over 1,000 jobs during operation of that mine. It will produce up to 15 million tonnes of metallurgical coal per year going through the port of Hay Point at Mackay. It will contribute an estimated \$8 billion to local economies and more than \$10 billion to our Queensland economy.

The Coordinator-General approved this project following an environmental impact statement process and issued 14 pages of conditions designed to limit, manage and offset impacts on Commonwealth environmental matters. The approval conditions issued by the Commonwealth for the mine are almost identical to those which were delivered by the Coordinator-General over a year ago. It is difficult to see how it took 12 months for the federal government to provide an outcome that was similar to the Coordinator-General's. That is more than 12 months of holding up 1,500 jobs in regional Queensland at a time when we need our economy firing on all cylinders.

Today we have seen Matt Canavan in the *Courier-Mail* trying to shift the focus of the federal government's inaction by blaming the tools they have to work with. We know what they say about bad tradesmen. The problem is not the laws. The federal environment department's own data shows that they are making 60 per cent of decisions within the statutory time frames. Rather than running roughshod across the environment over protections, maybe the federal LNP government should stop sacking their public servants which help make these decisions. It is no coincidence that a sharp decline in approvals within statutory time frames matches up with the federal LNP coming into government in 2013. All they know what to do over there is how to sack, cut and sell.

Mr Crisafulli: Wrong order!

Mr BUTCHER: I'm changing it up.

Mr Mander: At least you didn't say 'suck'!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I ask you to withdraw your statement for the dignity of the House.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

TerraCom Resources

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the Craig Ransley, Craig Wallace and Jim Soorley linked TerraCom Resources, owners of the Blair Athol mine. QTC's original assessment of TerraCom was negative, but the government instead gave approval for TerraCom to operate the mine and, against advice, the government has previously paid back millions of dollars held as a bond. Will the Premier order an investigation into why TerraCom is now being considered to receive \$30 million of the cash held by the government as financial assurance, against previous QTC and departmental advice?

Mr Dick: Are you for the coalmine or against it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to follow up for the member, but I take the interjection from the Treasurer. I mean, it sounds like you are against a coalmine.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It appears that the member is against a coalmine. We on this side support the resources sector. There was a great agreement reached this week between the Treasurer and the Queensland Resources Council. It is excellent to see that that fund has been set up to get that money out to the regional communities. That is exactly what the fund is set up for. We want to see some of those returns going back to those projects in regional communities. In relation to the member's question, I am happy to get some further advice.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would seek clarification whether the Premier is taking that on notice under standing order 113(3).

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, are you taking that on notice under the standing orders to get the advice back to the House?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to come back to the House on it.

M1 Upgrade

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the government's progress in building a better M1 from Brisbane to the border?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Macalister for her question. She is a very fierce advocate for M1 upgrades and very effective. I have more good news on M1 upgrades. As we are finishing the upgrades at the merge and Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes, the most recent one being the opening of the Stapley Drive overpass, we are getting started on the next two M1 upgrades that are even larger: on the Gold Coast from Varsity Lakes to Tugun and on the north side the merge at the Gateway.

We are not making the same mistake those opposite made when they did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 in three years. There was three years of nothing on the M1 from the LNP. We are seeing more than \$2.3 billion flowing in joint funds from us and the federal government getting it done. As we do, what we are starting to see is a very interesting trend: LNP MPs are starting to turn up to our infrastructure projects trying to claim credit for them. Last year on the announcement of the light rail stage 3 opening from Broadbeach to Burleigh with the Deputy Prime Minister, the member for Bonney turned up. The Deputy Prime Minister had to ask who he was. He turned up to a Palaszczuk government announcement, backing us in.

There is more. Last week, the member for Burleigh and the member for Mudgeeraba turned up to the Palaszczuk government's M1 upgrades, trying to take credit for work done by us. It is extraordinary. When you look at the LNP and you think about transport, you would know it is a shambles. They ordered trains from overseas. They cut train driver numbers by 48 drivers when they had expansions coming up. Now their position on the Gold Coast is that the member for Currumbin wants a heavy rail station at Elanora and the member for Burleigh does not want to run a heavy rail line to it or from it. It would be like the hospital in *Yes Minister*: it was the most efficient hospital, but it had no patients. The LNP will have a heavy rail station with no rail line to or from it. It is extraordinary.

I am very encouraged that there is now a proposal for a boutique brewery on the new light rail line to Burleigh, at Miami. It is a wonderful proposal. It means that the member for Burleigh's brewery will have a bit of competition, but it does go to show that it is a lot easier to move a brewery to a light rail line than it is to move a light rail line to a brewery, which is what the member for Burleigh has been advocating for and what is dictating their policy on the Gold Coast, which would mean no heavy rail to the Gold Coast ever under the LNP. I note that David Batt, the member for Bundaberg, has said, 'Fantastic news about road funding in Bundaberg' and he thanked people. Good on him.

(Time expired)

Great Barrier Reef

Mr ANDREW: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Minister, why is the government targeting the agricultural sector when recent monitoring by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority indicates changing climate and coral bleaching is the biggest challenge to reef health?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I will rule the question out of order, member, because you have directed it to the minister and not through the chair. I have been clear about the construction of questions. The question is ruled out of order.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on the success of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and is she aware of any alternative views expressed about this program?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Jordan for the question. I know what a huge supporter she is of trainees and apprentices in her electorate. It has been wonderful to visit so many of them with her over the past few years. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is an excellent program, providing much needed skills to people who have been struggling to find work. I am proud to announce that already more than 30,000 Queenslanders have a job thanks to this highly successful program. It is an outstanding achievement and I know that every member of the Palaszczuk government is a huge supporter of the program because it gets results.

SQW training has continued through this pandemic. For example, currently Anglicare is delivering a Get Set for Work project in Cairns. Eight trainees have started a Certificate II in Hospitality, with training being delivered via a virtual classroom. The trainees are working hard preparing care packages and hampers for people in isolation who need assistance. What a wonderful experience and training they are getting. It is because of projects such as that that the Palaszczuk government is so proud to fund Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Of course, we know that if those opposite were in government right now there would be no Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which means 30,000 Queenslanders would not have the opportunity for training and employment. They cut it when they were in government. I know from the times I visit Skilling

Queenslanders for Work organisations that they are so thankful that this government brought back that very valuable program. Not only did they cut it when they were in government; in their election costings document they went to cut it again. They never support Skilling Queenslanders for Work and the wonderful results that it gets.

Mrs Frecklington: This minister must really wish she got a new speech writer or a new topic.

Ms FENTIMAN: I hear the Leader of the Opposition interjecting. We still have not heard from the Leader of the Opposition on whether or not they will cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work again. We know they love cutting, we know they love sacking and we know they love selling, but it turns out that in this COVID pandemic they also love touching things, putting them back and not buying anything. It is cutting, sacking and selling; it is touching, putting back and not buying anything.

Those opposite continue to cut job-generating programs and training opportunities for those most vulnerable in the community. In the economic recovery, training and skills will be absolutely vital. Their record: cutting TAFE and sacking thousands of TAFE teachers. There would be no Skilling Queenslanders for Work under those opposite. Those opposite have a terrible track record when it comes to investing in skilling and training. We know they love to cut, sack and sell. We know they love not buying anything from small businesses. It is time that those opposite stood up for Queensland trainees and apprentices.

Laboratory Information System

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier tell the House how much of a \$68.5 million contract with Sunquest for the now abandoned Laboratory Information System has been spent now that the Deputy Premier has cancelled this IT contract with no benefit for Queenslanders?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Burnett for his question and for his interest in the Laboratory Information System. As I have said, the details of the termination of that contract are still being negotiated and are commercial-in-confidence. However, I do appreciate the chance to outline in some further detail the history of the project and how we got to where we are right now.

In 2012 the then Newman government reviewed the existing Laboratory Information System and resolved that replacing it was a priority for two reasons. One reason was that the legacy system was only supported by the vendor until 2019 and the other reason was that the existing system did not allow for the billing of pathology services, which would be required in order to first commercialise and then privatise our pathology system. On that basis, Queensland Health progressed a replacement system. Since then, of course, we have come to government and we have no intention whatsoever of commercialising or privatising the pathology system, so we have no need for a new system that would allow for that billing as envisaged by the LNP. As well, the vendor of the legacy system has now extended their support to 2029. Therefore, the two reasons for the LNP deciding that this was a priority IT project are no longer there.

While it is true that funds have been expended, it would be silly to continue to expend funds on a project that was no longer required. It would be especially silly to do so in the middle of a pandemic when our pathology laboratories are leading the effort to test Queenslanders—

A government member: At the front line.

Dr MILES:—literally at the front line. It was not the time to be deploying a new system. It was not the time to be distracting them. The governance board for that project was already reviewing it when the pandemic arrived and then determined that there was no immediate need.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I apologise for interrupting. The member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Burleigh are both warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: Those opposite should go to some of our laboratories and ask our scientists which system they prefer, as I have. Every single one of them said that they prefer the existing Auslab system, which is now supported until 2029 and can remain in place. We do not need a billing system as we will not be privatising our pathology services as those opposite planned.

Regional Economic Development Grants

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister update the House on how the government's Regional Economic Development Grants scheme is supporting jobs in the agricultural system and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr FURNER: I thank the honourable member for the question and I acknowledge her ongoing support, encouragement and advocacy for Far North Queensland and the agricultural sector. Mr Speaker, as you would know, since day one the Palaszczuk government has supported farmers and supported the food chain that delivers food to our plates from the Queensland agriculture sector. In regional Queensland, hundreds of small and medium sized agricultural businesses need support from the Palaszczuk government.

The Palaszczuk government is more than happy to oblige in assisting farmers, particularly at times like this. That is why we introduced the Regional Economic Development Grants system, which provides up to \$250,000 to assist businesses to expand and reinvigorate and assist in the growth of businesses and jobs in those regions. In particular, Marto's Mangoes in Bowen is one such business I am happy to acknowledge. I visited Ben Martin's business there last year. It is such an impressive operation which has now been in operation for over 30 years. He is going to install new mature-testing technology which will tell the status of every mango from the point of being picked to the point of being packaged. There will be less waste and a higher quality product delivered to our retail stores. The government is more than happy to provide them with RED grants to support 60 jobs in that region.

The Bowen region has been neglected by the LNP. Bowen is last when it comes to the LNP and the electorate is wanting change. I say to those opposite that a political phantom is waiting in the wings.

In the most recent of my regular chats to Carl Walker, he talked about the impacts of COVID-19 on this region and the associated issues to that area. Some 60 additional jobs will be met and welcomed by the community of Bowen.

Some 14 businesses have been given RED grants since round 2 of the scheme has been in operation to support 600 jobs in regional Queensland. Some 15 businesses were supported in round 1. Combined over the 12 months, that means 1,200 jobs for rural Queensland. That is 1,200 people assisted in new jobs to produce high-quality Queensland food and fibre for consumers in Australia and overseas. It means more jobs, stronger regional communities and more prosperity for Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is all about creating jobs. Those opposite know nothing about that. If anyone wants an example, you only need to look at history where they sacked 14,000 public servants. That is their legacy from when they were last in government. To be clear to the opposition, the people of Queensland are only interested in results. The Palaszczuk government is here to deliver those results and those jobs into regional Queensland.

Coronavirus, Restrictions

Mr BATT: My question is to the Premier. On 16 May 2020, under the frequently asked questions to Queensland Health's Non-Essential Business, Activity and Undertaking Closure Direction (No. 10) it was stated that an outdoor sporting facility with multiple sporting areas can have 10 people in each area. Three courts can have up to 10 people on each court. Just two days later this FAQ was quietly updated which dramatically changed the interpretation to a maximum of 10 people across the whole facility. Will the Premier explain these mixed messages on restrictions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to have a look at the detail, but my understanding is that from the national cabinet and the advice of the AHPPC, they wanted the 10 as a strict measure in place to trial for a month across the board. That applies to a cafe, a restaurant or an indoor sporting event. I am happy to get further detail, but that is my understanding. At the end of the month that is reviewed, then we move to the next stage which is 20. I am happy to take that on further notice. That is the quick interpretation that I have from my memories of national cabinet and the AHPPC advice.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can I clarify you will be doing that under the standing order 113?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

Ms BOYD: My question is of the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister update the House on initiatives arising from the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month in Queensland, especially in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. If you are a domestic violence victim, life is already incredibly challenging. In the advent of COVID-19 those challenges have increased dramatically. If you are a victim, you are likely at home 24 hours a day now with a perpetrator watching your every move, limiting your chance to seek help or to actually flee the situation. There may be children in the home who are isolated and exposed to violence. It was for these reasons that the Premier acted really quickly to have a specific COVID response to domestic violence. Very early on the Premier announced \$7.5 million in support for our outstanding domestic violence service providers to help them meet increasing demand and complexity. On 6 May the Premier and I hosted a virtual summit in Domestic Violence Prevention Month, the first summit of its kind in Australia, to address specific issues arising from the impact of COVID-19 and the solutions that we needed to put in place to address those.

We had 120 people from all over Queensland taking part from every relevant sector, people with tremendous expertise and knowledge and experience, to look at what we need to do to support domestic violence victims and the people who support them. We needed to identify the issues occurring now and the solutions that are required now. The feedback on the summit has been exceptional, described as a game-changer, innovative and vibrant. We are still waiting to put together the input from our vulnerable population groups like Women With Disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQ peoples—from a range of those. I look forward to reporting on solutions.

We are already announcing a way forward. The Minister for Housing has formed a wonderful partnership with the REIQ to match their vacancies in furnished apartment markets with the demand for victims to have post-crisis accommodation. There is a communications campaign to help victims who are isolated at home.

The only thing that has been really disappointing about all of this is the approach of the LNP. We have always looked at tackling domestic violence as a bipartisan effort. I invited the shadow minister along to the summit. He was very fortunate to be with all of these fantastic people who were putting their heads together. The contribution from the LNP is: 'Here is our policy.' They are not even interested in the advantage of having all of these heads together. They just wanted to throw out their policy. Every answer to every question was about their policy. I was so disappointed last night to hear the shadow Attorney-General criticising the outcomes of that summit. We need a bipartisan approach.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Restrictions

Ms LEAHY: My question without notice is to the Premier. On 30 April Minister Bailey's office said in an email, 'Going to work in a driving school or leaving home to take a lesson is permitted as an essential activity under the Home Confinement order. On the same day, in a different email, the Chief Health Officer said, 'Queensland learner drivers may only learn to drive with someone from their household.' Can the Premier explain why Minister Bailey and the Chief Health Officer are issuing mixed messages on the same day?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that the Chief Health Officer took that position because of wanting to limit any prospects of community transmission and to keep it within the household. At the end of the day, it is the Chief Health Officer's advice that takes priority.

Jobs

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Minister for Digital Technology and the Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland jobs and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proud record of backing Queensland jobs. We have been unashamedly putting Queenslanders first. The Premier has put the health and safety of Queenslanders first in our response to COVID-19. We put Queenslanders first and it has saved lives. Putting Queenslanders First has a proud record of creating jobs in Queensland. Before the virus hit, 230,000 jobs were created by this government in Queensland.

Since the start of our Buy Queensland procurement approach, \$17 billion has been invested in over 32,000 Queensland businesses, supporting the growth of 1,000 jobs per week under the Palaszczuk government. We are spending 10 per cent more with Queensland businesses than those opposite did. We have steadily increased the Queensland business share across all procurement categories from 50 per cent under the LNP to an average of 60 per cent under Labor.

I want to commend agencies like the Department of Transport and Main Roads for pushing well above a 90 per cent spend with Queensland businesses. I commend the former minister for manufacturing, the now Treasurer, for ensuring that PPE in this state will carry the proudest stamp of all—'Made in Queensland'—and for backing in Queensland jobs and saving lives simultaneously by standing up Queensland manufacturing and procuring masks, face shields, gowns, sanitiser and ventilators in Queensland. As we unite and recover for Queensland jobs, our settings will make sure that our economic recovery measures make a difference where they are needed—right here in Queensland for Queensland jobs.

It is cringe-worthy to think about what would have happened had the LNP been in charge of the health response given their cuts to nurses and other health professionals when in government. Imagine where we would be in the economic recovery phase under an LNP government? Let us remember their procurement approach. When the member for Nanango was the assistant treasurer and the now shadow Treasurer was the minister for public works they bought trains from India and not Maryborough. They backed overseas companies rather than local companies. They even came into this House and voted against backing Queenslanders first.

Can members imagine a coronavirus recovery under an LNP government? They would have tradies from Sydney flying up to fix roofs in Mackay. With the Liberal National Party's record on manufacturing, we would still be waiting for face masks to be imported from China. The Liberal National Party's record on apprentices and their training cuts means that there would be no apprentice training centre in Queensland. In fact, under the LNP Queensland would not be in recovery at all. We would not be united and there certainly would not be any hope for Queensland jobs.


Queensland Border Closure

Mrs GERBER: My question without notice is to the Premier. The media has reported that tourism industry figures were told by the Minister for Tourism that she was blindsided and shocked at the Premier's decision to keep Queensland's borders closed until September. Did the Premier consult the Minister for Tourism before she announced the border would be closed until September?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.


MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, TerraCom Resources

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (11.22 am): During question time the member for Burdekin asked the Premier a question about resources company TerraCom, operator of the Blair Athol coalmine. I am advised that the estimated rehabilitation cost for the site, as determined by the Department of Environment and Science, is \$71.7 million. I am advised the site is fully provisioned; that is, Treasury currently holds \$71.7 million in the form of surety provided by an Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority approved insurer with a Standard & Poor's credit rating of AA minus. I am advised that neither Queensland Treasury nor the Department of Environment and Science is a party to any commercial arrangements between TerraCom and its surety provider. The state's surety cover in respect of the estimated rehabilitation cost for the site is unaffected.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Debate of Bills, Relevance to Second Reading Debate

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the relevance of debate to a bill is determined by: (a) the long title of the bill; and (b) standing order 139 which states that debate on the second reading may address the principles of the bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report and any amendments recommended by the committee. Speakers have given some leniency to opposition members in debate on the second reading when the government has authorised for circulation amendments that are outside the long title and are therefore strictly not relevant to the bill under consideration. This approach has been based on the overarching principle of fairness.

However, an increasing trend has been for opposition members to foreshadow or circulate amendments that are outside the long title of the bill and then seek to canvass matters relevant to the foreshadowed or circulated amendments. The latitude previously given to opposition members when


the government has authorised for circulation amendments that are outside the long title cannot be extended to the opposition's own amendments that are outside the long title. If this were permitted, the opposition could always construct their own framework for relevance. Members must ensure that their contributions are within the long title of the bill or otherwise in accordance with standing order 139.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 20 May (see p. 1044), on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.25 am), continuing: I thank you for your guidance in relation to amendments outside the long title of the bill, Mr Speaker. In that regard, I officially table in the House the amendments outside the long title of the bill that we will seek to move during consideration in detail.

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020, amendments to be moved by Mr David Janetzki MP [\[804\]](#).

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Mr David Janetzki's amendments [\[805\]](#).

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr David Janetzki's amendments [\[806\]](#).

Those amendments are necessary because the problems that are addressed in those amendments have not yet been fixed by the government. I will be urging the government this evening to permit leave to move those amendments in the House because the problems that are there continue to be there. The minister rose in an MPI on 17 March and said that amendments would be introduced into the House and the laws would be strengthened. Those amendments have not been presented to the House. We saw the minister on her feet again this morning.


Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have just given a ruling in relation to what is permitted as relevant to this debate. You were quite specific in outlining those principles and explained them very well, I should say. I would urge you to give some guidance to the shadow Attorney-General given that pretty much straightaway after rising to his feet he strayed from the ruling you delivered. I would ask for him to be brought back to the bill as it exists before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Acting Leader of the House. Member for Toowoomba South, it is fine to refer to the fact that you will be introducing amendments, but not to refer to the content of those amendments or debate the point around why those amendments may be necessary. Under standing order 139, I ask you to come back to the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On that note, because it is well beyond time that the law is strengthened, this evening when leave is sought to move these amendments in the House, I will be expecting the government to show a backbone for the first time in a very long time and put community safety above criminals.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, the term 'to show a backbone' is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.27 am): In this instance, I address the House as Minister for Local Government. In rising to speak in support of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 my remarks will focus on the amendments relating to the local government portfolio.

As we embark on a new term of local government, the next four years present our newest mayors and councillors and those re-elected with the opportunity and responsibility for leadership through these most challenging times. The Palaszczuk government is committed to working with Queensland councils to keep our community safe, informed and supported through the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why on Tuesday the Premier announced the first tranche of the COVID-19 Works for Queensland program—a \$200 million injection across every Queensland council to fast-track employment-growing projects.

This COVID focused program is new money in addition to the original and much celebrated \$600 million Works for Queensland program, launched in 2016, which will have created or supported more than 21,000 jobs by mid-2021. Our aim is for the COVID \$200 million package to be delivered across 2020-21, and early estimates are that it will create or support upwards of another 6,000 jobs.

Importantly, all Queensland councils are eligible for the program, not just regional Queensland as with previous rounds of the Works for Queensland concept. This recognises that the economic impact and associated unemployment as a result of the pandemic is affecting all of Queensland, including the south-east.

I would like to thank our councils for responding so quickly a couple of weeks ago to the Premier's request for a list of shovel-ready projects. Assistance to local governments does not stop there though. Regulatory changes we have recently put in place have also ensured councils can meet in different ways and different forms while meeting their obligations for accountability and transparency, and those obligations shall not be lowered. This will help ensure that the essential services and employment opportunities provided by local governments can be maintained during the crisis, supporting local communities as they navigate the government's road map to easing restrictions.

Grant administration processes have also been modified to help lighten the load for councils at this time. As I recently informed the House, our initial response to the rapidly evolving crisis also included amendments to the Works for Queensland program guidelines for 2019-21, allowing some councils to access their allocations for use in COVID-19 response programs and activities.

I reiterate today the vital importance of acting responsively and collaboratively to the ongoing challenge that COVID-19 represents. For councils to respond effectively to these extraordinary challenges, they may need more flexibility than the local government legislation allows. Under existing arrangements, councils must decide on rates and charges only at the annual budget meeting and at no other meetings during the financial year.

It has become crucial for their ongoing financial sustainability that councils have the flexibility to revisit their rates decisions later in the financial year if necessary—or, indeed, to be able to demonstrate and provide more support to their communities as the financial and economic impacts roll out during the financial year. For these reasons, the bill amends the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 to provide a temporary regulation-making power until 30 June 2020-21. A regulation may be made under this head of power that would enable all Queensland local governments to decide, by resolution made at a meeting other than the budget meeting for the 2020-21 year, what rates and charges are to be levied for part of the 2020-21 financial year.

Importantly, any changes to rates and charges can take effect no earlier than the day the council resolves to change them. In addition, the amendments provide a head of power for necessary regulation amendments to treat this 'extraordinary decision' of the council as an amendment to its budget. Minor technical amendments also provide for the original rates decision and previous extraordinary decisions to cease to have effect for the relevant part of the financial year once an extraordinary decision is made.

The government is not taking these steps lightly and is of course acutely aware of the current pressures on ratepayers across Queensland to meet their financial commitments. The amendments are a temporary measure in response to the unique circumstances of these very uncertain times. The Local Government Association of Queensland supports the amendments and acknowledges that the changes will be needed by some councils to help navigate the financial recovery of their communities.

The Queensland community looks to its councils to continue to provide essential services. The bill achieves the key policy objective of safeguarding revenue streams for local governments. The department will of course ensure that councils are updated about the changes to the legislation and what it means for their communities.

These are truly extraordinary times but times that remind us of the overarching purpose of our local government legislation, which is to provide for a system of local government in Queensland that is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable. I reflected on that point when in April 2018 we were all celebrating the great success and wonder of the Commonwealth Games being hosted on the Gold Coast. As a minister I was tasked to look after, host and speak to visiting dignitaries and visitors from across the world. Also in a private capacity I attended the games and met people from across the Commonwealth and the globe who had come to enjoy those events. One of the things that struck me was the number of people, including senior officials from governments and from sporting bodies from across the globe, who made remarks to me about how clean the streets were and how clean the community was. They wanted to know what special efforts had been undertaken by the government to make sure the community was so clean and presentable and looked so nice.

I was a bit taken aback. I did not really understand what they were talking about because, quite frankly, it looked no different to every other day here in this fantastic, wonderful state. That is a testament to the great quality of governance and government, both state and local, that we have in this state. That demonstrates why, particularly in these most challenging of times, we should be not only valuing the role of local government but also valuing the success of our governance, the success of our polity here in this state, particularly when we contrast it to the way in which other parts of the globe have reacted to the pandemic.

In conclusion, the bill delivers necessary, urgent and time limited amendments that will help councils maintain their financial sustainability and continue to provide those services on which so many in their communities depend so dearly. I commend the bill to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (11.36 am): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services and seniors, I rise to make a contribution to the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020.

The response to the global pandemic that is the COVID-19 novel coronavirus by all Australian state and territory governments and the federal government of Australia is unlike anything our nation has seen since Federation. The health, social, economic and financial impacts that have occurred as a result of this pandemic have meant that significant measures and supports have had to be enacted so as to ensure all Queenslanders are supported through this health and economic crisis.

Whilst the Queensland parliament has already been called upon to consider and pass urgent legislation in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the legislation before the House today seeks to enact and enable a number of significant and extraordinary measures to further support a variety of government and non-government sectors. As per the bill's explanatory notes, we are told that such amendments are necessary in order to allow for these sectors and more to have greater clarity and certainty in preparing for, and enabling, an emergency response should there be any significant increase in the community transition of COVID-19 infections.

More than two months ago when the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic was still emerging, and with Australia's curve rapidly increasing at that time and then again at that time showing no signs of flattening, I said in this parliament that all Queenslanders could indeed be proud of the global leadership exhibited by our local Queensland medical and health professionals. In the two months since, that statement has not only proven to be correct but in fact been strengthened by the incredible and sustained effort of all of our Queensland medical and health professionals in responding to, and containing, the community transmission of COVID-19.

As a registered specialist physician and medical practitioner, I have personally and professionally contributed to the health screening of Queenslanders in order to reduce the community transmission of COVID-19 infections. There is no doubt as to the dedication and professionalism of the doctors, nurses, other health professionals and staff I have assisted. They are certainly a credit to all health, hospital and community clinic staff here in Queensland. For the benefit of the House, I table some photos. I have already provided these electronically to the Table Office.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting COVID-19 protection measures [\[807\]](#).

I would specifically like to acknowledge and thank the more than 3,200 residents in the electorate of Moggill as identified in the most recent census who directly work in health care and social services for all their incredible efforts throughout the current COVID-19 pandemic. I would particularly like to acknowledge local general practitioner Dr Nicholas Bourke and the team at Kenmore Clinics for establishing a local community COVID-19 respiratory clinic whilst also maintaining their general practice for the health needs of their regular patients. Our local QML pathology provider also has a drive-through test clinic at the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre, and I know they have had the outstanding support of Lisa Jarrold, the centre manager, and her team.

The outstanding determination and commitment of all health professionals in ensuring Queensland's COVID-19 public health response, including testing, is carried out as efficiently and safely as possible has been invaluable in our sustained containment and suppression of COVID-19 infections.

It is these health professionals, these everyday Queensland heroes on the front line, who rightfully deserve every support and protection the Queensland state government can and should provide. To that end, I note that part 12 of this legislation will amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to enable police to apply to a magistrate for a COVID-19 disease test to be administered to a person who wilfully coughs, spits or sneezes on another person and who has been arrested for an assault offence under the Criminal Code.

Whilst new penalties were introduced for such vile incidents earlier this year, including fines of up to \$13,300 or 14 years in jail, part 12 of this Bill will seek to close what some have considered a loophole and provide for the additional step of allowing for mandatory COVID-19 testing of such offenders. This provision is rightfully necessary and in the best health and safety interests of all Queenslanders, especially our frontline health and emergency services staff. Such a provision, which should never have to be exercised, will at least allow for greater certainty to victims and their families as to whether the perpetrators of such behaviours are infectious with COVID-19 and enable them to respond timely and accordingly.

Sadly, we have seen reports in this state of frontline staff at fever clinics and respiratory clinics and also paramedics and ambulance officers and other emergency services workers, including police, facing threats of being purposely coughed on by the very people they are attempting to assist and in many instances treat from a clinical perspective. This is simply not good enough. It needs to be called out, and our frontline health professionals need to be protected from such incidents. It is unfathomable that such despicable and heinous acts, be it real or threatened, could even be contemplated during this public health emergency, yet unfortunately there are those in our community who still do not appreciate the very real—and indeed, deadly—consequences of wilfully acting in a way that could further allow for the transmission of COVID-19.

I now wish to make some comments as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for disability services. I would like to turn to those amendments which directly affect the disabilities sector and Queenslanders with a disability. I note that under this legislation part 4 will enact amendments to both the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Forensic Disability Act 2011. I thank the minister for arranging for a briefing by her department on these amendments following my request when this legislation was introduced into the House.

Any amendments to these acts, especially those that are considered to be emergency amendments and therefore without the full scrutiny of the Queensland parliament's committee process, must ensure that all rights and responsibilities are carefully balanced. To that end, I note that in the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health's introductory speech on this bill, and via my briefing by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, these amendments will centre on ensuring and maintaining the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders with an intellectual or cognitive disability in certain environments and, for clients of the Forensic Disability Service, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the bill's explanatory notes, amendments will be made to the Disability Services Act 2006 to—

... extend the immunity from civil or criminal liability to disability service providers where gates, doors or windows are locked to ensure an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability complies with a relevant public health direction.

Many of these legislative changes are very consistent with what is happening with respect to changes at the Commonwealth level for those providers under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

In addition to amendments that will be made to the Forensic Disability Act 2011, I can certainly appreciate some of the concerns that may arise as a result of these emergency measures on behalf of clients, all of those affected in this sector, and ensuring compliance with public health directives and the Public Health Act. That being said, again it is vital that the amendments introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government adequately balance individual rights whilst ensuring community safety with respect to public health and that sufficient safeguards are maintained. Such considerations are imperative in the effort to ensure that clients, employees, service providers and the broader community are protected from the transmission of COVID-19. I also note that these are time limited and due to expire on 31 December 2020.

In all, some 20 different acts will be amended through the passage of this omnibus legislation, and in my remaining contribution I would like to reflect on just a few of these. I note that there will be amendments made to the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, allowing for a number of measures, many financial, pertaining to lot and proprietor contributions as well as allowing for processes related to the increase or reduction in site rent in the case of manufactured homes.


Whilst many Queenslanders have been waiting and calling for such amendments, it remains a fact that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has been nothing short of woeful when it comes to proactively working in the best interests of Queenslanders with respect to rents and leasing, especially for commercial tenants and landlords. Notwithstanding the absolute debacle that was this state Labor government's botched process of announcing and subsequently withdrawing proposed changes to residential tenancies due to the gross imbalance it would have created, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is still dragging its feet when it comes to commercial tenancies.

Despite legislation passed during last month's sitting, commercial tenants and landlords continue to be left in a state of uncertainty by the Palaszczuk state Labor government's botched implementation and downright refusal to provide the necessary advice and guidelines for tenants and landlords who wish to work together in good faith during the current economic crisis. I continue to be inundated by local businesses and commercial landlords in the electorate of Moggill about this issue. They are desperate for greater action by this state Labor government so they can continue to trade and earn an income, and I call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to act on this issue immediately.

Speaking of inadequate processes, yet again Queenslanders have seen the Palaszczuk state Labor government exposed by its botched decision to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 and allow for the release of prisoners within seven days immediately before they were due to be released on parole. If Queenslanders needed any further evidence of a state Labor government that is beset by chaos and dysfunction of its own making, this is it. Seemingly, the 18 Labor ministers who sat around the cabinet table did not read the draft bill, and we saw the backflip that has taken place in relation to this. Thankfully, due to the strong advocacy of the Queensland Liberal National Party—the only party in Queensland that is dedicated to ensuring community safety and restoring law and order, and the only party which understands that if you do the crime, you do the time—the Palaszczuk state Labor government was humiliated into withdrawing such a flawed amendment.

Finally, I would like to thank all Queenslanders—and in particular, residents of the electorate of Moggill—for their hard work and patience in adhering to COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing measures throughout this pandemic. Both Queensland and Australia have made significant progress in flattening the curve and limiting the community transition of the novel coronavirus; however, we must not be complacent. That is why we must all continue to comply with public health directives, including maintaining appropriate social distancing, washing our hands and adhering to all of the other public health measures and advice.

In conclusion, I would also like to take this opportunity to make an important plea to all those who are yet to do so. For the benefit of Queensland and Australia, please assist in maintaining our terrific community response to the COVID-19 pandemic by downloading the COVIDSafe app. This will certainly assist the terrific work that is being undertaken by our doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals with respect to suppressing the community spread of COVID-19 infections. I commend the legislation to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.47 am): I rise to support this important bill. The world of today has been completely transformed. These are unprecedented times, and we must be ready to take unprecedented steps to protect Queenslanders, their jobs, their businesses and their livelihoods.

Key to this bill is allowing thousands of Queensland construction and cleaning workers to access their long service leave much earlier than they can right now. These are hardworking Queenslanders who right now are doing it tough. They trying to cover the cost of living: the rent, the mortgage, the groceries, the power bills. The government has stepped in to deliver rebates and relief, but we know that we must do more to ease that financial distress in any way we can. Through these amendments, employees in the building and construction industry and contract cleaners who have at least five years service can apply for all or part of their portable long service entitlements up to five years earlier than they would ordinarily have access to their leave.


For example, an employee who has been working in the construction industry for eight years may still be working during the crisis, but their partner may have unfortunately lost their job or their family is struggling with living expenses. The worker would not be able to access their long service leave right now, but this bill, if passed, would allow the employee to take long service leave already accrued after five years. He or she could then contribute to pay the bills and keep their family going. These changes will give thousands of workers peace of mind during this uncertain time. We are protecting their futures in their industries and we are protecting the future of the construction and contract cleaning industries, which are a vital part of our economy.

Along with families, this pandemic has also devastated our small businesses. Some of the hardest hit have been our restaurants and cafes. I want to acknowledge all of the incredible small businesses that have quickly transitioned and adapted to this new reality and have pivoted their businesses to online and delivery models. Small businesses are the engine room of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities. Takeaway has been a lifeline to so many small businesses in this sector. These amendments to the Liquor Act allow these businesses to sell alcohol along with a meal. This is a huge boost for businesses so they can keep revenue coming in at a time when they need it most.

It is also a huge win for consumers who, like me, enjoy a nice glass of red with their takeaway pizza. Mr Chester Wine Bar in Fortitude Valley was thrilled to be able to deliver their customers wine with their takeaway food orders. As you can imagine, as a wine bar, alcohol is pretty key to their business. We know that cash flow is key to business now more than ever, so allowing businesses like Mr Chester to sell a bottle of wine with their food gives them a better chance of making it through this crisis and keeping Queenslanders employed.

Finally, I would like to also speak to the bill's amendments to the manufactured homes act. My Waterford community is home to many residential parks. These are the homes of many seniors in my electorate and they have been suffering during the COVID-19 crisis. Many of them have been isolated from family, unable to leave their homes. The last thing we want is for these people who have suffered so much to face further undue distress. Home owners in these parks are concerned that social distancing restrictions put them at a disadvantage by preventing them from properly advocating as a group against market reviews that are mandated in the act. The amendment ensures that government can address the impacts of COVID-19 in a way that is fair, balanced and proportionate to the health restrictions in place by making changes to the process set out in the act.

This bill is all about supporting Queenslanders—their families, their jobs and their businesses. The Palaszczuk government is taking unprecedented steps because we are in unprecedented times. It is absolutely essential that we keep our small businesses open, keep people in jobs, support them to pay their staff and make sure we come out of this crisis stronger and more resilient. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.51 am): I too rise to address the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020. At the outset, I want to commend the people of Glass House and Queensland on the way they have reacted and responded to what could have been a dreadful health crisis. Again, I pass on my sympathies to the families who have lost loved ones. One death is a tragedy, but I think all members in this House would reflect on the fact that it could have been a lot worse but for the way every Queenslanders has stepped up to the plate over the last couple of months.

We are again debating a range of amendments to address the emergency response to COVID-19. I want to particularly address some of those amendments that pertain to how we now respond to the economic crisis. I think the health crisis has been dealt with exceptionally well, but we do not want it to become an economic crisis. We are starting to see a number of things through the road map that are inconsistent and creating confusion amongst business owners and operators around the state, and I will shortly reference a couple of specific issues in the electorate of Glass House. A number of things are mentioned in this bill and I hope they go far enough to address these specific concerns. I will start with the amendments to the Liquor Act 1992. The explanatory notes state that the Liquor Act will be amended—

by inserting a new power for the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to issue a Takeaway Liquor Authority to operators of licensed venues whose ordinary operations have been disrupted due to the public health directions, to allow them to sell takeaway liquor as specified in the authority, regardless of the limitations of their current licence or permit ...

I want to bring to the attention of the House the situation of Thomas and Kate Honnef at Ocean View Estates in the south of the Glass House electorate. They run Ocean View Estates, which is a fantastic restaurant, wedding venue and holiday accommodation. They operate that on two properties: one is about 100 acres and the other is about 50 acres. They interpreted—and it appears incorrectly, as we have since found out—that they could open several weekends ago and start doing takeaway food and allow visitors to picnic on their 100-acre property. I know Thomas and Kate personally. They take their responsibilities very seriously. They were doing everything they possibly could to ensure the regulations were met to try to stop the spread of COVID-19. They themselves were personally patrolling the property to ensure all the visitors were socially distancing, and they were making sure their staff were undertaking best practice when it came to the hygiene standards on the property.

It was not until the following Tuesday, 12 May, that they received an email from Liquor Licensing. They do want to thank Trent from Liquor Licensing, who subsequently spoke to them over the phone and talked this through with them. Trent explained that section 9 of the current legislation actually means that, even though they have 100 acres and in Thomas and Kate's interpretation people were not picnicking anywhere near or adjacent to the place where they were selling takeaway, the fact that they were picnicking on their property at all was an offence. Literally their 100-acre property could only house 10 people at any given time.

The problem we have here is the inconsistencies that apply to some of the public spaces that are less than 10 kilometres away from Ocean View Estates. For example, toilets in the national park are cleaned usually once a week with no hand sanitiser supplied to the local D'Aguilar National Park

toilets, and there is no-one policing line-ups or social distancing in the national park grounds. We actually had a number of complaints about the number of community members who were picnicking at The Gantry section of the Mount Mee national park, which is just down the road from Ocean View Estates.

Kate and Thomas are concerned that the legislation as it stands discriminates against tourism providers who are far more capable of providing a responsible easing of restrictions on the road to recovery. They do not see the difference in picnicking in a national park and picnicking on a private property, albeit with a liquor licence. As I said, the amendments here to the Liquor Act may go some of the way to addressing this. There are specific things that Kate and Thomas are looking for clarification on. They have said—

1. We own the property where our buildings currently are located and also the 50acre property next door. Under this legislation would it be permissible to allow visitors to purchase takeaway from the restaurant building and then be directed to the neighbouring 50acre property to actually sit and eat the food?
2. We would like clarification that the government understands the impact it is having on the Tourism Industry, Queensland Wine Industry and Hospitality Industry by making a rule that discriminates against private owners of land and publically owned land. We would like to know if there is reasoning behind this, or if it was an oversight of the implications.
3. We understand that the government is very eager to allow businesses to trade in a responsible way to help restart the economy. This legislation seems to inhibit this greatly for so many businesses without any logical reasoning that we can think of.

They concluded—

We would like to request a re-think of this one sentence in the legislation to allow picnics to occur wherever people can socially distance and where venues are practicing best Covid-19 safe practice and have signed off on the Health department agreement to do so ...

As I mentioned, there may be some scope within the amendments we are discussing today to address some of what Kate and Thomas Honnef of Ocean View Estates are asking, but I would ask the government to take on board their specific request. It does seem ludicrous that there can be hundreds of people down the road at the national park picnic grounds but they are restricted to 10 people on their entire 150-acre property.

I also want to address one other looming crisis that I think we are going to see in a number of operators around the state. It was not addressed in the original COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, it does not appear to have been addressed in the amendments that are being raised today and it has not been addressed in the announcements the government made earlier this week. We have a looming animal welfare crisis coming for our many wildlife operators—

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Member, I would ask you to demonstrate the relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr POWELL: It is kind of ironic that it is the minister for agriculture who is raising this point of relevance, given it is his department that does not seem to be interested in talking to the remaining 80 per cent of exhibitors in Queensland.

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order once again on relevance. You have given instructions to the member and he has failed to listen to your advice. I ask him to get back to the content of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I do not need a commentary on the ruling. I would just ask you to respond to that ruling.


Mr POWELL: As I said, this bill amends the COVID1-9 Emergency Response Act. We really do need an emergency response for these wildlife exhibitors. They are not like zoos, which have been able to receive funding from the Australian government's support package. These exhibitors, like Ben Bawden at D'Aguilar Wildlife in Wamuran, have approached Minister Furner and other ministers seeking assistance. In Ben's case there are 600 animals on site—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock and resume your seat. I will just take some advice. I call the member to continue his contribution.

Mr POWELL: If operators like Ben at D'Aguilar Wildlife are not able to get assistance through the emergency response provided by the Queensland government, I fear we are going to have not only a public health crisis and an economic crisis but potentially also an animal welfare crisis. Fortunately, in Ben's case many in the community have stepped up and provided food contributions to his operation

to ensure that his animals can continue to be fed. It would be fantastic if the Queensland government could also step up to the plate in the same way the Australian government has to assist these wildlife exhibitors ensure that none of their animals suffer unduly during this COVID-19 pandemic.

With those comments, I do acknowledge there are a lot of things in this bill that will continue to assist our response to COVID-19 not only in the electorate of Glass House but across Queensland. I would ask again that the government look at the situation as addressed by Kate and Thomas at Ocean View Estates and also Ben at D'Aguilar Wildlife. I think there is still more that needs to be done. Hopefully, it does not require waiting another month for the next parliamentary sitting to debate further amendments but that this is able to be achieved by the government out of session so that these responses are dealt with rapidly.


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.01 pm): I rise in support of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020. I wish to speak specifically to the amendments relating to temporary detention centre employees. An outbreak of COVID-19 in a detention centre could, in a worst case scenario, mean that a large proportion of our detention centre staff are unavailable for work. If we cannot recruit in time to fill the gap, it may be that an employer such as a non-government organisation with underutilised staff offers to lend staff. However, the Youth Justice Act requires that detention centre employees be employed under the Public Service Act. Negotiating the industrial arrangements necessary to enable those staff to be employed under the Public Service Act while retaining their existing employment would be very challenging.

The bill includes a provision to allow the chief executive to appoint other appropriate persons as detention centre employees. All responsibilities and obligations of detention centre employees will apply, including prerequisites for the exercise of certain powers such as that the detention centre employee complete specified training. More experienced detention centre employees would at all times be rostered with new staff.

There is an obligation to revoke the appointments as soon as they are no longer required, which will be when our regular staff are able to return to work. We will, of course, make clear in any arrangements with appointees and their usual employers that the appointments could end at short notice. The provision provides that all appointments will end on 31 December, if not revoked earlier. Of course, we hope to never need to make appointments under the bill. Detention centres are closed environments, similar in many ways to cruise ships or nursing homes. Even late in the overall curve of this pandemic, an outbreak in a detention centre is still a live possibility that we must be prepared for.

Our priority will always be the safety and best interests of both the children in our care and our staff. I can assure members that the government has no agenda for any change other than this exceptional circumstance, time limited provision. I fully support the current arrangement that detention centre employees be Public Service employees. This proposal only arose out of my department's internal risk management planning for worst case COVID-19 scenarios. We continue discussions with the Together union and the AWU, with whom we have a very constructive working relationship. Those discussions have been positive and we will work even more closely during COVID.

Before I finish I want to pay a special tribute to the staff of the Department of Youth Justice, who have a tough job. They are working day in and day out with the possibility that something like COVID-19 could hit their workplace. They have been nothing but professional and have worked to the highest standards. I am very proud to be their minister.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill on behalf of the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate. This omnibus bill is quite large, but there are a lot of necessary legislative changes to ensure that the next couple of months of recovery run a little smoother. I commend the state government for introducing these amendments to the legislation. The explanatory notes are quite thick, 47 pages, so there is a fair bit in there. As I said, there are a lot of things that need to be covered.

The objectives of the bill are to: implement extraordinary measures in the areas of health, disability and corrective services in terms of the detention sector; reduce the spread of COVID-19; and prepare for an emergency if there is a significant increase in community transfer of the disease. Up to now Queenslanders have played their part. We have all worked very well. Every member in this place has worked with their electorate office and their community to ensure we reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent community transfer. This has allowed us to flatten the curve, as other members in this place have said. What we need to do now is ensure we are getting back to business. We need to ensure that small, medium and large businesses that have been affected by this pandemic are able to return to where they were pre COVID-19. This means that we all have to step up and ensure we are

doing the right thing. We will continue to lobby to make sure that those businesses that have been forgotten throughout this are looked after. A lot of businesses such as sole traders have fallen through the cracks.

The state and federal governments have put in place considerable measures to ensure that some people have been protected. I speak of things such as JobKeeper, JobSeeker and some of the grants that have been made available as recently as this week to help small businesses. However, we need to open up some of that criteria to ensure that sole traders can access some of these grants. Those people have gotten off their backsides and decided to make a living for themselves. They have not relied on someone to employ them. They have decided to go out and try something different. Those entrepreneurs need to be supported through this.

I also want to draw attention to the QRIDA loan scheme that has been released by the state government. It was great to see another half a billion dollars released, but once again it falls short of what the community is calling for. Already a lot of constituents are calling our office asking us to lobby further for another \$500 million or even \$1 billion to try to satisfy some of the loan requirements. This is something that the state government can help the community with. The state and federal governments have access to cheap money through credit lines. That is one way we could help small business.

The bill amends 23 different acts, which makes it quite interesting to try to dissect and figure out exactly what this means for every Queenslanders. The main points we have been able to pick up are that there will be safeguards for the revenue of local governments. This will allow local governments to act with a little more autonomy so they can support their residents through this crisis. They will be able to do this through grant schemes like Works for Queensland to ensure local contractors can continue to work within the community and bid for work.

We also will allow affected workers to apply for payments and to ask for their long service leave entitlements early. This is a good thing for workers but, once again, we are in a situation where people out there are hurting and the state or federal government is not supporting them. People who need to draw on their long service that they were hoping to work towards at the 10-year mark and who maybe wanted to take a couple of months off to go on that overseas holiday in a couple of years will have that taken away from them. It is great to see that they will be able to access this leave, but for some of these people it is almost like robbing Peter to pay Paul.


The bill will provide measures to assist Queensland businesses, individual sufferers and those financially suffering as well in terms of operational stress caused on their business by the pandemic. There is also the eligibility for testing of persons suspected of committing an offence. I heard a member on this side of the House talk about a situation where people were intentionally sneezing and coughing on people. During this pandemic I have seen a YouTube video where a young person decided it would be funny to go into a police station and start coughing and spluttering on the staff. I do not believe this occurred in Queensland, but who would think that an Australian would find this funny? It is disgusting. Anyone engaging in that sort of activity, whether in jest or intentionally, should be tried to the full extent of the law. Those people do not deserve to walk around with the people trying to contain this pandemic.

There are provisions in the bill to assist adult corrective services and the youth detention sector to operate more safely and effectively. This means that Queensland government workers like police will be able to access some of the detention centres to help out during this pandemic. When guards and staff perhaps need sick leave because they have contracted COVID-19 or something similar, the measure provides departments with the autonomy to send in other workers employed by the state government to cover some of these shifts.

We see some positives in the bill. Workers experiencing hardship during COVID-19 can access their long service leave. Like I said, that is a good thing but we are still very concerned about that. Also, in terms of casinos, gaming machines, the Keno Act and the Lotteries Act, there are amendments to defer and waive gaming taxes and levies. This is good news for venues trying to get through this period given they have been asked to shut down for quite some time. This will help some pubs, clubs and restaurants that have gaming machines pick up the slack in their bottom line. That is a good thing for Queensland's small, medium and large business owners that work in this space.

Surprisingly, there are some amendments to the Environmental Protection Act—which we welcome—that provide the minister with the power to waive compliance with certain conditions for environmental approvals where it is deemed unreasonable for officers to go out and do ground truthing in person because of COVID-19 restrictions. This is welcomed by the KAP. Let us hope that people within the department are also told about this, because we know that sometimes within the environment department there is a culture that holds back some of these approvals.

There are also changes to the Liquor Act that allow businesses to engage in the sale of takeaways, which we also welcome. We do have some concerns about the changes to the Local Government Act. We will have to wait to see how that is disseminated through local governments and how they use that autonomy. It does worry us that they may be able to increase or decrease charges in certain respects. Let us hope that the amendments in this bill are used responsibly by local governments to ensure that they do the right thing by residents and not take advantage of them at this time. All the provisions of the bill will end as at 31 December. These amendments represent temporary conditions, one of the main reasons they have KAP support.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (12.14 pm): I rise in support of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 amendments and speak specifically to the amendments in my portfolio area. In these uncertain times, the Palaszczuk government's paramount concern is the health and safety of Queenslanders. This bill includes proactive measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people with an intellectual or cognitive disability and clients of the Forensic Disability Service during the COVID-19 emergency.

We know that people with disability are more likely than the general population to have health issues, including compromised immunity. Some people with disability are also more at risk of contracting COVID-19, and they rely on support workers for essential personal care. I understand that both service providers and people with disability may be feeling concerned about the impacts of this health emergency. The purpose of the amendments to my portfolio legislation is to ensure the health and safety of people with disability in certain environments is safeguarded as well as to protect persons who care for or interact with clients, and the broader community, from infection.

Amendments to the Disability Services Act 2006 will ensure a disability service provider is not civilly or criminally liable for locking gates, doors or windows to prevent an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability from breaching the home confinement direction or another public health direction. This will be similar to the existing immunity provisions in the DSA where a disability service provider who locks gates, doors or windows to prevent the free exit of an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability who has a skills deficit has immunity under the DSA in certain circumstances. This amendment recognises that some adults with an intellectual or cognitive disability might require assistance to comply with COVID-19 related public health directions. Service providers will need to use the least restrictive option, and comply with my department's policy about the locking of gates, doors and windows, to ensure adequate safeguards for the individual are in place.

Service providers cannot use the locking of gates, doors or windows as a substitute for containing or secluding an adult in response to challenging behaviour. If an adult with an intellectual or cognitive disability is being contained by a disability service provider in response to behaviour that may cause harm to the adult or others, this will continue to be considered a restrictive practice, as defined by the DSA, and be subject to more rigorous authorisation processes.

The bill also includes measures to protect the health and safety of Forensic Disability Service clients, staff and the wider public during the COVID-19 emergency. These mainly focus on clarifying how the Forensic Disability Service can comply and give effect to public health directions issued by the Chief Health Officer. In particular, the bill will clarify that the administrator of the Forensic Disability Service can restrict visitors to the service for a public health reason, including to comply with directions given under the Public Health Act 2005, such as to comply with a public health direction to limit access to the service or require persons not to enter or stay at the service.

The bill will also put beyond doubt that the provisions in relation to seclusion under the Forensic Disability Act 2011 do not apply in circumstances where a client is required to isolate in accordance with a direction under the Public Health Act 2005. Amendments will also enable authorised community treatment to be limited where the delivery of the treatment would present a risk to the health or safety of the forensic disability client or others due to COVID-19 related risks. Importantly, this will not allow a practitioner to override a Mental Health Court or Mental Health Review Tribunal order that specifically required community treatment to occur in a specific way or at a specific time.


These amendments complement broader work that is happening. The Department of Disability Services, Communities and Seniors is working with Queensland Health to provide guidance to the disability sector on how to apply public health directions in a disability context and how to prevent and manage an outbreak.

Queensland advocacy and industry bodies, such as Queenslanders with Disability Network and Community Services Industry Alliance, have also developed useful materials to support the sector and people with a disability during this challenging time. Ongoing national work is also occurring to provide

support and guidance to people with disability, carers and NDIS providers to prevent, prepare for and, if necessary, manage an outbreak of COVID-19 involving people with disability. I am working closely with my colleagues in the Disability Reform Council to ensure that people with disability are provided with adequate support and guidance during this challenging time.

To protect everyone's health and wellbeing, it is important that we remain vigilant. We need people with disability and disability service providers to continue following the public health directions, and the bill enables this. These time limited amendments safeguard people with disability and the disability service providers who are providing essential care and support in this challenging time. I take this opportunity to commend the work of those service providers who are on the front line providing essential services to people with disability every day.

I have met regularly with stakeholders across the sector and observed firsthand the passion that providers have for ensuring continued service provision and support for the clients that they work with. They have advocated strongly to ensure that people with disability are at the forefront of our minds in each step that we take to manage this health crisis and I commend them and thank them for their ongoing work. It is critical that we support people with disability to now start to resume their lives as restrictions start to ease. It is important that we start gradually returning to normality and that we are supporting people with disability to access their communities, access routine health care and support people back into their workplaces. I look forward to continuing to work with the sector, peak organisations and people with disability to continue to provide this support as we move into the next stage of managing this global health crisis.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill. This bill amends over 20 different acts, including the Body Corporate and Community Management Act, the Public Health Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the Youth Justice Act and the Corrective Services Act. Broadly, the proposed amendments address a number of issues in response to the COVID-19 emergency and there are a range of sensible measures in this bill which will help ease the pain and aid the recovery from COVID-19.

In relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the bill amends the PPRA to allow a magistrate or Childrens Court to issue an order for a COVID-19 test from a relevant person. This is a positive and necessary amendment that will help protect the health, safety and welfare of our frontline police officers. Police come in close contact with offenders on a daily basis, potentially exposing themselves to the risk of contracting COVID-19. This amendment will give police the ability to request a test order, thereby identifying whether or not there is any risk of infection, giving them the ability to take the necessary precautions.

Moving to the amendments to the Corrective Services Act, the most sensible thing the government has done in this bill is follow the advice of the LNP. Before this bill made its way to the floor of parliament, this government was forced to backflip on what it thought was an urgent priority—to give prisoners an early release from jail. This government is renowned for being soft on crime—Queenslanders know it and our police know it—but this was spectacular, even by its standards, trying to use COVID-19 as an excuse to give criminals their freedom before they had served their time.

Let us go through the chronology of the life of this amendment and what has happened over the last couple of days. On Monday the Premier and her cabinet approved the urgent introduction of an amendment to the Corrective Services Act which would see prisoners get an early mark from jail. On Tuesday, in an attempt to sell the unsellable, we were told that this government thought prisoners deserved to be released from jail early so they did not miss their flight home. At 7 pm on Tuesday, after receiving an inquiry from the *Courier-Mail*, the police minister defended this position. At 8 pm, only 60 minutes after this defence, the minister had backed down and criminals would no longer be released early. What happened between 7 pm and 8 pm to change the minister's position? Well, news had gotten out that the minister was opening up the community chest and giving out 'get out of jail free' cards. This is not a game of Monopoly. This is the parliament of Queensland. The fact that this government even thought it could get away with that beggars belief. We are dealing with important legislation here and this government treats it like a dinner reservation—provisions in at 7 pm and out by 8 pm.

One thing the Labor government and this minister do have a monopoly on is being weak on crime. The only redeeming feature of this whole episode is they have started listening to the LNP, and if they continue to do that maybe they are half a chance of keeping Queenslanders safe. Let us look at the article in the *Courier-Mail* yesterday. The opposition leader is quoted in there saying in the afternoon, 'If you do the crime, you must do the time,' and then the police minister is later quoted in the

same article saying exactly the same thing. I know which party was saying it first and I know which party has been saying it for the last five years. I do not mind the minister copying our homework—in the end, it is for the best—but if the government was doing its job it would not have to copy our work. It would be tough on crime and it would be putting the community ahead of criminals. For the time being I am happy for the minister to call us up and just ask for the answers rather than sneakily copy our work. It will save a lot of time, effort and embarrassment.

This is just another example of the Palaszczuk government having the wrong priorities. There is nothing in this bill to protect the victims of domestic and family violence, there is nothing in this bill to further protect children from paedophiles online and there is nothing in this bill to protect Queenslanders from the youth crime epidemic currently gripping our communities. In fact, such was the urgency to debate this bill that this government has, in its haste, failed to address those same critical health and safety measures it had previously promised to deliver and which one could reasonably expect would be addressed in such urgent legislation. It is bitterly disappointing that this emergency legislation makes no reference to the increasing threat of domestic violence in our communities.


Recent Google data has shown that during this COVID-19 crisis there has been a 75 per cent increase in the average number of searches seeking advice and support in relation to family and domestic violence. Earlier this month the new Deputy Premier and Minister for Health said, 'Anything we can do to address the increase in domestic and family violence during COVID is important.' Even the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence acknowledged that service providers had reported a dramatic increase in the brutality and severity of attacks on women and children, yet nowhere in this emergency legislation are there any measures to help protect the highly vulnerable victims and potential victims of domestic violence.

What has been clearly laid out in the chamber over the past few days is the contrast between the priorities of this Labor government and that of a Deb Frecklington-led LNP. As Labor was trying to slip through urgent amendments to give criminals an early release from prison, our leader, the member for Nanango, was preparing to table amendments to the Criminal Code to better protect victims of DV from strangulation. Similarly, when it comes to the urgent amendments to the Youth Justice Act in this bill to allow for a short period of contract labour in youth detention facilities, the government should have been moving urgent amendments to repeal its current catch-and-release laws—laws which have sparked a juvenile crime epidemic that has seen communities across our state held to ransom by the actions of recidivist young criminals. Queenslanders rightly would have expected this emergency legislation to address these weak laws which see young offenders back out on the street before our hardworking police have had time to file the paperwork.

Our police and all Queenslanders have had enough. As communities across the state, including Townsville, the Gold Coast and areas of Brisbane, suffer from this ongoing crime epidemic, this soft-on-crime Labor government has betrayed them yet again, but this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to examining this legislation which, according to the government, is so urgent and important to the health and safety and financial wellbeing of Queenslanders that it needs to bypass the usual checks and balances of the committee process. Instead of amendments to stop the revolving door justice system, the Palaszczuk Labor government thinks it more important to amend the Youth Justice Act with regard to industrial relations. This government's priority should be to reduce crime, helping members of the community not feel like prisoners in their own homes. Instead, it is more interested in getting prisoners back out into our communities.

It is these lessons that this government has failed to learn that will continue to plague its incompetent administration. These are the hallmarks of a debt, integrity and scandal ridden Labor government that has no plan, no budget and no leadership. When we make it to the other side of COVID-19, Queenslanders will not be celebrating the swift pace of an economic recovery; they will be mourning the loss of jobs that will leave a generational scar to be borne by our children and grandchildren. They will mourn our once vibrant tourism industry—a \$300 billion industry that once supported one in five jobs in this state but which was left to wither because of our Premier's misplaced priorities.

The highest priority of any government should be the safety and security of its citizens and to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can thrive. It is now crystal clear that it is only an LNP government that will provide safer communities for all Queenslanders and their families, only an LNP government that will rebalance the scales of justice in favour of victims and community safety and only an LNP government that will provide a long-term economic plan and a road map to economic recovery.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.29 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill. There is a very important amendment in this bill around the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to support disease test orders for the COVID-19 virus. People who deliberately spit, cough or sneeze on any person commit a filthy, vile and disgusting act. However, when they do so during this COVID-19 public health emergency they potentially expose their victim to one of the most contagious and deadly viruses the world has seen.

These amendments are aimed at providing our essential workers and the broader Queensland community with as much protection to their health as we can. This government makes no apology for wanting to protect and support Queenslanders during this health pandemic. Our doctors, nurses, ambulance officers and police officers provide invaluable frontline care to the community whenever and wherever it is needed. Other essential workers, such as supermarket employees and petrol station attendants, interact daily with members of the public to provide them with vital goods and services. Absolutely no-one has the right to deliberately spit, cough or sneeze at or on anyone.

The provisions in this bill will apply in circumstances where a person deliberately coughs, spits or sneezes at or on another person and they have been arrested for a relevant assault offence under the Criminal Code. The disease test order provisions will also apply where a person is arrested for another offence, for example public nuisance, and during the course of the arrest the person commits a relevant offence by deliberately coughing, sneezing or spitting at or on another person.

The victims of such malicious acts are placed under significant stress as they have no way of knowing with any degree of certainty whether the offender may be infectious with the potentially deadly COVID-19 virus. Establishing a legislative framework that allows a court to order the offender to undergo a test for COVID-19 goes some way to reducing the stress on the victim of such an assault by providing them with knowledge of their offender's potential infection status. As the pathology results of the disease test are sent to both the victim and the offender's nominated medical practitioner, it will ensure that the offender is equally aware of their infection status and any need to self-isolate and receive medical treatment for COVID-19. This is particularly important where the offender has stated to the victim that they have the COVID-19 virus prior to spitting or coughing on them.

It is hard to believe that this type of behaviour is occurring, but sadly it is happening both here and overseas. I can tell the House that in the month of April this year the Queensland Police Service recorded 26 instances where an offender wilfully spat or coughed at or on either a police officer, healthcare worker or a member of the public. Only last week there were widespread media reports about a railway ticket office worker in London who died of coronavirus after being spat on while doing her job.

These amendments complement the strong measures established under the public health directive—Protecting Public Officials and Workers (Spitting, Coughing and Sneezing) Direction—issued by the Chief Health Officer on 27 April. The disease test order provisions will expire on 31 December 2020 or on the expiry date of the declared public health emergency made under section 319 of the Public Health Act should the declaration continue past the end of the year.

The Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 includes four amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 that will assist Queensland's adult correctional environment to continue operating safely and effectively during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Queensland Corrective Services has a workforce of approximately 5,000 staff and they supervise almost 30,000 prisoners and offenders across Queensland every day. Their 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 throughout Queensland. Significant planning has been put in place to ensure business continuity and the safe and secure operation of all elements of the correctional system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland Corrective Services has adopted a staged and evidence based approach to implementing restrictions and measures to detect and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Given the real threat to lives that COVID-19 presents, decisions about how to prevent the introduction and spread of the virus into Queensland's prisons and, in turn, the amendments put forward in this bill, are not being made lightly. So far the measures put in place in our correctional system in response to COVID-19 have been successful. However, to respond to future challenges as the situation evolves, several key amendments are required.


The amendments in this bill will ensure Queensland Corrective Services and the Parole Board Queensland have the necessary powers to ensure the health and safety of prisoners and offenders. The amendments in the bill will expand the application of a declaration of emergency to any Corrective

Services facility, clarify the Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner's powers regarding Corrective Services facilities administered by engaged service providers and provide longer term acting appointments for the Parole Board Queensland. As mentioned, these amendments are temporary and cease at the end of the year.

In respect of the amendments the government is supporting, particularly in respect of the proposed expansion of the emergency declarations, I say that the staged response to COVID-19 in our correctional facilities is largely enabled by a declaration of emergency made under section 268 of the Corrective Services Act. This emergency declaration power currently applies only to prisons and excludes Corrective Services facilities such as the Helana Jones Centre or work camps. This bill will modify section 268 to expand the application of this power to cover all Corrective Services facilities impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

In relation to the proposed clarification of the chief executive function, this bill will amend section 272 of the Corrective Services Act to ensure the continued operation of facilities run by an engaged provider—namely, the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre—in response to the COVID-19 pandemic prior to its transition to full public operation from 1 July 2020. With the onset of COVID-19, Queensland Corrective Services had to re-evaluate the amount of and methods for delivering activities planned in advance of the transition date, such as face-to-face training and change management. As a result, a modification to section 272 is required to clarify the commissioner's powers. This amendment supports the security and good management of correctional centres.

In relation to the proposed extension of acting board appointments, this bill modifies section 228 of the act to increase the duration a qualified person may be appointed to act as a prescribed member of the Parole Board. As a result of COVID-19 the Parole Board has received a significant increase in the number of applications for parole. This amendment is important to allow the Parole Board sufficient capacity to continue to do its work. The ability of the Governor in Council to appoint a suitably qualified person to act as a board member for longer than three months increases the board's capacity. We live in challenging times, but the government is doing everything in its power to keep Queenslanders safe and healthy. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill before the House. I also wish to join many members in the House in congratulating the doctors, nurses and, in particular, paramedics for the great work they have done during this COVID-19 pandemic. We have heard a lot of strong and true words regarding doctors and nurses and the great work that they have done. I want to highlight the work of paramedics. Paramedics are first responders. They have been seen in many shots in America and Europe transporting very sick and injured people to and from hospital, to the morgue, it is sad to say, and also visiting houses throughout sectors in which they operate.

The situation here in Queensland, indeed Australia, never got to that extent, but I acknowledge the great work that paramedics did do during the pandemic and will do in the future. I think paramedics are, to a certain extent, the forgotten one of the threesome in relation to the provision of medical services in this state and, indeed, Australia. They should be applauded for that. They could have been called upon to undertake some very serious and dire choices if things had become as bad here as they have become in the United States, Italy and the United Kingdom.

The purpose of the bill is, in part, to provide financial assistance and benefit to the business community. One of the things that the government can do is deliver a budget so that the whole of Queensland can understand where we are at financially. As I understand it, we are the only government that will not deliver a budget during this pandemic. That is an absolute disgrace.

To fail to deliver a financial statement or an update to show where we are at is a cop-out because industry, business, mums and dads, the opposition and, generally speaking, the people of this state deserve to know where we are at financially and what we are facing going forward. It is not good enough for a government or a Treasurer to simply say, 'It is too difficult to make that assessment.' They are paid good money to clear the air and to provide the documentation and some certainty as to where we are at financially. What will be the impact in relation to payroll tax, land tax, stamp duty et cetera? Where do we sit in relation to revenue going forward? What will be the impact upon the GST? This House and this state deserve to know all of those matters of a financial nature.

Another matter that is increasingly coming to the fore is the question of when the state will start to reopen its borders. On the Sunshine Coast we have the best climate in the whole of Queensland, by a country mile.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr McARDLE: The raucous interjections from all sides endorse my comment.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I also accept the challenge from my friend on my right, the member for Nicklin, who also understands the reality of what I have just stated. Every winter the Sunshine Coast has a massive influx of people escaping from the bitter cold of Victoria and New South Wales. And why wouldn't they leave those states to visit the Sunshine Coast in Queensland? A lot of the apartment managers and owners depend upon that income to get them through the tougher times. They rely upon people coming to Queensland for the winter. We need to start debating in a serious manner why this government is dragging the chain until September and maybe beyond before the borders will be opened.

A government member: Health advice.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I take the interjection. The Australian Deputy Chief Health Officer, Dr Paul Kelly, has made it quite clear that he sees no basis for the borders still to be closed. We do not have even an idea of what is going to happen. We had a nebulous statement that it would be one day in September, but now it is sometime from September to the never-never.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Caloundra, please pause. The cross-chamber chatter can cease. Member for Caloundra, I encourage you to continue your contribution.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your protection from the raucous member across the chamber. I repeat: it is time that we have a serious debate about this. It is time we understood the impact that this is having upon the economy of this state and, importantly, upon the economy of the Sunshine Coast, which relies so much upon tourism. It is not that we need to move immediately, but we need to start moving. We need to have a plan, a concept, an idea, a vision. To do nothing until September is simply ridiculous. It creates doubt, it creates uncertainty and it creates economic chaos, in relation to not just those who operate apartments but also the whole chain that relies upon people who come to Caloundra and other second-rate areas of the Sunshine Coast, such as the food stores and the clothing stores, all of which rely upon the tourism industry. The supply chain that flows through to tourism will also be badly impacted. As I said before, it is time that the debate is had and some hard and fast statements are made as to when we are going to start moving out of this economic malaise. We should not now be sitting back and waiting until a date yet to be fixed. How childish is that?

I join others in speaking about the issue of deliberately spitting, coughing and sneezing and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. I agree that deliberately undertaking one of those actions in any circumstances is abhorrent. They all carry germs. They all pass on the risk of some sort of germ being passed on or some sort of infection being caught. In a COVID-19 world that is absolutely appalling. The government must be acknowledged for putting in place the steps under clause 49 to ensure that the Magistrates Court and Childrens Court can make appropriate orders. People do need protection from COVID-19 and this is a realistic and reasonable step.

Of course, what is not so reasonable is the amendment of the Corrective Services Act to release prisoners seven days prior to their release date. That is simply one more example of a government that is weak. The government does not understand that when a person is put in jail they are put in jail for a good reason. They have done the crime, the court imposes a sentence and citizens of this state expect that sentence to be adhered to. Again, a weak Labor government waters down the protections enjoyed by the people of this state.


Mr Russo interjected.

Mr McARDLE: Is there money in trust, sir? This is not the first time that this has happened. Under clause 51 of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, they proposed to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court thereby, in essence, giving juveniles a free go at stealing motor vehicles and committing fraud and property theft. The LNP pulled the government back on that one by writing a statement of reservation that said, 'This is wrong.' Again the government was going weak on crime and now they have gone weak on crime yet again through clause 10 in this bill. If they cannot get it right, they let them out. As they go out the door they say to them, 'And by the way, here is your free pass for next time.'

There needs to be a bit of backbone in the Labor Party cabinet. There needs to be a bit of strength and understanding of what Queenslanders want from their justice system. We know that when criminals go before a court a jail sentence is often the very last resort. Our courts do give repeat criminals enough time to change their ways—

Mr Lister: Especially if they invade farms.

Mr McARDLE:—particularly if they invade farms. However, at the end of the day it comes down to this point: when a judge or magistrate sentences someone to a term of imprisonment, it is for a good reason. In many cases it is not a one-off situation. People in this state demand that those sentences be adhered to. The Labor cabinet needs to understand that that is what people want, that is what people expect and that is what they demand. I conclude by making one last comment: we need to address the issue of Queensland's borders. We are going to be crushed economically. Setting a never-never date is simply not good enough for a state that relies so much upon tourism for its revenue and resources.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.49 pm): I rise in support of this bill. In particular, I will be addressing the amendments to the portable long service leave legislation. It amends the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991. We are in unprecedented times and there is a lot of hardship out there. In relation to the debates that we have been having in this House, it would have been nice to have had a debate last night if the opposition really wanted to talk about the border issue instead of debating a motion based on bogus integrity issues. I recall one of them being that the member for Thuringowa had a spat with the *Townsville Bulletin*. That was a really big integrity issue! Instead of spending the hour debating exactly what they want to debate, they come in here and they move a motion on some bogus integrity matters. Then we have the member for Caloundra get up here and start to discuss how we need to debate these issues. They squander an hour talking about absolute rubbish.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for McConnel, that debate was last night. We are on the COVID bill now and I ask you to come back to it.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, I was responding to the member for Caloundra who raised the issue of the border closure throughout the whole of his speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, I gave you leeway to do that. Now I ask you to come back to the bill.

Ms GRACE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing economic support for Queensland workers and their families suffering financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 global health pandemic. Queensland has two portable long service leave schemes—a building and construction industry scheme, which is administered by the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act, and the contract cleaning industry which is administered by the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005. These portable long service leave schemes allow registered workers to accumulate long service leave entitlements based upon their continuous service in an industry rather than with a single employer because of the high migration within an industry of those workers—contract cleaners and construction workers. These schemes are vitally important for workers in industries in which there is a high level of workforce mobility. They ensure that these workers do not miss out on the key entitlement of long service leave which they did before these schemes were introduced.

The bill introduces temporary amendments to the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act and the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005. The amendments would allow registered workers under these schemes with at least five years service to apply for payment of all or part of their long service leave entitlement if they are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 emergencies.

We are in unprecedented times. Allowing this to occur is unprecedented, but we understand the hardship that some workers may be going through. We do not propose that this becomes a precedent; it is only for these unprecedented times. Ordinarily, registered workers under these schemes would not be able to apply for their pro rata long service entitlements until they had reached 10 years or equivalent service, recorded under their respective industry scheme.

The amendments are beneficial in that they are intended to provide easier access to accrued long service leave where members are suffering hardship as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. There are no impacts if members do not seek access to their long service leave. They will just continue as normal.

These changes have been advocated for, and have broad-ranging support from, the building and construction industry portable long service leave board, the contract cleaning board and industry stakeholders, including employers. I thank the MBA. I have had excellent discussions with representatives of the board from the MBA, union representatives representing the industry and workers as well.

The board will also work up the criteria—can we call it the rules—for early access. There will be appeal rights in that. For example, details are included in this bill about how an affected registered worker makes application for payment for their entitlement. It also provides details of the approval process. The authority will be able to consider the different circumstances of the affected registered workers and review and appeals rights will apply. Details of their entitlements and calculation of the payment of long service leave will be included, along with the criteria to be met under the application and how a worker goes about applying.

Workers who are eligible to receive a financial hardship payment may make a claim if they wish to do so. Accessing portable long service leave on financial hardship grounds will reduce a worker's long service leave balance by the amount they elect to access, if approved. Workers under these schemes will continue to accrue service credits for any eligible work they perform.

Individuals should consider their circumstances prior to making a claim. Workers are encouraged to seek independent financial advice regarding their personal taxation obligations arising from accessing portable long service leave entitlements under these financial hardship provisions and also under ordinary circumstances. To be well aware of exactly what they are applying for and how it may affect them is always a good thing to do in these very difficult times.

Take the example of Frank, who works on a large construction site. There have been no shutdowns at the site and Frank has continued with his employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frank's partner has been stood down from her role in another industry. Hopefully, she will be able to claim the JobKeeper allowance, but their household income has reduced by more than 30 per cent. They have three children. Frank goes to the QLeave website to lodge a claim for long service leave but his claim is denied because he only has seven years service. With the change in this legislation for financial hardship cases, if Frank qualifies with the criteria, he will be able to use the entitlements he has accrued to claim a long service leave payment. The supplementary income could be used to support his family during this time. Whether it is Frank or Frankie, he or she will be able to make application in that way to help them as workers through this pandemic.

These changes are supported broadly and I am very proud to be bringing them forward for the first time since they have been set up in these unprecedented world economic times.

The descriptions of circumstances under which the amendments will apply are not exhaustive and are to provide instructive guidance only without limiting any further advice or directions from the Chief Health Officer in respect of the COVID-19 emergency. If we need to extend or otherwise, it will be dependent on the Chief Health Officer. Further, the amendments have been based on similar provisions included in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020.

The schemes will be able to deal with applications flexibly in light of the range of circumstances which might affect individuals and their households. Review and appeal rights would apply. That is fairly important. If someone is experiencing hardship and they feel that they should be entitled to it, the board is very keen to ensure that this is a facilitative provision rather than an exclusive provision. If there are issues where someone feels they have been wrongly denied, then those appeal rights will be built into the process.

The provision, very importantly—because we do not want this to be a precedent—expires on 31 December 2020. There will be transitional provisions for applications not decided or payments not finalised before the state, which is only fair. If you get your application in and it has not been decided upon or finalised, you will be able to have a transitional provision to have that work through.

Importantly, the proposed changes do not provide any additional entitlement to workers under these schemes but rather they simply allow for earlier eligibility to pro rata entitlements on financial hardship grounds. As I said, there will be strict criteria in relation to that. Queensland workers and their families have been hit hard by the crisis. We, as a Labor government, will always do what we can to ensure economic support.

These legislative amendments are considered reasonable and necessary to support workers and their families in these challenging and unprecedented times. We want to make sure that no-one is in financial hardship. As with some who are accessing superannuation, JobKeeper and others, and businesses have access to grants and a number of economic supports that the government has put in place, we wanted to make sure that workers and their families were not inhibited in accessing rights that they may otherwise not have had but will not impact on them in the long term.


I fully support this amendment. The cabinet was very happy to do this. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Regional and Rural Queensland, Coronavirus Response

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.00 pm): As Queensland tries to dig itself out of the economic hole from the coronavirus pandemic, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to fail rural and regional communities with its lacklustre and underwhelming support. It is no secret the agriculture and fishing and forestry industries are vital to keep Queensland going during these difficult and challenging times. Unfortunately, there has been a glaring lack of recognition and support for these important sectors. Labor's sales pitch for the government's economic recovery is an eight-page glossy brochure titled *Unite and recover for Queensland jobs*. Other than a front cover picture of cattle, there are no announcements for the agriculture sector. In fact, agriculture is only mentioned once in the whole unite Queensland plan, describing it as a 'traditional strength'.

This Brisbane-centric, anti-regional Labor government is taking our hardworking farmers and agriculture sector for granted. Labor's disdain for the sector is underpinned by a hapless and incompetent agriculture minister. Minister Furner's incompetence was shown when he sat back and allowed farmers to be denied access to their firearm and weapons retailers even though weapons are essential tools for food and fibre production. The inaction was in keeping with Labor's ideological opposition to these tools of trade. The minister's mess was only fixed after pressure from the LNP.


Together with the Premier, Minister Furner kowtowed to Chinese pressure rather than support 'Team Australia' and defend our 18,000 beef processing workers and \$6.9 billion export industry. Minister Furner sits back and does nothing for Queensland's 124 micro and small wildlife exhibitors who provide jobs for 300 employees. They have begged for help as they struggle to fund significant food bills when no money is coming in. No industry is immune. The forestry industry is hurting. Timber Queensland has asked for a stimulus package to keep the forestry industry turning. Gympie is a timber town. Locals know and understand the importance of the forestry industry. It should not be taken for granted.

Minister Furner and the government continue to disgracefully snub our commercial fishers. Hundreds of fishing businesses still must pay thousands to the government for boat fees, fishing licence fees and safe food accreditation, despite the collapse of demand and revenue. The minister refuses to even consider waiving these fees while other states like New South Wales have waived them. It is reprehensible and speaks volumes of the minister's contempt for the sector.

The litany of inaction continues. There has been no direct assistance for overnight charter boat operators. There are still no answers about what will happen to drought support after Labor's cuts come into effect from 1 July. There have been no answers about the future of the former agriculture education college in Emerald. Fire ants continue to spread despite extra money being poured into questionable so-called eradication efforts. The ants are now only a stone's throw away from the New South Wales border. We must stop this invasive pest in its tracks.

(Time expired)

CopperString 2.0

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.03 pm): It was a very proud day on Tuesday when the Premier announced the \$14.8 million funding for CopperString 2.0. When I visited the mines of Dugald River, Phosphate Hill, Cannington and Ernest Henry, all mine managers told me that the cost of freighting product to port and the cost of electricity were holding them back from expanding and creating more jobs in the north. I have advocated for those two key components to help mining companies in the North West Minerals Province. Last year the former treasurer announced in a pre-budget visit to the port of Townsville a \$20 million per year offset for freight on the Mount Isa rail line for the next four years. This week's \$14.8 million CopperString announcement will significantly lower the cost of electricity for mines. Mine managers told me that by achieving lower freight costs and lower electricity costs, mine production would increase and smaller mines would be able to open for production, meaning more jobs for the people of North Queensland.

Do not just take my word for it. In the *Townsville Bulletin* today the CEO of development body MITEZ, Glen Graham, said that the Eva copper mine could be one of the first new mines to benefit from the lower energy costs the transmission line project would deliver. The article quotes Mr Graham as stating—

Lower energy costs is probably going to be the game changer that will enable a reasonable number of new mines to open up in the region, which can only add to the production of concentrates, particularly to feed the Mount Isa copper smelter in years to come, which is going to be very important ...

The *Townsville Bulletin* editorial on Wednesday, 20 May 2020 stated—


There was a real risk that if this project did not get state funding support, it would not have gone ahead. That would have put at risk not only future jobs, but current jobs in Mt Isa and Townsville.

The *Townsville Bulletin* also labelled the project a 'nation building project' and a 'game changer'. Both of these terms are spot on.

The people of Townsville know that the mines in the north-west send their product to Townsville by rail to be exported through the port of Townsville. That link is critical and that is why the Palaszczuk government has invested in that infrastructure. Under the LNP, both the rail line and the port would have been sold to foreign owned companies that would have literally charged the earth for freight. We own the assets. On this side of the House, we know that no private company buys a business to drop the prices or protect local jobs. That is why we have kept the assets.

That is why the CopperString project is so important to the people of Townsville and those in the corridor right out to Mount Isa. Getting product out of the pit to port in the most effective way is what Labor does. We are delivering for the people of the north.

Arts Sector

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.06 pm): Queensland's arts and cultural sector is facing many challenges given the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. With shows, events and performances having had to be cancelled due to necessary government enforced public health restrictions, our arts sector requires every bit of assistance the Palaszczuk state Labor government should, and must, provide. The practical aspects of how venues will operate into the future with social distancing measures and how they can operate safely from a community health perspective is a significant challenge. This will require detailed consideration and planning with respect to the physical aspects of holding events and hosting performances as well as the important aspect of economic viability given the required reduction in seating capacity to meet public health requirements.

There is also the critical matter of casual employees and skilled workers at both QPAC and the Queensland government's museums and art galleries. The Queensland state Labor government is abandoning these skilled creative industries workers. These casual workers were all employed until the end of April 2020 under the state Labor government's pandemic leave arrangements, whereby pre-existing shifts were honoured throughout that month. However, it appears that, moving forward, no more additional support is being made available by the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This is simply not good enough.


For a political party and government that claims to be all about jobs and workers, this is extremely hypocritical and disappointing. The loss of such workers will be damaging for Queensland's arts and creative industries sector and its long-term viability. The economic, social and artistic implications will be immense for many years to come. The depth of corporate knowledge and the skills base that has been and will be lost has been devastating and will be a challenge for rebuilding the vibrancy of our arts and cultural sector once the COVID-19 pandemic has eased. There will also be a huge ripple effect across Queensland's performing arts and creative industries more broadly, including in rural and regional Queensland.

I call upon the Palaszczuk state Labor government and the Labor Minister for the Arts to step up and support these workers. These workers need support and it is the right thing to do. The Palaszczuk state Labor government always likes to blame Canberra and the federal Morrison coalition government, but it is important that they take their core responsibilities as a state jurisdiction seriously and support workers here in Queensland.

Rapidly the Palaszczuk state Labor government has turned the current health crisis into an economic crisis in Queensland. Labor is failing to protect jobs, let alone create jobs. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, and well before the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, unemployment in Queensland has either been the highest or the second highest of any state jurisdiction. Business confidence under Labor has been the lowest of any state in Australia. Labor has no plan for infrastructure spending let alone a credible plan and pathway to economic recovery in Queensland.

It is only a Liberal National Party government that is able to get Queensland working again. Only the Liberal National Party will deliver infrastructure to bust traffic congestion, improve school and classroom facilities, ease cost-of-living pressures, provide better health and education services and protect our environment not only in the electorate of Moggill but right across Queensland.

Climate Change, Policy

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.09 pm): I note that the member for Moggill did not table a letter that he would have written, or should have written, to his federal counterpart asking them to include statutory authorities and arts and cultural workers within the JobKeeper or the JobSeeker allowance. I would like him to table a letter in the future if he is so passionate about the issue.

Like many people, on Monday night I watched the *Four Corners* program 'Climate Wars'. Talk about a bad move. I went to bed despondent about the last decade of failed climate policy and that the opportunity to establish an emissions trading scheme was squandered so recklessly by the Greens political party, who swapped out action on climate change for base political grandstanding. There is no question that the ensuing decade would have been a different story than that of continued climate and energy policy failure and the sacrificing of outcomes for raw political ambition.

To further add to the disappointment and despondency, the Morrison government this week released a technology investment road map for low emissions technology. This represents the coalition government's 19th energy policy attempt in seven years—19th energy policy in seven years. There is no reduction target and no time frame in which to achieve it. Predictably, it was delivered with the puerile three-word slogan repeated over and over again 'technology not taxes'—of course deliberately obfuscating the fact that the \$2 billion that will be used to support the road map is taxpayers' dollars.

One hundred and forty energy technologies including coal-fired power and nuclear energy are included in the road map. It seems that every energy perspective within the Liberal and National party rooms has been included in the coalition's 19th energy policy. This is a very safe strategy for a party where there is no unity of perspective on the issue of climate change—ask the member for Callide—and where leadership on the issue is a sure path to a spill motion.

The devastating fires of 2019-20, the unheeded pleas to the federal government from lifelong firefighters, the dismissing of basic science and urgent evidence before policymakers and legislators have left so many Australians dismayed and angry at the impotence of federal legislators specifically and the political system more broadly. It is important that we do not just focus on the disaster of the federal coalition's energy policy and lack of action on climate change.

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order, member for Burleigh!

Ms TRAD: Look at the work that the states are doing, particularly Queensland, to deliver real action on climate change and cleaner, cheaper energy. We have set a policy framework of 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030. This has created the economic certainty necessary to attract more than \$6 billion worth of investment, creating almost 6,000 jobs and securing more than 3,600 megawatts of clean energy.


Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, this is your last warning.

Ms TRAD: We have established CleanCo. We have stopped broadscale tree clearing. It is really clear that, when it comes to driving down electricity prices through cheaper renewable energy and also ensuring that we are delivering better environmental outcomes, it is only Labor you can trust.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member for Glass House to use members' correct titles in the chamber.

TerraCom Resources

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.12 pm): I rise to inform the House of serious issues regarding the operation of the Blair Athol coalmine in Central Queensland by TerraCom Ltd. With ownership of a coalmine comes responsibility and, more importantly, accountability. In this case there are some serious questions to be asked around access to funds held in the financial assurance scheme.

This issue involves none other than a former Brisbane lord mayor, a former Labor minister, a former Townsville Labor mayor, a former Labor state secretary and two former Labor treasurers. It is about profit for Labor heavyweights at the expense of Queensland.

This saga began in July 2016 when TerraCom purchased the Blair Athol mine for the princely sum of \$1. In April 2017, a month after Jim Soorley was appointed to the board, the mine was transferred to Orion, a wholly owned subsidiary of TerraCom. In July that year, Orion met with the Department of Environment and Science officials at least four times to discuss outstanding requirements for the financial assurance plan.

During and following those meetings, departmental staff raised the issue of a 'topsoil deficit' and the need to be aware of the possible involvement of Jim Soorley. Further, a departmental briefing note following those meetings refers to the possible need to 'increase significantly the amount of financial assurance required'. Yet on that same date and in the space of six hours, the department reversed its decision to include the cost of the removal of the coal handling and processing plant from the financial assurance.

Over the next 12 months, TerraCom received a refund of \$5 million from the financial assurance fund of \$80 million that was paid and transferred by the mine's previous owner. This was despite the fact that TerraCom effectively reduced the total rehabilitation area and breached the conditions of the mining lease by transporting coal by road instead of rail for a period of six months. It continues: in July last year another \$3 million was returned to TerraCom. Then in January another \$27 million was released to TerraCom.

This whole sorry tale reeks of corruption. Queenslanders are right to ask how a company with deep Labor roots, a company that met with senior Labor officials and a company that donated only to Labor can effectively receive \$35 million of funds held to rehabilitate a mine site that they purchased for \$1.

For a company that breaches its mining lease conditions and reduces the amount of rehabilitated land to receive these refunds simply cannot be seen as a coincidence. This Labor government has a lot of explaining to do, and Queenslanders have a right to demand answers because, make no mistake, this is a serious issue with massive financial implications for this state.

Maiala Day Use Area



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.15 pm): Nestled in the heart of the Mount Glorious township is Maiala, the first national park declared in the D'Aguiar Range. Maiala is a special place for many in our community and it holds a special place in my heart, being the location of my family's annual Boxing Day celebrations with friends as I grew up. Whether you are looking for the beauty and majesty of a rainforest walk, a cook-up on the barbecue, a picnic to enjoy the beautiful Queensland weather or just a pit stop with a spectacular view on your way through your mountain drive, Maiala is the resting stop for many.

On this side of the House we fundamentally believe in access for all. That is why Labor in government has invested in revitalisation works at the Maiala day use area to achieve universal access for visitors. Sometimes not everything goes to plan, and a breakdown in communication saw my mountain's communities launch into a campaign around specifically saving the iconic picnic shelter from demolition for a modern replacement. In August last year with the intervention of the Minister for Environment, the member for Algester, we managed to halt construction works and review this component of the plan.


The shelter is a structure in a rustic style known throughout the US park service as 'rustic architecture' and is believed to be constructed by locals in the 1950s using local timbers. With the community importance to preserve the structure conveyed, the minister worked with the community to preserve the structure for years to come. I wish to place on record our community thanks to the minister and her staff.

We also worked hard to ensure throughout the time of construction that portaloos were available for public use. I recall driving down the mountain one afternoon and seeing a truckload of portaloos driving up. I have never been so delighted to see something being delivered.

This Saturday, 23 May, Maiala reopens to the public. Despite our best efforts, the picnic shelter has not been able to be kept in the original condition but has been reconstructed using original roof tiles and stones in the pillars, and the design allows for more access for all in the community. I have seen some pictures and it looks spectacular.

The original plan with the resident association was a big celebration on site, but sadly that is not to be. Today I wish to place on record in this place my appreciation to our mountain community. Thank you to our passionate advocates—Cathy and Ian Lilley, Carmel Black, Karen Hutt and especially Bill McKeever—without whom we would not have saved the shelter for generations to come or had the essential community input in its reconstruction. We pulled together rapidly and effectively, and our actions have created something really special for our community. I welcome visitors to the beautiful Mount Glorious to experience what a special place Maiala is. It has real pride of place for locals.

Wedding Industry

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.18 pm): I rise this afternoon to urgently seek the government's intervention to save Queensland's wedding industry. Each and every member of parliament would have received emotional emails from brides, grooms and wedding planners distressed that they had to postpone or cancel their wedding day plans. Many of them initially understood that we were in the midst of a health crisis and the sacrifice of their special day was necessary to save lives. Because of their sacrifice, and the efforts of our frontline health workers and all Queenslanders, the worst has passed. We need to stay vigilant, sure, but it is time for us to now give Queensland couples the opportunity to reschedule their weddings. Sadly, the road map to recovery does not allow wedding venues to do that.

I represent Queensland's paramount wedding destinations: in the north, the Blackall Range with Flaxton, Montville and Maleny and countless wedding venues like Weddings at Tiffany's, Flaxton Gardens and Maleny Manor; in the south, the D'Aguiar Range with venues like Glengariff, Ocean View Estates, Brockhurst Farm and Birches at Mount Mee; and in the middle around the Glass House Mountains with venues like Hideaway Weddings. Locally the wedding industry brings in some \$55 million to the economy each year. Across the state it is close to a \$700 million industry and includes other premium destinations like Tamborine Mountain and venues like Gabbinbar Homestead in Toowoomba and White Chapel in Kalbar.


Hinterland Tourism, representing the vast majority of these operators, has written to the Premier proposing a carefully considered six-point plan so they can realistically begin to take bookings of around 100 guests from mid-July: (1) the venue will be closed to the public during the private wedding function; (2) all guests' names and contact details must be provided to the venue seven days before the event; (3) the venue will keep that list on file for future reference; (4) guests will be encouraged to download and have active the COVIDSafe app; (5) each guest will have their temperature taken at the venue on arrival; and (6) standard COVIDSafe hygiene protocols will be followed with respect to hand sanitiser and hard surface cleaning.

I table that urgent request and with it letters of support from the Australian Bridal Industry Academy, the Montville Chamber of Commerce, and Queensland operators from Port Douglas and Tinaroo in the Far North to Hope Island and Tambourine Mountain in the south.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to hinterland tourism and Queensland wedding operators [808].

Please, Premier, work with the industry to give certainty to the operators and hope to brides and grooms across the state.

Thuringowa Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): I want to begin by thanking my community for responding so well to the coronavirus emergency. They have done that by following practical measures such as social distancing, hand hygiene and earlier on just shopping for essential items, but as we ease the restrictions those have started to expand. We continue to follow the staunch leadership of our Premier, who follows the advice of the Chief Health Officer. I know that she has the health, welfare and safety of Queenslanders as her priority.

The people to whom I speak in my community and hundreds of people I have spoken to recently are saying, 'Stay the course.' They do not want borders opened too soon. They do not want community transmission. They want a careful and measured response, and that is what we are getting from our government. We have just heard the contribution of the member for Glass House, who said the worst is over. Good grief! There are 1,400 people a day dying in the US and right across the world as this coronavirus continues, but the LNP would open the borders now.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Glass House, you have had your turn. Member for Maroochy, you are up next.

Mr HARPER: I did not realise the LNP had a crystal ball and could say that the worst is over. Community transmission is still present—

Mr Powell interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: Community transmission continues in New South Wales and Victoria. We should not put people at risk too soon. We have a measured and cautious response through our plan, and that is what we should stick to. The LNP should work with the government in a bipartisan way. That is what people want: they want leadership. They want to listen to the Chief Health Officer. They do not want to put people at risk. It is not worth it. At this stage we must be careful in our approach.

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh.


Mr HARPER: The LNP would rather be stuck in the weeds searching for political relevance. They certainly did not stand up for the 5,000 Virgin workers.

Mr Hart interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: Regional Queensland needs a second carrier. We need those jobs and I am thankful we are getting in there. Do you know what else I am thankful for? The 6,000 nurses we have put back into Queensland Health, the 2,000 doctors, the 500 paramedics and the public health officers who increased capacity and testing for coronavirus. The LNP sacked 4,800 Health staff, and that is shameful. I am glad we have restored frontline jobs. We have been able to respond to this because we have done that under a Labor government.

Coronavirus, Road Map to Recovery; M2M Cycleway, Alexandra Headland

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.24 pm): What kind of idiots are running our state government when they quote—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order!

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Thuringowa, I can pre-empt what you are going to say. Resume your seat, please. Member for Maroochydore, you know better. Could you withdraw that word, please.

Ms SIMPSON: Are you saying it is unparliamentary?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask that you withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I was just clarifying—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was unparliamentary language.

Ms SIMPSON: What kind of imbeciles are running the state government—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you know the rules. I asked you to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. What kinds of imbeciles are running our state government—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I am very disappointed. You know the rules. I asked that you withdraw that unparliamentary language. That is the second time. This is your last warning.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdrew. I appreciate you may not have heard it, so I withdraw again.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, resume your seat. Member for Maroochydore, there was one word you withdrew. I am asking you to withdraw the second word you used.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. How incompetent is this government when they quote international figures with regard to transmission rates to justify closing the border with the rest of Australia and not setting a date to reopen in July. If they have not noticed, come July we will probably still have international borders closed. People will not be swimming here. There has to be a road map to recovery that is about a reasonable reopening of those borders. It was in the road map the government initially released and then the Premier said it could be September.


One business I have spoken to said they could hang on until June, maybe July, but by September, after 20 years, they will be gone. Cameron Ross from Avalon Air Services at Redcliffe outlined what that means. Talking to one accommodation provider at Mooloolaba, Ben said, 'The phone started ringing when the road map was released and people saw they would be able to operate from July, until they saw the Premier saying they could be closed until September.'

This is where it is completely nonsensical and insulting for people to be told to look at the international figures when we have to look at the Australian figures. We have to look at the capacity that has been built into Australian medical services. The reality is that COVID-19 is probably going to be with us for years; therefore, what is the road map to recovery? Is it going to come down to the capriciousness of a government that is incompetent and does not know we also have to get the economy going?

I have a 91-year-old mother. I am very conscious—as many of us are in this place—that we must keep people safe, but we also have to get the economy going. COVID-19 is going to be with us for some time. A road map to recovery is about understanding that we have to get on and open those businesses in a timely way. We said the July date was appropriate for lifting roadblocks, even though that would still cause hardship for many, but September is going to smash many people out of the ballpark. It will close down businesses and destroy people's lives in a way that COVID-19 will not. COVID-19 is a devastating pandemic, but we have to have a road map to recovery.

I wish to address the proposed M2M cycleway design for Alexandra Parade at Alexandra Headland. The design needs to be ripped up and begun again after full consultation with all user groups so this precious area is kept for all users and not segregated with a badly designed project of concrete and metal. The current design is a cultural devastation and creates more safety issues than it solves. There are safety issues there, but this is not the right design to fix them.

Nudgee Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.29 pm): I rise to speak to the incredible strength and resilience of my local community and indeed of all Queenslanders in the face of the health and economic challenge of COVID-19. As the Premier said so aptly, never has there been an event in our history which has had such a dramatic and sudden effect. It has taken lives and it has taken livelihoods. It has had a dramatic effect on people's way of life, on local business and industry, and on people's peace of mind. Equally, it has called out tremendous resilience and innovation with respect to how our community operates and cares for one another.

Across my electorate, I have seen local businesses pivot: Triple Eight Race Engineering pivot from building V8 race cars to ventilators, Perfect Potion pivot from manufacturing aromatherapy products to much needed hand sanitiser, bustling cafes pivot to takeaway and home-delivery services, and personal trainers pivot from group sessions to virtual businesses, to name just a few. Small business, indeed business generally, has been incredibly adaptive. I take this opportunity to give those businesses mentioned—and all businesses across my electorate—a sincere shout-out, as I have been throughout this pandemic, by encouraging our local community to rally around them and support local.


However, as quickly as the pandemic turned our way of life upside down, the recovery will be more gradual in nature. It will take time to restore the jobs and economic activity that was lost due to the need to follow COVID-19 restrictions. It is sobering to acknowledge that in just a single month we have lost over half of the gains we made in employment since our election in 2015. Unemployment is now the highest it has been since October 2014 when the LNP was last in government, but our government was elected on a platform of creating jobs and getting Queensland back on its feet after the former LNP government took it to its knees, and we will rebuild once again after this pandemic.

Before COVID-19, Queensland had an economy growing faster than the nation at 2½ per cent and we delivered five budget surpluses. Independent ratings agency Moody's said last month that their stable outlook for Queensland 'reflects our expectation that the state's large economy will remain resilient in the face of coronavirus related disruptions'.

Vital to that resilience is a clear strategy and recovery plan moving forward. The \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan released this week by the Premier is focused on kickstarting our economy and getting Queenslanders back to work. Chief among the initiatives contained in this plan is another \$100 million to support small businesses with grants of up to \$10,000 to help them get to the other side of this pandemic. We are also committing another \$20 million to give access to free online training to assist with reskilling and to get people back to work. These initiatives

are on top of the \$6 billion we have provided to date to manage the health response and support business. Now is the time for governments at all levels to step up and invest in infrastructure. It is about keeping Queenslanders in jobs and creating new jobs, and we are up to the task.

Coronavirus, Aged-Care Facilities

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.32 pm): The people of Rockhampton and across Central Queensland are right to be angry at the mismanagement of a state government run aged-care centre in their community. Last Friday it was confirmed that a nurse at the North Rockhampton aged-care centre had tested positive to coronavirus, and it is believed the nurse was contagious for up to 12 days before that as well. Interestingly, that seemed to be revealed by a tweet from the member for Keppel not long after the Premier stood up in Brisbane for her daily media conference briefing on the coronavirus, yet there was no mention from the Premier of the major blunder. The Premier was quick to threaten to name and shame private operators a month ago but she was caught out by a bungle in her own backyard. It is a cop-out to blame the nurse who tested positive to coronavirus. This is a state government run centre and the new Deputy Premier and health minister needs to take full responsibility. The buck stops with him.


In September last year I called for more transparency to ensure Queensland had a world-class public aged-care system by widening the Earle Haven inquiry into all 16 state run aged-care homes. Once again these concerns fell on deaf ears. Our elderly Queenslanders are the most vulnerable to coronavirus, and the health and welfare of residents across all 16 state run homes must always be the priority. There are many questions that have been left unanswered. As Phil Tsingos, president of the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland, said in the media—

Why is it that private hospitals are putting in scanners to check temperatures on the public and staff as they walk in, there's really strict measures, everyone gets questioned every day (about possible symptoms), yet a state-run facility like this has had none of that?

These are the questions that Queenslanders deserve to know the answers to. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk clearly has no idea what is happening in aged-care facilities operated by her own government. Either the proper procedures were not in place or they were not followed. It is reassuring that there has been no other positive cases stemming from the Rockhampton aged-care breach, but that seems to be down to good luck rather than good management. I feel for the local residents of the home and their families as well as the nurses and staff at the state government run aged-care facilities. Their health and wellbeing was unnecessarily put at risk thanks to this major breach.

They also deserve an independent investigation, and I call on the new Deputy Premier to make all reports into this breach public—in fact, they should all be tabled in the parliament. The new Deputy Premier should also guarantee the safety of aged-care residents and staff at the other 15 state government run aged-care homes across Queensland. While he is at it, the Deputy Premier also needs to apologise to the residents, their families and the staff at the centre for the major breach. Saying sorry is the least he can do.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.35 pm): Community safety and jobs are important priorities for the Palaszczuk government, and with our backing of the Queensland Police Service with our record police budget this year we are delivering both. As I speak, there are currently more than 300 police recruits undergoing training in Queensland. There are 55 of those recruits in Townsville at the Townsville police academy, which our government kept and committed not to sell, unlike those opposite. I am advised that the Townsville cohort of recruits is due to graduate next week on 25 May. The people of Townsville will be pleased to know that many of these new police officers will be staying in Townsville. In fact, our government is delivering on our commitment to deliver 53 new officers for Townsville two years early. That was meant to be delivered by June 2022, but we will have them delivered by the end of June this year.


There are also a further 258 police recruits undergoing training at the Oxley academy. There will be graduations in May and July and more later in the year. This significant investment in training new police officers is part of the government's commitment to deliver 535 extra police personnel by June 2022. There are more police in Queensland than ever before and there are more coming. As I mentioned yesterday in the chamber, we recently passed the 12,000 mark of the number of police officers in Queensland for the first time ever. Not only do we have more police than ever before but they

are also better equipped and trained than ever before. Our government has invested in ensuring every frontline first responder has a body worn camera. Just last week, we delivered a new patrol boat to the Gold Coast Water Police, and there are also new police facilities well progressed at Caboolture, Coolum, Cairns, Newtown and Highfields.

Mr Harper: And Upper Ross.

Mr RYAN: And Upper Ross—delivered early as well. These projects deliver local construction jobs. Add to that our government's investment in extra police and the job-creating infrastructure projects that we have, and honourable members can see that our government is delivering not only for Queensland jobs but also for community safety. I pay tribute to our frontline police officers and also the people behind the scenes—those frontline support officers, the administration staff and the people who work in police headquarters who support the front line. They are very courageous Queenslanders. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Our government backs them, not only with a record police budget but also with a commitment to support them and provide the laws that they need to keep us all safe.

City of Gold Coast, Planning Division; Coronavirus, Testing

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.38 pm): I rise this afternoon to talk about some perverse outcomes that are coming out of the Gold Coast city council and their planning division. In my electorate of Burleigh, which takes in Palm Beach, we are seeing some developments being approved that are completely inappropriate for the area.

I recently wrote to Minister Dick before his elevation and asked him to call in a development on The Esplanade in Burleigh. That development exceeds every acceptable outcome that the council have put forward, but it apparently meets something that is called a performance outcome. This is what we are seeing in that building: instead of densities being 33 square metres per unit, the council have approved 10 square metres per unit; instead of having the appropriate setbacks from the edge of the property, the council have approved those buildings to have setbacks from the building next door; and the site cover is completely over what would be an acceptable outcome but it again meets this so-called performance outcome.

I wrote to the minister and I asked him to call that project in. He came back to me and said that he could only call things in that had an effect on the state. As I said, this particular building is on the Esplanade. The Esplanade has a carrying capacity of 3,000 cars, but the Gold Coast city council survey has identified that 4½ thousand cars a day are currently using the Esplanade—before this building is even built. I would tend to think that that is an issue that does affect the state and the minister should have been in a position to call that in.

I also wrote to the minister about development outcomes in Palm Beach. The council on the Gold Coast has changed the planning height for certain areas of Palm Beach, but the minister tells me that they have not sent that to him for his approval. I have learned recently that the council is now, for the third time, going out to consultation about this particular plan. That is despite the fact that they told people before the council election that this was already in place. These decisions from the Gold Coast city council and their planning are completely inappropriate for the people of my area and I do not accept them. I will table these documents and I will send them electronically after I complete my speech.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 March 2020, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Gold Coast City Council MCU/2019/443' [\[809\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 March 2020, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Gold Coast City Council Town Plan changes' [\[810\]](#).


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 March 2020, from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, regarding ministerial powers to call in the development application for 112 The Esplanade Pty Ltd at Burleigh Heads [\[811\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 March 2020, from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, regarding development in Palm Beach [\[812\]](#).

In the few seconds remaining I wish to say that I was terribly disappointed with the Premier doubling down this morning. I refer to when she came in here and told the parliament that, according to the Chief Health Officer, the COVID-19 test may not, in fact, pick up COVID-19. They are doing exactly that at the Rockhampton nursing home; they are testing everybody there. Why are they doing that if that is not the case? I challenge the chief medical officer to tell us this herself.

(Time expired)

Ipswich Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to speak on the matter of Ipswich's response to COVID-19 and our journey on the road to recovery. The sudden shock of the coronavirus crisis has forced us all to adjust to a new reality. I know many constituents were extremely anxious, especially at the start of this pandemic, not knowing what lay ahead and not knowing when it would end. We were right to be worried though; more than 30,000 Queenslanders could have lost their lives to COVID-19 if we did nothing. Instead, we listened to the experts and succeeded in smashing the curve by following the rules and staying united through various stages of restrictions.

Over the past two months, we—those in my office—have called around 2,000 people in Ipswich, and they have each inspired me with their resilience and generosity. I commend them all on doing an impressive job sticking to the rules. I must also commend West Moreton Hospital and Health Service for the tremendous job they have done preparing our local health system for the possibility of COVID-19 outbreaks in our community. We have been extremely fortunate that West Moreton has only had a total of 38 COVID cases so far; 37 of them have fully recovered. Our team at West Moreton Health has worked hard with local key stakeholders over the past two months to make sure Ipswich is adequately prepared and well resourced for any future outbreaks.


The past two months has not been easy, with many people in Ipswich fearing they will lose their job or their small business. That is why I have welcomed the raft of stimulus measures the Palaszczuk government has delivered over the past several weeks to support Queensland jobs and boost small business and investment. While the COVID-19 restrictions have been tough on our economy, our success in smashing the curve means that we can kickstart our economic recovery sooner. For instance, just this week I welcomed the Premier's announcement of a \$400 million accelerated works package, which includes a \$10 million upgrade to the fiveways intersection in Ipswich. This will support 15 jobs during construction.

Another further investment I welcome is the \$200 million in funding for the statewide Works for Queensland package, which will support local council infrastructure projects. I am pleased that Mayor Teresa Harding and the Ipswich City Council have been working on project proposals for the Works for Queensland package and I am looking forward to working with them to get results for Ipswich.

While I am optimistic that Ipswich is resilient enough to work through this challenging time, I do have concerns about the mental wellbeing of those in Ipswich who have recently lost their jobs or have had to shut their business. It does not give me any pleasure to contemplate the hardships they are facing and the enormous amount of stress and turmoil they are experiencing.

Finally, I would also like to pay tribute to the mums and dads and carers in Ipswich who have been homeschooling their children during this period. Many have done a terrific job guiding their kids through remote learning, but I am sure many of them are looking forward to their kids returning to school next Monday. I am proud of Ipswich and I will back Ipswich all the way during this crisis. With the Palaszczuk government investing in jobs and business at this crucial time, I am certain Ipswich will bounce back stronger than ever.

Law and Order, Police Resources

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.44 pm): All I ever wanted to be was a policeman and I have never doubted that youthful career choice. I said those words in my maiden speech a little over two years ago. I said that I had moved from catching law-breakers to joining the lawmakers. To be appointed the shadow minister for police, corrective services and counterterrorism and to bring together these two careers, these two passions, is as humbling as it is energising.


From my over 20 years in the Queensland Police Service I believe there are three inescapable truths that should guide us in police policy: our people should be protected, criminals should be punished and our police should be provided with what they need to get that job done. To protect Queenslanders from criminals, we must reduce the crime rate across the whole community as well as specifically target crimes committed against our most vulnerable. We must turn back the tide of increasing rates of robberies, car theft and assault that ballooned under Labor. We must do more to stop family violence by introducing better laws to prosecute and punish offenders as well as protecting and supporting victims. We must effectively protect children from paedophiles and better equip the community with information they can use to protect themselves and their kids from registered child sex offenders.

I have seen firsthand the aftermath of child abuse and domestic violence and the impact it has on victims, their families and our communities. Years of policing has taught me that no matter what we do there will still be criminals and they will still need to be brought to justice. To do that we need effective laws that enable police to find and arrest criminals, but this Labor government is failing our police. Police are tearing their hair out because the laws of this state are preventing them from doing their job. We need fairer sentences that reflect community expectations of a punishment fitting the crime and putting the rights of victims and communities before offenders.

To get this job done our police must be provided with what they need. Queensland must have enough police to deliver the level of protection our community deserves. Those police need to have state-of-the-art equipment to catch criminals and gather evidence that will bring them to justice. We must recognise that our police are humans who have a difficult job. We must protect those who protect us by providing better mental health and support services.

From my very first speech in this House I have said that I believe a government's highest priorities should be the security of its citizens and the prosperity of its society. It is only an LNP government that can deliver that security and prosperity. For as long as I am in this place and particularly in this role I will use these as my guiding principles to develop policies that rebalance the scales of justice and keep all Queenslanders safe.

Sumners Road Overpass

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.47 pm): It was nine short months ago that I wrote to the Minister for Main Roads to thank him for attending the sod turning of the first bridge of the Sumners Road overpass, and last Friday I was able to drive over it. Hats off to the contractors BMD and TMR for delivering the first bridge in just nine months. I also think we need to give a little credit to the weather fairy because we have been blessed with truly spectacular weather. To say my community is excited is an understatement because this project has been 10 long years in the design and making process.

First promised and funded by Julie Attwood, it was cut from the budget after Campbell Newman was elected in 2012. As the then candidate for Mount Ommaney, I lobbied the Premier for funds to upgrade the road and she delivered in 2017, promising the project would be delivered by a re-elected Palaszczuk government—but not just any bridge. The design was close to 10 years old by then and subsequent traffic growth had seen 10 per cent increases year on year on this section of road due to the thriving business hubs in Darra and Sumner Park. TMR turbocharged the design and after the 2017 election it presented the Mount Ommaney community with an even bigger and better bridge plan: six lanes, a fantastic bike path which has been warmly welcomed and seamless access to local businesses on the bridge.


I also thank the TMR team for listening to my feedback from the local businesses on the bridge who were asking for improved access. We were able to change the design to safely include additional access points, which is such a win for these fantastic businesses. The bridge is officially halfway done. Still to come is a new four-lane bridge to replace the two-lane bridge and the finishing of the bike path.

While I am on my feet, I want to place on record the view of our community about the idea of a car bridge crossing for Riverhills and Bellbowrie. Before this year's council election Lord Mayor Schrinner proposed five green bridges, one of which was slated to connect Wacol and Bellbowrie. I know that last year's consultation for a planned green bridge between Wacol and Bellbowrie was widely rejected by about 80 per cent of Bellbowrie locals. They have suggested a road bridge to Riverhills as an alternative.

I have doorknocked pretty much every street in Riverhills both before and after being elected. The clear consensus is that we do not need extra traffic coming through Riverhills and funnelling traffic onto our already busy roads. We are more than happy to facilitate access to our local train stations. However, our community is staunchly opposed to road access. One road bridge for Sumners Road is enough. We do not need another one.

I encourage locals to make a submission about the proposal and I look forward to working with Lord Mayor Schrinner and our local councillors to ensure a great outcome for our community.

Bruce Highway, Tourism

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (2.50 pm): There has been a lot of discussion across the chamber regarding rebooting tourism in the great state of Queensland in the aftermath of COVID-19. Today, I want to put forward a proposal to help reboot tourism in the Sunshine State, particularly in our


regional communities—remembering, of course, how important tourism is to those communities, including my own community of the Whitsundays, where one in three people have a job thanks to the tourism industry. Today before Her Majesty's Queensland parliament on the eve of the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's landing in Queensland for the first time, which in fact is this Sunday, I propose that we rebrand the Bruce Highway the 'Captain Cook Highway'. I want to see the Bruce Highway fixed, and there is no doubt that we need billions of dollars to do that.

As the leader of North Queensland First, I look forward to articulating my policies to get those projects happening following the next state election. From a rebranding point of view, I want to see the Bruce Highway renamed. Many people, even in politics, do not know who Bruce was but they certainly know who Captain Cook was. Captain Cook's name is known throughout the world. There is no doubt that a lot of people want to see tourism rebooted in Queensland. In the Whitsundays we remember the stroke of marketing genius when West Molle Island was rebranded many moons ago whereby today it is known as Daydream Island.

I want to also ensure that we are respectful to the traditional owners. I want to see sections of the renamed Captain Cook Highway—and extending on of course to Port Douglas from Cairns—to remember our traditional owners and to pay respects to those traditional owners up and down the Queensland coast, including the traditional owners in our part of the world—the Wiri people, the Gia people, Ngaro people and so forth. I think that does a lot symbolically in bringing our First Nation people together with non-Indigenous Queenslanders and non-Indigenous Australians. James Cook's historic and epic travels are part of folklore. In my part of the world, I am proud to say that some of those landmarks are still well known to this day and understandably so—places like Cape Gloucester, Cape Hillsborough, Repulse Bay, Pentecost Island and of course Whitsunday Passage, for without Cook we would have no 'Whitsundays'.

In conclusion, today I spoke to representatives of Mackay Tourism and Tourism Whitsundays, Michele Shea from Mackay Tourism and Natasha Miller from Tourism Whitsundays. Needless to say, there is no pushback from them. It is a great idea, a great rebranding exercise and it should happen 250 years on from Cook's landing.


QEII Hospital

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise today to speak about the QEII Hospital and staff and what they have been doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to acknowledge and thank them. I also wish to acknowledge Karen Shepherd, a registered nurse and midwife who lives in my electorate and works at the Logan Hospital. Thank you for your contribution to the health of Queenslanders on the south side. As you would expect from a Queensland hospital, the staff rallied together and they have put in place strong measures to deal with COVID-19. This is an unprecedented time in history and they just got on with it. They repurposed the endoscopy suite so they could relocate the intensive care unit and increased the critical care capacity at the QEII Hospital from five to nine beds, giving them the potential to expand to 20 beds if it was ever required. People visiting the QEII Hospital may have noticed the closure of one of the outpatient departments. This allowed the hospital to create its own COVID-19 screening clinic. What is amazing is that from closure to the reopening of the screening clinic only took four hours! Three days later, the clinic was further extended by putting up temporary walls so they could increase the testing capacity of the clinic.

These repurposing challenges at the QEII required a tremendous effort from dozens of staff members, who all pitched in and worked together as a team. The increase in capacity of the clinic meant that since 10 May—only a couple of days ago—QEII has performed 2,535 COVID-19 tests. QEII's clinical response preparations included creating a negative pressure tent in the hospital's operating theatre. This was done just in case they needed to perform surgery on a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Elective surgeries reduced and have seamlessly been resumed; however, it did not stop there. QEII Hospital established a screening clinic call centre that has received thousands of inquiries. While staff working in the screening clinics may not wear masks or perform tests, they do an amazing job and have stayed up to date with the changes occurring to screening criteria.

The clinic at the QEII Hospital recently invited a photographer from Brisbane's State Library to visit them and to document how COVID-19 has changed hospitals across Queensland. The hospital staff and health workers readily adapted to the changes in their working conditions and have incorporated the use of telehealth and other virtual care options. I have been told that social distancing is now the new norm whether in staff meetings, forums or training. I thank the staff of the QEII Hospital.

Gold Coast, Hooker Boulevard and Gold Coast Highway Intersection; Merrimac State High School


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.56 pm): I bear good news from the kingdom of the Mermaid Beach electorate on the fabulous Gold Coast. The department of transport has confirmed that it intends to close the abhorrent right-turn exit from the Star Casino southbound on to Hooker Boulevard that will eliminate the confusing sets of lights barely 50 metres from the main intersection lights of the Gold Coast Highway and Hooker Boulevard. This intersection has been designated as 'intolerable' by independent assessment under its current configuration. With massive development of a residential nature proposed by Star Casino, imposing thousands more exits to that intersection, the chances of a life-claiming car accident there are 1,000 to one on, in gaming parlance. This set of lights has been a monumental disaster over the years, causing confusion and life-threatening vehicular transgressions of red-light running because of its close proximity to the lights of the Gold Coast Highway and Hooker Boulevard intersection.

The Star Casino island, which has state government approval under state legislation, is subject to state planning directives and was benefited greatly by a new exit on to the Gold Coast Highway for its new development, the Darling. This obviously gives the owners a unique opportunity to reconfigure their ingress and egress strategies for the thousands of extra residents who plan to inhabit the island through the development of five new residential high-rise towers. It is impossible for the current traffic exit arrangements to the island to cope with the massive increase in traffic movement created by this population growth. The intersection of Hooker Boulevard and the Gold Coast Highway needs to be freed up immediately.

I refer to my question on notice to main roads minister Bailey on 19 August last year as to when he was going to fix this deathtrap-in-waiting traffic configuration. His weak reply that intimated it was only driver error and that Queensland police should enforce illegal driver behaviour shows how out of touch he and his Labor government really are on the problems besetting the Gold Coast community. I am glad to see that Department of Transport and Main Roads officers have pledged to fix the problem that Minister Bailey could not see. The closure of this intersection, I am informed, by 30 June is also coupled with other good news from the Hooker Boulevard hotspot area. There is to be an installation of pedestrian crossing lights around 800 metres westward to facilitate the safe crossing of Hooker Boulevard by students alighting at the bus stop and heading to Merrimac high school. I have lobbied for this solution for over 18 months and, again, this potentially life-saving infrastructure will ensure the safety of Merrimac high students.

I also take the opportunity to congratulate Mr Chris Tobin for his excellent carriage of his principal role over many years at Merrimac high. Should the LNP win back government at the upcoming October election, his application for the successful private-public school designation should be the first one approved. I look forward to this small but not insignificant improvement to the Mermaid Beach electorate coming to fruition under my watch shortly.

Mackay, Aviation Industry


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.59 pm): I am calling on those opposite to support regional Queensland. We need a second reliable airline with a jet service. COVID-19 has worked its way into every aspect of our lives and it would have been inconceivable months ago that Mackay and regional Queensland would be reduced to one functioning airline. Mackay Airport still gets a Dash 8 service once a day plus a Virgin service once a day. Regional Queensland is being hurt by the games being played by the opposition backing Peter Dutton instead of getting behind regional Queensland. Mackay, Isaac and the Whitsundays deserve better. The current airline arrangements are not sufficient to keep our economy functioning and thriving. Central Queensland is the powerhouse of the Queensland economy, especially during these unprecedented times. If the mining industry and the METS sector shut down, the hit to the Queensland economy would be devastating.

The CEO of Mackay Airport, Garry Porter, tells me that mining companies are chartering at great expense 13 Fokker 100 flights a week. This is a huge expense to business. The flow-on effect for the economy is that the charter flights do not carry freight and are not open to the public to be able to book a flight. Dash 8s do not carry any freight. The limited flight capacity is barely enough for businesses not tied to mining to be able to book the flights that they need. The Mackay community is more than mining though. We have vibrant businesses that have the capacity to keep on growing. They need a reliable and accessible transport supply chain. Businesses with freight with a short life span need the capacity to get their freight out on a daily basis. For instance, we have a company that grows coral. They need a 48-hour guaranteed turnaround.

Some businesses need to fly in staff and visiting experts to Mackay. If you are a member of the general public and you have emergent need to fly, it is nearly impossible to get a flight. The CEO of the Mackay HHS reported that it is struggling to get flights for specialist practitioners and flights for essential medical supplies. The mining industry has the ability to charter flights, but we do not all have this luxury. Queensland needs to have a second reliable air service and the member for Everton needs to realise that regional Queensland deserves the same services as the south-east corner. Regional Queensland can and does contribute to the Queensland economy. Regional Queensland can deliver jobs. We just need a reliable jet service. It is only Queensland Labor that supports regional Queensland.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Coronavirus Prevention, Parliamentary Service Staff

 **Mr SPEAKER:** All honourable members would be aware that COVID-19 is a threat that we all face but must mitigate. The measures implemented in the chamber and on the parliamentary precinct are necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The implementation of these measures such as disinfecting seats and desks relies on the dedication of our hardworking attendants. I have said this numerous times privately but realised I have not made this statement publicly and I thought it was well overdue to say thank you very much on behalf of all members of the House to the parliamentary staff, particularly the attendants who are working in the chamber this week and doing such a stellar job.


Honourable members: Hear, hear!

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 20 February (see p. 563), on motion of Mr Russo—

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

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (3.04 pm): I rise to speak to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report No. 49 regarding the examination of the Queensland Audit Office report No. 5 for 2018-19, *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. Fire management is a high priority for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and bushfire safety is a primary consideration for the Department of Environment and Science, particularly where urban and rural communities adjoin parks and forests. In preparation for the 2019 fire season, QPWS treated more than one million hectares of protected area estate through planned burns, nearly double the annual target of 634,800 hectares.


Right now the department's focus is on mitigating bushfire risk ahead of the 2020 bushfire season through Operation Cool Burn alongside the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, other government bodies, First Nation peoples and landholders. This year the planned burn program commenced in the north of the state in January and gradually expanded as favourable weather conditions allowed. By the end of April this year, QPWS had conducted more than 130 planned burns across Queensland, and it is still going. I am pleased to advise the House that this is more than double the burns undertaken for the same period last year. This means despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 QPWS has once again exceeded its planned burn targets. During its entire time in office, the LNP did not even come close to numbers like this and it will take more than a cheap 10-point brochure to convince Queenslanders that it is truly committed to the long-term conservation of the state's natural and cultural values.

In recent years QPWS has been involved in the 2018 and 2019 bushfire reviews undertaken by the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management. The 2019 review acknowledged the effectiveness of the QPWS planned burn program in keeping Queensland communities safe. The 2019 review also made mention of the valued contribution QPWS officers made in the emergency response centres during the 2019 bushfire season through their expert local knowledge. The IGEM report into the 2018 bushfires acknowledges the effectiveness of QPWS's good neighbour policy. QPWS continues to grow its partnerships with other landholders as it embeds traditional knowledge into fire management practices. First Nation people and their knowledge are increasingly at the forefront of joint

efforts to provide landscape-wide fire management skills and services to Queensland. First Nation ecological knowledge and practices continue to be critical to the management of country in Queensland, as it has been for thousands of generations.

The Department of Environment and Science is working in partnership with over 30 First Nation groups to conduct planned burns based on this knowledge. Work is underway to identify further locations where traditional burning programs could be implemented in both protected areas and of course on country. First Nation peoples have an equal say about how to manage over 2.1 million hectares of national park. Far from a trial, as it is proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, this is happening now. These partnerships and the capacity of QPWS to manage fire risks are being further strengthened by the Palaszczuk government's additional \$16 million investment over four years commencing in 2019-20 and \$2.6 million per year ongoing.

This funding is focused on taking practical steps to reduce the risk of bushfire to the neighbouring communities of our protected areas and supporting enhanced collaboration with all partners to encourage a landscape-scale approach to fire management. This funding has already delivered the department's first dedicated fire management team of six new rangers in South-East Queensland and is boosting the department's firefighting fleet capacity by 33 fire attack units. I want to acknowledge all of the hard work that rangers have undertaken to prepare for the forthcoming bushfire season and their ongoing commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe. As we have seen in recent years, preparation for fire season is critically important for the safety of Queensland families. The work that our rangers do right across Queensland should be acknowledged and of course celebrated. They do an incredible job. I also want to thank the committee for its hard work in examining the Queensland Audit Office report.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Audit Office report *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness*. Like the minister, I share her respect for our rangers, for our dedicated firefighters and for our First Australians who play a great role in bushfire management and preparedness. However, unlike the minister, I intend to look at the report and find ways that we can improve what we do in this state. There is no point in us coming in here and being a cheerleader. People elect us to be leaders, not to be cheerleaders, and where there are improvements to be made we must make them and this report highlights areas where improvements can be made. I note that the Audit Office raised several things, including—

QFES has not fully rolled out its new risk mitigation ... tools across all regions ... more training and continuous improvement is needed to make sure they are effectively used to strengthen Queensland's approach to risk mitigation.

The report went on—

Better engagement with local communities is also needed to understand their risks and help them prepare for bushfires.


This report highlights that in recent times, under this government, there has been a dramatic drop in hazard reduction burns and firebreaks. There has not been enough bushfire preventative maintenance. There is no point standing up in this place and simply acknowledging the hard work of those people on the front line. We all know the hard work of the people on the front line. In many cases they are fighting on the front line with one arm tied behind their back because the maintenance is not done, the resources are not there and services have been cut back. The government, led by Annastacia Palaszczuk, has only completed 54 per cent of planned burns—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Proper titles, member for Broadwater.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Under the leadership of the Premier, only 54 per cent of planned burns have been completed. During the same period Queensland has seen a 40 per cent decrease in the number of firebreaks being built as well as a 45 per cent reduction in bushfire community education activity. Compare that with the 10-point bushfire mitigation plan outlined by the shadow minister and the member for Nanango. That plan provides a one-stop shop for streamlined approval processes—tick; a deemed approval after 15 business days under a right to burn so that things cannot sit in abeyance forever. Paralysis via analysis has to stop. It further provides for new KPIs to achieve 98 per cent of hazard reduction activities; Indigenous rangers to undertake traditional burning. The minister touched on this. Of course we need to be doing more with our First Australians who have been doing this for generations. The plan provides for the establishment of a natural disaster cabinet committee to monitor preparation—who can argue with that? It provides for monitored grazing in state forests and some national parks to manage fuel loads; establish urban based rural fire volunteer brigades; restore local control to rural fire brigades. Heaven forbid, local control to rural fire brigades!

The report clearly shows there is more that can be done. The report highlights that in the five years since we have previously looked at this there have been some steps forward. I want to echo what the minister said when she quite rightly praised those on the front line. To fail to acknowledge the need

to do better, to fail to acknowledge the need to properly resource the people who are doing this work, both in prevention and at the front line when disaster occurs, would be a failing of this parliament. It is not being critical of those on the front line. It is essential to fight for what they need. They do not have a voice. They rely on us. That is why the committee process in this state works the way it does. A unicameral parliament must have a strong committee process otherwise the checks and balances are not in place. The report we are discussing today raises some excellent points for taking steps forward and we cannot wait another half a decade to implement these recommendations.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the bushfire report and also express concerns over the recent fires that engulfed the Gold Coast hinterland. My electorate is close to the Gold Coast hinterland in that it is on the side of Tamborine Mountain. Last year the Australian Defence Force did some large burns through their land in those areas. At the time some residents were concerned about that, but those burns did reduce the fuel load which was extensive in that area.

I thank my local rural fire brigades. I have two great rural fire brigades in my electorate, Guanaba and Coomera Valley. Both of those brigades assisted in fighting the fire in the hinterland around the Sarabah, Illinbah and Beechmont area. A fair few members of those brigades spoke to me of their concerns about fuel loads in those areas and that for many years there was no reduction burns around Binna Burra. The rest is history. As we know, a large fire went through and we are very lucky that there were no injuries or deaths as a result. Their concerns haunt me to this day because there are large areas of the Gold Coast region, for example Wongawallan, which need fire reduction burns. Our volunteers do the best they can by participating in these fire reduction burns but unfortunately they do not have the manpower to participate in all these areas.

It was highlighted in the report from the Auditor-General's office that QFES had not met all the targets it was asked to. This is very concerning for the residential estates which border these forest areas, for instance, Highland Reserve, which is quite a large residential estate, and where I live nestled on the side of Wongawallan hill which has not had a proper burn-off for many years. If a fire ever came down those hills there would be many houses in that region that would be at risk and it would make it very difficult for the rural fire brigade agencies to do a proper back-burn into it. In addition to that, a strong westerly would blow a fire into the estate.


In recent times the rural fire brigade has been doing some fire mitigation burns in the Wongawallan and Guanaba area. Those burns are on private properties. Recently a fire got out of control in the Wongawallan area, which proved that the fuel load is still there. It is very dry in that area. We welcome the recent rain, but if we do not get follow-up rain to keep the vegetation moist that will exacerbate the problem in the near future.

Preventative measures are very important. I have to give the Gold Coast city council its due. It has been participating in burn-offs. I thank their rangers for doing this; it is making it safer. There is so much more we can be and should be doing. We need to make sure that we get on top of reducing these fuel loads close to residential properties around Wongawallan and the Tamborine Mountain area where I believe around 7,000 people live. Earlier this year, before the decent rain we had, some of those forests were tinder dry. With the tonnage of fuel in those area, if a fire got in there it would decimate large tracts of native wildlife areas and also put residential properties at risk.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.18 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Report No. 50, 56th Parliament—*Examination of Queensland Audit Office Report 6: 2018-19: Delivering coronial services* tabled on 20 September 2019.

As we heard yesterday in the debate of the Justice and Other Legislation Bill, the amendments to the Coroners Act reflect, as I addressed, the issues raised by the audit. The key facts of the *Examination of Queensland Audit Office Report 6: 2018-19: Delivering coronial services* are from data extracted from the Coroners Court of Queensland's case management system on 21 June 2018. This data may not capture all deaths reported to the Coroners Court in 2017-18.

Between 2011-12 and 2017-18 in the Queensland coronial system, police officers, doctors or funeral directors reported 35,433 deaths to the Coroner for investigation. Coroners issued 522 recommendations to the state government agency. Pathologists performed 18,387 autopsies. It took


pathologists, on average, more than four months to issue their autopsy reports and during that period coroners held 400 inquests. In that period, coronial cases 24 months old or older had increased from seven to 16 per cent.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Coronial Services Governance Board, the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and the committee's secretariat for their assistance with the committee's examination of the Queensland Audit Office report. The object of the audit was to assess whether agencies are effective and efficient in supporting the Coroner in investigating and helping to prevent deaths.

The Coroners Act 2003 governs the Queensland coronial system. It requires coroners to investigate deaths that occur in Queensland under certain circumstances. The primary responsibility of coroners is to make formal findings in response to a death, including the circumstances and cause of the death. Indeed, the act contains a recognition of the needs and concerns of the families of the deceased. An effective and efficient coronial system enables a coroner to independently and robustly investigate, while providing timely and reliable answers to the family. That is complex and relies on the timely and reliable services of multiple public sector and contracted agencies across a geographically dispersed state. The public sector agencies responsible for supporting coroners are the Department of Justice and Attorney-General through its Coroners Court of Queensland, the Department of Health through its Forensic and Scientific Services and the Queensland Police Service.

The Queensland Audit Office report found that demand for Queensland's coronial service is likely to increase with the state's growing and ageing population. While identifying there are three key agencies that play a key role in supporting the coroners, the Queensland Audit Office report found that the Queensland State Coroner has little functionality control over the resources needed to effectively fulfil their responsibility under the act. This has resulted in a system that is under-resourced to meet existing and future demand and is fast becoming a critical vulnerability for the Queensland coronial system.

For the three agencies delivering coronial services, those services are one of the many functions they can perform and are not necessarily considered their core business. An improvement of triage practices has seen a reduction in reported deaths proceeding to a full coronial investigation, despite the number of deaths being reported increasing during this time. Currently, in Queensland there is no requirement for a pathologist or a coronial nurse to undertake a preliminary investigation when a death is reported and, as I outlined, some of those issues were dealt with yesterday in the debate. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.23 pm): I too rise to make a contribution in the consideration of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report No. 50 of the 56th Parliament titled *Examination of Queensland Audit Office Report 6: 2018-19: Delivering coronial services*. Whenever I speak in this place as the member for Southern Downs, I endeavour to speak from the perspective of the people of Southern Downs. I think we would all agree that that is our role here. Therefore, I would like to talk about coronial services and the implications of the Auditor-General's report from the perspective of a constituent who has a particular view to express on this matter. In the conclusion of his report, the Auditor-General stated—

Queensland's coronial system is under stress and is not effectively and efficiently supporting coroners or families. If left unaddressed, structural and system issues, will further erode its ability to provide services beyond the short-term.

Senior people across the system described to us a system that is failing. The coronial system relies on the dedication of staff and good will amongst agencies but lacks system-wide cohesion, with no agency having responsibility for leadership, accountability, planning, and reporting across the system.

This is contributing to:

- ineffective planning
- insufficient and inadequate resourcing and funding
- inadequate case management practices
- a lack of integration between agencies' priorities and systems.

There is more, but I think that illustrates the picture fairly well.

Yesterday when I spoke in the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I made the point—and I know that other members made the point—that we need to resource the Coroner adequately because coronial services are very important to Queenslanders, particularly those who need them because of tragic circumstances. That leads me to the matter of Mrs Jodie Lock. I will not

go into the details of her case because it is currently being investigated, but I can speak in broader terms. Mrs Lock lost her husband not long ago and she has requested a coronial inquest. I believe that steps have been taken in the normal way towards identifying if that will be possible.

Mrs Lock has asked me to read to the House the following, which reflects her fears—and I believe the fears of many others—that coronial services may be slow at the moment because of a lack of resourcing, a lack of coordination and so forth. She talks with an authentic voice about how important coronial services are to her. She states—

A coronial inquest would provide a factual insight into the events contributing to and causing the death of an otherwise healthy family member.

Additionally this process is essential to provide answers and some form of closure for family members. The family would like answers and would like transparency and accountability to be upheld.

A death which family members believe could have been prevented takes a big toll on the psychological health of the family. Having the Coroner find out what happened and why is so important to helping provide peace for those who are left behind and to making sure it won't happen to someone else.


...

If a victim impact statement were to be made the list is endless.

I think that sums it up very well.

If you are in the tragic situation of having a loved one or a relative die in circumstances that indicate the involvement of a coroner in terms of an inquest, it is a process that you would wish to occur expeditiously, certainly in the planning stages and then getting to the stage of determining if an inquest can be held. In the debate this week we heard that there has been a lamentable increase in the number of cases waiting two or more years to make it to the coroner. When you think of real people such as Mrs Lock, who lives in Warwick, you can see the human dimension.

The Auditor-General's investigations into the delivery of coronial services were timely. The insights of the Auditor-General were very vivid and useful. I urge the government to take them on board, not only purely along the lines of what has been expressed in the report but also reading between the lines. I believe that the report indicates that what is necessary is not just reforms but also better funding and resourcing for the Coroner. I believe that is what the people of Southern Downs expect. I speak with absolute certainty when I say that that is what Mrs Lock in Warwick expects.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the report before the House on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's examination of the Queensland Audit Office's report No. 6 of 2018-19, *Delivering coronial services*. The report was tabled in this House on 18 October 2018 and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee considered the report and held meetings with the Queensland Audit Office staff in early 2019. The scope of the audit was to assess whether the agencies that support the coronial services provide adequate support to bereaved families, whether they had efficient and effective processes and systems delivering coronial services and whether they plan effectively to deliver sustainable coronial services. The scope of the performance of the coronial system was over the period 2011-12 to the financial year 2017-18.

Following the audit report, the Queensland Audit Office made the following seven recommendations: the establishment of effective governance arrangements across the coronial system; to evaluate the merits of establishing an independent statutory body to deliver effective medical services for Queensland's justice and coronial systems; to improve the systems and legislation supporting coronial services; to improve processes and practices across the coronial system; to assess more thoroughly the implications of centralising pathology services; to implement a strategy to address a growing backlog of coronial cases; and to improve performance monitoring and management of government undertakers. Tabled as part of the Audit Office's report was the response by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and their response to these recommendations.

The director-general responded in October 2018 to the Audit Office outlining that all recommendations were agreed to and that the recommendations that were made aligned with work already underway. That work was informed by a 2017 independent organisational review of the Coroners Court of Queensland.

Further, in considering the report the committee wrote to the relevant agencies to receive an update on the process of implementing the recommendations. The committee received a combined response from the newly formed Coronial Services Governance Board. The board has been established to lead the implementation of all recommendations and is comprised of representatives from DJAG,

Queensland Police, Queensland Health, the State Coroner and Deputy Coroner, the Chief Forensic Pathologist and senior advisers from Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The board reports to the Attorney-General every six months on the progress of implementing the recommendations.


To assist in implementing the recommendations from the Audit Office report, the government has invested \$3.9 million over four years. This funding allocation in the last financial year allowed the appointment of additional staff across agencies including an additional coronial registrar and two coronial service officers within DJAG, an additional coronial nurse and forensic medical officer in Queensland Health and an additional senior constable within the Queensland Police Service.

An extra two coronial counsellors have been appointed this financial year. Queensland Health is also actively recruiting for additional forensic pathologists, noting the nature of the specialty and the global shortage in the profession. To help safeguard against this, two training placement positions have also been created so we can grow our forensic pathology capability into the future.

An additional part-time magistrate has been allocated to support the finalisation of cases within the benchmark time frame set within the report recommendations. When the board wrote to the committee, it provided a comprehensive update on the progress against the seven recommendations with the only exception being a review of the Coroners Act which, members may recall, we passed yesterday so we can now tick off that part of the recommendation as well.

The delivery of coronial services has not and has never been a static process and it has varied in its delivery throughout the state, but it has improved significantly over the years that I have worked within it. When I first started, every time a car caught fire we had to write a report to the Coroner which was very much an impost on time. The John Tonge Centre only had one computer in which all form 1s could be prepared as everybody had to be lodged by the investigating officer.

In 2010 the sealed body bag project alleviated the need for police to travel to the morgue, reducing the time it took to prepare paperwork and that time could be spent furthering the investigation. The recommendations contained within this report will see the coronial services delivered in Queensland improve even further. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Audit Office report No. 6 of 2018-19 titled *Delivering coronial services*. I was very proud to be part of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that held a private briefing with the Auditor-General on 1 April 2019. On 29 April that year the committee sought an update from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police Service and Queensland Health, being the agencies responsible for coronial services across Queensland.

It is important to go back and look at the reasons why the committee did this review and focused on this issue because there were some very concerning areas. The audit report found that there was a lack of governance across Queensland's coronial system. The State Coroner has responsibility for the efficiency of the system but has little functional control in order to fulfil its responsibility. Accountability too was spread from a public agency to the overall responsibility for the coronial system, and that had to change.

The delivery of coronial services is not the core business for the three agencies, and that provides a cultural impediment meaning it is effectively an add-on. That negative impact meant a lot of work needed to happen in that place.


No one agency was accountable for the management of the coronial investigation from start to finish which resulted in reactive case management. I will talk about the backlog of cases in a moment, but what was very concerning is that, whilst communication at the first point of death or recently after an investigation occurred was sufficient, it quickly dropped off. That is very concerning for grieving families. The Queensland Audit Office concluded that Queensland's coronial system is under stress and is not efficiently supporting coroners or the grieving families. If left unaddressed, structural and systemic issues may further erode the ability to provide services in the short term.

The system was severely lacking cohesion. There have been some efforts made by the government to improve that lack of coordination and accountability, the regional disparity and the lack of support, importantly, for families. One of the first things that they have done in response to these challenges in the broad scope of the Auditor-General's recommendations because of such a problem is to establish the Coronial Services Governance Board. During 2018-19, the agencies involved—namely Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service and Department of Justice and

Attorney-General—undertook a system-wide planning process and developed the coronial services framework. This framework outlines how agencies will work together to implement all the recommendations by the Auditor-General. They cover four priority areas.

In a letter of 19 July 2019, Jennifer Lang, the Deputy Director-General of Justice Services and the new chairperson of the Coronial Services Governance Board established to oversee these reforms, outlined to our committee an update and provided a summary of this framework. I must say it is not before time because, alarmingly, since the election of the Palaszczuk government, coronial cases aged over two years have gone from 11.9 per cent to most recently 17.58 per cent. That is nearly one in five coronial cases sitting on the shelf for two years or more. Cases over the last 12 months have also grown from 411 in 2017-18 to 572 in 2018-19. Even senior officers advise of the systemic failings.

I look forward to the ongoing implementation. My thoughts go out to the families who have been let down by the broken coronial system. I particularly mention one of my constituents, Amanda Hall and her family and friends who lost their 16-year-old Sharlie Tayla Flynn on 27 January 2017. Sharlie suffered from mental health and drug abuse. She was released from the Logan Mental Health Unit against her family's wishes on 24 January 2017. Sharlie died by hanging on either the evening of 26 January or 27 January. Her family had to wait until 14 January 2020, just days before the third anniversary of her death. That simply is not good enough.


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.38 pm): The Queensland Audit Office forms a key part of the Palaszczuk government's integrity and accountability agenda. Report No. 50 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee captures the Queensland Audit Office's report titled *Delivering coronial services*. The report reflects the dutiful work of the Queensland Audit Office.

The delivery of coronial services performance audit addresses whether agencies are effective and efficient in supporting the Coroner in investigating and helping to prevent deaths. The agencies subject to the audit were the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Coroners Court of Queensland, the Department of Health's Forensic and Scientific Services and the Queensland Police Service. The audit examined whether agencies have efficient and effective processes and systems for delivering coronial services and whether they provide adequate support to bereaved families and also whether they plan effectively to deliver sustainable coronial services.

The QAO report advised that between 2011-12 and 2017-18 the number of deaths reported to the Coroner each year for investigation increased by 27 per cent from 4,461 to 5,683. Since 2005-06 the number of deaths reported to the Coroner has increased by 81 per cent. The QAO report advised that the demand for Queensland's coronial services is likely to increase with the state's growing and ageing population. Of course, these statistics make absolute sense in light of the population increase in our state.

The QAO also found that agencies have improved their triaging practices—as we would expect of our great Public Service—reducing the number of deaths leading to proceeding to full investigation unnecessarily. This triage process could be expanded and applied more consistently across the state. The communication provided to the families at the beginning of a coronial investigation is sufficient, but agencies again could provide more support to families throughout the investigation. The Coroners Court of Queensland does not actively monitor the performance of government undertakers. As such, the performance of some government undertakers is variable across the state. Agencies could more effectively plan for the ongoing delivery of these forensic pathology services.

As we have heard today, the QAO made seven recommendations in its report and provided a summary of its recommendations to the relevant agencies. I have no doubt that our Public Service will accept these seven recommendations and that they will act in a systematic way to put in place procedures to rectify some of these suggestions. I thank Queensland's coronial services—the many men and women across our Public Service—who deliver these difficult services often in very difficult contexts. I also appreciate that, when one takes the opportunity to read the statistics in the way that they have been presented, one can identify the reasons some of the reports and some of the investigations take a little longer. A growing population in Queensland requires a growing Public Service.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.42 pm): I rise as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to speak to Queensland Audit Office report No. 6, *Delivering coronial services*. Currently, Queensland's coronial system involves a number of different agencies, including the Coroners Court, Forensic and Scientific Services, undertakers and the Queensland Police Service. No one agency has oversight for the management of coronial investigations in Queensland from start to finish. This has meant that individual cases are increasingly falling through the cracks.


The Auditor-General's report described Queensland's coronial services as a 'failed system that is currently under severe stress'. Its overall service delivery model is plagued with backlogs, some two years or older, and the support provided to grieving families was judged to be woefully inadequate. Since 2006 the number of reportable deaths in Queensland has risen a staggering 81 per cent. This trend is forecast to continue given the state's growing and ageing population.

The backlog of outstanding coronial cases in the system went back two years and in some of the worst cases even more. Overall, the number of cases in the system two years or older rose from seven per cent in 2012 to 16 per cent in 2018. In some cases families were not spoken with again after the process began despite the investigation taking more than four years to finalise. The report also revealed a shocking case in March 2008 where, according to police reports, an undertaker showed such a lack of care and compassion in handling a body that extreme distress was caused to at least one of the grieving families.

The report's key findings identified a lack of cohesion, planning and accountability across all agencies of the service, together with insufficient integration or communication between these agencies as contributing factors to the system's breakdown. The investigation into the service also found that excessive delays and declining clearance rates were directly attributed to chronically low staffing and funding levels, which were judged to be woefully inadequate for the volume of work coronial officers and staff were being asked to perform. With cases skyrocketing across the state, overworked and under-resourced staff tried their best, but the demands being made on the system were impossible to keep up with.

The report made a number of recommendations directed towards the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Department of Health, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in collaboration with the Coroner's office. Briefly, these recommendations reinforce the need for various agencies to coordinate their processes more efficiently, share coronial information, explore avenues for improvement and identify means by which unnecessary coronial investigations may be avoided.

The report proposed the creation of a governance board with the adequate authority to oversee the coordination of agencies and provide ongoing monitoring and management of the system's performance. I sincerely hope the government will consider the report's recommendations and move quickly to make the necessary changes needed to improve the efficiency of the service.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the committee report before the House related to Queensland Audit Office report No. 6 of 2018-19, *Delivering coronial services*. The committee's report refers to the QAO's performance audit in relation to agencies providing effective and efficient support to the Coroner in investigating and helping to prevent deaths. Those agencies are: the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in relation to the Coroners Court of Queensland; the Department of Health in relation to Forensic and Scientific Services; and the Queensland Police Service.

One of the areas for examination was whether or not they were providing adequate support to bereaved families. The Coroners Court and associated entities deal with some of the saddest cases that Queensland families have to face. The death of a loved one is always a very difficult time, but when the Coroners Court becomes involved in an investigation it is usually in even more tragic circumstances. It is a process that we have seen from the report can take up to or in excess of 24 months. I cannot imagine what a family would go through during that time. Their child, their husband, their wife, a sibling, a grandchild may have taken their own life and it takes up to 24 months or longer to establish the circumstances. That is not a system that we want in this state. We want a system that provides answers to families efficiently and effectively and one that does the work required to achieve the outcome.


The report talks about going back to 2002 in relation to what had or had not taken place. In my opinion, this is not an issue around which we should establish blame; this is an issue we need to solve. This is an issue that we as a parliament have to deal with. We have to come up with effective and efficient answers to achieve outcomes for these families.

The government has put in place roughly \$4 million over three years and has also put in place a broad-ranging body to oversight the seven recommendations by the Audit Office in its report. I say to the government that I would like them to report to this House on exactly what is happening with the recommendations, what is happening with the implementation of the funding and what is happening in relation to the reduction of the wait time for these families on a regular basis.

When you hear and read phrases such as a 'lack of governance', delivering coronial services need not be core business. No one agency is accountable for managing a coronial investigation. We have a problem. I think it is incumbent upon us as parliamentarians to ensure that that problem is rectified.

I have no doubt that in time we will rectify this issue. What I do not want to see is more families go through the hell of 24 months and longer. I do not want to get telephone calls from constituents who have lost children or a partner or a spouse and are worried about what is going to take place or without the answers they need to get on with their life.

In most cases when people pass away we can identify the reason and the cause; in these cases we cannot. I think that is an important principle to take forward—we must provide a system that helps families in their grieving, that gives them closure of some sort and, more importantly, helps them get on with their lives.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to speak on the examination of Queensland Audit Office report No. 6 of 2018-19, *Delivering coronial services*. The auditor examined whether agencies are effective and efficient in supporting the Coroner in investigating and helping to prevent deaths. It looked at whether the agencies provide adequate support to bereaving families; have efficient and effective processes and systems for delivering services; and plan to deliver sustainable services in the future. This is particularly important as demand will likely increase with population growth and the increasing ageing population. Already there was a 27 per cent increase in the number of deaths reported for investigation in the six years between 2011-12 and 2017-18. The auditor reported—

An effective and efficient coronial system will enable a coroner to provide timely and reliable answers ... Queensland's coronial system is complex, and coroners rely on ... services of multiple public sector and contracted agencies across a geographically dispersed state.

The report makes it clear that our coronial system is under stress.

The auditor found a lack of governance across the coronial system; that responsibilities were spread across three agencies with competing priorities; that no one agency is accountable for managing an investigation from start to finish; that this has impacted their efficiency and effectiveness; and that case management practices tend to be reactive rather than proactive. Consequently, the backlog of coronial cases 24 months or older is increasing, investigations are being delayed and some families are poorly informed. The period the auditor examined recorded an increase from seven per cent to 16 per cent in cases older than two years, and 522 recommendations were issued to state government agencies.

Coroners are there to resolve matters, find clarity and provide hope and trust that situations which led to a death do not occur again. Coroners are responsible for investigating deaths that happen under certain prescribed circumstances. Their primary obligation is to make formal findings in respect of the death including the circumstances and cause of death—issues such as date, place, medical cause and circumstance. Their role is to find out what happened, not to lay charges, point the finger or lay blame. However, they do have the important power to make recommendations.

The auditor looked at more efficiently integrating the services and agencies which support the Coroner. Other government departments and agencies should also have an ethical responsibility to do everything possible to ensure we do not revisit tragic workplace situations. Government agencies should assist the Coroner, not make it harder. Their behaviour should be the exemplar of cooperation, not obstruction.

Last year the Coroner investigated the loss of eight fishermen's lives from the sinking of the vessels *Cassandra* in April 2016 and *Dianne* in October 2017. It is a reflection of the workload that this was not investigated until March last year—almost two years after the sinking of the *Cassandra* and 17 months after the *Dianne*. The Coroner reported—

The circumstances are a significant concern as eighteen commercial fishermen have died at sea in the waters off Queensland in the years since 2004.

This investigation is still pertinent as only this week a Tin Can Bay deckhand went missing at sea.


As I said earlier, it is vital that government departments should assist the Coroner wherever possible. Unfortunately, that was not the case during the investigation. The Coroner said—

I cannot let the inquest pass without making comment critical of the DAF. Not only did that Department adopt an approach which was in my view simply bureaucratic obstruction in an attempt to 'defend' their then position, the worst aspect was that it took until sometime during the inquest before any concession was made by the Department that not only was this function of the VMS currently available, and that it already exists, but that it had existed for quite some time.

Fisheries Queensland was caught red-handed in claiming that vessel monitoring systems would be used for safety on commercial fishing boats. It never activated the feature and had sold it to the industry under the pretence that the devices would be used to monitor their vessels and alert authorities in cases of emergencies. The Coroner said—

I cannot find any valid reason why it cannot be implemented, and accordingly I Recommend (as have coroners before me) that the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries implement real-time monitoring of the VMS tracking or 'failure to poll' function of the system ...

In the interests of all Queenslanders we need to address the structural and systemic issues identified in our stressed coronial system. Doing nothing will further erode its ability to provide services beyond the short term.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.56 pm): The examination of this audit report No. 6 of 2018-19, *Delivering coronial services*, raises a lot of questions. We must be thankful, as has been said here earlier, for the role of the Auditor-General in highlighting and holding to account these issues that continue to be in our midst.

I again thank the committee for allowing this to be reported. It is very interesting that since then we have all welcomed the increased funding. We are very much attuned to reflecting on how it got so bad and the wait times that have been spoken about by other speakers are truly unbelievable. We must again reflect on how our families and the loved ones of these people who get caught up in this system must be feeling.

The Queensland Auditor-General has done an amazing job here and has instigated so many changes that have recently passed through the House. The performance audit, as I have said, was really quite damning. Again, without the Auditor-General, this would have bubbled on for a number of years and we would have continued to see the backlog that was forecast to get even worse. When we talk about a two-year waiting list or even longer—we heard the member for Lockyer's example of some three or four years—we should be concerned.

The auditor looked at how efficient and effective the processes and systems for delivering these services were, whether they are providing adequate support services to bereaved families and where they are planning effectively to deliver sustainable services. It was a worry to get the results.

The lack of governance has been spoken about. The State Coroner has responsibility for the efficiency of the system but has little function control to fulfil this responsibility. The core business for the three agencies at times had competing priorities, and that let everyone down. No one agency is accountable for managing a coronial investigation. The seven recommendations have been read out and I do not need to repeat those. It is encouraging that this report has led to very important legislative changes and, again, we must all be calling for consistent review. I encourage the Auditor-General to have a look at this again in a year and see how far they have progressed some of these issues. If we let these practices continue in our agencies, providing such an important service, we will all be disappointed.

We welcome the increased funding. Again, it has been highlighted by committee members that that needs to be reviewed and reviewed regularly. Again, we must work very hard to continue to get the wait times back to an efficient model.

As the member for Gympie said, we could not believe the issue of vessel monitoring systems was kicked around as a political football when this was about the families being communicated with. The families deserve nothing more than the facts and the natural justice of a process that would have provided some sort of closure after all of these years of not really knowing what happened. We commend the Auditor-General for putting in such a lot of work. I again remind people that back then the minister still would not apologise for the department. He has still not apologised to those families for the way they carried on in that Coroner's inquest. Subsequently, the minister continued to fight our calls for the VMS system to be used in a better manner, so you could imagine my delight when, on 3 December last year, the minister finally said—

I am looking forward to having engagement with the Queensland Police Service and my department to make sure that information is possible and available and useful.


It took some months for the minister to finally step up and admit that he got it wrong. I hope that the department or the minister has reached out to the families of those fishermen, who wanted all of the Coroner's recommendations to be implemented. We also look forward to a review of the vessel monitoring system and how effective it can be to ensure that we do as much as we can to save fishermen at sea.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Coronavirus Restrictions

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.01 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I refer to question time this morning. In answer to a question put to the Premier by the member for Bundaberg, I can advise that the easing of restrictions for stage 1 of the road map came into force on 15 May. The directions have not changed since they were published. The questions and answers published on the Queensland Health website provide assistance in interpreting the directions. As we receive queries from the public the questions and answers are updated to make sure they are relevant. I am advised that is what occurred between the versions that the member referred to in his question.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders; Portfolio Committees, Renaming and Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move that—

1. the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by omitting Schedule 6 and inserting the new Schedule 6 circulated in my name, effective immediately;
2. the current members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Committee be appointed to the new Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee in the same capacities held in the former committee;
3. the current members of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee be appointed to the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee in the same capacities held in the former committee; and
4. all inquiries and business before the former committees relevant to transferred portfolio responsibilities be referred to the new committees.

1. SCHEDULE 6—PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

Omit, insert—

SCHEDULE 6—PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- (1) In accordance with s.88 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the following table establishes the Portfolio Committees of the Legislative Assembly and identifies their primary areas of responsibility; and
- (2) A reference to a Minister is deemed to include departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations and other administrative units reporting to the Minister and parts thereof that report to the Minister with respect to the Minister's responsibilities as set out in the Administrative Arrangements.

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Economics and Governance Committee	Premier and Cabinet Trade	Premier and Minister for Trade	Auditor-General Integrity Commissioner
	Treasury Infrastructure and Planning	Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning	
	Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Independent Assessor
Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee	Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	
	Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries	
	Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Arts	Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts	

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Justice and Attorney-General Police and Corrective Services Fire and Emergency Services Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Electoral Commissioner Information Commissioner Ombudsman Queensland Family and Child Commission Family Responsibilities Commission
Transport and Public Works Committee	Transport and Main Roads Housing, Public Works, Digital Technology and Sport	Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport	
State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee	State Development, Tourism and Innovation Regional Development and Manufacturing	Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing	
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee	Health and Ambulance Services Communities, Disability Services and Seniors Child Safety, Youth and Women Domestic and Family Violence Prevention	Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Health Ombudsman
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee	Education Industrial Relations Employment and Small Business Training and Skills Development	Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development	


This new schedule 6 also makes provision for inclusion in the oversight responsibilities of the Independent Assessor, which is the independent agency responsible for the oversight of local government councillors' conduct under the Economics and Governance Committee, so that is a further change and element that is part of it. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly was consulted in relation to all of this. I thank the House for its indulgence in speaking to this motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (4.03 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020 by 3 July 2020.


The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's report No. 14 of 2019-20, *Evaluating major infrastructure projects*, be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee and that Auditor-General's report No. 15 of 2019-20, *Education: 2018-19 results of financial audits*, be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1090, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.05 pm): Before I begin my contribution, as the bill deals with body corporate fees I would like to declare that my family has an investment property which has body corporate expenses.

The Premier must have been fuming yesterday morning with the front page of the *Courier-Mail* rightly condemning moves in this bill to let prisoners out early with their headline 'Jailhouse crock'. The Premier was very careful on Tuesday to set up a great photo opportunity. She could see the wonderful front page cover in her mind's eye. All of the invitees were standing on the Speaker's Green in their carefully choreographed spots. On the ground she patted herself on the back about how wonderful the government is. She was desperate to draw attention away from the recent business confidence survey, which shows that Queensland is again at the back of the pack compared to the rest of Australia. The Premier was desperate to draw attention away from the fact that we entered the crisis we are debating with the worst unemployment rate in the country and the worst state debt. The government was so desperate for a diversion from their integrity scandals, infighting and factional wars that they were blind to the inevitable public and media reaction to their priority to look after criminals in this state.

As business is struggling and seeking support, as the *Courier-Mail* put it, 'Amid a jobs crisis, for seven hours yesterday the government thought a priority was to release prisoners early.' This pathetic government—too concerned about and focused on their own jobs—decided to put criminals first, but the Premier could not have back-pedalled faster and tried to blame the department. The Premier told the media, 'The department put it up as a proposal and it sounded fair in the light of the COVID situation, but we have taken the decision not to go ahead with it.' I ask: who is running this state? It is certainly not the Premier.

I know that the Left faction and the Right faction are probably not speaking to each other much lately. We can see that the puppetmasters on the left are still in control and pushing through policies like this one. 'Soft on crime' is in Labor's DNA. They do not even realise they are doing it. The clause relating to the early release of prisoners was apparently a great idea when the bill was introduced at 12.30 pm on Tuesday. It was defended again by the perennial soft-on-crime police minister at 7 pm, but nearly eight hours after the introduction of the bill they were forced into an embarrassing backdown.

The embarrassment of and pressure on the Premier were evident during yesterday morning's press conference, when she was arguing with journalists about what she did or did not say about border closures. I know that we are all confused about that. Inconsistent messaging, changing the goalposts and embarrassing backdowns like these just serve to erode community and business confidence in this inept government. The explanatory notes contain remarks about community consultation. They state—

Given the urgent nature of the Bill, consultation with non-government stakeholders has generally not been possible.

That is very evident. When Labor does not consult they default to their own Left ideology, and it is writ large here. Queenslanders must be incensed that their businesses are suffering financial stress and, as their jobs are put in jeopardy, the default for this state government is to spend their valuable

time in cabinet discussing and legislating for poor criminals who might find it hard to get home. It is hard enough getting someone sent to prison in Queensland, let alone this state Labor government wanting to release them early because they feel sorry for them.

In this bill, the government could find the time to make amendments to the Youth Justice Act. The explanatory notes state that the bill will amend the Youth Justice Act—

... to provide the option to appoint temporary non-public service employees as detention centre employees, for only as long as reasonably required, and only if reasonably necessary for the security and management of detention centres and the safe custody and wellbeing of children detained in detention centres.

They find time to do all of that in the Youth Justice Act but they cannot find time to make other much needed amendments to the same act. Apparently, after the Labor members up north begged the Premier to do something about the Youth Justice Act, they started talking tough and have since done nothing, despite making amendments to this act today.


Queenslanders are not fooled by the empty words and rhetoric from this government. As we see in the bumbling of this legislation around criminals and early release, victims are not a priority; criminals are. It is a shameful and embarrassing insight into the priorities of this pathetic Labor government. Thankfully, the opposition intend to move amendments and we will see if Labor really want to support them or not, or will they silence us and silence the victims of crime who are crying out for support? We will see. We know that only the LNP will introduce the laws we need to protect our community.

I turn now to the clauses related to gaming and our clubs. The LNP has backed calls by Clubs Queensland to refund all of the March gaming tax and waive taxes while they are unable to operate. Queensland cannot afford for our community clubs to be wiped out because of the coronavirus. They employ thousands of workers, many of them casual, and support worthy local sporting and community activities right around Queensland. At this point I will give a plug to our own Nambour RSL which, for example, gives thousands of dollars each year to our local community organisations which are also struggling under the current crisis.

Our clubs are places that bring communities together and they are a vital part of the social fabric of our communities. Many of these community clubs are facing the real possibility of closure and they need support. Refunding the March gaming tax will provide clubs with some cash flow, and waiving taxes into the future will help the industry achieve a COVID-19 exit strategy. We must do everything possible to help the future viability of these services and give their workers hope of a recovery and security of their employment.

On employment, I note that the bill seeks to make amendments to allow affected registered workers to apply for payment of all or part of their long service leave through amendments to the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991 and the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005. Those workers will be able to access this leave earlier, after five years instead of 10, providing them with an opportunity to retain income in these difficult times. We support these measures and the other measures in the bill.

With the very limited time it appears we will spend in parliament this year and the uncertainty, this government need to start urgently prioritising legislation that protects Queenslanders. They need to provide certainty to business and a proper plan rather than the mixed-up messages, confusion, bumbling and infighting we have witnessed this week. The government need to learn to walk and chew gum at the same time. There are many priorities that Queenslanders expect this government to deal with, and they are currently failing them miserably with their infighting, factional wars and integrity issues.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020. What a treat it is to follow the member for Nicklin, the Dr Seuss of the opposition. He is the master of rhyme and repetition. We have heard limericks from him, but I am waiting for the day that he breaks out in song. I think he can get it out this term.

While those opposite may be driven by front pages, editorials and headlines, that is not the KPI for the government. Over on this side of the House, we are just simply getting on with the job of the recovery and the rebuilding. Here in Queensland we are an absolute success story. While they are not our KPIs, what we have seen over the last several weeks is the ineptitude of the opposition. I will go as far as to say that we see the *Courier-Mail* as the opposition here in Queensland because we are certainly not seeing anything out of the LNP. There are no fresh ideas and no positivity. We just have Debbie Downers over there going on and on and on in the nightly news, and people in my community are saying to me that they are sick of it.

We are here this afternoon to address what we need to do to get on with the job of recovery, and this COVID-19 emergency response bill does just that. I want to speak specifically to the amendments that this bill contains in the health portfolio legislation that support Queensland Health's emergency response efforts. Queensland Health's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency has affected every aspect of the lives of Queenslanders. The sacrifice has been great but it has also been effective. We are now gradually relaxing restrictions to allow people to slowly return to their normal lives. However, the emergency response effort is not over. We must ensure that Queensland's health system can continue to effectively respond to the ever-shifting challenges posed by COVID-19.

One of Queensland Health's earliest steps to respond to the COVID-19 emergency was to increase the powers of the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers under the Public Health Act. Public health directions issued by the Chief Health Officer are one of the key elements of the COVID-19 emergency response. Public health directions are a flexible and responsive mechanism to reduce and respond to the spread of COVID-19. The powers of emergency officers have also been a critical part of Queensland Health's response. Emergency officers issue notices requiring people to quarantine or isolate and they enforce notices and public health directions.

This bill contains amendments to the Public Health Act to clarify the powers of the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers to support them in continuing their work reducing the spread of COVID-19. The amendments clarify the detention powers of emergency officers when a public health direction comes into effect and that an emergency officer may give a child's parent or guardian a direction for a child, either instead of or in addition to giving the direction to the child itself.


The bill also amends the Public Health Act to allow the chief executive of Queensland Health to delegate their power to disclose confidential information from the notifiable conditions register to more than one delegate. This will relieve pressure from the chief executive and the Chief Health Officer and allow for information to be used for contact tracing in a timely manner. This is critical for managing the spread of COVID-19 and will allow the chief executive and the Chief Health Officer to focus on the most critical aspects of the COVID-19 response.

One of Queensland Health's achievements in responding to COVID-19 has been increasing its ICU bed capacity through an agreement with private hospitals. This means Queensland's health infrastructure is ready for any future COVID-19 outbreaks. The bill amends the Private Health Facilities Act to provide flexibility for the Chief Health Officer to waive or defer licence application fees for private health facilities if a private health facility has to change or renew its licence to provide services to patients under an agreement with Queensland Health. This supports our colleagues in the private health sector and ensures private facilities are not penalised for providing services to patients under the new arrangements.

The bill amends the Mental Health Act to allow Queensland Health to flexibly respond to COVID-19 outbreaks that impact authorised mental health services. A need may arise to move one or more patients out of an authorised mental health service to respond to a COVID-19 outbreak. In these circumstances, sufficient beds may not be available at existing authorised mental health services. To ensure that facilities are available to meet the needs of mental health patients, the Chief Psychiatrist will have the power to declare an authorised mental health service and appoint an administrator in writing for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. This will allow an authorised mental health service to be quickly established and ensure continuity of care for some of the most vulnerable patients in our state.

This bill also gives the Chief Psychiatrist the power to grant leave or access to community treatment for mental health patients or discharge patients if satisfied that this is necessary to comply with a public health direction or a direction issued by an emergency officer under the Public Health Act. This is to ensure that in the event of any inconsistency between an order issued under the Mental Health Act and a public health direction, the Chief Psychiatrist can comply with the public health direction. Granting leave will be an option of last resort. In making their decision, the Chief Psychiatrist must have regard for the patient's treatment and care needs, the safety and welfare of the patient and the safety and welfare of others.

The amendments in this bill are welcome as another important step in supporting Queensland's fight against COVID-19. These amendments support emergency response efforts. They protect vulnerable cohorts and they mitigate potential disruptions to the health system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.20 pm): I am going to make a contribution to the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill and I will do it in a few parts. Firstly, I will make a contribution as shadow environment minister about the changes to the

Environmental Protection Act. As the local member for Broadwater, I will touch on the changes to the Gaming Machine Act. Then I want to make some comments with regard to other elements of the bill, particularly around hardship and what I am seeing at the moment on the Gold Coast and, indeed, across the state.

Firstly, I turn to the changes to the Environmental Protection Act. The LNP will be supporting these changes. Yes, they are wideranging powers. However, I understand that in an emergency like this we need to be able to act on things like waiving compliance when it comes to environmental approval if those changes are needed to muscle up against the fight that industry is having in terms of things like supplies, so we will be supporting it.

As the local member for Broadwater, I speak in terms of the changes to the Gaming Machine Act. This is something for which the LNP has been fighting tooth and nail. We do so because we understand the importance of community clubs—clubs like Paradise Point Bowls Club and the Runaway Bay Junior Leagues Club. They are pillars of the community I represent. The Paradise Point Bowls Club has taken to selling morning burgers and coffees from the side of that facility just to try to get some activity. It will not make them enough money to keep the doors open but it will keep the community intact as it is a key part of the community. The Runaway Bay Leagues Club continues to support the RSL. At the moment those clubs do not have the revenue they need to keep the doors open. This will help them ensure they do not have those massive overheads or bigger overheads in their hour of need.

I want to talk about the assistance provisions, particularly hardship. I will tell honourable members what it does not take into account and that is the hardship that operators are facing because of the mixed messages on the border closures—and mixed messages we have aplenty. In the space of 10 days we saw a road map that was delivered on 8 May which had a July border reopening date change 10 days later to September because of one comment on television from the Premier. What medical advice changed during those 10 days? Was there a spike in Queensland? No. Was there a spike interstate? No. Absolutely nothing changed in those 10 days other than a comment that was made on television. There is no medical advice that changed for the Premier to have contemplated making that decision the way she did.

Ms Boyd: Misleading the House.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Member for Pine Rivers, I would love to see that medical advice. We would love to see it on schooling. We would love to see it on borders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Through the chair, please.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to issue a challenge to the Premier. The Premier said in this House today that she looks forward to going to New South Wales and telling people when they can come here for a holiday. I would like the Premier to come to the Gold Coast and tell those operators why she has pulled the rug out from under their livelihoods. That is what I want to see, because there has been no change in advice. There has been no change in medical advice.

I am not advocating for anything that the Premier herself did not put in her road map. The opposition is not saying that it should be weeks before that; we are saying stick to the plan. If there is contrary advice, we would like to see it. Today I say to the Premier please come to the coast and look those operators in the eye and give them the justification. Do not be a warrior in William Street and a coward in Cavill Avenue. Come down and look those people in the eye. The member for Gaven is in here; she is very quiet on this issue. She stands up and talks about all manner of things.

Ms Scanlon: What?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Member for Gaven, I want to know your position. I will tell you why.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments through the chair, please.

Mr CRISAFULLI: My phone has run hot from operators from the Far North to the Gold Coast and everywhere in between not because they wanted to see the date brought forward; they were willing to stick to a plan. They signed up to a plan. They did everything they were told—everything. They put their businesses on hold; they put their lives on hold; they put their families on hold. Then one media comment made 10 days after a road map was released has derailed that recovery, and those opposite sit in silence. They kowtow. Their day of reckoning is coming. I hope that every day between now and when those borders are open the Premier is reminded of the decision to change what was set by her own government—not by the opposition, not by business.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, the next time I warn you it will be a warning under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim, who points out the giggles from those opposite who think it is humorous. Let me tell them a fact that is not humorous. Destination Gold Coast believes that two months will cost the economy \$500 million—\$500 million. Do honourable members know what is in that \$500 million? There are broken dreams. There are house payments that will not be made. There are car payments that will not be made. There are kids who will not be able to afford to play community sports. There are businesses who put everything on the line and took a chance.

Government members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members to my right.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I know that those opposite do not know much about business, but I can tell them one thing. When people put everything on the line only to see it washed out from underneath them they will accept it. They will accept it, but they will not accept politics coming in the way of a recovery. Unless we see medical advice, this decision is nothing but bad leadership at a time when the community is crying out for it.

Finally, I want to touch on two issues quickly. One is around the QRIDA Jobs Support Loans. I thank the government for increasing the fund, which I spoke on last time in this House—an additional \$500 million. That is certainly welcome. May I also suggest, with the greatest of respect, there is a need to properly assess the applications for the remainder of the funds and to open it to new applications. Initially we thought that the assessment would run until September, but instead it is now closed. There has not been thorough analysis. It has been first in, first served; that was never, ever in the guidelines that were issued. There will be people who are most needy who will miss out. I respectfully ask for that to be considered.

Finally, I turn to that section of the bill that mentions the tenancy matters. I support wholeheartedly what the government is doing, but I issue a call to arms, and that is to please give some certainty to the commercial tenants and landlords. Every state has managed to find a way through, but this government cannot find a way to make tough decisions. It cannot continue to put off tough decisions and assume the problem is going to go away. The federal government put forward a framework and all the state government needs to do is make a decision, bring it in and make it law because at the moment there is a Mexican stand-off between landlord and tenant. In some cases they are both doing their best. In other cases one side might be playing hardball to the detriment of the other.

I am not suggesting that the government needs to pick a winner; it just needs to make a decision so that people can get on with their lives. People need to know whether or not they can afford to trade out of the situation they are in, whether they own the building or own the business. I do not believe that is too much to ask after so many weeks when other states have been able to get their act together. I say to the government that here are some good, positive changes. We respectfully ask that we continue to take every opportunity to allow our communities to get back on their feet.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.30 pm): I rise today to make a brief contribution regarding the part 9 amendment of the Liquor Act 1992 within the provisions of the bill. I do so as somebody who has a deep understanding of the hospitality industry. As I have said before in this House, it is something I have been involved in my entire life. It has supported my family for my entire life, and it is something about which I feel very strongly. It is a real pleasure to rise to speak to these provisions today. I know that, when we announced that restaurants and businesses had to close and do takeaway only, there was a lot of concern from restaurateurs and retailers who have always relied on the sale of food and liquor to support their business that it was going to be really tough to make ends meet. It is fantastic that this section has allowed those small businesses that pivoted to takeaway so beautifully to sell food and liquor as well.

As a former restaurant manager, I know firsthand from seeing our own restaurant books that, for a lot of venues, this could be the difference between survival and failure. For many venues, liquor is the profit margin. Food is comparatively expensive to produce thanks to labour costs but, of course, there is also the potential for really high wastage. The amount of love and care that goes into making an item of food compared to pouring a glass of wine or making a cocktail is, of course, much higher but, as I said, there are those wastage issues to contend with as well.


Clause 37 inserts a new part 10A, 'Takeaway liquor authorities for COVID-19 emergency response', into the Liquor Act. The new part 10A contains those new sections 235A to 235J in providing that the main purposes of new part 10A is to support that ongoing viability of businesses operating licensed premises which, of course, have been so disrupted by the COVID-19 emergency.

As I said, when many venues turned to takeaway only, they were really deeply concerned about how they would not only make a profit but survive in this current environment. One of the many value-adds that we know a lot of restaurants offer is pairing together the beverage and the food. That is the point of difference that they can offer compared to making a really nice meal yourself or picking something up at Dan Murphy's.

As I mentioned earlier, they also have those wastage issues when it comes to food, which does contribute to that lower profit margin. If you are lucky, you turn the food over. If you are unlucky, it goes in the bin or, hopefully, if there is that food wastage you are smart and kind enough to turn that over to a charity like OzHarvest. Luckily, vodka does not go bad. Small operators have an opportunity to turn their craft into making delectable cocktails and other higher profit margin items like alcohol based dessert. It gives them another string to their bow when it comes to fighting against the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

This commonsense approach has been welcomed by venues throughout Queensland. I know that it is based on feedback from small businesses like Bare Bones Society in Jindalee that was lucky enough to participate in the Premier's round table for hospitality operators. It also allows licensed venues to continue to sell their most profitable items to a willing public who still want to purchase those items and it allows them to whittle down those existing stock lines. It means that money they spent a few months ago in anticipation of a good autumn season is not going to waste or sitting as unspent funds. It means they can turn that money they have already spent if not into profit then certainly into an income stream while they get through this tough time.

I already have seen restaurants in my local community and small businesses do some incredibly innovative work with these rules and opportunities. Many locals like nothing better than eating out to celebrate a special occasion but, of course, we have seen during the most restrictive times that we could not even have a picnic in the park. Our local venues like Bare Bones Society did a great job in coming up with innovative heat-and-eat options. I certainly took advantage of that. I had a picnic in my backyard. It was super fantastic, but we make do with what we can. As I said, this change allows local venues to continue retailing their most high-profit item. It is the most high-profit item that they sell. It gives them a much better chance at recovery. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.35 pm): In speaking to the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020, once again we are confronted with an omnibus bill which requires amendments to 23 different acts. While I understand the current climate calls for urgent measures, we received the bill only yesterday and are expected to dissect it immediately before debating it today. As a whole, Queensland has done a great job complying with social distancing rules and regulations, with minimal cases in regional Queensland and a minute number of new cases. We would much rather be spending this parliamentary week on robust debate about rolling back restrictions earlier on business in regional and rural Queensland while they continue to maintain social distancing requirements.


The KAP pushed and supported the locking up of North Queensland in concern of the massive number of cases in Brisbane, New South Wales and Victoria. We felt that it was in our best interest for the north to be locked up to ensure that we protected North Queensland. There were no cases west of Charters Towers. There were no cases in the gulf. There were very few cases in the Townsville region. We supported the closing of the border, but I am disappointed that people in our area living under these restrictions have not had the opportunity to enjoy going to the pub, RSL, sporting clubs, local swimming pools, local restaurants or coffee shops or to enjoy a beer, a punt on the pokies and Keno or a meal. They are just longing for this. I am disappointed to hear talk in this House about opening up the borders when we have not had the opportunity to enjoy these moments ourselves.

They are not talking about opening up the border; they just want to be able to go to the swimming pool without being kicked out. It is about locals visiting locals—not interstate visitors just yet—to give locals who have missed out the first opportunity. Today I spoke to a local football official who said that 100 people can attend a football game. He said that that 100 makes up all the players and that they cannot play the game. They are trying to get a return to putting on those games, but there are no funds to put on those football games.

These social distancing measures are very important to us. If we are to look at opening the borders let us look at the RSL or at local sports clubs still operating Keno or poker machines. We should be able to go to the pub, provided we abide by the social distancing measures in place. That would be a good foundation and a good start, but it has not yet happened.

This bill is designed to safeguard revenue streams for local government, allow affected workers to apply for payment of all or part of their long service leave entitlements, provide measures to assist Queensland businesses and individuals suffering from financial and operational stress caused by the public health emergency, assist Queensland's health and disability sector to operate safely and effectively, ensure there is ability for COVID-19 testing of persons suspected of committing particular offences, and assist Queensland's adult corrective services and youth detention sectors to operate safely and effectively.

There are also changes to the Liquor Act which will give the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming the power to issue a takeaway liquor authority to operators of licensed venues regardless of the limitations of their current licence or permit. This will give more scope to small restaurants and venues that are able to open under the current restrictions. Those things are well and good, but why not also roll back restrictions immediately to allow sporting clubs to operate—they can still abide by social distancing rules and regulations—instead of token gestures? I wanted to bring those issues to the attention of the House.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.40 pm): Today I rise because I want to recognise the extremely fantastic job that the people of Queensland have done in reducing the incidence of COVID-19. It is amazing that today we are seeing a record number of people across the world being diagnosed with COVID-19 whereas in contrast Queensland had zero cases today. It is extraordinary that we have that contrast. The Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, the Premier and our health minister have given good advice which they have communicated very well. They have communicated their advice very clearly. The real congratulations should go absolutely to the people of Queensland because they are the ones who have been responsible, careful and conservative about the role that they have in keeping other people safe.

An honourable member: It's a good way to be.

Mr POWER: It is a good way to be when it comes to this disease and the changes we have had to make, and I will return to that. The member for Toowoomba South said that we should be conservative about things like border closures and such measures. It is really important that we are conservative about these things, we are careful about these things and we are judicious about these things or else we might see in Queensland what has happened in other parts of the world. I congratulate every Queenslander who has stuck together and cared for every other Queenslander. We still have a long way to go, but our work means that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Every Queenslander for the most part knows—well, I did hear the member for Broadwater earlier—that we must have a unified voice, collectively backing up and following the Chief Health Officer's carefully thought out advice. That is the path to keeping Queenslanders alive, minimising transmission and, really importantly, getting back to work by opening up steadily and continually without having to go backwards.

I want to especially congratulate Logan residents. The impact on those without savings and job security and with insecure housing is so much more than others in secure situations. Many of them do not have the large house in a leafy suburb where a job can easily be accommodated through online white-collar work, and I myself feel fortunate. The problems of casualisation and insecure work have disproportionately hurt Logan residents, yet Logan residents have endured because they care for our community and they are willing to go through what is right to get our community through. I am proud of Logan and proud that we have worked together to do so well.

I want to recognise workers. Our Prime Minister said that every worker is essential. We have to recognise the doctors, the nurses, the hospital cleaners—in fact, every hospital worker—the paramedics, the police, the contract tracers and every single public servant down to the person who works in the TMR office who is helping people keep their cars registered and on the road. Every single public servant continues to go out and serve the public. Those public servants are either dealing with people on the front line or are dealing with the people who are dealing with other people on the front line. I want to respectfully acknowledge the public servants who work in this place. They have had to go above and beyond and do extra duties and be extra careful for this institution and we respect what they have done. I also want to recognise those who work outside of government in retail dealing with an anxious public such as the hardware store owners who have had to do that extra work for people to queue up in their stores. There are so many Queenslanders who have taken on extra responsibilities in order to keep their communities safe.

I want to recognise the fact that in this bill emergency measures have to be agile in response to incredibly rapid change. In the absence of the COVID-19 emergency, we would have much more time to consider these issues, but now is the time for action, and that is what we have done. The comprehensive nature of the effect of COVID-19 means that the bill has to be a comprehensive

response that rightly has to deal with many acts across government, and I want to note a few of them. Firstly, when I heard the Minister for Industrial Relations speaking about building workers and others' long service, I thought of the crew that was out—the Minister for Main Roads might be interested in this—on Friday night operating the cranes to put in the 56 girders that are going to make up the new bridge over Jimboomba Creek. They were working in the night—carefully, safely, with distancing—but they do not know where their next job is coming from. I know that we have a government that is backing them with investment in roads, but some of the measures in this bill are important if some of those workers have only been working for, say, seven years or even less. If those workers have that financial need, we have put mechanisms in place so they can reach out and access some of their long service leave to keep them going.

While the Minister for Transport is in the House I want to acknowledge the huge new investment on the Mount Lindesay Highway to keep people in work. At the moment there is four-laning occurring—and the member for Scenic Rim would recognise this great work—from Rosia Road through to beyond Stoney Camp Road. In a joint investment we have added an extra \$37.5 million to take four lanes beyond that all the way to Chambers Flat Road. That is a project that makes a real difference to the people on that corridor and is something that also provides jobs for people who can do this in a COVID safe way.

This bill gives the police the power to order a COVID test by way of amendment to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. If a court has determined that a COVID test is warranted, people can be tested. That is really important when police are in a dangerous situation if someone has done something that has endangered one of our public servants. There are changes to the Liquor Act that recognise some of the severe restrictions on licensed premises during this crisis. The bill makes changes to the manufactured homes act. The mechanisms that we have put in place—and, Mr Deputy Speaker, I know you know very well about some of the difficulties that manufactured home residents have had during this crisis—will ensure that that act can work smoothly at a time when often elderly residents will have trouble being able to go through the full process.

During this viral pandemic I am reminded that both our economic wellbeing and our health are not up to a single individual—not the Chief Health Officer, not the Premier, not one single individual at all. Instead, they are collective. If we are to be able to continue to do everything that we want to do outside of our homes, then we depend collectively on every Queenslander to keep every other Queenslander safe. Every Queenslander can know that this government has listened to the best advice and has not hesitated to communicate the message and act together for all Queenslanders. It is we together who will beat this COVID-19 virus.


I can't but reflect on some of the things that the member for Broadwater said. He spoke about what was in the road map. The road map has three points at which we will review the border. It says we will do it at every stage. It clearly says we will do that review because we want to keep Queenslanders safe. He spoke about people from the cape to Coolangatta who were looking for New South Wales bookings. He must know, because he has read our road map and would have read New South Wales' road map which makes it absolutely clear, that people cannot travel for holiday purposes more than 250 kilometres. I know he was once from Townsville—now he likes to claim something different—but the member for Broadwater should know that there is not a mass market that is immediately south of the border. People from Kingscliff are not going to cross the border to Coolangatta.

Mrs Gerber: Yes, they do!

Mr POWER: For tourism purposes and accommodation? Residents of Kingscliff come up to the Gold Coast? That is a major market? We are seeing supreme ignorance from the new member who thinks that the major market for tourism in Surfers Paradise or Coolangatta is people from Kingscliff. Amazing!

Immediately north of the city of the Gold Coast is the City of Logan, which has great attractions, and Brisbane, which also has great things to do, but we do not have the fantastic beaches that the Gold Coast has. We would love to be able to travel, as soon as it is safe, and to take up those bookings. The member for Broadwater needs to be honest with tourism operators. He needs to understand that in the immediate vicinity of Northern New South Wales there are so many beaches to visit. We need to have a Queenslanders backing Queenslanders campaign for tourism to get hundreds of thousands of people from Brisbane, Logan, the Moreton Bay region and Ipswich, down to Surfers Paradise to enjoy everything that is there in a safe and COVID-responsible way. What we do not need is people spreading misinformation, people telling tourism operators things that are simply not true and pretending to Gold Coast operators that all of their market is somehow from Yamba, Kingscliff or Byron. That is clearly farcical. What we will have is a great deal of people from Brisbane and Logan who will be listening to

our Chief Health Officer and going to the Gold Coast and doing it safely. I know tourism operators will do it safely. Tourism will pick up steadily and incrementally because that is the safe way to do it. That is the way to do it so that we do not go backwards. We will continue to back our businesses. I endorse the bill.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak in respect of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill. What a wonderful presentation we heard from the member for Logan who has the audacity to stand in the House and suggest that the LNP is spreading misinformation about the tourism industry. I am not sure about other members, but I am a little bit confused about this issue of the border and when it is and is not going to be opened or closed.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am still waiting for some clarity from the government in respect of when the border will be opened. Equally I am quite confused about what we are meant to be doing come June and July with our holidays. What I think I heard this morning was the Premier and the member for Cooper a little bit at odds talking about the great opportunities to go sightseeing and touring around Queensland and there will be so much to do within our own state—and I completely agree with that as a concept—but my understanding is we were not allowed to travel for more than 150 kilometres. I actually received a text message from someone shortly after question time this morning saying 'Hang on, I thought we were not allowed to travel for more than 150 kilometres and we could not stay overnight if we travel anywhere within the south-east'. The same person sent me a text message saying, 'I am out in the regions and I thought we can't travel more than 500 kilometres so that means I can probably go to Barcaldine for a holiday, but I can't actually drive from Central Queensland to Rockhampton'.

Queenslanders are looking for some clarity because there is confusion. I applaud some of the intentions of this bill. There are some great amendments and recommendations in the bill that we will be supporting, but Queenslanders are looking for a clear road map that they can understand that will deliver hope, some excitement and a sense that there is a future. In today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*—and I am happy to table the article—the latest statistics indicate that the Gold Coast will suffer more than any other region in Australia and within Queensland in terms of unemployment.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled "'Worst hit" city in whole country' [\[813\]](#).

In case the member for Logan and others missed it, tourism is the lifeblood of the Gold Coast. In many respects it is also the lifeblood of South-East Queensland. In fact, it is the lifeblood of most of coastal Queensland. I find it difficult to understand how the Premier and her colleagues have not got that very simple and important fact. Today I have received a few emails from constituents in my electorate. I thought I would take a moment to share some of their comments. The first one is from a mother who sent this email to me this morning—

We should be reopening borders in July. There will be far more suicides a day than coronavirus cases if they leave our tourism lifeblood closed for much longer. Enough is enough. Everyone has been so obedient and it has paid off. But now our numbers are nearly non-existent and we have the capacity and readiness to tackle new cases as they arise.

Even the member for Logan said Queenslanders have done a great job. He is actually agreeing with my constituent. If we have done such a great job why is it that the Premier and the government want to continue to punish us by keeping our businesses shut down and prohibiting people from travelling and enjoying everything that the Gold Coast and Queensland has to offer? Another constituent sent me this email—

Let's get this border open. We are sitting ducks. Not what Queenslanders do!!

I will read another comment from one of my local clubs on the Gold Coast. I will not say which one because I want to respect their right to anonymity—

Who is in charge, the premier or the health spokesperson? The public servants are still paid but not the hard working people of Queensland. Borders must be open but with strict health guidelines for business and community but we need the southern visitors to survive. The earlier with safety guidelines the better.


Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Logan, we have been fairly tolerant so far, but next time it will be a warning.

Mr MOLHOEK: All we are simply asking for is a road map to recovery not a roadblock to recovery. That is essentially what we are getting from this government. What we also need from this government is leadership. I find it fascinating that Queensland is the only state that has not formally adopted in some way, shape or form, the code of conduct in respect of leased properties for commercial

businesses. That is a wonderful issue! There is so much confusion out there in the marketplace about what is right, what is fair, what can I do, I have heard that there is this code of conduct. I didn't realise that Queensland has not adopted it. There are many mum-and-dad small businesses and family investors as well who are taking a hit because they have tenants who in some cases are saying that there are these rules and we do not have to abide by those, we do not have to support some code of conduct that the Queensland government has not at least adopted or been prepared to acknowledge. What we are seeing is chaos and an incredible lack of leadership from those on the other side of the House.

I could go on and on about some of the failures that we have seen in recent months. Like my colleagues and so many others, I am incredibly saddened by this very challenging time that we live in. Queenslanders have done the right thing. They have worked hard. The Gold Coast needs a fair go. We have seen mayhem at the border these last eight weeks or so, with families from New South Wales who work in Queensland and Queensland families who work in New South Wales having to line up at roadblocks every other day and get special permits. We are all Australians. I think Northern New South Wales residents and Southern Queensland residents deserve to be able to move around freely. I simply ask that the Premier and the government review this road map to recovery and that they step up and treat the Gold Coast and our incredible tourism industry with a little bit more respect, care and kindness.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.00 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020. Nearly all Queenslanders have been put under stress to varying degrees by the COVID-19 public health emergency. On today's figures, across Australia we have had 100 deaths, 7,077 confirmed cases and 6,444 cases where the patients have recovered. However, the economic consequences to individuals, businesses and the government have been unprecedented. Thankfully the Palaszczuk government, led by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, has acted swiftly and decisively, assisted by the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, to implement extraordinary measures to address the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Our government's first formal response to the COVID-19 coronavirus was a declaration of a public health emergency by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Dr Steven Miles, on 29 January 2020. That is an important date, because it shows that Queensland was the first Australian state to declare a public health emergency. To formalise that declaration, the Public Health (Declared Public Health Emergencies) Amendment Bill 2020 was passed by this parliament on 6 February 2020. Subsequently, on 18 March the parliament passed the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Bill 2020. That bill amended the Public Health Act 2005 to give the Queensland Chief Health Officer and emergency officers more power to contain the outbreak of COVID-19. On 22 April, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 was passed by this parliament. That act included a framework that provided for the making of secondary instruments under the following broad global heads of power: reducing physical contact between persons, statutory time frames, proceedings of courts and tribunals, and authorisation to take action to do things electronically.

The bill currently before the House, the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 will assist with these issues in areas that cannot be addressed by the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020. This bill is an omnibus bill that will amend over 20 individual acts. The broad sweep of the acts to be amended include legislation that relates to local government, disaster management, long service leave, support for small businesses, gambling laws, health care, environmental laws, manufactured home parks, body corporate laws, police powers, corrective services and youth justice and it also amends the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020.

Since the COVID-19 public health emergency began, I have been very fortunate in receiving regular communications from Dr Kerrie Freeman, the Health Service Chief Executive of West Moreton Health, and Michael Willis, the chair of the West Moreton Health board. They have kept me informed about actions taken by West Moreton Health in relation to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For those not familiar with the area covered by the West Moreton Health district, it takes in not only Ipswich but also the council areas of Somerset, Lockyer and Scenic Rim. Dr Kerrie Freeman and Michael Willis have organised fortnightly partner teleconferences involving representatives from all local Ipswich health services, as well as local members of parliament and councillors. I have also received by email regular COVID-19 West Moreton Health update newsletters from Dr Kerrie Freeman and Associate Professor Deepak Doshi.

In the most recent West Moreton Health COVID-19 update newsletter, which I received on 19 May, Dr Kerrie Freeman advised that, while there is still a lot that we do not know about COVID-19, what we do know is that social distancing and good hygiene are the best protections against the virus.


Dr Freeman went on to advise that West Moreton Health is working closely with primary healthcare providers and the community to meet whatever challenges are posed by COVID-19. She delivered some good news: currently, West Moreton Health is moving from a tier 1 response to a tier 0 response as it gradually resumes core businesses. As of 19 May, there was only one notified case of COVID-19 in the West Moreton Health area and that was a traveller who had just returned from overseas. Dr Freeman went on to advise that public health has followed up on all of the patient's contacts within the West Moreton Health area and has issued quarantine and isolation orders as required. That was the first case of COVID-19 in the West Moreton area since 1 April and brings the total number of cases in that area to 38, of which 37 people have recovered.

As West Moreton Health emerged from tier 1 to tier 0, the Ipswich Hospital clinic has reduced its hours of operation as of 18 May. Currently, Ipswich people can be tested for COVID-19 at community fever clinics at the Flinders Peak Medical Centre at Purga and the Kambu health service in Ipswich Central. The Darling Downs West Moreton Public Health Network, the PHN, has been working to establish a third community fever clinic in the Ipswich area. West Moreton Health has been working with the PHN to ensure that fever clinics are easily accessible to all West Moreton residents. Dr Freeman advised that she and the board chair, Michael Willis, will be briefing partners further on those developments at the next fortnightly partner briefing to be held on Friday, 22 May.

On 8 May 2020, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk released Queensland's road map to easing COVID-19 restrictions. The road map outlines a staged approach to giving Queenslanders more freedom to travel, participate in more activities and hold more gatherings. The road map provides sensible and gradual steps to a COVID recovery that will reconnect our community and keep our economy moving by supporting business, industry and Queensland jobs. The Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 will assist with the Palaszczuk government's road map to recovery.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the sterling efforts of our health professionals and support staff who are working at the coalface during the COVID-19 public health emergency. I had the opportunity to show my appreciation for the efforts of nurses on 12 May, which was International Nurses Day, when I personally delivered an Ipswich West gift hamper to the Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery at West Moreton Health, Karyn Ehren, for the nurses at Ipswich Hospital. Soon after I sent letters of thanks to the 547 nurses who live in the electorate of Ipswich West.

The work of nurses has been unexpectedly thrust into the spotlight in 2020—a year the World Health Organization coincidentally declared to be the International Year of Nurses and Midwives. Who could have anticipated the challenges faced by nurses in 2020? Who could have imagined the extra burden imposed on nurses by an unpredictable virus about which we had little knowledge and treatment, a depleted supply of protective equipment and a sense of powerlessness over patient prognoses? I thank all of the health professionals who have had to deal with the COVID-19 public health emergency in Queensland, whether they be nurses, doctors, pathologists, administration officers, executive officers, ambulance officers or board members, as well as hospital maintenance officers and cleaners. They are all heroes and their efforts need to be acknowledged during these extraordinary and challenging times. I commend the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020. Like so many members with a great affection for their electorate, I would like to echo those who have gone before me in thanking the communities that I represent for their hard work, suffering and sacrifices in the fight that we have all joined against the scourge of COVID-19. I am sure I would not be misleading the House in saying that many of my constituents have suffered more than most, be they suffering because of social isolation or because of economic reasons, such as them losing their jobs or their small businesses being turned upside-down and being unable to trade, and those who have had to patiently home-school their children which has not been an easy task for many. I would like to echo my honourable friend, the member for Ipswich West, in acknowledging the great work that health professionals and all people involved in the running of our health system have done to keep us informed, to keep us well and to prepare for the eventualities which we feared might happen but which so far mercifully have not. My sister is an ambulance officer—I take my hat off to her and all others that I have mentioned.

In Southern Downs the COVID-19 lockdown has been compounded by difficulties associated with the border closure. I am on record in this House as saying that I understand, appreciate and agree with the need to have closed the Queensland-New South Wales border. It was a central part of the effort to contain coronavirus and prevent infection and spread through the community. My constituents

and I understand that. I have, however, spoken about the difficulties that the border closure has imposed even on those who are theoretically allowed to cross the border. They may have a border pass because their farm spans both sides of the border, their child goes to school, they have to go to medical appointments or they work across the border. The concern that many of my constituents and I have is that there are not enough border crossings, meaning many good people have been dislocated or cut off from their community of interest—the paddock on the other side of their farm or the shops they need to go to. If you have to drive large distances to reach a checkpoint, you also have to drive large distances to get back. This has caused a lot of disruption. I have asked in vain to have more border crossings opened so that those who are entitled to cross the border and have passes do not have to go so far. The people in my electorate of Southern Downs are suffering under that.

The bill contains a number of excellent measures. I will talk about a few of them. One which I really applaud is the amendments to the Liquor Act, in particular the expansion of the entitlement of hotel owners without ordinarily having a bottle shop to be able to sell off-licence liquor from their pubs. This is particularly important for the many small pubs that I am blessed to have in Southern Downs, pubs like the Maryvale pub run by Mick and Annie; the Yangan pub run by Bob and Kylie; the Blue Cow at Allora run by Denise and her mum; the Karara Tavern run by Pete; the Oasis Hotel in Yelarbon run by Mick and Chris; the Ballandean Tavern run by Naomi and Stephen—Naomi has been in touch with me recently to tell me about the difficulties that their business has experienced because of the COVID-19 lockdowns and border closure—and the Coronation Hotel at Toobeah run by Michael and Stacy and Michael's dad, Mick. These pubs, as they do not ordinarily have a bottle shop attached, missed out on the exemption that allowed bottle shops to trade. We know that alcohol sales have been up. I am sure I have contributed to that increase in sales, as many of us have, because of the isolation that we have experienced having to work from home so much and we have had more time to sit down and relax. I am sure I am not the only one in this House. I see a few knowing nods on the other side there.

One of the concerns that I see with the amendment to the Liquor Act is that it does not go far enough in the case of cellar-door operators. In Southern Downs I have the Granite Belt in my electorate. There are many wineries, almost exclusively mum-and-dad operators, small operations, lovely boutique wineries, who cannot do wine-tasting and sell wine over the counter.

I have been contacted by Martin Cooper from Ridgemill Estate and, through him, the Queensland Wine Industry Association's Mike Hayes, a great Granite Belt fellow and former Winemaker of the Year in Australia. They have made the point—and I have received it from other constituents as well—that people will not visit the Granite Belt, even if they can, unless they can be satisfied that there will be a wine tourism experience available to them. Wineries that have a cellar door and those who have their own accommodation, as well as other accommodation providers, are missing out on bookings. People are ringing to say, 'No, thanks, I wanted to go and do some wine-tasting.'

I have written a letter in support of the Queensland Wine Industry Association—I have tabled that electronically and I believe it would be with the Table Office by now—asking that consideration be given to liberalising that particular aspect of the restrictions so that the many small businesses in my electorate that would benefit from that change could do so.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 May 2020, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, supporting the request by the Queensland Wine Industry Australia to allow cellar door tastings from 12 June 2020 [\[814\]](#).

I applaud the increasing of the penalty and recognise the seriousness of the despicable act of spitting, coughing or sneezing on people deliberately. I think that that is assault in every sense. It has been said in the House before that that potentially can lead to someone's death. It is no small thing so I applaud that.

When I was listening to the member for Caloundra earlier today, he spoke with great gusto about three particular issues. I noticed that many others have spoken about these things since him, so I thought I might join in the chorus. One of the things that he mentioned was that we need a budget. This bill contains a great plethora of implications and I am quite certain that some of them will require funding. That begs the question: where will the money come from for this? The government has indicated that it will not be producing a budget before parliament rises and we go to the election. Although there are other states which have delayed their budgets, my understanding is that Queensland is the only government in Australia that is going down this path of no budget. That is concerning to me because we need to have some certainty about where the government's finances will be. How are they going to fund things? What are the implications for car rego, for land tax, payroll tax and stamp duty—these sorts of things? Will there be new taxes necessary?

Nobody doubts the economic challenges that this state faces, but the absence of a budget is unprecedented and it does not do much for confidence, particularly of the business community. The business community in this state is our biggest employer. We need to do everything we can to support them. Having a budget would certainly help in terms of their planning and their understanding about what the economic landscape will be ahead.

We have also heard many of my colleagues speak with gusto about the Corrective Services Act amendments which we are told the government will not be proceeding with. I really feel that such a move deserves attention in this House. Even though we are told the government will not be proceeding, it really ought to be said in this House what an appalling decision that would have been. I am glad that the government has sniffed the political breeze on this and decided to withdraw the ability for Corrective Services to release prisoners up to seven days earlier in order for them to catch a flight home, or that was the pretext we were given. That is symbolic of this government's persistent hand wringing over the rights of offenders, criminals and inmates, whilst at the same time having a tin ear to the views of victims of crime.

To give one example in my electorate, there is a lot of property crime going on in Goondiwindi. We have people who come from across the water in New South Wales who steal cars and then push them into the Macintyre River. We have a lot of break and enters and petty crime on the street. You could forgive the people of Goondiwindi for being less interested in the plight of wrong-doers than they are in their own safety and the safety of their property. People who work hard and earn their own money to spend on their own things—their houses, their cars, their possessions—people who are concerned about their safety—their situation should not be ignored.

The message that the government has been persistently giving—and I would urge them to reconsider what they are doing there because it will not be good for them electorally—is that they are more concerned about the rights of offenders and the plight of criminals than the rights of victims of crime. That is something I hear all the time.

We have all been speaking about the bill we dealt with yesterday in which the government was going to force more cases to go through magistrates courts. That would have been very concerning. I think of the old major generals from Cromwell's day saying, 'Everywhere crime abounds, but the magistrates are all asleep.' That is certainly the impression my people have regarding the crimes that we have seen like farm invasions and so forth. Those offenders seem to be given a slap on the wrist and told to leave. I am expressing the broad view of my electorate in saying that.

I come back to the issue of the border closure. We heard an excellent contribution from my honourable friend the member for Southport when talking about the border closure. I want to be on record that I do not wish to make a political point about this. This is not an academic or political point. This impacts my people, the many small business operators—tourism operators and so forth—and their staff who are without work, many of whom have never set foot in a Centrelink office.

When they hear a road map from the government, which was welcomed because it was needed, which indicated that the border would likely be opened in July and then not much more than a week later hear the Premier make a statement which includes a prediction that the border may not open until September, that hurts small business. It hurts particularly the tourism operators and others in my electorate who need the ability to plan ahead to take bookings, to buy stock, to manage their finances and so forth. It is no small thing that that quip was made and it is disappointing that the government and the Premier have been defensive about that.

Many of the people in my electorate fear the opening of the border if it is not done in accordance with medical advice. I understand that. I support the opening of the border no later than is absolutely necessary and when the Chief Health Officer says it is able to be done. The reason I do not have faith in this process is the number of bungles we have seen associated with the COVID-19 crisis and the impact on my electorate of Southern Downs. I am talking about my electorate of Southern Downs not the state of Queensland more broadly. We have had the closure of the border without enough border openings. I have asked the government for them a number of times, but nothing has changed.


I asked in vain for the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to direct SunWater to follow the state government's broader relaxation of the fishing ban, if we can call it that, along the coast, but no such thing was forthcoming. The people of Southern Downs who fish—and I would say in a much less person dense environment—were disadvantaged. We saw the persistent closure of schools without the government releasing the advice from medical experts indicating that that was necessary. That has disappointed a lot of people in my electorate who need to get to work and have been

disadvantaged because they have had to stay at home to homeschool their children. It has also caused a lot of angst amongst those who do not feel comfortable doing that. We cannot blame people for that. Not everybody has what it takes to be a teacher.

We saw the extraordinarily heavy-handed closure of gun shops. JB Hi-Fi could be open but not gun shops. Immediately the government wound that back to some extent, but they did not want to back down completely. Perhaps it was wanting to save face. People who have a legitimate use for firearms and ammunition and those who supply them were disadvantaged by the government's handling of this matter.

These are things that I have at length tried to get the government to relax and to see reason on, but that has not happened. That concerns me. It makes me wonder whether the opening of the border will be bungled as well. I urge the government to consider that someone will have to pay for all this one day and as soon as it is possible to open the borders it be done so that those who will be paying for this—that is, the private sector, the employers, the workers, the hardworking small businesses, not the politicians—can get going.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (5.24 pm): The Palaszczuk government's response to COVID-19 has been focused on one important thing. It has been focused on putting people first and, importantly, putting Queenslanders first. It is why in this state we have saved lives. It is why we have smashed the curve. It is why we are now squarely focused on the economic recovery of Queensland jobs.

Throughout the whole health emergency the Palaszczuk government has been taking important steps to especially protect the most vulnerable in our community. I am talking about Queenslanders who through COVID-19 found themselves sleeping rough, unfortunately lost their jobs or found themselves in a position where they were unable to pay their rent. The Palaszczuk government has been there to support all of those Queenslanders. We have been united with them. Today, as part of the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020, the Palaszczuk government is continuing to work with all parts of the Queensland community, to help each individual, each family and each business get through this unprecedented crisis.

I rise to specifically address the components of the bill that support the effective operation of the over 180 manufactured home parks across Queensland. A key aspect of all of our work over the last few months has been supporting Queenslanders to remain in their homes. It is very difficult to heed the urges to stay home if you do not have a home. We have worked hard to sustain tenancies of every kind, whether they be commercial tenancies or residential tenancies. This extends to those people who call one of the 180 manufactured home parks home.

What the bill specifically does is give the Palaszczuk government a temporary regulation-making power in this area for the duration of the public health emergency, as has been done for other sectors. That will enable us to ensure that households that are recovering from the financial ramification of the crisis—most households have been impacted in one way or another—do not find their rent becomes unaffordable, particularly site rents for those in manufactured home parks.

These amendments will specifically address stakeholder concerns around three things: the processes in the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act for site rent increases; the specific market rent review processes in the act; and the process for changing the amount of rent that home owners in those parks are required to pay. Through this power, we will establish the ability to make a regulation that will allow for modification or suspension—and this is important—where appropriate, of the processes set out in the statute for changing site rents in residential parks. I know that members in this House—the member for Bancroft and colleagues of mine from the Logan community and others across the state—understand that the process for amending a site rent for a manufactured home park requires home owners to come together and work through the issues. That puts them at particular risk during this public health emergency given the restrictions that exist around gatherings.

It will also ensure—and this important—that operators are not required to engage in what is often a lengthy and often expensive process to determine a new site rent. I think this regulation-making power allows us to find a good middle ground between protecting home owners from the risks and also protecting the interests of the operators and saving them unnecessary expense. The regulation would be able to affect any site rent increases which happened after 19 March 2020—the beginning of COVID-19 emergency period. It will also allow for any processes commenced or completed.

For clarity, it would be able to suspend the site rent increase process that commenced after 19 March 2020; suspend a site rent increase that commenced after that date; suspend the commencement of site rent increases that have not been finalised, or have not had specific processes commence, at the time the regulation is made; or allow a market review process to be completed but suspend the implementation of any site rent changes until a later date up to 31 December 2020.


I would like to thank members who have raised issues with me on behalf of their constituents including the Deputy Premier, the member for Murrumba; the member for Bancroft; the member for Waterford; the member for Kurwongbah; the member for Lytton; the member for Aspley; and the member for Bundamba. I am sure many other members on this side of the House have raised this issue. They are all passionate champions for members of their communities.

They are continually liaising with me about how we can make life better for the residents of manufactured home parks. I have been out visiting with those constituents on a number of occasions. I thank and express my gratitude to those members for giving me the opportunity to hear directly from those residents. The best way to apply policy thinking is after hearing from those residents directly.

I also want to thank the industry groups who have equally been as forthcoming in terms of their views and have allowed us to find a workable solution through all of these residential tenancy issues. In this particular case, I want to express our gratitude to the Associated Residential Parks Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, Caravanning Queensland, Caxton Legal Centre and the Property Council for working with the Palaszczuk government on this issue for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Following the anticipated passing of the bill, a further round of consultation will take place in the finalisation of the regulation. We will work with those members of this House who have a specific interest with the representative bodies of residents and also the representative bodies of operators to make sure that we get it right.

As with the other regulations we have made in relation to the effective operation of the housing portfolio during this period, this regulation will be subject to review on an ongoing basis and evaluation to make sure that as an instrument it remains relevant and effective. I commend these elements of the emergency bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.32 pm): I am pleased to speak in this debate. There are many issues affecting Queenslanders during these extraordinary times of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The bill that we see before the House covers multiple pieces of legislation. While we only saw it tabled on Tuesday this week, it deals with quite a number of complex matters. Unfortunately, there has not been the normal time for a parliamentary committee to review this, nor has there been the normal period of time in which it has sat before the House.

I urge this state government going forward to not hide from the parliamentary process. We know that they may have had some stakeholder engagements with confidential briefs that they are not allowed to release publicly, but that is not sufficient reason to not have the appropriate scrutiny to ensure that the legislation is adequate.

We must have more sittings of parliament to ensure that appropriate scrutiny leads to better legislation, particularly when there are extraordinary powers in many pieces of legislation that subvert the normal democratic process. In the last sitting of parliament we saw provisions in the COVID bill that allowed for regulations to override the intention of primary legislation—Henry VIII clauses, which they said were necessary, although it is mainly due to the lack of sittings, to ensure that legislation is responsive to the needs that arise as a result of COVID. I do not believe they were telling us the truth in that respect, because they would have known what those potential conflicts were, but they were not willing to put that into the public arena.

Provisions for regulations to override primary legislation are very dangerous. As we know, regulations only come back to the parliament for possible disallowance en masse, not by subtext—for the non-technical parliamentary nerd world, that means the detail that you never get to scrutinise. It is a very blunt instrument. It usually occurs months after the regulations have in fact been passed.

I know people have said we are in extraordinary times, but I would say that this state Labor government has used smoke and mirrors to significantly overreach when it comes to legislation, blaming COVID-19. It has more to do with their incompetence and lack of willingness to front up to this parliament or to go through the process of proper scrutiny.

I want to address the issue of the continuing confusion and devastation in the commercial leasing area for both mum-and-dad tenants as well as mum-and-dad landlords, whatever the size of their operation. A mandatory code for commercial leasing was released in early April—I think it might have

been 4 or 6 April this year. Yet here we are getting towards the end of May and we have not seen a regulation or legislation on this in Queensland. Why does it matter? Legislation and regulation do matter if you are asking people to obey the law but say it will be retrospective. Victoria and New South Wales have done it, but this incompetent Labor government has left that confusion and distress to linger in our community.

I have spoken to tenants who have said they have landlords who will not talk to them because there is no law in Queensland yet to address this issue. I have also spoken to mum-and-dad landlords, one of whom said they had a national tenant who was listed on the stock exchange—and the record shows they have cash reserves—but that tenant has refused to pay the landlord, in this case a small investor.

There must be fairness and transparency. It is time to end the confusion and the flip-flopping of this government. This is just one example of the government's failure. It has been nearly two months after the code of conduct was agreed to, but we have not seen any legislation in Queensland; yet we have seen it in other states. Get on with it. Provide clarity. Make sure it is fair. Help people to negotiate and move forward in a very difficult environment, which has been made worse by a government that has been so slow to respond in the way that is required.

I also want to address the issue of QRIDA loans. We acknowledge that more money has been put into this area. One would think from the Treasurer's response to a question I asked earlier this week that the government had addressed the problems in the QRIDA COVID loans program—but no. I am still getting reports of people who had applied, putting in otherwise eligible applications before 18 April, but who after the surprise cut-off have been knocked back. They spent time and money putting in eligible applications and still they have been knocked back.

I was delighted to see a step forward with respect to the small business grants program, as this is something that we said needed to happen here in Queensland when all of the other states had a small business grants program. That has been a step in the right direction, even though there are a lot of sole traders who have been left very disappointed that there is still nothing there for them. For example, a limo driver, who has already been smashed by the loss of value in their licence that they purchased under this government, who is a sole trader and does not employ anybody else gets nothing in respect of this package—

Ms Leahy: Graphic designers.

Ms SIMPSON: Graphic designers—thank you very much. I know there are people in the travel industry who have already been whacked in the head with the proverbial baseball bat of impacts of COVID-19, as well as multiple other businesses. Consideration needs to be given to how to better help sole traders who are viable businesses. Even if they do not employ people, they support themselves. They are not in any way a pretend business. They have records to indicate that. Also, there are some start-ups who had a period of time in business but did not meet the criteria that this government sought. I raise those issues generally because I think we need to consider how to better support sole traders in particular.

I again wish to address the roadblock to recovery and the lack of certainty about when Queensland's state borders will open. I am not talking about international borders; I am talking about state borders. I have heard Labor members in this place quote international COVID-19 infection rates as justification for maintaining the border closure between Queensland and New South Wales beyond July. This government released a road map that said our state would open again in July, and then the state Premier flip-flopped and suggested it will be September or later. That has devastated people.

If in fact the Premier changes her mind in July and says, 'Now we're going to open the borders,' it is too late for all of those tourism operators, for example, who have found that their phones just stopped ringing. I have heard that from a number of accommodation providers on the Sunshine Coast, and it is true in many other parts of Queensland. If the Premier changes her mind in July and says, 'Next week we're opening the borders,' it is too late for those businesses because they have lost the ability to make bookings now. That is necessary, particularly in the tourism industry. It is also true, as I heard from Avalon Air Services at Redcliffe, that we need that certainty now so that people who completed all of the theory work in their courses are able to finish the practical work. They had high-end interstate customers who are now cancelling because they cannot get certainty about what Queensland is doing. All of that knock-on business to those people in Redcliffe has potentially been lost, because this state government is not sticking to the road map it initially announced.

I wish to address some issues in relation to training. I also want to correct the Minister for Training and Skills Development. It is not surprising that she verbalised the parliament in this regard. She said that Skilling Queenslanders for Work was up for the chopping block under an LNP government. That is

completely untrue. I have said that I support Skilling Queenslanders for Work. In our previous policy we still had Skilling Queenslanders for Work and it had not been chopped, despite what the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development said. We want to see programs in the training area, not only Skilling Queenslanders for Work.


We want to see training that is tied to jobs and outcomes. We want to see training that actually helps people get jobs. What we have seen is a disgrace. Regional training organisations in particular have found roadblocks and all sorts of stupid, absolutely ridiculous red tape that has prevented their students from finishing their courses. Do members know that, in addition to the national auditing process, Queensland has its own auditing process for a lot of those training providers that is a complete duplication? There are examples where the national auditor, who is known as a pretty tough marker, has passed people but where you can get caught out in a technicality in Queensland. If you fall in between the two, those businesses can be put out of business. One of the complaints I received relates to double auditing.

The red tape in relation to training needs to be addressed. There are roadblocks to people getting jobs. We have seen some very good programs in other states such as Tasmania, for example. If we are to help people finish their qualifications and transition into other work, we need to get rid of some of the stupid, absolutely ridiculous red tape that this Labor Party government persists with. It needs to be reformed and it should be done now. Now during COVID-19 is it not time that the training sector in Queensland was fixed? There are too many silly things being done and money is not being put where the jobs are. Many training providers are distressed that their students will not be able to complete their work, including school based traineeships, because of some of the red-tape overload of this government. We want people to finish their training with clear competencies, but here there are red-tape requirements that have nothing to do with competency—and are not required in, of all places, the leftist state of Victoria—yet Queensland still requires it. This is because they have a hang-up on having another way of tying people up in red tape. We want to see red-tape reform.

We need an effective and vibrant TAFE sector and an effective and vibrant private training sector now more than ever. No more of this silly business of programs that are not tied to where the jobs are and of cutting out industry from that process up-front. At a time when thousands of people are facing the unemployment queue, the priority should be ensuring there is effective transitioning to other industries or recognition of prior learning that does not require someone to be in a job to take up some of the certificates that are on offer with government support. How absolutely ridiculous that there are still requirements in this state for someone to be in a job in order to access some of the training packages. Those people are not in jobs; they are trying to get a job and they want to finish their training. Let's see some real reform. Let's see some real opportunities so that people are able to get jobs or qualifications that will consolidate their ability to keep jobs in industries that have been going through tremendous challenges. I am passionate, as we are in the LNP, about training that helps people get jobs and builds industries, that sees small business filled with people who are competent and capable to carry on into the future.

We need to ensure that the money on the table is transparently applied. We heard the state government claim it has new money, but the word from many people in industry is that there has been a recycling of existing money. As a result of many of these silly rules, people cannot always finish their training. It is a tragedy that a number of traineeships and apprenticeships are drying up and falling over from the impacts of COVID-19. There has been word that much of the training funding could have been recycled from unutilised funding. This government has not moved in a timely way to help people transition to where the jobs are. We want to see a commonsense rebuild of this state with businesses—and small businesses in particular—given the tools. We want the government to get off their backs with regard to ridiculous red tape. I have heard stories that, in the midst of COVID-19, people have been fined for stupid, picky little red-tape things which should not be the business of government. Let us have a fair dinkum change—

(Time expired)

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. I point out to the member for Maroochydore that you can talk about the reduction of red tape but you have to acknowledge the work that the Palaszczuk government has done in supporting small businesses in this state—mum-and-dad businesses—through the packages this government has delivered.

I will just point out some of the things we have delivered: six-month relief for government building tenants; land tax relief for commercial property owners, which must be passed on to tenants in the form of rent relief; and \$950 million in payroll tax refunds, waivers and deferrals for business, meaning most businesses will not pay payroll tax in 2020. Let us not forget the \$500 energy rebates to small and

medium businesses, and let us not forget the \$1 billion in loans for small businesses during this COVID crisis, including \$500 million from CIQ. No other state or territory in Australia has offered this assistance. Let us not forget the waiving of liquor licensing fees for businesses, and let us not forget the 15 free online resilience TAFE courses available through the Jobs Finder portal.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr WHITING: I will take the member's interjection: 'What have the Romans ever done for us?' The list of what we have done for businesses affected by COVID-19 is amazing, and it has been acknowledged by business. This bill continues on with that support.

As the Premier said on Tuesday, it is incredible what Queenslanders have achieved in just 11 weeks. This response will be studied by historians for years to come. As the Premier said when we last sat on 22 April, 1,024 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the three months since the first case. Today, almost one month later, the Queensland case total is 1,058. Just a month ago, 280 cases of COVID-19 were still active. Today that case number is 12. I pay tribute to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. He should be extremely proud of what he has done, and we should be extremely proud of what Queenslanders have done, but we need to do more and this bill sets out what needs to be done.

As I said, Queenslanders can be proud of what they have done and they can be proud of what their government has done as well. The response so far from this government has been a commitment of over \$6 billion, and that includes \$1.2 billion in the health response. One thing that people have been very positive about is the \$200 off their utility bills as a cost-of-living relief measure. That has been hugely popular. Let us not forget that we reacted early by changing the Public Health Act 2005 to give the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers more powers to contain this outbreak. I have mentioned this in here before. We acted quickly to get an additional 110 ventilators and \$25 million worth of medicine, gloves and masks. We tripled emergency department capacity and doubled intensive care facilities. We set up fever clinics. We are in a much better position to enact this bill and to keep enacting these protections because we have employed thousands of extra staff in Queensland Health since 2015.

The bill deals with the issue of commercial rents. The reforms that we are delivering are incredibly important to mum-and-dad businesses across our communities. North Lakes in my electorate is home to many big box chain stores and big department stores, but an amazing number of businesses are what I have described as mum-and-dad businesses, like Picture Framing on Discovery, which gives great personal service, and Semi-Pro Coffee, which supplies excellent coffee to coffee shops like Basecamp near Costco and Bunnings.

We have seen some problems with commercial rents for these sorts of businesses, with people trying to negotiate and improve commercial rents during this time. One shop I talked to supplies equipment to local performing arts students throughout the region. Its business has dropped by something like 95 per cent because there is no performing, eisteddfods or anything like that. I was in touch with the landlord and the tenant and I encouraged them to negotiate in good faith. They did get that outcome and a rent holiday for a few months.

Mr Bleijie: Stop filibustering. Give someone else a chance.

Mr WHITING: I would actually recommend that the member for Kawana listen to this.

Mr Bleijie: I never listen to you.

Mr WHITING: I know you do not listen, but this is how you actually work with businesses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Member for Kawana and member for Bancroft, please speak through the chair.

Mr WHITING: The member for Kawana might like to read the national code of conduct for commercial leases. This is an important part of what we have delivered at a national and a state level to improve how people can actually negotiate those commercial rents. This bill is an important part of delivering that reform and those protections for those mum-and-dad businesses across places like North Lakes.

One of the most important amendments I want to address is the temporary power to modify or suspend the process for increasing site rents in home parks. I feel very passionate about this and I actually believe this is one of the greatest things we have achieved in our term—that surety to those thousands of residents in home parks across South-East Queensland and all of Queensland. This is one of the biggest issues for thousands of people in my electorate and they need to be able to deal with it. We have already provided great reforms since 2015. We have made sure there are no two rent

increases in a year. We have set out how the rent rise can be negotiated and how to take on the home park owner if there is a problem. They do not need to be dragged through QCAT anymore. We have achieved incredible reforms. What we are delivering with this will be another very welcome reform in this area and it is certainly a crucial part of negotiating our response for the COVID-19 emergency. I commend the bill to the House.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Pursuant to the motion agreed to by the House and the time allocated for the debate of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Pursuant to the motion agreed to by the House and the time for debate of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Clauses 1 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10 omitted.

Clauses 11 to 68, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.


Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Lockyer Valley, Water Security

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.57 pm): There is no doubt that we live in unprecedented times. Never in our lifetimes have we had to deal with such complex and difficult challenges as posed by this coronavirus pandemic. I would like to place on record my thanks to the Lockyer and Somerset communities for the great work they have done in their response to and recovery from this pandemic, with good hygiene, social distancing and isolation. As Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, we are all in this together. I would also like to give a shout-out to all of our essential workers and healthcare professionals and workers on the front line.

In these times, it is easy to forget that our communities face other challenges. I would like to talk about one of the forgotten challenges that my electorate faces daily. The Lockyer and Somerset region is in one of the worst droughts in living memory. It is heartbreaking. Once green paddocks are dusty and animals are dying from a lack of water. Whilst it is important to recognise the seriousness of our current situation, we cannot forget about the people who feed us.


Small, isolated falls of rain earlier this year did give some relief, but the stresses from the drought continue and are compounded by the ongoing pandemic. Without sufficient rain soon, our farmers will not be able to grow a crop. That means families will go hungry and farms will be sold. This is a desperate time but there is an immediate solution to our water security needs. Work continues on the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative, which will bring 50,000 megalitres of new water to our underperforming irrigation schemes. I would like to place on the record my thanks to the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regional councils, the Lockyer Water Users Forum, the Lockyer growers association and the chair, Stephen Robertson, for the great work they are doing in achieving the milestones. As part of the business case, a water demand analysis is currently being undertaken and we are approaching the 50,000 megalitres required in that.

Water must be delivered at a price that is affordable and at a quality that our fresh food markets demand. This project is a game changer for the Lockyer and Somerset. It is a game changer for Queensland and Australia. I call on the government to fund this project as part of our economic recovery and deliver water security to one of the most fertile valleys in the world. It will deliver hundreds of jobs and help feed Queensland, Australia and the world.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Conduct of Member for Maroochydore


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have previously warned all members about the need to respect the Deputy Speaker and all Temporary Speakers when in the chair. Disrespect for any Speaker cannot and will not be tolerated. I will reiterate to the House that the Deputy Speaker and all members of the Panel of Temporary Speakers have the full authority of the Speaker when they are presiding over the House.

I have today received the transcript of the member for Maroochydore's contribution to the House during private members' statements. I have also had reports of the member's behaviour immediately after her contribution. The member displayed disrespect for the Deputy Speaker in the chair. I will provide the member for Maroochydore the opportunity to withdraw and apologise to the House for her behaviour and disrespect towards the Deputy Speaker earlier today in the House before considering if any further action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (6.01 pm): In delivering my first adjournment speech in this House as the Treasurer of Queensland, I wish to pay tribute to the people of the Woodridge electorate. The coronavirus pandemic we are fighting right now has been incredibly challenging for the Woodridge electorate as it has been for every part of our state and nation. However, through these tough times we have seen some local heroes emerge. I call them Woodridge champions because, when it comes to the battle we are currently in, they are the individuals, businesses and community organisations who will ensure we come out the other side stronger and more united than before.

We have seen Evolve Group in Crestmead, led by world-class Queensland maker and doer Ty Hermans, move from plastics moulding to start producing N95 medical masks, the highest quality masks available for frontline workers, and Kingston's Substation 33 with Tony Sharp and his team taking old and obsolete IT and transforming it into affordable computers to make home learning easier for hundreds of Woodridge and Logan families. I thank local community movement Logan Together, led by Matthew Cox, who put together 1,000 physical activity packs to help families live healthy and stay happy during the testing lockdown period. I thank Gail Kerr and everyone at Access Community Services for their ongoing work to assist the many migrants and refugees in Logan as well as providing jobs for hospitality trainees at the fantastic Harmony on Carmody cafe.


I also want to acknowledge community not-for-profit organisation YFS, led by Cath Bartolo, who set up a dedicated COVID-19 support service for residents having trouble obtaining essentials like groceries and pharmaceuticals. YFS volunteers have been boxing up and shipping out supply packs with the support of Share the Dignity and OzHarvest Brisbane to make sure those isolated have the food and health products they need.

When we face challenges as big as those created by the coronavirus pandemic, it is also sometimes the small acts of kindness that make the most difference. This includes Sunny Faces Early Learning Centre, whose recent 65 Roses cupcake drive was a sellout, with the funds raised going towards the vital work of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland. There are also the amazing volunteers from Mission Possible, led by Gail Harrower, who have prepared hundreds of care packs for local residents doing it tough.

The past few months have not divided us; they have brought us closer together. They have highlighted what is important and where our focus should remain in the future. I thank our school principals, teachers, students and their families for adapting to a new way of learning and for committing

to the future through shared knowledge. I thank our local doctors and nurses, our aged-care and mental health workers—everyone who works at Logan Hospital in particular—for bravely attending to our sick and those in need. I thank my electorate as a whole for being there for each other, for supporting local businesses and for showing courage and resilience in the face of this terrible virus. Those are the qualities of champions and those are the qualities of the Woodridge electorate.

Pumicestone Passage

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.03 pm): COVID-19 has, for many people including myself, meant that we put into perspective what is important in our life. We have come to understand that there are things taking place in our electorate that are important, that there are places that are important and there are places that sometimes in normal circumstances we tend to walk by. COVID-19 tends to focus us and our energies on different areas.

I have spoken in this place on more than one occasion about Pumicestone Passage. As I have said in the past, Pumicestone Passage is a waterway that sits between Bribie Island and Caloundra and runs all the way down to Deception Bay. It is a beautiful body of water. It is a body of water that is part of the Moreton Bay Marine Park. It is home to dolphins, turtles, dugongs, over 300 species of birds and 65 endangered and vulnerable or near threatened plant and animal species. I recall not long ago walking along Bulcock Beach and about 20 or 30 feet in front of me were two dolphins moving from the passage out to Moreton Bay. You could not find a more relaxing and attractive sight than two creatures of the wild, who are in themselves magnificent, in a body of water such as Pumicestone Passage.


The passage itself and its catchment area is some 784 square kilometres and goes all the way back to the D'Aguilar Range. It flows down from that range through Bells Creek and other areas into the passage. It is that body of water that again has become enlivened to me because of the necessity to reassess the important things in our life when such a thing as COVID-19 occurs.

It is also a body of water that the people of Caloundra and, indeed, the hinterland area are very passionate about. They want a say in how that body of water operates in the future, because that body of water is under threat from development. Whether it be by Bells Creek, Beerwah East or other developments, nutrients will run into the passage and, therefore, contaminate and pose a risk to those things and those items that live within the passage. It is important, therefore, that the people of Caloundra understand that if they do want to have a say in the operation of the passage they must also fight for that say. It cannot simply be the members of parliament who stand up and argue the case. They have an obligation to ensure that their voices are heard, that their voices are taken up within this chamber and that the government of the day, irrespective of the colour, comes to the party and effectively puts in their hands a role for the future of the passage.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE


Conduct of Member for Maroochydore, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I rise to withdraw and apologise to the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Springwood Electorate

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (6.07 pm): Queensland has been incredibly successful in stamping out coronavirus by working from home and avoiding public spaces. Because of this, we are now on the road to recovery. Queenslanders, especially those living in the Logan and Redlands areas—residents in our community—are on track to be back commuting to work and school in coming days.


From Monday the school bus will be brimming with eager students and the TransLink buses will be starting to fill up with passengers. As we carefully lift restrictions, more of us will be travelling to Brisbane city. As we begin to return to these places and support our local small businesses, we will be using our local roads more and more often. The good news is that whilst people in those communities have been in isolation local tradies were getting on with the job of finishing the M1-Gateway merge

upgrade. It is now open. That is a fantastic outcome for our community. Whenever I speak to people in our neighbourhood about their No. 1 issue locally, the answer is almost always that they would like to spend less time commuting to work, less time in the bus and more time at home with their families.

I am pleased to update the House on developments of the job-creating infrastructure investment being undertaken for the new Rochedale bus station and park-and-ride facility. I can announce that GHD, a global engineering and architecture firm, has been selected to design the new facilities that will take 400 cars off the road, reducing congestion for local motorists. GHD has delivered iconic projects like the Legacy Way tunnel, the Coomera to Helensvale duplication and the Sunshine Coast Airport. The park-and-ride facility will take the strain off nearby park-and-ride facilities at Eight Mile Plains and the Hyperdome. All up, \$749 million has been jointly funded for the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade, which will support 720 jobs in construction at a time when Queensland needs jobs like never before—at a time when Queenslanders want jobs and they want confidence.

I thank Minister for Main Roads Mark Bailey for hearing what matters to people in my neighbourhood. COVID-19 has presented new challenges to how we come together as a community, which is why I am grateful that the minister will be joining me next week. I encourage families to settle in for the night—maybe order a pizza from Valley Way Pizza or Mosaic Pizza, a couple of the stand-outs in our community. They should settle on the couch, grab a Queensland made XXXX Gold or a glass of locally made Sirromet's finest for our Facebook Live chat with the Springwood community on how the Palaszczuk government is improving transport and infrastructure locally. They can consider Minister Bailey and me as the curtain-raiser for the biggest television event of the year to date, live from Suncorp Stadium. The footy is back. Go the Broncos!

Nicklin Electorate, Rail Services


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.10 pm): The people of Nicklin are sick of being neglected by this Labor government. With our Nambour Hospital three years overdue, our police station two years overdue and a complete lack of funding for our roads, schools and infrastructure, it is clear this government does not care about the people of Nicklin. What makes that more clear is the broken promises to the people of Woombye and the broader Sunshine Coast about rail services and the rail stabling facility forced upon the community of Woombye.

At the time, their protests fell on deaf ears as the former minister for transport, the member for South Brisbane, ignored the community in pushing ahead with the project and promising the Sunshine Coast nine extra services to Brisbane once the stabling facility was operational. Now the stabling yard is operational, causing great disturbance as predicted in the Woombye community—and I will get to that shortly—do we have nine extra services as promised? No. We have but one of the extra nine services promised to the people of the Sunshine Coast in 2015. What does the current Minister for Transport do when asked about this promise? I can understand the minister wanting to distance himself completely from the scandal ridden former minister, but he cannot just ignore the people of Woombye and his government commitments.

What does he do? He trots out the old, tried and true 'blame the Newman government' that was elected over eight years ago, the default position of embarrassment that this government takes—when the government fails, it is someone else's fault. I can inform the minister that the promises were made in 2015 after Labor formed government, and they have been in government ever since. That leaves us with one of two possibilities: either they were so incompetent that they did not realise they could not deliver on their promise or, as I suspect, they never intended to make good on it and just wanted to close down community protests, because this government just does not care about Nicklin or the Sunshine Coast.

In the meantime, the residents of Woombye continue to suffer from the noise and light pollution of this facility thrust upon them by the government, with pleas for help left ignored. I have written to the minister and call on him to urgently intervene and conduct a review of the operations of the Woombye stabling yard facility with a view to mitigating the noise and light levels for the benefit of the community. I also call on the minister to set a clear timetable for the increase in services promised on the Sunshine Coast rail network and to stop this tired rhetoric of blaming previous governments, because the community is absolutely sick of these pathetic excuses.

Coronavirus, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.13 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Nicklin and to hear the enlightenment! If the member is talking about ignoring things, I suggest he is ignoring what the Palaszczuk government delivered into his electorate of Nicklin. Can I remind him of the

\$6.8 million to upgrade the Big Pineapple in Nicklin? That will be 35 construction jobs, as the member well knows, and 39 operational jobs. It will attract an extra 160,000 visitors a year and pump an extra \$4.5 million into the community up there.

Mr Hunt interjected.


Mr WHITING: That is fine. You are welcome, member for Nicklin. One of the most important things that we are doing in this time of COVID-19 is bringing in those COVID-19 related infrastructure projects, renewing and rebuilding what we are doing here in Queensland. Certainly, in our area a suite of infrastructure projects are being re-emphasised. I will go through a list, but why are they so important? It is because they are supporting local jobs for people in my area. Let us describe a few.

One that I am really excited about is the Moreton Connector that was announced last week. This is a \$2.1 billion congestion-busting road plan for the Moreton Bay and Brisbane north area. This is a jobs-boosting plan. It will become a new arterial road between Dohles Rocks Road at Murrumba Downs and Anzac Avenue at Mango Hill through the electorate of the Deputy Premier but will service many people in my electorate as well. This is only one part of the record \$23 billion roads and transport investment that we are seeing over the next four years.

The Gateway Motorway, Bruce Highway and Gympie Road are part of our area that collectively carry about 310,000 vehicles a day; that is, 100,000 more vehicles than on the busiest section of the M1. This investment will, once again, generate enormous numbers of jobs for our area. Those businesses locally that supply concrete and bitumen can also be a part of this wonderful project. I also point out the \$400 million announcement a few days ago of a road stimulus package. Once again, this means local jobs for people in Deception Bay and North Lakes. Let us also remember that \$662 million Bruce Highway to Caboolture—

(Time expired)

Toowong, Access to Land

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.16 pm): I am very pleased to finish this sitting week with a good news story from Maiwar. There is a peaceful part of my electorate tucked away in West Toowong. Originally known as Palmer's Paddocks, locals have enjoyed access to this space since the 19th century. In recent weeks, they have had a hard time making sense of what seemed like a decision to shut them out. Arthur Palmer was the fifth Premier of Queensland. Understanding the huge community value of these lands, in the 1800s Palmer gave residents full access to his lower paddocks there. They agisted animals, grew vegetables and enjoyed access to Toowong Creek.

Of course, when talking about access to land in our city, we should remember that all land in this country is and always was Aboriginal land which was stolen without compensation. Many locals will know about a 300-year-old scar tree on the site which was saved when the department agreed to move one of the new buildings recently constructed. As World War II was ending, Palmer's son gifted the land to the Department of Education to build Toowong high school. We are told that this was on the proviso that locals would continue to be able to access and enjoy its green spaces. I table some recent media that sets out some of the history of the site.

Tabled paper. Article from *Westside News* online, dated 18 May 2020, titled 'Pioneering family's land gift at risk from "petty bureaucracy"' [\[816\]](#).


Fast-forward to 2005 when the Labor government decided to turn this school into an academy for gifted students, now known as the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology. It is an honour to host such an outstanding school in our local area. It is one of the highest ranking in the state. Students travel from well beyond Brisbane's boundaries to participate in its curriculum and the International Baccalaureate program on offer. Recently the academy underwent a major expansion to support a full cohort of secondary students which has caused really serious disruptions for locals and restricted access they had previously enjoyed. In recent months, there has been growing uncertainty among the community about the long-term access to the green space at the school's ovals and along this beautiful stretch of Toowong Creek.

After access to the Vera Street Community Garden was closed and it was suggested that the entire campus might be fenced off, members of the community swung into action to make clear just how important this space is to them. I started a petition on behalf of these locals that gained over 1,000 signatures in only one day after it was posted online. The gate to the community garden was unlocked a day after I launched that petition. Just this afternoon I met with Minister Grace and provided her a copy. Today the minister confirmed that no new fencing will be built before the community has been consulted about future access to the green space.

This consultation will happen after the construction work is finished, and the minister has also personally committed to full community access to the school owned green space, including the oval and Toowong Creek, until consultation is finished, and that BCC's designated bike paths in the area will be retained. This community is genuinely interested in a mutually beneficial outcome and a respectful ongoing relationship with the school. I very much look forward to engaging with the school and the local residents to shape how this space is used for years to come. In the time left, I would like to name-check a few people. So many people have been in touch with the office, but thanks to Brendan Grice, Heather Stafford, Natasha, Katherine, Judy and to everyone from the Vera Street Community Garden.

(Time expired)


Rockhampton, Saleyards Distillery

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.19 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, you know how much I love Rocky. We are known as the beef capital. We also have the best barra fishing on the Fitzroy and now we have the best spiced rum in the world. It is hard to be humble about how great Rocky and Central Queensland are. As stated by *Global Travel Media*, the winners of the 2020 World Rum Awards were announced on 12 April, with the Rockhampton Saleyards Distillery taking the win for its popular Capricorn Spiced Rum. Following two rounds of tastings, the local dark and hearty spirit was recognised as the best by judges of the global awards that annually showcase the very best in all internationally recognised styles of rum. Turning to technology for final decisions due to COVID-19, the judges conducted their final tastings at their homes while professional rum herder Peter Holland chaired the occasion via the internet.

I caught up with head distiller Warren Brewer and his team and, rightly so, they were very excited to have taken out best spiced rum in the internationally recognised award. What a great achievement for all of their hard work. For a relatively new distillery, which started just four years ago, to win this award over others that have been around for hundreds of years is just amazing. The team should be very proud of what they have achieved. I am not sure how to describe the world's best spiced rum, but it tastes great either on ice or with a mixer. You will just have to try it.

The Saleyards Distillery is on the main drive into town from the south and was set up in 2016 in an old iconic hotel. A group of young distillers came together, including Warren and his wife, Catie, and commenced working on their superb spiced rum which was distilled with Central Queensland molasses. When you are next in Rocky, make sure you allow time to visit. Not only do they have the world's best spiced rum; they also produce a suite of liquors, gins and vodkas—both alcoholic and non-alcoholic—which can be purchased direct from the Saleyards Distillery or online. The distillery also responded to the needs of Queenslanders to change its production to make sanitiser in the fight against the COVID-19 virus. What a great Rocky local manufacturer.

Homelessness

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.22 pm): For some time now the Gold Coast has been wrestling with the heart-wrenching challenges of homelessness and, in some cases, the associated challenge of antisocial behaviour. I realise these are universal and, to be frank, somewhat timeless issues. In my younger years I was directly involved in supporting a youth rehabilitation program in Broken Hill where we created not-for-profit social enterprise businesses to accommodate and support young people in the old nun's quarters of the convent.


Over the years, addressing the issue of homelessness has been a passion for me. I am proud to have been the ambassador for the Gold Coast CEO Sleepout, now in its sixth year, and I have had the privilege of travelling to New York to visit Common Ground and meet with its founder, Rosanne Haggerty. Members will remember that the LNP supported the establishment of Common Ground here in South Brisbane which has been a great success. I am also pleased to see that the state's second youth foyer will be established in Southport shortly—another great program inspired by Ruth Knight, a passionate Gold Coaster and advocate for disadvantaged young people.

According to the 29 April report from the Gold Coast response team, a coalition of Gold Coast agencies led by the department of housing, there are 664 households—1,100 individuals—identified and registered as at risk, with 210 households identified as visibly homeless. From Coolangatta to Coomera there are now 79 hotspots. Two of these hotspots are in Southport's CBD. Between them, they account for about 28 people. The people of Southport and I are just so frustrated. In spite of months of increased activity by local police, workshops, community forums and the appointment of a response

team attached to Public Housing, very little has changed. It just seems ludicrous to me that, with the immense resources of the Queensland government and its departments and the many agencies that we fund, this small handful of people still has not been helped.

Last Sunday evening I joined yet another outreach team on its rounds. We fed about 50 people. That team was led by Andrea Simmons, who heads up the Australian Anti Ice Campaign. I spoke personally with about eight individuals, many of whom I know. They are falling into the cracks because of significant challenges within our mental health legislation, as a result of human rights legislation and just the complex issues around mental health generally. My heart aches for these people and I am torn, because on the one hand we need to do better for them but on the other I have to look after the best interests of the 20,000 people who live in Southport. We need to look after their concerns and address their wellbeing.

Nurses and Midwives

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.25 pm): The first pair of hands that will hold you in this world will in many cases be those of a midwife and your last moments of comfort are likely to be delivered by a nurse. This year is the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. Our community values these professions, but it has not always been the case. Some 200 years ago nurses were considered to be the lowest of the low and midwives were witches. This year marks 200 years since Florence Nightingale's birth. She was a mighty leader, an innovator and an educator. She could have done anything, but she chose nursing—a choice that her family did not support. She fought to be a nurse and she fought for her patients, and many of her innovations are seeing us through our current global pandemic.

I take time each year to celebrate our professions. It was great catching up with local nurses like Robyn from the Holland Park General Practice clinic and the oncology team from Greenslopes Private Hospital led by my favourite nurse, my wife, Susan. I am proud to be a nurse and I am proud to be part of a nursing government. Ratios, ratios, ratios. They save lives. Nurse navigators, digital hospitals, no-jab no-play, increasing smoking bans, restoring school based nursing—these are just some of the things that the Palaszczuk Labor government can be proud of and they are all things that demonstrate our commitment to nurses, midwives and the people they care for.

Florence fought to be a nurse, she fought for nursing and she fought for the patients she cared for, and that tradition is continued to this day by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. I want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of my good friend Beth Mohle. Beth has worked with unions around the world to make sure nurses are safe during the COVID-19 period. We have achieved that here in Queensland and Australia, but sadly it is not the case overseas. In the last six months over 300 nurses have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19, and let us not forget the many other health workers. In honour of those 300 nurses, I table a list of their names and I offer my sincere condolences to their families and the families of all of the other health workers who have died.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'COVID 19 nurse fatality register (as of 18/5/2020)' [\[815\]](#).

Many people want to do things to thank nurses and other health professionals—and it is greatly appreciated—but if you really want to support a nurse then keep up the good work that has led to the great outcomes that we have achieved in this state. We have done that by working together, by trusting health professionals, by practising social distancing, by learning to do things in new ways, by washing our hands, by getting flu shots. We have done it by backing the app and by looking after each other. That is how you thank a nurse and that is how you stop nurses from dying. I hope for a much happier international nurses and midwives day next year, but I give thanks every single day for the people who choose these magnificent professions.

The House adjourned at 6.28 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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