



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 16 June 2020

Subject	Page
<b>ASSENT TO BILLS</b> .....	<b>1141</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 25 May 2020, from His Excellency the Governor, to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 May 2020. ....	1141
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>1142</b>
Sittings of Parliament, Procedures .....	1142
<b>APPOINTMENT</b> .....	<b>1142</b>
Changes in Ministry .....	1142
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 29, dated 29 May 2020, regarding the appointment of the member for Mackay, Mrs Julieanne Gilbert MP, as Assistant Minister for Treasury.....	1142
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>1142</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>1142</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1146</b>
Coronavirus, Economic Response .....	1146
Coronavirus, Economic Recovery .....	1149
Coronavirus, Health Update .....	1150
Coronavirus, Tourism Industry .....	1151
<b>ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CO-OPERATIVES</b>	
<b>NATIONAL LAW BILL</b> .....	<b>1152</b>
Cognate Debate.....	1152
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT, PROCLAMATION; ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION</b> .....	<b>1152</b>
Cognate Debate.....	1152
<b>PERSONAL EXPLANATION</b> .....	<b>1152</b>
Member for Whitsunday, Visit to Cook Electorate .....	1152

# Table of Contents – Tuesday, 16 June 2020

<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>1153</b>
Queensland Border Closure .....	1153
Queensland Border Closure .....	1153
Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program.....	1154
Queensland Border Closure .....	1155
Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs .....	1156
Queensland Border Closure .....	1156
Coronavirus, Elective Surgery.....	1157
Coronavirus, Brisbane Protest.....	1158
Regional Queensland, Jobs.....	1158
Public Service, Wage Freeze; Queensland Border Closure.....	1159
Coronavirus, Tourism Industry .....	1160
Coronavirus, Enforcement of Restrictions .....	1160
Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure .....	1161
Public Monuments.....	1161
Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Program, Aspley Electorate.....	1161
Coronavirus, Enforcement of Restrictions .....	1162
Central Queensland, Energy Projects .....	1163
Local Government Elections, Fines .....	1163
Building and Construction Industry, Housing.....	1163
Rural Queensland, Police Resources .....	1164
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>1165</b>
Business Program.....	1165
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to. ....	1168
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1168
<b>ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL</b>	
<b>LAW BILL.....</b>	<b>1169</b>
Second Reading (Cognate Debate) .....	1169
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 30, 56th Parliament—Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, government response. ....	1169
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract, undated, from the acnc.gov.au website titled 'Red Tape Reduction'. ....	1173
<b>MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST .....</b>	<b>1184</b>
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Sorensen, Mr T.....	1184
LNP Opposition .....	1185
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; LNP Commitments.....	1186
LNP Opposition .....	1187
Tourism Industry, Queensland Border Closure.....	1188
Coronavirus, Economic Response.....	1189
Turner, Mr N.....	1190
Coronavirus, Economy .....	1191
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from mygc.com.au online, dated 7 April 2020, titled 'Labor: 30,000 unemployed Gold Coasters overlooked for Job Keeper payments'. ....	1191
Coronavirus, Health Response.....	1192
Ipswich, Social Housing.....	1193
<b>NOTICE OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>1194</b>
Coronavirus, Economic Response.....	1194
<b>MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>1194</b>
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	1194
Coronavirus, Economic Response.....	1194
<b>ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL</b>	
<b>LAW BILL.....</b>	<b>1206</b>
Second Reading (Cognate Debate) .....	1206
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 9 June 2015, from the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, titled 'Associations Incorporation Act 1981—Deficiencies'. ....	1210
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 11 August 2015, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. ....	1210
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate).....	1211
Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.....	1211
Clauses 1 to 68 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.....	1211
Co-operatives National Law Bill .....	1211
Clauses 1 to 65 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.....	1211
Third Reading (Cognate Debate) .....	1211
Long Title (Cognate Debate) .....	1211
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL.....</b>	<b>1211</b>
Second Reading .....	1211
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to. ....	1222
Resolved in the negative.....	1222
Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.....	1222

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT, PROCLAMATION; ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION.....</b>	<b>1222</b>
<b>Disallowance of Statutory Instruments (Cognate Debate) .....</b>	<b>1222</b>
Division: Question put—That disallowance motion No. 1 be agreed to.....	1237
Resolved in the negative. ....	1237
Division: Question put—That disallowance motion No. 2 be agreed to.....	1237
Resolved in the negative. ....	1237
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>1237</b>
<b>Long, Mr RP.....</b>	<b>1237</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, undated, from Kate and Lauren, to the Parole Board Queensland, regarding the parole application by Mr Robert Paul Long and the Childers Backpacker Hostel fire. ....	1238
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 3 June 2020, to the Parole Board of Queensland, regarding the parole application by Mr Robert Paul Long and the Childers Backpacker Hostel fire.....	1238
<b>JobKeeper; JobSeeker .....</b>	<b>1238</b>
<b>Northern Gold Coast, Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>1239</b>
<b>Townsville, Water Supply; Coronavirus, Economic Response.....</b>	<b>1239</b>
<b>Gold Coast, Crime.....</b>	<b>1240</b>
<b>Gleeson, Mr R; Barraister Coffee Co.....</b>	<b>1241</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Restrictions.....</b>	<b>1241</b>
<b>Bancroft Electorate, Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>1242</b>
<b>Scenic Rim Electorate.....</b>	<b>1242</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Economy; Redcliffe Electorate; McGoldrick, Mr S .....</b>	<b>1243</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>1244</b>



## TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 25 May 2020

A Bill for an Act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, the Casino Control Act 1982, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Forensic Disability Act 2011, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Keno Act 1996, the Liquor Act 1992, the Local Government Act 2009, the Lotteries Act 1997, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Private Health Facilities Act 1999, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006, the Explosives Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Regulation 2016, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014, the New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act 1946, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

An Act to amend the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Commercial Arbitration Act 2013, the Coroners Act 2003, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002, the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Human Rights Act 2019, the Introduction Agents Act 2001, the Judges (Pensions and Long Leave) Act 1957, the Land Court Act 2000, the Legal Profession Act 2007, the Legal Profession Regulation 2017, the Magistrates Courts Act 1921, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Penalties and Sentences Regulation 2015, the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002, the Personal Injuries Proceedings Regulation 2014, the Property Law Act 1974, the Property Law Regulation 2013, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Succession Act 1981, the Surrogacy Act 2010, the Tourism Services Act 2003 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

25 May 2020

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 May 2020, from His Excellency the Governor, to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 May 2020 [\[895\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Sittings of Parliament, Procedures



**Mr SPEAKER:** I would like to start today by thanking all members for their continuing cooperation in ensuring that this House can continue to meet and conduct business. I wish to remind all members that the special procedures effective from 23 April 2020 and in operation for the last sitting remain in place. The special colour-coded seating plan approved in accordance with standing order 244(1) is also in force.

## APPOINTMENT

### Changes in Ministry



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): I electronically lay upon the table of the House an extract from the *Queensland Government Gazette* of 29 May 2020 which outlines the appointment from 21 May 2020 of the member for Mackay as Assistant Minister for Treasury. I congratulate the member on her appointment.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 29, dated 29 May 2020, regarding the appointment of the member for Mackay, Mrs Julieanne Gilbert MP, as Assistant Minister for Treasury [901].

## PETITIONS

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

### Southport, Homelessness

**Mr Molhoek**, from 2,393 petitioners, requesting the House to address homelessness in the Southport CBD and surrounds [896].

### Business, Grants

**Mr Nicholls**, from 737 petitioners, requesting the House to reopen all business grant rounds; provide easier access for micro and small businesses to access grants; and expedite the process for awarding these grants [897].

### Queensland Future

**Mr Andrew**, from 1,304 petitioners, requesting the House to implement measures to ensure Queensland prospers and provides a long-term stable future for its people [898].

### M2M Cycleway

**Ms Simpson**, from 1,983 petitioners, requesting the House to scrap the proposed M2M cycleway at Alexandra Headland; keep carparks east of Alexandra Parade; improve foot paths for cyclists and pedestrians; consult fully with all beach user groups; and improve the natural environment with better landscaping rather than metal fences [899].

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

### Media, Foreign Ownership

From 975 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to stop the monopoly of television, print and radio by foreign companies [900].

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

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

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

22 May 2020—

[817](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2018-19

[818](#) Response from the Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3217-19) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 13,253 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the growth, possession, use and supply of cannabis for adults in Queensland, provide amnesty for people with current cannabis-related convictions and increase funding for drug support services.

[819](#) Response from the Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3256-19) sponsored by the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Wilson, from 1,356 petitioners requesting the House to regulate the Queensland funeral industry

- [820](#) Response from the Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (3321-20) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 3,042 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce tougher penalties for offenders, including juveniles.
- [821](#) Response from the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (3301-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 428 petitioners, requesting the House to enact legislation that would make the harbouring of runaways an offence under law
- [822](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3221-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 296 petitioners, requesting the House to examine the claims in petition 3166-19, that coal and gas are higher cost than renewables
- [823](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3266-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 794 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate state-wide mandatory clearing of bushfire asset protection zones around residential buildings and other assets of hazardous vegetation for a minimum distance of fifty metres and beyond into bushfire buffer protection zones if warranted
- [824](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (3322-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3270-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 68 and 237 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to transfer the former Pallara State School site and all existing infrastructure at 282 Ritchie Road Pallara in trust to the Brisbane City Council at no cost for the purpose of a Multicultural Community Hub
- [825](#) Response from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Crawford), to an ePetition (3286-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 753 petitioners, requesting the House to have disaster management placed under the control of independent specialists
- [826](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3273-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 5,032 petitioners, requesting the House to review priorities and cancel the 2032 Olympics Bid
- [827](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3291-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 409 petitioners, requesting the House to review the environmental authorities granted and examine the operating licences of the operators on Memorial Drive, Swanbank
- [828](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3208-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,599 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate the provision of fauna friendly infrastructure in all new road infrastructure projects
- [829](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3258-19) sponsored by the member for Chatsworth, Mr Minnikin, from 152 petitioners, requesting the House to construct multi-storey car parks at the Eight Mile Plains, Mains Road and Macgregor park 'n' rides
- [830](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3285-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 666 petitioners, requesting the House to plan to provide a four-lane carriageway from the New South Wales border to Cairns and at least two-lane carriageways on all major arterial and regional roads
- [831](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3288-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 235 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the maintenance of State Government assets and replace the Frederick Street Bridge at Alderley
- [832](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3324-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3306-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 113 and 163 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to install a merge lane where King Street meets the D'Aguilar Highway to allow vehicles to gain the adequate speed to merge with traffic travelling at 100 kilometres per hour
- [833](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3323-20) presented by the member for Everton, Mr Mander, and an ePetition (3292-20) sponsored by the member for Everton, Mr Mander, from 28 and 127 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide a bus service for Bald Hills residents

29 May 2020—

- [834](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 39, 56th Parliament—Transport and Other Legislation (Road Safety, Technology and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2020
- [835](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 65, 56th Parliament—Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

1 June 2020—

- [836](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3280-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 495 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw all public funding from the Local Government Association Queensland which is engaged in directly interfering in local governments

2 June 2020—

- [837](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 66, 56th Parliament—Inquiry into the Electoral Commission of Queensland's online publication of the preliminary and formal counts of the votes cast in the 2020 quadrennial local government election and the Bundamba and Currumbin state by-elections held on 28 March 2020

8 June 2020—

- [838](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Food Act 2006, Pest Management Act 2001: Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 80
- [839](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Food Act 2006, Pest Management Act 2001: Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 80, explanatory notes
- [840](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Food Act 2006, Pest Management Act 2001: Health Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 80, human rights certificate
- [841](#) Modification of statutory time limit under sections 134 and 134A, Food Act 2006 [refer subordinate legislation No. 80]
- [842](#) Modification of statutory time limit under sections 22 and 23, Pest Management Act 2001 [refer subordinate legislation No. 80]

9 June 2020—

- [843](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019, No. 141/2019, made by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories
- [844](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019, No. 141/2019, made by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, explanatory notes
- [845](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019, No. 141/2019, made by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, human rights certificate
- [846](#) Department of Health (Queensland)—Health Service Investigation Report, 8 December 2016
- [847](#) Queensland Child Death Case Review Panels: Panel 31
- [848](#) Detailed Systems and Practice Review Report—A review of key practice decisions that impacted on Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' service delivery under the Child Protection Act 1999 to Mason Lee aged one year and nine months at the time of his death, dated 9 November 2016

10 June 2020—

- [849](#) Letter, dated 9 June 2020, from the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Di Farmer, regarding the Detailed Systems and Practice Review Report and the Queensland Child Death Case Review Panels: Panel 31
- [850](#) Letter, dated 9 June 2020, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, regarding the Department of Health (Queensland)—Health Service Investigation Report

11 June 2020—

- [851](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020 [Refer subordinate Legislation No. 79]
- [852](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [853](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994: Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 79, human rights certificate

15 June 2020—

- [854](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3304-20) sponsored by the member for Redlands, Ms Richards, from 303 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend the eligibility for State Government regional funding to include all islands within the Redland City Local Government Area
- [855](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3313-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 157 petitioners, requesting the House to support the development of emergency vehicular barge ramps at Macleay, Russell and Pimpama Islands
- [856](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (3329-20) sponsored by the member for Moggill, 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

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [857](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Cairns Convention Centre Expansion Project) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 76
- [858](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Cairns Convention Centre Expansion Project) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 76, explanatory notes
- [859](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Cairns Convention Centre Expansion Project) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 76, human rights certificate



## Environmental Protection Act 1994:

- [860](#) Environmental Protection (Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 77
- [861](#) Environmental Protection (Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 77, explanatory notes
- [862](#) Environmental Protection (Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 77, human rights certificate

## COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Oaths Act 1867, Powers of Attorney Act 1998, Property Law Act 1974, Succession Act 1981:

- [863](#) Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Wills and Enduring Documents) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 78
- [864](#) Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Wills and Enduring Documents) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [865](#) Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Wills and Enduring Documents) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 78, human rights certificate

## Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [866](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2020, No. 81
- [867](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2020, No. 81, explanatory notes
- [868](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2020, No. 81, human rights certificate

## Liquor Act 1992:

- [869](#) Liquor (Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 82
- [870](#) Liquor (Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 82, explanatory notes
- [871](#) Liquor (Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 82, human rights certificate

## Liquor Act 1992, Wine Industry Act 1994:

- [872](#) Liquor (Fee Relief) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 83
- [873](#) Liquor (Fee Relief) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 83, explanatory notes
- [874](#) Liquor (Fee Relief) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 83, human rights certificate

## Corrective Services Act 2006, COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [875](#) Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 84
- [876](#) Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 84, explanatory notes
- [877](#) Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, No. 84, human rights certificate

## Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Act 2020:

- [878](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 85
- [879](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 85, explanatory notes

## Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [880](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 86
- [881](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 86, explanatory notes
- [882](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licences) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 86, human rights certificate

## Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985:

- [883](#) Sanctuary Cove Resort Regulation 2020, No. 87
- [884](#) Sanctuary Cove Resort Regulation 2020, No. 87, explanatory notes
- [885](#) Sanctuary Cove Resort Regulation 2020, No. 87, human rights certificate

## Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [886](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2020, No. 88
- [887](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2020, No. 88, explanatory notes
- [888](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2020, No. 88, human rights certificate

## Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, Photo Identification Card Act 2008, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [889](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 89
- [890](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 89, explanatory notes
- [891](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 89, human rights certificate

## REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

**Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

‘Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’

*Insert—*

‘Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020’

## MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Nanango (Mrs Frecklington)—

[893](#) Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes: erratum

[894](#) Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights: erratum

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Economic Response



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): The global economic headwinds in the wake of COVID-19 are clear and they are showing the world is entering the most devastating economic climate in generations. That is why, in the fallout of one of the most confronting events any of us have ever lived through, it is imperative that we prepare Queensland for the difficult road ahead and plot a responsible and comprehensive plan for our economic recovery and to restore and create jobs.

Tragically, over 100,000 Queenslanders have lost employment through this pandemic. We have a plan to help restore those jobs. We have a plan to create and build more industry to futureproof our great state. That plan will kickstart Queensland by bringing forward significant investment in infrastructure and working hand in hand with industry and business. All of this puts Queenslanders back in the workplace.

Queenslanders came together over the past four months with a health response that is the envy of the world. Together we smashed the coronavirus curve, and that has now allowed us to focus on our economic recovery well ahead of where it was predicted. Since the release of the first stage of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan, my government, together with Queenslanders, has made significant economic progress. There are now just five active cases of COVID-19 in Queensland, compared with 73 active cases in New South Wales and 49 active cases in Victoria. Queensland has recorded the strongest growth rate in mainland Australia in SEEK job ads over the fortnight ending 7 June. In stark contrast, in countries where the virus has not been contained, including the United States and Spain, unemployment is now above 13 per cent.

We have made strong progress on our \$6 billion Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan: \$445 million in payroll tax rebates have been paid to more than 13,000 businesses, helping to save jobs; we have paid out \$200 electricity rebates to households to assist with cost-of-living pressures and \$500 for small businesses; \$100 million in small business grants of up to \$10,000 have been made available, again helping to save jobs; and \$841.6 million in concessional loans have been approved to 5,755 businesses supporting over 70,700 jobs. We are the only state or territory government in the nation to offer this level of support. Applications have now closed for our \$200 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland program and applications are open for the Household Resilience Program. We have committed \$25 million of tourism icons funding with applications open for the \$25 million tourism infrastructure fund. We have been able to deliver this support to the economy and restore and create jobs because we delivered five budget surpluses with responsible management of the state's finances heading into the pandemic.

Since the last sitting of parliament the first formal meeting of my government's Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance, including peak industry groups and unions, has been held. As a direct result of this close consultation, today I am announcing the next stage of our economic recovery plan that will support more than 6,000 jobs across Queensland. The Infrastructure Association of Queensland, Civil Contractors Federation, Ai Group and RACQ have all been rightfully stressing the importance of investment in infrastructure to support jobs during the economic downturn. That is why we have committed to maintaining an infrastructure program of \$51.8 billion over the next four years. This year 60 per cent of this infrastructure investment is outside Brisbane and across our regions. Today I am committing another \$50 million for a Unite and Recover Community Projects round in the south-east corner. We will work with local governments and the LGAQ to identify shovel-ready projects so that we can support more jobs as quickly as possible. I want to thank local governments and the LGAQ for their work to identify shovel-ready and job-generating projects, especially in areas of high unemployment.

The housing and construction sector is a critical employer in Queensland. It is a sector that employs both skilled tradies and is also able to take on workers from other industries when their work dries up. That is why today I am committing further support for our housing construction sector by extending the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant for newly built homes across Queensland.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our government is committing today to a new \$5,000 regional home building boost grant for any newly built principal place of residence outside South-East Queensland. This will mean that first home buyers in regional Queensland could be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$45,000 for a newly built home when combined with the Federal government's grant support.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** To provide additional support for tradies and to respond to the homelessness impacts from COVID-19, we are committing another \$100 million to accelerate a program of Works for Tradies housing projects to be commenced over the next six months. This will support over 240 jobs in the construction industry and include the delivery of social housing contracts—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, the Premier is not being provocative with the statement she is making. I ask that you cease your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. On this side of the House we are 100 per cent focused on jobs. The contracts will be across the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Wide Bay, Moreton Bay, Toowoomba and Ipswich. Half of the new investment will be in regional and rural areas where housing is needed.

To support smaller scale projects and to help older Queenslanders who cannot afford to maintain their homes, another \$10 million will be provided for a seniors and accessibility grants program. This is a program that will help older Queenslanders make improvements to their homes that they may have been putting off due to financial constraints and, in turn, will give our tradies a shot in the arm. It will support works of up to \$5,000 to help with repairs to electrical works, plumbing, improving accessibility such as ramps, smoke alarms, unsafe flooring and roofing. In developing these initiatives I want to recognise the advocacy and input from the Master Builders, the Property Council, the Queensland Council of Social Service and the Civil Contractors Federation.

In travelling across the regions last week, I heard the message loud and clear that small businesses are hurting and need more support. I know that the CCIQ have been requesting this support in their advocacy. That is why today I can confirm that there will be a second round of \$100 million to provide small businesses with grant support of up to \$10,000. To support the regions, over half of those grants will be for small businesses outside South-East Queensland. That has come from my listening to businesses across regional Queensland. Our support for small business will not stop here, with work already underway on additional measures.

My government is committed to doing all we can to support our tourism industry. One in four jobs has been lost in accommodation and food services in the fallout from COVID-19 restrictions. The impact from the closure of international borders cannot be underestimated. We now have more people on JobKeeper in Cairns than in Brisbane. JobKeeper must be extended so that it can continue to support our tourism operators while international borders remain closed.

To support Queenslanders to holiday in Queensland, today I can confirm \$15 million of additional funding for airline route development, including the \$5 million announced last week. That funding is estimated to support 4,500 jobs over the next year. That will help deliver more flights to our tourism destinations to support Queenslanders to holiday in Queensland. The Queensland Tourism Industry Council and airports across Queensland have been working closely to help us secure this support.

At the last meeting of the Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance, AgForce told us that regional Queensland can do the heavy lifting in recovery. AgForce's submission included a request for support to increase market opportunities. That is why we will be providing \$5 million in funding support to boost agricultural trade opportunities. That includes supporting our agricultural producers to access ecommerce platforms to sell goods overseas. We will also support increased efficiency and quality assurance in our agricultural sector with \$5.5 million for digital technology in agribusiness and the food industry. That will provide a competitive edge to our agricultural exporters and food manufacturers by demonstrating the high quality of our goods to overseas markets.

At the alliance meeting, Western Queensland's RAPAD group raised their concerns for the tourism season and what that will mean for western communities in the future. The Queensland Farmers' Federation has provided a submission with proposals to support business diversification opportunities for agriculture, including agritourism opportunities. Another \$2 million will be committed to support that work. I will have more to say about other initiatives later.

Another critical group to help stabilise Queensland through our economic recovery will be the resources sector. Last month we committed support for CopperString 2.0 to open up the North West Minerals Province. To support the development of further opportunities for mining, today I am committing another \$10 million in exploration funding under the Collaborative Exploration Initiative focused on new economy minerals. Those are the minerals that are needed for emerging battery and renewable energy technology. The program has the potential to support exploration in areas right across Queensland where we know there is support for developing potential deposits.

Our recent releases of more gas for the domestic market and new royalty framework will provide further support for our manufacturing sector by encouraging domestic supply. Senex is supplying gas for domestic manufacturing, including building products manufacturer CSR Ltd, and food and beverage container makers Orora Ltd and O-I Australia. Those businesses support hundreds of Queensland jobs in the manufacturing industry. Senex has said—

This new approach will make investment decisions easier. On top of that, five years of royalty stability will enhance the attractiveness of investments that support jobs in rural and regional Queensland.

We will also expand our regional mining equipment technology and services accelerator program to help Queensland manufacturers to make more products for the mining supply chain.

To further support jobs in the regions, we are committing \$8.9 million for a national parks works and jobs boost round to improve visitor infrastructure in national parks, with ongoing benefits for nature based tourism. This will include updates to gateway visitor centres, park and road maintenance, and support for energy efficiency and solar to lower operating costs. Those are the types of initiatives that the Queensland Conservation Council and the Smart Energy Council have been calling for.

The tourism and the arts and recreation sectors have been hardest hit by COVID-19 restrictions. Nearly one in five jobs have been lost in the arts and recreation sector in Queensland. Today I am committing \$22.5 million for a rescue package for jobs in the arts and recreation sector. That includes funding for live music events, temporary outdoor venues, funding support to maintain viability, First Nation art and support for venues to safely reopen with social distancing.

My government has established a clear pathway to enable growth in renewable energy through our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. To support more young Queenslanders to have the skills needed for the development of solar and renewable energy, we will invest \$17 million to support industry to build a \$23 million renewable energy training facility in Brisbane. I want to see the electrical equipment needed for the expansion of renewable energy manufactured right here in Queensland. That is a vision shared with the Master Electricians association of Queensland, the Electrical Trades Union and the Smart Energy Council. Once again, everyone is uniting for Queenslanders.

Finally, as opportunities open up for a potential transTasman travel bubble so do opportunities for expanded trade to enable growth in our exporters. We are committing to a Queensland-New Zealand export program to better link our supply chain so that we can work together to compete on the global stage.


It is essential that we have a plan to take Queensland forward as we emerge from the COVID-19 emergency. It is critical that government joins with industry to formulate that strong plan and to see it through. Today's announcements in that plan are funded from our existing programs and budget resources. Just like every business across Queensland, COVID-19 will hit the government's budget bottom line hard and it remains too early to say how big that impact will be. That is why we are delivering a measured and responsible approach to target our assistance.

The announcements made today are exactly what the OECD and the RBA have been calling for. Investments in infrastructure, housing and energy efficiency will allow our economy to grow more strongly on the other side. That will create and restore jobs. I thank all the members of the Queensland Industry Recovery Alliance who have had input into this stage of our economic recovery plan and worked closely with the government with solid advice. This is only the next step and there is a lot more to come.

We cannot leave recovery to chance. Everywhere I have travelled I have been heartened by the resilience shown by Queenslanders across our great state. There is no doubt that this has been a time of great hardship and harm, but through this adversity we have also seen great initiative. Many Queensland business owners have told me that they have had to do things differently to survive. We need to use the ingenuity that we have seen through this crisis to create smarter and more competitive industries. We have the opportunity to do that because the world is changing in many ways that play to our strengths.

More than ever, the world will want our clean, green and safe food. It will want the new economy minerals needed for batteries and electronics. It will want the hydrogen that will fuel the next generation energy solutions. It will want a smart, safe and innovative place to get an education and, in time, more than ever the world will want a safe beautiful place to holiday. By uniting in the recovery, we can create jobs and build upon new and emerging strengths to come out of this even stronger.

### **Coronavirus, Economic Recovery**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.48 am): As restrictions ease and some of our worst affected industries are able to open their doors once more, the Palaszczuk government has a strategy for Queensland's economic recovery and we are putting that strategy into action. Around the world COVID-19 has thrown lives and economies into disarray. The economies that recover best will be those that have the best health response—the countries and states that have measures in place to ensure that eased restrictions do not need to be reintroduced.

Queensland's health response means we are well positioned to move forward and open our economy, just as we were well positioned prior to COVID-19. Our economy was growing faster than the national average. Our retail sales led the nation, we had produced five consecutive surplus budgets and we had created over 250,000 jobs. Now all of that has changed, but Queensland still has an advantage. As a state so exposed to natural disasters, we are battle hardened and resilient when it comes to rebuilding. We stand up, we build back and we do it better than before.

The size of the challenge before us is daunting. No government in Australia can think of delivering a surplus. There are fears that unemployment may reach 10 per cent. When the federal government's JobKeeper payments cease, some businesses that have been on life support will slip away. That is why delivering our strategy to unite and recover for Queensland jobs is so important.

As the Premier said, traditional regionally based industries like agriculture and mining have weathered the COVID storm better than other sectors and better than mining and agriculture have in many parts of the world. As we rebuild, the Palaszczuk Labor government will always back regional Queensland. That is why today I am pleased to inform the House that we will invest \$10 million into a regional home building boost. Eligible new home buyers and builders of owner-occupied homes in regional Queensland will be eligible to receive \$5,000 towards the cost of construction or the purchase of a new house or apartment. That is on top of Queensland's existing \$15,000 first home owner's grant and means that in regional Queensland the Palaszczuk government is putting \$20,000 towards the cost of a new first home.

Just as we are backing the construction industry in regional Queensland, we are also backing the agricultural and mining industries. Last week I visited Mackay. The sugar mills were firing up as the crush season gets underway, but they are doing so against a global market where sugar prices remain depressed. Whether it is sugar, beef, tomatoes or chillies, Queensland producers continue to lead the world, and we will back them. In a world where clean, green produce is more highly prized than ever, we will invest \$5.5 million to develop integrated supply chain and quality assurance systems. Through blockchain technology this will improve biosecurity, food safety and product traceability.

With fewer international passenger flights to carry our produce to the world, we will invest another \$5 million to coordinate demand for additional air freighter services and sponsor ecommerce platforms for sellers in key markets. We will invest \$2 million to support Queensland's regions to develop their own distinct identities and promotional activities.

Last week I also had the opportunity to visit Peabody's Coppabella Mine in the Bowen Basin in the Burdekin electorate where hundreds of local workers are engaged in an industry that has met the challenge of COVID head-on. Resource companies have adapted their practices to ensure social distancing and continued production to sustain Queensland jobs.

This is not to say that things are easy for miners. Depressed metallurgical coal prices create a challenging environment for many in the resources sector but, with the support of our government, resource companies across Queensland are forging ahead. I was pleased to meet some of the crew from G & S Engineering in Mackay who have won a five-year contract to service heavy equipment at the Coppabella Mine, including their 3,300-tonne dragline.

The resources sector knows that the Palaszczuk government recognises the ongoing role that mining will play in Queensland's future. That is why we will invest \$650,000 in the mining equipment technology services accelerator program. This program seeks to drive the commercial acceleration of METS, small to medium sized businesses, start-ups and innovators in areas of regional Queensland, including Rockhampton and Gladstone.

Last week I was pleased to announce that Glencore's proposed Valeria Mine near Emerald has been declared a coordinated project. This \$1.5 billion mine could create almost 1,400 jobs during construction in the Central Highlands and 950 jobs when operating. This means more skilled jobs in the resources sector. Our government will ensure that Queenslanders entering the sector have the skills necessary to do those jobs.

Last week I also had the opportunity, with the member for Mackay and the assistant minister, to inspect the soon-to-be-completed Resources Centre of Excellence in Paget. It simulates an underground mine and will provide the opportunity to learn skills, to test new technologies and to innovate world-leading Queensland ideas.

As the global appetite for renewables, batteries and green hydrogen grows, we will see increased demand for many of the rare-earth minerals contained within regions such as our North West Minerals Province. Copper, scandium, cobalt and vanadium are all found around Mount Isa and Cloncurry—minerals the world will need for decades to come. To support these industries and others and the communities of the north-west, the Palaszczuk government has committed nearly \$15 million as part of our COVID recovery plan to undertake development activities for CopperString 2.0, the game-changing, high-voltage transmission line that will link north-west Queensland to the National Electricity Market.

We want more regions to benefit from their mineral wealth, so we will be committing \$10 million to a collaborative exploration initiative to encourage investment in other regions across Queensland like the Wide Bay that have these new economy minerals. Industries like agriculture, mining and construction have shielded Queensland from some of the worst effects of the COVID downturn, and our government will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them as we deliver the next stage of our path towards recovery.

### Coronavirus, Health Update



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): Six months ago, 'coronavirus' was a word only used by medical professionals. Talk of a new or novel coronavirus in China was about to spread through the scientific and medical community. Now it is dominating the news of the world. It is what the world will remember of 2020.

It has been 139 days since COVID-19 reached Queensland—139 days that Queenslanders have made sacrifices, changing their lives in ways they never thought they would have to. They have worked from home, they have created classrooms in their living rooms, and they have postponed important events, all to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland. It is thanks to every single Queenslanders' dedication and hard work that we can now wind back restrictions faster than we ever thought we could.

Right now Queensland is in a good position. We have seen consecutive days of zero new cases and we are well into the process of winding back restrictions and on track to commence stage 3 of our recovery road map. To date, the number of confirmed cases in Queensland is 1,065. Since the first case was identified in late January, we have done more than 250,000 tests. We are now testing up to 6,000 Queenslanders per day, but we could do much more.

We are encouraging anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, to get tested. If we can be certain that COVID-19 is not spreading in the community, we can continue to ease restrictions and continue our Unite and Recover plan for Queensland. That is Queensland's plan for getting through this global crisis.

We have made sure our healthcare system has had the time and resources it needs to manage the virus if there is a future outbreak. We are very well prepared and can ramp up hospital capacity anywhere in the state if required. Queensland's initial modelling estimated that more than 30,000 Queenslanders could lose their lives to COVID-19 and one in four of us would fall ill with this virus. Instead, we have been able to contain any potential outbreaks because of the rapid response from our health services. We have been able to stop any significant community transmission.

But we are amongst the few exceptions. The impact COVID-19 has had in many countries across the world is devastating. More than 430,000 people have died from COVID-19 and almost eight million people have fallen ill to the virus. In the US alone, more than two million people have fallen ill with COVID-19. That is just under the population of Brisbane City. More than 115,000 people in the US have died of this disease. That is the population of Mackay. The rest of the world has not had the same opportunity to recover. They are still experiencing widespread outbreaks of this awful disease.

Last week, China reported a new cluster of cases in Beijing after more than 50 days without a case in that city. Since then, more than 100 cases have been confirmed. That is why we must be so careful and strategic in our approach to easing restrictions. We have to make sure we do not see a second wave like so many other places have.

We are moving forward—taking small but safe steps to get Queensland back to normal. The good news is that Queenslanders can now travel almost anywhere across the state, and we are encouraging Queenslanders to explore their state and support local businesses. We have worked with the federal government to ease restrictions in remote communities under the Biosecurity Act and established safe travel zones.

The global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. It will take years before the rest of the world recovers, but they will not even be able to turn their mind to that until they have controlled the virus like we have. Here in Queensland the Palaszczuk government has already started delivering Queensland's COVID-19 recovery plan. Our strong health response has allowed us to open the Queensland economy more quickly and get more people back to work. However, there is a long road ahead to recovery to get back to where we were—to create jobs for Queenslanders.

We have greatly expanded the number of businesses that can now open and increased the number of patrons allowed at any one time. People can now dine in at their favourite cafe or restaurant or visit their local beauty salon. People can now workout at the gym and participate in non-contact outdoor and indoor community sport. We are working closely with organisations to implement COVID-safe industry plans so they can safely open their doors and get their staff back to work. We are looking forward to further reconnecting our communities and supporting our economy—getting more people working—as it is safe to do so.

Now is the time to support local tourism more than ever—take that campervan road trip, sit on the beach in the Whitsundays, explore the rainforest in Cairns. This month is Queensland for Queenslanders. If we stick to the plan we can keep Queenslanders safe from this disease, get businesses back up and running and employ people for good.

### **Coronavirus, Tourism Industry**



**Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (10.01 am): As the Premier has said this morning, our government is working with Queenslanders to unite and recover. It is only because of the Premier's strong leadership in managing the health crisis that we can now focus on Queensland's economic recovery and united rebuild together. Today we announced stage 2 of our economic recovery strategy. This additional support builds on the significant investment we have already made to partner with the private sector and to support business, industry and jobs.

All Queenslanders understand that tourism has been one of the industries hardest hit by COVID-19. That is why as a government we have worked hand in glove with the tourism industry to support them as we reopen Queensland's economy. We are working closely with regional tourism operators and local businesses to reopen safely. I acknowledge the leadership role of many tourism operators and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council in working with industry to develop COVID-safe plans so that we can reopen safely.

We know that one of the most effective ways to fast-track the rebuilding and recovery of our industry is to deliver more flights. More flights are crucial to our economic recovery and supporting jobs in the tourism industry and reopening our regions. When times are tough the government must invest in Queensland's economy to support businesses and support local jobs. That is exactly what we are doing. Only last week we committed \$5 million to back our Queensland airports. Today the Premier has

announced, as part of stage 2 of our economic recovery strategy, an additional \$10 million to secure more flights right across our state. This investment will help speed up the recovery of tourism in our regions and support at least 13,500 Queensland jobs over the next three years.

This is on top of more than \$200 million in small business grants for Queensland businesses right across our vast state, \$25 million to support tourism icons and \$25 million to fast-track shovel-ready tourism projects. As the Premier has said, this grants program is already open. We have already seen people putting forward applications for the grants as part of this process so we can build these projects. The Premier and I launched our Good to Go campaign to encourage Queenslanders to go and see their own backyard. Unlike the LNP, which cut \$188 million from tourism funding, our government understands—


**A government member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I will take that interjection. Our government understands that we cannot have a strong Queensland without a strong tourism industry. We will continue to invest in tourism. We will continue to work with these businesses. We will continue to deliver the flights that they need to see our regions reopen.

## **ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL LAW BILL**

#### **Cognate Debate**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.04 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Co-operatives National Law Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with—

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


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT, PROCLAMATION**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION**

#### **Cognate Debate**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.05 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, general business disallowance motions Nos 1 and 2 to be moved by the member for Broadwater be debated cognately, with separate questions to be put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## **PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

### **Member for Whitsunday, Visit to Cook Electorate**

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (10.06 am): For a few seconds this morning, with the indulgence of the House, I wish to set the record straight in relation to some publicity surrounding my travels into the Cook shire on 14 May this year. There was a lot of publicity regarding my visit to the




Cook shire over eight hours. There was an investigation by the Queensland Police Service into my travels. As far as I am concerned, there were two investigations. We know this because the police reporter at the *Courier-Mail*, Chris Clarke, told me so. He said to me, on or about 15 May, that they had checked it out with the QPS and the QPS said that Mr Costigan was 'in the clear'. The federal member for Leichhardt was not happy with that and, as I understand it, contacted the QPS and another investigation ensued. I sum up by saying that on 21 May we had a chat with the QPS. They conducted their inquiries professionally. On 2 June I was contacted by the QPS and, not surprisingly, was told that they would not be pursuing the matter any further.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.07 am.

### Queensland Border Closure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.07 am): My first question is to the Premier. Two Queensland travel businesses have taken the extraordinary step of taking the Palaszczuk government's controversial border closure to the High Court. In response to this action, the Palaszczuk government's Solicitor-General has refused to admit businesses have had a financial hit from the border closure. Will the Premier now concede that the border closure is closing businesses and costing Queensland jobs?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Premier, I will ask that members to my right remain silent during the asking of questions.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It is lovely to see the Leader of the Opposition still here. We are very happy to see the Leader of the Opposition still here for question time.

**Dr Miles:** Where's Broadwater?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. We cannot possibly comment.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** How's David Hutchinson looking? I take that interjection. The member for Maroochydore was very clear when she said there was a perceived conflict of interest with the president of the party, David Hutchinson, working for Clive Palmer. Thank you, member for Maroochydore, for interjecting.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Premier, I ask that you address the question asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will get to the question. Let me say very clearly once again—I have said it in this House and I have said it outside this House and I will say it again: I will not put Queenslanders' health at risk. The reason we can open up Queensland for Queenslanders is our strong health response that we have put in place. We have put in place a very strong health response where we have only five active cases. In further good news overnight, there have been zero new cases. As I said in this House in my ministerial statement, there are active cases in New South Wales and there are active cases in Victoria. In fact, my understanding is that there was a second case from the protests in Melbourne confirmed in Victoria. There have also been outbreaks of clusters in Victoria. We want to see New South Wales and Victoria get on top of their community transmission.

The Leader of the Opposition was referring to pleadings in the High Court. Of course we recognise that businesses are doing it tough, but they would be doing it even tougher if there were an outbreak of community transmission in Queensland. In fact, when we first encountered community transmission in Queensland, we were very concerned about the Gold Coast and we were very concerned about Cairns. We have a strong health response and now we have a very strong economic response. We are absolutely focused on uniting and recovering for Queensland jobs. That is what Queenslanders expect us to do. They expect us to be focused on them, unlike the LNP who are focused on themselves.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Border Closure

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. Last sitting week the newly minted Treasurer refused to state whether there had been economic modelling over the border closure. A week ago Treasury officials finally admitted there had been no economic modelling done on Labor's

border closure. Why has the Palaszczuk government failed to consider the economic consequences of the border closure? Quite simply, it means that the Premier is flying blind through the biggest economic crisis of Queensland's history.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have travelled across regional Queensland over the last two weeks. Let me tell members that they do not want their families to get COVID. They do not want to be sick. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition, rather than having to focus on her own leadership, needs to get out and talk to Queenslanders because people across Queensland do not want the borders open and putting at risk our great health response. We have put in place a very clear road map. The Prime Minister has said July. Our road map says July, and we are gearing up to that. We will assess it at the end of the month. Make no mistake.

Let me say it again and let me put it on the public record: Tasmania has its border shut. South Australia has its border shut. Western Australia has its border shut. The Northern Territory has its border shut. There is a reason the borders are shut, and that is to protect the health of those families living in the regions.

The two biggest issues that have contributed to our great health response are, first, the closing of the international borders and, second, the closing of our state border that has stopped people from coming here with COVID. In fact, we were very concerned when a person from Melbourne came up to Queensland and tested positive. We were very concerned about that. The different health authorities have spoken about how that happened.

Our plan to unite and recover is focused on Queenslanders. It is focused on their jobs and making sure that they can get back into work. Let me say it again: over 100,000 people have lost their jobs in Queensland. It is our job and our responsibility for every single member of this House to be focused on getting people back into work and back into business. Because of our health response, we have been able to bring forward our easing of restrictions. It is great to see businesses getting people back into their cafes and restaurants. It is great to see our businesses open. It is great to see our resources sector and our agricultural sector thriving because in other countries they are shut down. In other countries there has been a second wave. Today it has been reported that Beijing has 100 new cases and it is concerned about a second wave in Beijing after—

**Mr Bleijie:** That was two days ago.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You may laugh about it, Leader of the Opposition, but these are very serious issues. Queenslanders do not want a second wave. Get out there and talk to them and you might understand what they are thinking and what they are feeling.

*(Time expired)*

### **Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Can the Premier provide examples of how the small business COVID-19 adaptation grants have helped throughout the state?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Our economic response is very important. Because of our great health response, the first stage of the pipeline has been completed—over \$200 million, over a thousand jobs. Because of our health response, people were able to complete that project.

Small grants for small businesses out there are also important. This has been a gap that businesses have spoken to us about. That is why we announced \$100 million in our first round. The first round was opened last month and it was fully subscribed to by the end of the first week. That is why my government has today announced a second round, with 50 per cent to be in regional Queensland.

We know that it is an important program for people to get involved in and to get this money. In Townsville, Julie Hobson's Beach House Motel was full when the Cowboys had their first game at their new stadium in March. A \$10,000 grant will go towards running costs such as rent and power bills and will enable the small family-run business to keep its five staff. In Gladstone, the Above & Beyond Swim School will use their \$10,000 grant for a new water purification system. It will help their business in the post-COVID world. In Cairns, the Kuranda Pet Resort had just one dog left in their kennel—a German shepherd they were caring for while its owners cared for their premature baby. A \$10,000 small business grant kept them going, and this week they welcomed back 27 canine customers.

This \$100 million second round of grants is really, really important. It is something that business has been calling for. We have worked with the CCIQ. I want to thank the Minister for Small Business, the Treasurer and all of the regional members who have raised how important these small grants are. That is why my government has now committed \$200 million in total to back small business in Queensland. We will always continue to back small business, and we will support businesses recover.

There is only one side of this House that is focused on recovery and uniting for Queensland—and that is this Labor government, as opposed to those opposite. We know Campbell Newman was involved. We have heard whispers that Campbell Newman was involved as part of the backroom lobby. Unite on this side; divide on that side. It is pretty clear. Queenslanders know that.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Border Closure

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer advise the daily bill that taxpayers are footing in the High Court to defend Labor's decision to keep the interstate borders shut until September or even later?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the honourable member for his question. The question that the member for Everton should be asking is, 'What is the Commonwealth taxpayer paying for the Commonwealth Solicitor-General to appear in the High Court to attack Queensland?' It is the Commonwealth Solicitor-General who is attacking our state.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The question was about the Solicitor-General of Queensland, not the Commonwealth Solicitor-General. The question was specifically in relation to the taxpayers of Queensland, not the Commonwealth.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is 20 seconds into his response and he is being relevant to the question, contextually at least. I ask him to make sure that he answers the question as it was asked.

**Mr DICK:** That is the reality. We are in a contest in the High Court to keep Queensland protected, and we make no apology for that.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** This is not an audition for leadership, member for Kawana. There are already enough people in that space. We are not going to lift the drawbridge. We will not lift the drawbridge until we know Queenslanders can be kept safe from what is happening in New South Wales and Victoria. It is very clear where the epicentre of coronavirus is, and that is not Queensland.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba.

**Mr DICK:** Just like the Premier, I travelled through regional Queensland last week to Cairns, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay and Moranbah, and I can tell members what people were talking about. They were talking about keeping Queensland safe and making sure we did everything we could to save Queensland lives and protect Queensland business. We make no apology for that.

Every person who has died due to coronavirus is a tragedy. Six Queenslanders have died and three of those were passengers on the *Ruby Princess*. The *Ruby Princess* was the greatest source of fatalities amongst the 100 people who have died in Australia, and it was berthed in New South Wales. The second greatest source was the Newmarch House aged-care home in western Sydney where 19 people died. We will contest this vigorously in the High Court.

**Mr Mander:** How much?

**Mr DICK:** We will pay whatever needs to be paid, member for Everton, to keep Queensland protected. We will pay whatever is necessary to get Queensland through this, to keep Queensland protected and to defend this challenge.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana.

**Mr DICK:** We know that the member for Everton is the member for lost causes. They have already had a massive setback in the High Court. Those people are seeking to attack our strong position on protecting Queensland. It would, of course, be the member for Everton who wants to support those people who are attacking our state. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, whoever that might be—the Leader of the Opposition, the deputy leader, the member for Broadwater or anyone else who wants to have a go for the leadership—that it is about time you stopped fighting Queensland and started backing Queensland like our government. We will continue to do that.

**Mr Mander:** How much? You have 23 seconds. Take it on notice.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. The member for Everton might like to ask the member for Kawana what the daily appearance rate is under the Crown Law scale. He was the attorney-general.

**Mr Mander:** Take it on notice.

**Mr DICK:** I take nothing on notice from you, member for Everton.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, through the chair.

**Mr DICK:** I take nothing on notice from you. Mr Speaker, we will continue to defend Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan is helping small businesses, particularly in regions like Mackay?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mackay for the question. It was wonderful to join the member for Mackay last week when we had the opportunity to visit a couple of businesses in Mackay and talk to them firsthand about how they are going, especially through COVID. As I was saying in this House previously, other countries have shut down, especially in terms of issues such as mining and agriculture. We know there have been big impacts in South America on the mining sector, but I can say that here in Queensland mining is going ahead thanks to our health response. It is through our great health response that we are now able to focus on our economic recovery.

It was excellent to join the member for Mackay at Real Time Instruments, and what a fantastic story that is. They have gone from exporting to 30 countries to 50 countries. In fact, when I was there they told me they are searching for two new staff. Not only has their business expanded globally but they are searching for additional staff. I want to commend the way in which they have been able to carry on. They said that because of the health response they only needed to keep people at home for a short period of time, and now everyone is back at work at full capacity. It is wonderful to see that happening right across our state. They also received a Made in Queensland grant of \$89,000. I know that the member for Mackay is very focused on buying locally in Mackay. She goes around promoting businesses that make things locally, and I think that everyone in this House should be doing that. I know that on this side of the House we are going to really get behind our manufacturers and support locally made things in our state.

We also had the opportunity to go to Jayden Enterprises to meet with Dirk, another great success story. He employs a number of tradies. I was able to speak with them. They go into people's homes to do repair work. They said to me that initially during the early days of the pandemic people were a bit reluctant to have them in their houses, but now because of the health response everyone feels a lot more confident with them going into their homes and getting work done. It means that tradies are keeping up their employment and Dirk is looking for extra staff. Jayden Enterprises was one of the companies approved under our job support loans scheme. Dirk has been able to keep the company going from strength to strength. As you can see, Mr Speaker, there is a lot happening right across the state and it is deliberate measures that are keeping people in work and allowing them to expand—

*(Time expired)*

### **Queensland Border Closure**

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Premier. After the Premier moved the border goalpost to September she justified her decision by saying the borders would only be opened after two consecutive incubation periods without locally acquired cases in New South Wales and Victoria. Does the Premier stand by this statement?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** At national cabinet we had a discussion about this. Our road map says July; the Prime Minister has said July. We are on the same page. It is great to see that the Prime Minister has read the road map. It is very comprehensive. I can say that—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, comments will come through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—when New South Wales and Victoria get their community transmission under control then of course the borders will be open.

**Mr Bleijie:** Define 'under control'.

**Mr Langbroek:** The question was a little more specific.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection, because there is only one side of this House that is on the side of Queensland, and that is this side of the House. We are on the side of Queensland, and those opposite are with the federal AG and the federal government. We are not quite sure whether they are with Clive Palmer. We know that the member for Maroochydore has concerns because Clive Palmer has an action against us. I think One Nation wants to enter the fight. I am also advised that one of the companies fighting us in the High Court is part of Helloworld, and Helloworld is a donor to which party? The LNP! What we know very clearly is that we have the LNP, One Nation and Clive Palmer all together fighting against Queensland. Shame, LNP—shame, shame, shame!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have had a pretty red-hot go this morning. You are warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to put your comments through the chair. Premier, you have one minute and 11 seconds to round out your response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, I will always stand up for Queensland.

**Ms Bates:** Is there a Helloworld at Inala?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What does that mean?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you will put your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Queenslanders are rightly proud of the great health response they have achieved. They should have immense pride in what they have achieved. I know they do because I meet with them regularly. They are very proud of what they have done in this state. They do not want to put all of that at risk and they do not want a second wave. That is why—let me say it again in this House—June is Queensland open for Queensland. At the end of the month we will review it, and if New South Wales and Victoria have community transmission under control then the borders will open in mid-July as per the road map. I cannot be clearer.

We cannot be very clear about what is happening on that side of the House, because all we know is that they seek to divide. They are not united—

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Elective Surgery**

**Mr KELLY:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to ensure Queenslanders receive their elective surgeries now that COVID restrictions have been eased? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. He has been a consistent advocate for more and better health services across the state, as have all of the members of our government. This year our health workers, our hospitals, our doctors and our nurses have stared down a global pandemic. They have stared down a virus that has killed hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, a virus that has gutted economies throughout the world, a virus that has brought other hospital systems to their knees.

In March when we thought that fate was coming to our shores, when we were faced with a global shortage of protective equipment, national cabinet made a national decision to suspend non-urgent surgeries, and that was the right decision at that time. Knowing that decision was coming, we brought forward as much elective surgery activity as we could. Our hospitals were doing a great job at that time at seeing people within clinically recommended times, with a record number getting their appointments within clinically recommended times, but of course since we suspended that surgery our waiting lists have grown. In fact we were fearful that by the end of the month the number of long waits—those waiting longer than clinically recommended—could have reached 7,000. That is why at the weekend we announced that we were investing \$250 million—a quarter of a billion dollars—to deliver additional elective surgery to clear that long wait list. It will see 31,000 Queenslanders receive health care, and it is a crucial part of our unite and recover for Queensland plan.

It was a great announcement. It was so good that it was welcomed by doctors, nurses, patients and Queenslanders—even by the Leader of the Opposition. Even she took a moment from focusing on her own job to welcome our policy. We found out yesterday that the member for Nanango is the 'JobKeeper'. Her 'JobKeeper' has been extended for one more month. Like so many Australians, she is not sure how much longer her 'JobKeeper' will last, because out their lurking and sulking on the backbench is the 'JobSeeker' supported by the faceless men. Even the faceless women of the LNP are supporting the 'JobSeeker' against the 'JobKeeper'. Even that great jobcutter, Campbell Newman, is in the JobSeeker's corner. Who knows how much longer 'JobKeeper' will last?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for silence, members.

### **Coronavirus, Brisbane Protest**

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Given two people who attended the Melbourne mass gathering two Saturdays ago have now tested positive for coronavirus, can the Premier advise how many of the 30,000 protesters who attended the Brisbane rally on the same day have been tested and cleared?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. My advice is that no-one who attended that protest has tested positive in Queensland.

### **Regional Queensland, Jobs**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the government is working to deliver jobs for regional Queenslanders in economic recovery, including in construction? Is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. As he knows, construction is a critical part of Queensland's economy and has an important part to play in driving jobs for regional Queensland, including communities like Townsville. Today we are proud to announce as a government that further support for construction will now happen, with a \$5,000 boost to offset the cost of purchase or construction of a new home in regional Queensland. I know that will be welcomed by all of the government members in Townsville, as it should be welcomed by all members of parliament across regional Queensland. With existing and federal grants, this could see a first home builder in regional Queensland access \$45,000 in grants for support. This stimulus will bring forward new homes and more construction jobs for regional Queensland.

I am asked by the member for Thuringowa about other approaches. While we focus on jobs, the LNP are focused on themselves. It was a train wreck of a press conference on Sunday with the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Everton. Of course, the member for Everton is the master of the train wreck. He is the train wreck interviewer in chief. On Sunday, the member for Everton said, 'Our focus'—meaning the LNP's focus—'is on the parliamentary wing of the LNP.' He went on to say, 'Who we are focused on and concerned about and who we are responsible for is the parliamentary wing.' That is their focus. While the Labor government are focused on jobs, the LNP are focused on themselves. While we focus on jobs, the LNP are focused on themselves. At least the member for Everton did a bit better than the Leader of the Opposition, who proudly declared that she was going nowhere. At least that much was true.

The LNP are in chaos, with an organisation that does not support its leader and a leader who does not support its opposition. The LNP are not talking about jobs; they are talking about the backroom boys—'Backroom's back, alright'. They are the same backroom boys who removed Verity Barton and the same backroom boys who were on Clive Palmer's payroll. The Leader of the Opposition never complained about the backroom boys then. It was all fine for her. You could forgive the backroom boys for saying, in the words of those urban poets—

Tell me why

Ain't nothin' but a heartache

...

Ain't nothin' but a mistake

when it comes to the Leader of the Opposition.

These are difficult times for the LNP. They are clearly in chaos. They do not know how to deal with isolation and they are falling apart as a consequence. Yesterday I heard the Leader of the Opposition use the word 'enemy'. I will tell the Leader of the Opposition what the enemy of Queensland is. It is COVID-19 and we are going to fight COVID-19 on this side of the House. We are going to fight to sustain and support every single job we can. We are not going to fight with ourselves like the LNP. We are going to fight for Queensland, keep the borders protected, keep Queensland protected and keep jobs going.

*(Time expired)*

### **Public Service, Wage Freeze; Queensland Border Closure**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Infamously the Premier did not know the GST rate on a morning radio interview and later excused the mistake by saying that she had not had her morning coffee. Did the Premier have her morning coffee before the morning TV interviews when she announced the Public Service wage freeze without consulting her cabinet or that the borders would remain shut until September without any medical advice?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will reject the opposition's question because the borders are closed to protect the health of Queenslanders and that is based on the Chief Health Officer's advice.

**Mr Mander:** September?

**Mrs Frecklington:** Maybe October.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will cease her interjections. The member for Everton is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say it again. We will protect the health of Queenslanders, and Queenslanders are rightly proud of the great health response that we have in this state with only five active cases. We are the envy of the world, better than New Zealand. We can see what is happening around the globe—there have been over 100,000 deaths in the US, there have been second waves, there is concern in China, and there is still concern in the United Kingdom and Europe as countries start opening up. I make no apology for making sure that we open up in a measured and responsible way that backs in our strong health response as we go into our post-COVID recovery. Every single job in Queensland counts.

Those opposite should be absolutely ashamed. All they are doing is focusing on themselves when Queenslanders are hurting, when people are going home at night not knowing where their next payment is coming from. All the members of the opposition care about is themselves and it is absolutely disgraceful.

The border will remain closed while there is active transmission. The member for Mudgeeraba just asked about the protest in Victoria where there have been two positive COVID cases. There are clusters in Victoria. Let me say it again: Queenslanders do not want a second wave. For the life of me I cannot understand an LNP opposition not being on the side of Queensland. They are on the side of the Commonwealth Attorney-General. We know they are on the side of Clive Palmer and One Nation. We know that; we absolutely know that is the case. How can a president of the LNP be on Clive Palmer's payroll? If that is not a conflict of interest, heaven knows what is.

**Mrs Frecklington:** You might like to read the media.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Leader of the Opposition might want to keep interjecting, but she should focus on keeping her team together.

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

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is 118(b), relevance under the standing orders. The question I asked was not about what the Premier is speaking about. It was quite serious with respect to confusing messages about the border closure.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question contained references to border closure, Public Service arrangements as well as coffee.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Queensland makes some really good coffee such as Maleny Coffee. Make sure you support Queensland coffee. I think the Queensland parliament does.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

**Mr HEALY:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's strategy to kickstart Queensland's tourism industry following COVID-19?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for his question. I know he has been a tireless worker in the Cairns community working with many of the tourism operators who are doing it tough. He has certainly been making strong representations to me, the Premier, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier—basically anyone who will talk to him. He has done a fantastic job. We know that one of the great things we can do for the tourism industry right now is back our Good to Go campaign.

The Premier and I were very proud to announce our Good to Go campaign in which we are encouraging Queenslanders to go out and see the very best of their own backyard. Often as Queenslanders we take for granted what a wonderful backyard we have. We have the Great Barrier Reef, some of the most pristine beaches in the world and of course some of the oldest rainforests in the world.

I am very pleased to report to the House that many tourism businesses are getting behind our Good to Go campaign. They are coming up with great deals for families and for couples to take advantage of in coming weeks. People can go and sleep in a tree house at the Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat in Cairns, stay five nights and pay for four at Lady Elliot Island off Bundaberg, stay four nights and pay for two at Discovery Parks in Airlie Beach, get a two-for-one wakeboarding pass at the Wake House Australia in Mackay, have a family getaway on Great Keppel Island or enjoy 20 per cent off Discovery Tours for the Aquascene on Magnetic Island just off Townsville. These are just some of the examples of the businesses that are working with us under our Good to Go campaign.

Of course we are not the only ones with a Good to Go campaign. We know somebody else has been crisscrossing Queensland with their very own Good to Go campaign. It has been building and building. The challenge, the big moment: the member for Broadwater travelled 1,800 kilometres across Queensland saying he was good to go and we were all waiting.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders. Your comments are not coming through the chair as is the practice in this place.

**Ms JONES:** We know the member for Broadwater is good to go. We were all waiting on Monday for the big challenge, the big event, the moment he has been waiting for, planning for and working towards his whole life. Talk about the biggest anticlimax of 2020! This was his moment and he failed.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** A fizzer.

**Ms JONES:** It was a fizzer; I take that interjection. It turns out the member for Broadwater is all mirrors and no smoke. The member for Broadwater likes to talk the big game but we know he cannot deliver. Worse than that, we all know that the Leader of the Opposition will never be able to trust him. A leopard does not change his spots. This is a man who cut and run on Townsville and who knocked over one woman to get a safe seat. The Leader of the Opposition will always have to sleep with one eye open while he is behind her. The worst thing of all for them is that, while members opposite are focused on their infighting and who is jockeying for which position, we will get on with looking after the people of Queensland and delivering the economic support they need during this tough time.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Enforcement of Restrictions

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. On the same day that 30,000 people were gathering to protest in Brisbane without social distancing and in breach of the COVID rules, why were government inspectors threatening restaurants with big fines for minor breaches of COVID-safe plans such as people ordering drinks directly from the bar?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said very clearly, I advised people not to go to those protests. The Deputy Premier said exactly the same thing. It does put at risk our great health response in Queensland. No-one is going to say that it does not. In relation to your particular concerns, I do not have examples of that. If you want to pass them on to my office—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will pass the member's concerns on to the Deputy Premier to investigate. I am happy to do so.



### Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure

**Mr KING:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister outline the Palaszczuk government's commitments to regional road investments before and after the COVID-19 outbreak, and specifically can he outline what investments the government has made along the 556-kilometre route from the Balonne shire to Bribie Island through the seat of Nanango, represented in this place by the Leader of the Opposition?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his question and his great interest in roads and road construction in this state. What we see is a \$13½ billion commitment by the Palaszczuk government to regional roads right across Queensland—part of our four record infrastructure budgets out of five—and supporting 13½ thousand jobs. We are adding to that with a \$400 million stimulus package on regional roads including \$100 million for sealing dirt roads as well as improvements to the Mount Lindesay Highway, Lawrie Street upgrade at Gracemere, the Six Mile Creek bridge upgrade at Pomona Kin Kin Road, the Proserpine Shute Harbour Road duplication, Hervey Range Road, and the Mulgrave Road and Brown Street upgrade in Cairns. That is a \$400 million stimulus out of a \$185 million stimulus in conjunction with the federal government under Roads of Strategic Importance.

I thought I would have a look at the regional road investments on the route from Balonne to Bribie Island where we saw the extraordinary story about the deputy mayor of Balonne, who has parachuted into the seat of Pumicestone to become the candidate. They could not find a local candidate for a seat they hold. When we look at the route from Balonne to Bribie Island there are upgrades by the Palaszczuk government no matter what route she takes, whether it is the Balonne Highway, the Warrego Highway or the New England Highway near Yarraman. I saw some of these myself on a recent trip. There is the Emu Creek bridge, and the D'Aguilar Highway also receives investment from us as well as the Bribie Island Road—again the Palaszczuk government is investing in regional roads.

When someone travels from the bush to the beach as the 'blow-in from Balonne' they are going to get better bitumen on the way to Bribie Island under the Palaszczuk government because we believe in better roads, even for people who are blowing into seats that are 550 kilometres from where they served as the deputy mayor.

*(Time expired)*

### Public Monuments

**Mr COSTIGAN:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Given recent events around the world, will the Attorney commit to beefing up state legislation to deter people from desecrating public memorials and monuments including statues?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question.

**Mr Dick:** I did that when I was attorney-general.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection of the member for Woodridge and Treasurer that he actually did that when he was the attorney-general. We have a proud history of making sure that we have strong laws in this state. No-one should desecrate statues in this state. We are appalled that anyone would think that is acceptable behaviour.

Everyone in this state has the right to express their views. The Premier has said time and again that we support people having a voice in this state. We believe in that. The Labor government and the Labor Party have always done that, but that does not mean that you should support damaging of property, whether it is public or private. The sort of stuff that we have seen in the United States with that sort of damage is very concerning. The laws are there. They are strong laws. I have no doubt that, if those sorts of actions are being taken by people in Queensland, the police will enforce those laws.

### Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Program, Aspley Electorate

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister update the House on how the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Program will help Aspley residents recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic? Is he aware of any alternative views?

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the minister, the member for Everton will cease speaking during questions. I have made myself clear.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Aspley for his question. I know how committed he is to his constituents and to supporting good quality outcomes through investment in infrastructure. Today the Premier announced the \$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Program to further help councils in South-East Queensland to do just that—to unite and recover. To do that, we now have a real laser-like focus on creating jobs and supporting workforces. This program will help councils invest in new and upgraded infrastructure as part of the Palaszczuk government's stage 2 economic recovery strategy.

This funding alone will support and create at least 750 jobs right here in our state's southern corner. Some 12 councils—from Brisbane City Council radiating out to the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, Lockyer Valley, Logan, the Scenic Rim, Ipswich and Toowoomba—will receive a base allocation of \$2 million. The remaining \$26 million will be distributed through a competitive application process check I have had the opportunity to discuss and canvass with those mayors. This will be an absolute boon for these councils, because we know Queenslanders are doing it tough.

I know that Queenslanders are doing it tough. Like so many other members, I have friends and family who have lost their jobs, had their working hours reduced or had their life put on hold because of this pandemic. Now we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel in regard to health and it is time to turn our attention to economic recovery. I want to say how brilliant the work that the unite and recover programs have been in doing that. That is what today's announcement is about, and it is so exciting.

Building and upgrading infrastructure means jobs for people right across these council areas in South-East Queensland and it means money going out and into businesses and into communities. That makes a huge difference to all of those trades that will be affected and impacted. It is off the back of the success of our Works for Queensland program, not only in the first round of the unite and recover package but also over the \$600 million contributed to councils across regional Queensland. People love it and they support it.

I should say that just about everyone loves it and supports it; unfortunately, we hear that one of the people who is not a great supporter or fan of Works for Queensland is the member for Nanango. I hope she can be turned around, because we see what one of her constituents now says about Works for Queensland and about the most recent stimulus program, that is, the mayor of the Southern Burnett Regional Council, Brett Otto. In acknowledging receipt of his council's Works for Queensland allocation he said—

I wish to convey our sincere gratitude for the level of support provided by the Premier, yourself and members of your government facilitating the recovery of our region and indeed of all regional Queensland.

That is how you support communities and support workers in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I will wait for silence.

### **Coronavirus, Enforcement of Restrictions**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. When 30,000 people crowded King George Square, the Premier praised them for adhering to social distancing. Does the Premier concede this gathering posed greater health implications than four veterans in four separate planes being denied the opportunity of a flyover on our nation's most solemn day?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** All are a health risk. It was very hard for the Chief Health Officer to make those decisions when it came to Anzac Day. It was very solemn for me to be one of four people attending Anzac Square. The rallies, the protests, happened nation-wide. They did not just happen in Queensland; they were international.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection; they were international. They happened in New South Wales, Victoria, right around the country and internationally. Friday is a very crucial day for us. I have said that publicly and I will say it again, because Saturday marks two weeks since that protest happened. It could undo all of the great work that Queenslanders have done. We pray that that does not happen, but we will be monitoring that very closely.

I urge all Queenslanders to follow the health advice. There is no greater threat to Queensland, the nation and the world at the moment than COVID. The pandemic sees huge repercussions across the globe, with hundreds of thousands of deaths and impacts on people's livelihoods, families, hospitals,

doctors, nurses and everyone who has to deal with this. People are having to bury their loved ones. Thankfully, in Queensland we have not seen the large-scale deaths that have happened in other countries.

I thank God every day that I live in Queensland. I thank God that we live in the great nation of Australia, where all of the leaders have been able to work together for the first time probably in modern political history. We meet at a national cabinet level with the Prime Minister and with all the other leaders of states and territories. I will say very clearly: everyone leaves their politics at the front door. We go into that meeting and we are absolutely united in looking after Australians and looking after Queenslanders. I urge every single member of this House to think very carefully about the response and about the hurt caused to Queenslanders by the rapid shutdown. Now, in a measured and responsible way, I urge every single person in this House to unite and recover for Queenslanders and for Queensland jobs. That is my solemn commitment to the people of this state, and I will continue to work hard for them every single day of my life.

### **Central Queensland, Energy Projects**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister outline the flow-on benefits to Central Queensland from current projects by our publicly owned energy businesses, and is he aware of any alternative policies and their impact?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I know that he is a big fan of our publicly owned energy businesses in terms of the impact that they will have on his constituents and the local economy as we all recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The multimillion dollar overhauls underway in Central Queensland at Stanwell and Callide power stations will have a very positive impact for the region. As I mentioned earlier, these overhauls will generate hundreds of jobs for contractors, many of them Central Queensland locals. These workers will stay in local hotels, buy food from local restaurants and spend their days checking out what Central Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef have to offer. They are all smiles in the Banana shire, because the contractors for the Callide overhaul are already filling motels in Biloela, Thangool and Banana ahead of work starting next week.

The Callide overhaul is estimated to pump about \$6 million into the local economy. Around Rockhampton, 20 accommodation providers will be laying out the welcome mat for workers on the Callide overhaul. Do not take my word for how good this is. Mary Carroll from Capricorn Enterprise said, 'This is critically welcome for the Capricorn region accommodation providers.'

I pause because of what I have heard from those opposite and because of the impact of COVID-19 in regional Queensland. Like many of my colleagues, last week I was listening to people out in Western Queensland in terms of these overhauls. Like people in Central Queensland, they are concerned about keeping their families safe from COVID-19.

The people of Central Queensland are concerned about jobs. They are concerned about recovery, and we are there with them. If we took the United Kingdom's experience with COVID-19 and per capita transposed that to Queensland, instead of having six unfortunate grieving families we would have between 3,000 and 4,000 grieving families. The Premier, the health minister and Deputy Premier and the Chief Health Officer should all be proud of what they have achieved in keeping our families safe in this state. The response that we have seen has been fantastic—not only from the government but also from our hospital staff, the police and everyone associated. The responsibility has been widespread and the people of Queensland have come along for the journey, and they do not want that journey ruined now. They want to make sure their families are—

*(Time expired)*

### **Local Government Elections, Fines**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier guarantee that no fines will be issued to the over 700,000 Queenslanders who did not vote at the 2020 local government elections due to concerns related to COVID-19?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am advised by the Attorney-General that the ECQ is looking at that matter.

### **Building and Construction Industry, Housing**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is creating jobs in the housing construction industry, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Jordan for the question. The Palaszczuk government is fully engaged in the Queensland housing construction industry. We have a 10-year plan that today gets a massive boost to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. We have a plan, unlike those opposite, who wanted to sell out of housing altogether.

The Queensland Housing Strategy, now in its fourth year with new social and affordable housing targets being exceeded year on year, built real confidence in Queensland. In fact, 160 new homes have been delivered in the Ipswich area to date. However, there is no doubt though that COVID-19 has threatened the construction industry in Queensland. There has been an international ban on migration, a national ban on open homes and nearly a million Australians out of work, which is a challenge for the industry. Unlike the LNP, however—when it got too hot in housing, it wanted to walk away—today we announce the housing construction Works for Tradies boost. From day one during this pandemic we have engaged closely with the construction industry. We have worked in partnership to develop a plan to keep Queensland tradies working.

Last month we announced stage 1—a \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee, \$200 million in Works for Queensland, the \$21.25 million Household Resilience Program which previously generated over \$67.7 million in economic activity and the construction of the \$20 million Queensland apprenticeship centre, and today we doubled down. We doubled down on our commitment to sustain jobs and to keep Queensland tradies working.

Today's announcement of stage 2 will keep Queensland tradies working through almost \$300 million in additional new construction including a \$100 million housing construction Works for Tradies jobs boost. This will deliver 215 new social homes right across Queensland on top of our existing pipeline to build 470 new homes this financial year. Let us compare this though to the LNP's record—just 74 homes on average per annum. Under Labor we have built 457 new social homes per annum—over six times the investment in social housing as those opposite. That means affordable homes for Queenslanders who need them most, built by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. We will not turn our back on vulnerable Queenslanders and we absolutely will not turn our back on Queensland tradies.

Additionally, I welcome the announcement of the seniors and accessibility assistance package—a \$10 million boost to the Home Assist Secure program for household upgrades for fixed income earners who simply could not afford them without this support, and it means projects for thousands of tradies across Queensland of up to \$5,000 each. The Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan invests well over half a billion dollars in new construction on top of our already committed investment, clearly exceeding Queensland's share of the Commonwealth's HomeBuilder program. The construction industry trusts the Palaszczuk government to deliver for Queensland tradies and apprentices.

### **Rural Queensland, Police Resources**

**Mr WEIR:** My question is to the Minister for Police. Will the minister guarantee that rural crime squads throughout Queensland will continue to be fully staffed and fully resourced standalone divisions of the Queensland Police Service?

**Mr RYAN:** I welcome the question from the member for Condamine. The Queensland Police Service has a very proud tradition of policing all parts of our state fairly and effectively. We have a very important investment in MOCS (Rural), our major organised crime rural teams that are placed right across the state in regional areas, keeping those communities safe and investigating those crimes which are unique to rural and regional Queensland.

The Queensland Police Commissioner is absolutely committed to ensuring that every part of Queensland is fairly and effectively policed. We know that the commissioner is very excited about the investment that our government has made in policing this year with our record police budget of \$2.6 billion—more police in Queensland than ever before. In fact, for the first time ever, there are more than 12,000 police in our state. We continue to invest right across the state, including new police facilities in regional areas of the state which includes the deployment of more police in the state. Our commitment to regional Queensland is evidenced through that investment.

Who can forget that it was the previous government that wanted to close down a regional police academy at Townsville? That is the commitment of those opposite to regional policing. We kept that academy open and we continue to invest in that academy. In fact, record numbers of police are going through that academy. When it comes to policing in this state, it is the Labor government which is committed to not only boosting resources but also ensuring that the commissioner has the resources that she needs to effectively police Queensland.

When it comes to the deployment of resources across the state, we do not interfere in that process. It is a decision for the commissioner, as it should be. Politicians should not interfere in that decision-making process and we support the commissioner in her independence when it comes to the allocation of those resources, but we also support her with record police investment and record police numbers. MOCS (Rural) is a very important part of police in Queensland. It complements the great work which is done by police who are based in rural and regional Queensland. The commissioner will continue to ensure that all parts of Queensland are effectively policed, and we support her in that role.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. Before moving to the next item of business, I wish to remind the members for Kawana, Mudgeeraba, Everton and Broadwater that you are under a warning under the standing orders. I had thought of warning the Treasurer as well for not being NSYNC with the members for Timberlake and Lance Bass, but he escaped!

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.08 am): I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
  - (a) the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Co-operatives National Law Bill, a maximum of 2 hours to complete all stages;
  - (b) the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages; and
  - (c) the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1. apply:
  - (a) the minister to be called on in reply for the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
  - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
  - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
  - (d) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 2., or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 18 June 2020, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In moving this motion, firstly I want to thank the minister and member for Sandgate for acting as Leader of the House during the last parliamentary sitting week and thank everyone for their well wishes regarding my injured hand.


**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Thank you; I will take that interjection. The motion before the House speaks for itself, but obviously we are seeking to debate four bills this week. Just before question time I moved a motion to cognate the bills in relation to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Co-operatives National Law Bill, and I thank the House for supporting that motion. We are also seeking to debate the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill, to which the minister has amendments to move to that bill, and also the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, to which there will also be amendments moved. It is my hope that I would be circulating those amendments this evening so that members will have the opportunity to look through those thoroughly before they have the opportunity to debate that bill.

Last night there was constructive input from the members who attended the business committee meeting. They said that they believe that the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill is a very significant bill that should have significant time allocated

to it. Taking that on board, as the government has, and having regard to the views of the member for Noosa and the member for Kawana, we have allocated more time to the electoral bill debate over the other bills for debate this week. We have allocated two hours maximum for the cognate debate and three hours maximum for the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill. The remainder of the time for this week will be spent on the electoral bill. If it is not completed by 5.55 on Thursday the questions will be put.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of uniting and recovering Queensland after COVID-19. In doing so we will continue to bring legislation forward into this parliament that supports businesses, supports organisations and supports Queenslanders in that recovery. We are also getting on with the job of debating important legislation that is sitting on the *Notice Paper* which parliamentary committees have already considered. One of those is the electoral bill. This is significant reform for this state and I am glad that this is a bill that we are able to bring on this sitting week and have debated and considered because it will be a bill for all Queenslanders and will set the lead in this country as far as electoral reforms and integrity. I will not speak any further so that we can ensure that we are allocating as much time to the electoral bill as possible, but I do ask for all members to support this motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.11 am): We will not be supporting the motion. I hope the Leader of the House is going well with her recovery. I said some very nice things about her in her absence last sitting. Check *Hansard*; I am sure I did. We will be opposing this motion for the same reasons we have opposed this motion for nearly 2½ years and that is because it is anti-democratic—it is guillotining by a business program motion. The Business Committee is a complete waste of time because ultimately we put forward that there should be more time spent on all bills.

As I said yesterday, this electoral bill could be debated for three days, because the issues are so important to Queenslanders. We all know what the accountability aspect of the bill is about. The bill was introduced in November 2019. We were due to debate it in February in time for the local government elections, but that did not happen. It contains retrospective parts that we are now debating. I am glad we are finally seeing it on the agenda and will be able to thrash these issues out this week.

In the business program motion at the last sitting I said that when the House adjourns at the end of that week we will have only five sitting weeks left for this term of parliament. I correct the record because after we did that the government dropped a sitting week. This is the fourth last sitting week for this term of parliament. Going from here we will have three sitting weeks. That might change by the end of the week. The government might drop another sitting week. That is the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In question time this morning those opposite were going on about the LNP and various issues in the media at the moment. One party in this parliament that will not be able to lecture anyone on integrity or accountability is the Labor Party. I will take that to the bank. The LNP will not be lectured on infighting and integrity woes by the Labor Party. A third Labor minister in Victoria resigned today because of branch stacking and infighting. If people think that culture of union bullying does not extend to the Queensland Labor Party they are kidding themselves.


**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has strayed well off the topic. He needs to get back to the motion that is before the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Kawana, I tend to agree. I need you to come back to the motion being debated.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The debate that we are having surrounds the bills that we are debating this week and, as I have consistently said, there is not sufficient time in the House this week to debate these bills. We should be debating the electoral bill all week. The electoral aspects of the bill are important, but more important to Queenslanders is the second aspect of the bill which is, of course, the accountability and integrity aspect. The reason that has to be debated this week, and the reason we are debating it at all, is because of a member of this House. It is vitally important. Even though the Leader of the House has reduced the hours of debate on the first two bills, there is still not enough time to forensically go through the integrity and accountability issues and why we have that legislation in parliament at the moment.

The member for Maiwar put out a bizarre Facebook post following the last sitting in which he said that thanks to the parliament's undemocratic rules and an LNP controlled speaking list he was not allowed to speak. This is from a guy who 99 per cent of the time votes with the Labor Party. He is essentially a member of the Labor Party. He is whingeing that the LNP control the speaking list. Has he not heard my speeches for two and a half years in which I say this is the most undemocratic chamber that we have seen because the Labor Party continually guillotine debate?

We are not producing the speaking list. We are not allocating the times. We have opposed the business program motion for 2½ years because of the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government, the continual infighting of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the integrity scandals surrounding the Palaszczuk Labor government. We are opposed to all of that. That is why we want to sit longer. I support the member for Maiwar being able to speak more often and on more bills, but if he is going to blame anyone he should blame his mates the Labor Party. It is not the LNP denying him the opportunity; it is the Labor Party. It is the Labor Party's arrogance that blinds him. As I said, 99 per cent of the time he votes with the Labor Party. He is part of the Labor Party. Essentially, the Greens and Labor are one in the same. Members should oppose this undemocratic anti-integrity motion.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.16 am): It is pretty clear that the member for Kawana has not got over the loss for the LNP of Maiwar at the last election because he spent a lot of his time going over a bit of history. I am glad to fill in on the Business Committee now that the Minister for Health is the Deputy Premier. Last night what I saw was genuine consultation. The Attorney-General came and consulted with the Business Committee. There was some feedback given by the Manager of Opposition Business and that was taken on board. There was more time given to the electoral bill and less time given to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Attorney-General had a genuine process of consultation, listened and actually took on board feedback from other parties. That is what a responsible government does.

This is a routine that our amateur thespian friend, the member for Kawana, loves to give. He is so passionate about debating time that every sitting he uses up debating time debating procedural motions, wasting the time of this parliament rather than getting on with business. If he wants more speaking time he should get off the procedural stuff. No-one cares about procedural debates and discussions. What they want to see is us doing our jobs. We see this as another opportunity for the member for Kawana to mount his amateur stage and pontificate and waste this parliament's time.

The Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill will have three hours of debate. The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will have two hours of debate. That is appropriate. It is not something people are going to get hugely passionate about. It is an important bill, but not one that needs a huge amount of time. The Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill gets the most time. It gets double the time, in fact, of any other bill. That is appropriate.

We have standing orders that reflect best practice. We do not need the same old key lines and themes trotted out by speaker after speaker from the LNP, which is what we hear from a divided opposition that are not ready for government. They are consumed by themselves rather than by contributing to the management of a pandemic.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** They are absolutely consumed with their internal divisions. They are fighting with their headquarters and they are fighting amongst themselves. We are four months out from an election and it is very clear that they have no plan for Queensland. They only have a plan to fight amongst themselves, but that is not what Queenslanders want to see.


**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In one of their interjections, members on the other side were seeking to reflect on a member's absence from this chamber. There is a clear rule around that. I ask that the member withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Chatsworth, I ask you to withdraw, please.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I noticed that yesterday the member for Chatsworth was not in the corridor, lining up behind his leader. I am sure that he has been busy lately. This order of business is logical. The process has been consultative. The Attorney-General has taken goodwill to the Business Committee and has responded to feedback from other parties.

A member should be able to outline his or her main points in a substantial debate. We saw what can happen during late-night sittings in the first term of this government. We saw opposition members turn up at 2.40 in the morning, wearing football jerseys, T-shirts and all sorts of things. In some ways we are saving the opposition from themselves, because we remember that embarrassing situation. Indeed, none of us will forget it. We do not want to see that sort of thing. When debating bills, we are not at our best at one o'clock or two o'clock in the morning. Nobody thinks that the parliament should be doing that. We need to order our business appropriately, which is what we are doing here. That is why this motion ought to be supported.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.21 am): I also will be speaking against this motion. If one needs an example of the great arrogance and hubris of this Labor government, one needs only to listen to the speech just made by the member for Miller. In the first instance he says that we are wasting time talking about the democratic foundations of this state. He says that we are wasting time defending the rights of members of parliament to stand in this place and speak on any bill for any length of time, within the limitations of the parliament. It shows the arrogance of this government that they regard the democratic process in this state as a waste of parliamentary time.

We saw another demonstration of the arrogance of this government when the member for Miller routinely went through the different bills. He said, 'Well, we've had a look at this particular bill and we've decided that it can be allocated an hour and a half to two hours.' He then went to the next bill and said, 'We had a bit of a discussion about this bill as well and we've decided that this is how long we should speak on it.'

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** That is exactly right; I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. This Labor government thinks that they can decide based on what is important to them, as opposed to what is important to the people of Queensland and members on this side of the House, because we want to speak on bills that are incredibly important to our constituents.

The member for Miller said, 'We consulted with the opposition. Of course, we consulted within our rules. We consulted within the parameters that we set.' It is as if they are good simply because they consulted and they listened, but of course that was done only within the parameters that they have already set.

The member for Miller then had the hide to talk about unity. The Premier would do anything to have the same support from her party that the Leader of the Opposition has from hers. In fact, the Premier would love to have that support from the cabinet. The Premier would love to have support from her Deputy Premier.

On this side of the House we are a solid and unified force that is determined to return this state to the democratic principles that we have been used to in the past, which means that members of parliament can stand in this place and speak for any amount of time on any bill without it being guillotined. We will not be lectured on integrity by that side of the parliament. As the Manager of Opposition Business has said already, we could speak week after week, for six months, about the lack of integrity shown by this government. We will have a chance to remind Queenslanders about the lack of integrity that this government has shown over the past five years. They have shown that they do not deserve to be re-elected. We will be a unified force working together to make sure that we see a change of government.

I am proud to be a member of this team. I am proud to serve with Deb Frecklington and our shadow cabinet. I am proud to serve with every other LNP member of parliament in this room. It is that unstoppable force that will see a change of government on 31 October.

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

**AYES, 46:**

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

**NOES, 42:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.



## ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL LAW BILL

Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 26 November 2019 (see p. 3765) and Co-operatives National Law Bill resumed from 4 February (see p. 35).

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.31 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

On 26 November 2019, I introduced the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into parliament. That bill was later scrutinised by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. On 4 February 2020, I introduced the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 and referred the bill to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank those committees for their consideration of the bills and table the government's responses to each committee's report.

*Tabled paper:* Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 30, 56th Parliament—Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, government response [\[902\]](#).

Both reports make a single recommendation: that the respective bills be passed. The government welcomes these recommendations. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank stakeholders who took the time to make written submissions and appeared at public hearings to assist the committees in their consideration of the bills.

The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill proposes amendments to the benefit of Queensland's not-for-profit sector. These amendments reduce the regulatory burden for incorporated associations and charitable entities. For example, the associations bill provides the government with the ability to exempt particular classes of entities from the financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and the Collections Act 1966. It is the government's intention to use this ability to specifically exempt entities that have met a financial reporting obligation to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission from Queensland government reporting requirements. It is estimated that the proposed exemption will reduce red tape for approximately 5,000 organisations. To underpin this, the associations bill facilitates information-sharing arrangements between the Office of Fair Trading and the ACNC.

To ensure appropriate oversight of incorporated associations, the Office of Fair Trading will retain the ability to examine the financial affairs of exempt entities if circumstances warrant. The associations bill will also provide the chief executive with the discretion to consider special and unusual circumstances impacting on an association's financial affairs, such as a one-off grant or insurance payment and, if circumstances warrant, release the association from any additional reporting obligations that the association may be obligated for as a result of that payment. This will particularly assist associations that may be recovering from recent natural disasters such as drought or bushfire.

Amendments contained in the bill will further reduce red tape by making the use of a common seal optional. Associations will also be able to make use of modern communications technology to conduct meetings and voting without requiring the use of this technology to be specified in the association's rules. This change will allow associations to enable members to participate in the decision-making processes of their association even if those members are unable to participate in meetings face to face. The associations bill supports associations experiencing financial distress by allowing incorporated associations to enter voluntary administration and appoint an administrator to assist in their financial affairs. Associations will additionally have a new ability to voluntarily cancel their incorporation in certain circumstances as an alternative to appointing a liquidator under applied corporations law.

While the associations bill seeks to make life easier for the sector, the government is also cognisant that many incorporated associations rely on government and community financial support. The community expects those who hold influential positions within associations, particularly those that benefit from public funding, will be held accountable to minimum standards as part of a broad system of checks and balances. To facilitate this, the associations bill introduces new governance obligations requiring officers of incorporated associations to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with

care and diligence, in good faith and in the best interests of the association. It also provides that they must not improperly use their position, or information obtained from their position, to gain a pecuniary benefit or material advantage, or trade the association while insolvent.

The associations bill also introduces an obligation for members of a management committee to disclose material personal interests in matters discussed at management committee meetings. The member may not vote on that matter unless expressly permitted by the remainder of the committee. A maximum of 60 penalty units will apply to a breach of these governance obligations. These obligations are entirely reflective of good governance practice and will enhance public confidence in the sector. They are not new in the field of not-for-profit regulation and exist in one form or another in the associations incorporation legislation of most other jurisdictions. Amendments contained in the bill will also facilitate greater transparency and accountability within associations by requiring management committee members to disclose information about the remuneration and other benefits paid to management committee members, senior staff members and their relatives in the way prescribed by regulation. My department will be consulting with the sector on these details should the associations bill be passed.

Incorporated associations will also be required to have a grievance procedure in their rules that provides for mediation and meets the principles of natural justice. To protect members from punishment for raising a grievance, associations will be unable to take disciplinary action against the complainant or their representative in relation to the matter that is the subject of the grievance until the grievance procedure has been completed. This will not prevent associations from taking disciplinary action against members where warranted. Associations may specify in their rules that a person cannot initiate a grievance procedure while the person is already subject to a disciplinary proceeding until that proceeding has been resolved. Incorporated associations required to observe the existing grievance procedures of parent associations will be able to refer to those procedures in their rules, provided the procedures comply with the principles in the associations bill. Associations that do not wish to amend their rules to provide for a grievance need not do so, provided they are willing to abide by the model rule grievance procedure that will be developed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, in consultation with the sector, should the associations bill be passed.

Lastly, the associations bill will apply the Fair Trading Inspectors Act 2014 to the Associations Incorporation Act to provide inspectors with the powers necessary to efficiently investigate incorporated associations. The committee noted in its report that the explanatory notes to the associations bill could further justify this proposal.

It is necessary for the Office of Fair Trading to have a range of powers, including search and entry powers, at its disposal to carry out proactive compliance, investigate misconduct within associations and enforce offence provisions. The Associations Incorporations Act does not presently contain those powers. Ensuring appropriate powers are made available to inspectors will, along with proposed governance obligations for management committee members and officers, strengthen trust and confidence in the not-for-profit sector.

The Fair Trading Inspectors Act is an existing piece of legislation that provides common inspectorate provisions for the enforcement of a number of fair trading acts. These common provisions reflect standard inspectorate and enforcement principles and are balanced by appropriate safeguards. The associations bill simply applies these accepted principles and safeguards to the investigation of incorporated associations.

The Fair Trading Inspectors Act will however be applied in a modified way so powers deemed unnecessary for the regulation of incorporated associations are not available. Inspectors will not be able to stop or move vehicles or obtain criminal history reports. In keeping with general provisions of the Fair Trading Inspectors Act, entry powers will not apply to a place where a person resides.

The Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020, the CNL Bill, received strong stakeholder support. I would like to thank the individuals, cooperatives, organisations and peak bodies that made submissions to the committee. The CNL Bill will repeal the Cooperatives Act 1997 and in its place apply the cooperatives national law, or CNL, as a law of Queensland. The CNL is nationally harmonised cooperatives legislation, contained as template legislation in the appendix to the New South Wales Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012. The CNL has been progressively introduced by states and territories since 2012. The CNL Bill will modernise the legislation governing cooperatives in Queensland and complete the national legislative scheme developed by the states and territories.

Cooperatives operate across the state of Queensland, in regional areas, and in a diverse range of industries, including agriculture and fishing, dairy, water supply, health services, grocery and hardware supplies, recycling, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts. Cooperatives contribute to

productivity, growth and job creation within the Queensland economy, most importantly, boosting local communities. They support local businesses and local communities by putting profits back into the economy.

The CNL Bill will deliver several key reforms. The first key reform that will benefit Queensland cooperatives is a harmonised system of law that improves the regulatory environment, supporting the ongoing viability of cooperatives as a business model. The ongoing viability of cooperatives supports communities that cooperatives operate in. The CNL Bill will also reduce red tape and associated business costs.

The CNL includes a tiered system of financial reporting, whereby small cooperatives will no longer have to obtain costly financial audits provided they meet the definition of 'small cooperative'. A cooperative, and any entity it controls, is defined as a small cooperative upon meeting two of the following criteria in a financial year: consolidated revenue of less than \$8 million; consolidated gross assets of less than \$4 million; or fewer than 30 employees.


Based on current estimates, over 90 per cent of Queensland cooperatives may be considered small under the new tiered system of reporting. A small cooperative will have reduced reporting requirements and will not have to obtain a costly audit, unless their members or the registrar considers it is necessary. As the majority of Queensland's cooperatives are small businesses operating in regional areas of Queensland, the removal of audits for small businesses, especially in our farming communities, will provide much needed financial relief. For large cooperatives, their reporting requirements will remain the same as the current requirements under the Cooperatives Act 1997.

Implementation of the CNL Bill will also allow automatic mutual recognition of registered cooperatives by other states and territories. One registration will allow a cooperative to trade nationally. This will reduce fees and red tape for cooperatives operating across borders. At present, if a Queensland cooperative wishes to carry on business interstate, it must register and pay fees in that state or territory and follow different legislative frameworks.

Implementation of the CNL Bill will also allow cooperatives to raise funds through the issue of cooperative capital units. Cooperative capital units are a financial instrument by which cooperatives can inject funds from external sources. The ability to raise funds using cooperative capital units is not available under the current Cooperatives Act 1997.

By applying the CNL, the CNL Bill will also update directors' and officers' duties to be consistent with the Corporations Act 2001, providing a modern standard of corporate governance. By removing the high cost of an audit for small businesses, reducing costs and red tape for cooperatives wanting to trade interstate and providing opportunities for additional fundraising, the CNL Bill will provide a range of direct benefits to Queensland cooperatives. Most importantly, cooperatives support local businesses and communities by putting profits back into regional economies.

The CNL Bill will support the ongoing viability of cooperatives in playing a crucial part in Queensland's economy which is of even greater importance as a consequence of the increased hardships regional Queensland is going through as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore and in conclusion, during these uncertain and unprecedented COVID-19 times, it is important that we do all we can to help charities that rely upon volunteers to help the most vulnerable in our community. Red-tape reduction is an important element in supporting our charities. I commend both bills to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.44 am): I understand that the business program motion issues have already been prosecuted, but I want to express my disappointment that bills of such importance to the community of Queensland are given two hours to be debated. I accept that the members for Kawana and Everton have put the case that we could debate the electoral integrity bill for three days—I think we could debate it for three weeks—as these bills should interest this House more than most.

If someone is attending an event of an unincorporated association or is a management committee member of an incorporated association, or if they are a part of a company limited by guarantee, a cooperative or a customer of a cooperative then the content of these bills will be of most significance to them. If we want to build a culture of volunteering and if we want to build a culture of not-for-profits continuing to step up, volunteering hundreds of hours, donating millions of dollars in free services to the community then these bills certainly need a greater deal of scrutiny and consideration than simply two hours. Already we are down to an hour and 45 minutes.

I am not sure about those on that side of the House—those grounded in a union upbringing and electorate offices—but many members on this side of the House have come up doing community work in unincorporated or incorporated associations and cooperatives. We on this side of the House

understand the value of those organisations to our communities. That is why two hours of debate is simply not enough for those of us on this side of the House who care so deeply about our local community groups, cutting red tape and giving back to our communities. That is what we should be debating in this House. I think everybody should be given the opportunity to speak to the bills. Instead, very few members on this side of the House will be able to make a contribution to the debate.

The opposition will not be opposing these two bills because, as the Attorney-General has rightly said, there are important efficiency measures contained in them, whether it be financial reporting, the cutting of red tape or the removal of duplication. I acknowledge the efforts of the Attorney-General in that regard. However, there are significant missed opportunities that I want to briefly discuss in my contribution that could have made these bills stronger and could have made them more community focused. There could have been laid on the table other business community options that have simply been missed. There has been a missed opportunity. We know that there are 22,000 incorporated associations throughout Queensland. As I have said, there are a number of important efficiency measures that are contained in these bills that will make life easier for them.

The Queensland Law Society in its submission to the committee—I would encourage those opposite to read it; it is a 27-page submission—raised a number of concerns with the incorporated associations bill in particular and opportunities for improvement which I understand the government will not be adopting. I want to particularly go to those obligations on management committee members. These are people who are volunteering their time and taking a risk in time and liability to undertake a service for their community free of charge. They are serving others. What we in this House should be encouraging is people to step in and volunteer for their communities where the government cannot fill the gap.

The incorporated associations bill inserts new duties under clause 31, which I foreshadow the opposition will be opposing, but otherwise we will be supporting the bills. The bill inserts new duties under proposed section 70E to J. In many respects, they reflect the duties under the Corporations Act that apply to directors of company such as the duty of care and diligence, the duty of good faith, use of position, use of information and the duty to prevent insolvent trading.

I want to turn to the last duty in particular—the duty to prevent insolvent trading. This was the duty that raised the eyebrow of the Queensland Law Society in particular. Under this new duty it is an offence for a member or former member of a management committee of an incorporated association to take part in incurring a debt if at the time of incurring the debt the association was insolvent and immediately before the debt was incurred there were reasonable grounds to expect that the association was insolvent or would become insolvent.

That reflects, as I said in large part, the Corporations Act directors' duties. However, under the defences contained in the Corporations Act as they relate to company directors, the defence fails to provide a 'safe harbour' for volunteers on a management committee. As the Queensland Law Society said—and I will turn to their submission—in respect of this particular amendment, it shifts the current 'light touch' regulatory approach in the existing act to a much more 'complex corporate' style regulatory regime. For example, there is a new duty to prevent insolvent trading similar to the corresponding obligation in the Corporations Act. This is not coupled with the corresponding 'safe harbour' defences available to directors of corporations.

If these corporate responsibilities are going to be imposed on volunteers then they should have the benefit of 'safe harbour' provisions similar to those afforded to company directors. Here we are holding volunteers on management committees and incorporated associations to a higher standard than company directors with all the resources, all the capability, all the educative opportunities. Here we are holding our management committee volunteers to a higher standard than corporate directors.

The 'safe harbour' provisions, which could be applied to management committee volunteers and are not under this bill, would give them that protection as it does corporate directors—and these are amendments only recently made to the Corporations Act. When recognising that a company may be heading towards insolvency, if directors take certain steps with the reasonable belief that it would result in a better outcome for their company then that will be a defence to any claim or proceedings brought by ASIC or any other regulator in relation to insolvent trading. That is the protection not afforded to management committee members.

In a post-COVID-19 environment, in a time when we know volunteerism is under pressure and when giving is down, surely that is the wrong message to be sending to our communities. If they put their time and effort on the line to volunteer on a management committee, surely they should be given the same protection, if not more, than those operating under a company structure.

I will turn to volunteering just for a moment. As I have said, these are people who donate hundreds of hours of their time—millions of dollars by way of volunteer service. All of us have volunteers in our community. We know that volunteerism is on the decline. In the 2016 Census there were 714,000 volunteers in Queensland—down from 980,000 in 2014 and down from 1.2 million in 2010. Right now we need greater community engagement, not less. We need more reasons for people to volunteer their time, not less.

If people are concerned about liabilities they may face in their capacity when volunteering on a management committee, they will not be volunteering. Then we will see fewer people put in their time and effort and the community will suffer for it. I am particularly concerned about that provision. That is why I flag the opposition's intent to oppose that clause.

In respect of consultation on this bill, I do not believe that there has been broad enough consultation. That was something raised by the Queensland Law Society.

**Mr Lister:** They always do. It's always the same.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs: it is always the same. Bear in mind that the Attorney-General introduced this bill on 26 November, public submissions were due to close on 19 January, and it has been sitting there waiting to be debated since that time. Bearing in mind that a lot of people who should have been submitting could well have been on holidays or were not aware of this, there were four submissions. That is fine, but we need to engage with our community sector. We need to engage with those small incorporated associations—those people on that spectrum between an unincorporated association and a company limited by guarantee by which most community services are provided in our community.

We know that there has not been proper consultation. We know that there has been little interest shown by this government. The fact that we now have only two hours for debate—the fact that we have two hours for debate on two important community-building bills; they are being debated cognately, not even being debated separately—says everything about the priorities of this government. I repeat: it says everything about the priorities of this government. Both of these bills are community-building bills and we have two hours to debate them.

I think that shows the lack of interest the government has in these issues. We are at the end of a term. It is like a box needed to be ticked—'Quick. Get this out the door. We have to get it done'—when we should be engaging more deeply in the community sector than ever before to try to come up with innovative solutions to drive volunteerism, to drive people who want to make a contribution to their community. Instead, we are imposing corporate director-like obligations on management committee members. It is appalling. It sends the wrong message to our community at a time when they should be receiving a different one.

I want to turn briefly to the ACNC. There have been some reports about the relationship between the ACNC and the various jurisdictions. I accept that under this bill there will be some efficiencies in that regard between the ACNC and other jurisdictions in stopping the duplication of reporting and other measures that the Attorney has already spoken about in her contribution. However, you have to love a coalition federal government, Mr Deputy Speaker. On the ACNC website they have a red-tape-reduction page which talks about the delivery of red-tape initiatives amongst ACNC. It is a common problem—the relationship between the ACNC and the other state and territory jurisdictions.

This morning I printed this red-tape-reduction page by the federal government and the ACNC. Notably—and I will table this—there is one jurisdiction where there are all red crosses. There are green ticks, there are jurisdictions 'In progress' and there are red crosses. Would you believe it, Mr Deputy Speaker, but the red crosses are all beside Queensland! Every other state and territory have ticks. For 'Report once' and 'Common audit thresholds', South Australia, ACT, Tasmania have tick, tick, tick and Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales are 'In progress'. For Queensland, there are three strikes. Again, that goes to show the priority of this government. They do not care about red-tape reduction. They do not care about working with the federal government. They do not care about efficiencies. They should. They should because more than ever we need to be focusing on red tape. In a post-COVID world we are going to need every bit of red-tape reduction and efficiency we can manage to get our community back on its feet and our economy back on its feet. I table that report.

*Tabled paper.* Extract, undated, from the [acnc.gov.au](https://www.acnc.gov.au) website titled 'Red Tape Reduction' [903].

I wanted to raise with the House the concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society and other stakeholders about a discrepancy still with the ACNC in relation to some thresholds. Associations have obligations to keep financial records, prepare financial statements and prepare audit reports. Under this bill, small associations are those with revenue under \$20,000; medium associations are those with

revenue between \$20,000 and \$100,000; and large associations are those with revenue over \$100,000. One cannot help but think that this bill was in fact drafted for a couple of incorporated associations that did not fit in the square neatly. Instead of addressing those couple of instances of larger incorporated associations, they have just taken a one-size-fits-all approach and will force everybody to comply with this greater regulation than they otherwise would have to.

The Queensland Law Society has argued for greater consistency across the industry, saying that the proposed tiers of financial reporting should be amended to match the classifications used by the ACNC. Their thresholds are: small charities have revenue under \$250,000; medium charities have revenue between \$250,000 and \$1 million; and large charities have revenue of \$1 million or more.

Finally, in relation to the grievance procedure—and the Attorney-General raised this—there is a clause in the bill which states that associations must abide by the grievance procedure. I note that in their submission Clubs Queensland said—

... we are concerned that Clubs will no longer have the ability to take disciplinary action against their members who have conducted themselves in a way considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the association, without first engaging in a mediation with the member.

...

... therefore submits that the term 'dispute' should be clearly defined to ensure that persons who have conducted themselves in a way considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the association cannot use the proposed dispute resolution procedures.

The Queensland Law Society submitted that it is unlikely small organisations will have the privilege of easy and accessible dispute resolution due to matters being required to be heard in the Supreme Court. I will leave that grievance procedure concern there.

The other issue I want to raise in relation to this bill relates to the Collections Act. Whether it be the bushfires over the summer or a range of other issues in our community that come up, the Collections Act deals with fundraising in Queensland. That bill was drafted in 1966. It does contain some archaic and difficult-to-read language for those people who want to set up fundraising efforts. What has been missed here is an opportunity. The Queensland Law Society called this out again. This government has missed an opportunity to review the Collections Act to bring it up to the 21st century.

There was no crowdfunding, there was no internet, there was no email and there was no technology of that nature when it was drafted in 1966, and the government has missed a chance. We are a big-hearted people in Queensland and we love to fundraise, but we have an act that is simply not fit for purpose. It is not fit for purpose for fundraising, and this government again has failed to address the concerns that could have made a difference to fundraising and that culture in our community, whether it be volunteering or fundraising. My thoughts on the Associations Incorporation Act are that there are missed opportunities that could have made a real difference to the community sector in Queensland, and the Labor government has missed it.

I will now turn to the Co-operatives National Law Bill. The policy objective of this bill is to modernise and improve the regulatory framework for the formation, registration and management of cooperatives by repealing the Cooperatives Act 1997 and adopting nationally harmonised cooperatives legislation known as the cooperatives national law. The bill strives to adopt certain benefits such as: reducing regulatory burdens, increasing operational flexibility and creating consistency in cooperatives legislation across Australian jurisdictions. The cooperatives national law is template legislation contained in the appendix to the Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012 in New South Wales. This is a national law that has been rolled out across the jurisdictions.

I was listening to the Attorney-General's contribution, and I again heard a dispassionate discussion of things that are really important to the community. The history of cooperatives goes back a very long way. I believe the first retail cooperative store in Australia was formed in Brisbane in 1859. An act was passed in 1893 that drove the development of cooperatives in regional and rural areas in particular right throughout this state. From 1890 to 1910 Queensland went from approximately 3,500 kilometres of railway to nearly 6,500 kilometres, and that drove rural development at a pace not ever seen.

**Mr Minnikin:** I bet the trains ran on time back then.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It has gone backwards since then. That saw a hastening of the development of agricultural production and communities right throughout Queensland. That decentralised our population—that is one of the things that is greatest about it—but it also helped local communities bind together against the adversity they faced in early pioneering times here in Queensland. Cooperatives allowed people to come together for a common

cause. Whatever their particular product or interest may have been, it gave them an opportunity to work together cooperatively. Today there are 70 distributing cooperatives left which relate to agriculture, fisheries, retail transport and water, and there are 100 non-distributing cooperatives in accommodation, hospitality, arts and recreation.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. There are plenty of them in the electorate of Glass House, and I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, there are plenty of them in the Darling Downs too. In fact, the 160 or so cooperatives left in Queensland are like a rollcall of regional and country towns. If you look through that list you will see towns like Townsville, Proserpine, Bundaberg, Maleny and Wamuran. My own personal experience is that I grew up on a dairy farm. My father sold our milk to a local cooperative, the Mount Tyson dairy factory, and when that went broke we sold our milk to a cooperative in Toowoomba known as Unity. I have fond memories of tours along the factory floor.

What is so special about a cooperative is that the members own the cooperative. I went on to have the privilege of working at Heritage Bank, which is probably—apart from the RACQ—Queensland's greatest mutual. Regional towns in particular need a fully functioning cooperative model. This act will help deliver that because it includes a tiered system of financial reporting whereby most small cooperatives will not be required to submit an audit or financial report to the registrar. The intent of this is to reduce costs for small cooperatives. Under the national regulations, a cooperative is defined as 'small' when it meets two of three criteria.

The cooperatives national law updates directors' and officers' duties and responsibilities with more consistent and modern requirements under the Corporations Act. The current legislation only provides that officers act honestly and with care and diligence. However, under the cooperatives national law directors will have a duty to: act in good faith in the interests of the cooperative; act with reasonable care; act for a proper purpose; and retain discretion and avoid conflicts of interest. Stakeholders are in favour of the change, stressing that adopting the same language used in the Commonwealth Corporations Act enables legal advisers to provide better advice to directors of cooperatives in respect of their duties.

One of the challenges cooperatives have faced over time has been structural problems. The same reason they have been so successful is also part of their challenge; that is, the members own the cooperative, and that is fantastic. I remember advising at Heritage Bank in relation to the annual general meeting. The beautiful thing about a mutual or cooperative annual general meeting is that one person has one vote. You can have \$100 in your account for three months, but when you come along to vote your vote means as much as somebody who has \$5 million in a term deposit. That is democracy in action, and that is what is special about cooperatives and mutual societies.

The problem mutual societies have always faced has been in relation to the raising of capital. In a banking context any profits could be held as retained earnings, but generally most cooperatives have fallen away simply because the members of that cooperative simply could not invest the capital to fund that growth. That is why cooperatives have fallen away over time. That is why, in my opinion, policymakers—particularly at a federal level, but also at the state level—have failed to regulate appropriately to encourage these different forms of organisations to survive and prosper into the 21st century.


However, I do believe there are opportunities for the future, and that again is where I think this bill could have gone a little bit further. We could have had a bigger discussion about community based companies. There are examples in Victoria where, when it looks like a community might lose its fuel station, by cobbling together enough capital and community goodwill they can tip it in and keep the fuel station in their local country town and deliver any proceeds back to their community. We know there is a will in our regional and rural towns for this to happen. This is where governments must step up and step into this space to help educate, to better represent these different community based models in policymaking decisions, and to think more deeply about how we want to encourage rural and regional communities to survive in the 21st century.

Those of us who live in regional and rural areas want local services delivered by local people. We know that that is the best way to deliver good decision-making and good governance in our communities. Those are the opportunities we must seize into the future. That is why it is pleasing to see in the cooperatives national law the introduction of a mechanism to raise funds through the issuance of cooperative capital units. CCUs are a unique and flexible financial instrument that can provide cooperatives with a means to raise funds to finance their operations without diluting member control and ownership. These CCUs can be issued to members or nonmembers.



I recall at Heritage Bank the challenges we faced as a mutual in raising capital, and I know bigger mutuals do too. We issued a dead issuance on the ASX. We were the first ever mutual ADI to do that. We had to tiptoe around our constitution because one thing we prided ourselves on more than anything else was our democratic structure that would be held in our local community. The Commonwealth government has introduced additional mechanisms by which mutual ADIs can raise capital. This is the kind of forward-thinking policymaking we need, not just from the Commonwealth government but also from this government. We need to be thinking differently about how we do business. The models by which these businesses are delivered to their communities must be seriously considered.

My opinion on this bill, which the opposition will be supporting, is that, again, it is a missed opportunity for a deeper discussion and a deeper consideration. An opportunity has been missed to plan for the strategic future in larger urban areas, but particularly in regional and rural areas where cooperatives, unincorporated associations, incorporated associations and companies limited by guarantee—all of these different structures—deliver community services. These bills have missed the opportunity to encourage volunteerism at a time when we so desperately need it. We are going to need all hands on deck to turn around our community and our economy, and the government has missed these opportunities. Sadly, for Queensland it has proven once again that this Labor government simply has the wrong priorities for our state.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of both the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 and the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in its report No. 64, which was tabled in this assembly on 27 March 2020, has recommended to the assembly that the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 be passed. The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee in its report No. 30, which was tabled in this assembly on 21 February 2020, has recommended to the assembly that the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 be passed.

Both cooperatives and incorporated associations play vital, though differing, roles in Queensland and, separately, they respond to economic, social and cultural needs and goals. In Queensland, cooperatives have been established in a range of diverse industries and community sectors, including agriculture and fishing, dairy, water supply, child care, health services, grocery and hardware supplies, community housing, recycling, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts. There are currently 165 cooperatives in Queensland, with around 19,000 members. Queensland cooperatives have a collective gross revenue of \$250 million, have over \$376 million in assets and employ around 916 people. Currently cooperatives in Queensland are administered under Queensland acts.

The Associations Incorporation Act was enacted to provide a simple and inexpensive means of incorporation for not-for-profit or charitable associations whose activities benefit communities across Queensland. Being an incorporated association provides charitable or not-for-profit associations with powers, benefits and responsibilities under law. Incorporation also means an association becomes legally separate from its members and allows an incorporated association to act in its own name, including owning property, entering into contracts and appearing in court.

Since 2012, the charitable sector has been regulated by both the state government and the national body, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. There are around 22,660 associations incorporated in Queensland, of which an estimated 3,759 are also voluntarily registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. In addition to those Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission voluntarily registered incorporated associations, there are approximately 3,220 entities registered under the Collections Act which, along with the incorporated associations, suffer the duplication of annual financial reporting requirements.


Both of the bills that I speak to today seek to amend and repeal existing Queensland law and to enact laws to clarify the operations and improve internal governance of cooperatives and incorporated associations. There are provisions contained in the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 to apply the cooperatives national regulations made under the cooperatives national law as a law of Queensland. Legislation is the only way to achieve the objective of modernising and improving the regulatory framework for cooperatives, principally through nationally harmonised cooperatives laws. Specific benefits of creating nationally harmonised laws for cooperatives include a reduction in regulatory burdens, increased operational flexibility and consistency in cooperatives legislation across the Australian states and territories.

Provisions have been included in the Co-operatives National Law Bill to ensure the adoption of a nationally harmonised law does not infringe on Queensland's sovereignty and in no way detracts from the Queensland parliament's right to adopt new legislation or to make variations. The Co-operatives National Law Bill provides that Queensland may make local regulations about matters specific to



Queensland, such as prescribing fees for registry services, and may modify the application of a national regulation in Queensland. The Co-operatives National Law Bill provides that the Supreme Court of Queensland and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal are the designated tribunals.

The bill to amend the cooperatives national law and the Associations Incorporation Act seeks to improve the internal governance of incorporated associations by providing guidance on how management committee members and officers of associations should meet governance obligations. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.18 pm): I too rise to make a contribution on the cognate debate on the two bills before us—the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 and the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I would like to congratulate my friend the member for Toowoomba South for his contribution today. It was not just a contribution that reflected on the technicalities of the bill. He actually rooted it in community and he made an excellent point in saying *inter alia* that incorporated bodies are a vital part of our communities, particularly in the bush.

All of us in this House are associated with numerous local community groups that do great work in the community and they depend on the incorporated system to run their businesses. That is one of the reasons why we really needed to have more time to debate this bill—because it is so widespread. I am privileged that I have an opportunity to speak and I am sure I will take up the full 10 minutes in doing so. I do not in any way dissent from my side's agreement with the government to sacrifice some time from this cognate debate for other bills which are very important. However, it reflects on the fact that we really need more time for all of these things.

To give an indication of why I say that, I would like to honour some of the incorporated bodies in my electorate of Southern Downs with a mention in this House. They are examples of the sorts of groups in our community that do fantastic work. They are the fabric that our country electorates and society are based on. There is the Macintyre Pet and Animal Rescue service, the Cecil Plains history association, the Millmerran Commerce and Progress Association, the Inglewood gun club of which I am proud to be a patron and the Inglewood Show Society. There are also school P&Cs like the Talwood State School and Bungunya State School P&Cs. These groups do wonderful work in our schools. They raise funds to provide extras at the schools and are an important connection with the communities that love them, all for the betterment and in the interests of the students.

There is the Warwick Pistol Club and the Warwick RSL Memorial Club, and I am honoured to be patron of both of those. There is the Freestone Memorial Hall Association, which is a group that works under incorporated guidelines and does wonderful work in that part of the world. Without the Freestone Memorial Hall there would not be a Freestone. I am sure the good folk of Freestone, which is east of Warwick, would agree with me. There is the Maryvale Progress Association, the Amiens History Association, the Stanthorpe Museum, ArtWorks Granite Belt—and I am proud to be their patron as well—and the Granite Belt Art and Craft Trail. They are running a marvellous art trail in November this year showcasing local art on the Granite Belt. That is a wonderful way to attract tourists and link the community with art and commerce. The Stanthorpe Band is another group of which I am proud to be patron.

As we all know, these sorts of organisations are composed of great people. They put in unpaid effort in order to run events to keep their communities entertained and supported—myriad different avenues of activity. I can be sure in speaking for them about one of the bill's impacts on them which is the more onerous responsibilities they will face. My honourable friend the shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice made the point that in some cases these responsibilities are more onerous than those faced by the directors of corporations. That just cannot be right. I certainly support my side's foreshadowing that we will be opposing clause 31 of the bill, which relates to the onerous reporting requirements this bill will impose on the mums and dads, brothers and sisters who run the local golf club, the local history group, a support group, a playgroup, a kindy or something like that.

We all know that it is becoming harder and harder to attract volunteers to undertake work to keep these bodies going. I give an example of my experience when I was an Air Force officer and I did a stint at Air Force headquarters in Canberra associated with the Air Force cadets organisation. Along with the Navy cadets and Army cadets, they are a great group that does an enormous amount of good for young people. They give them the opportunity to excel, to challenge their limitations, to make friends and to build their self-esteem, confidence and skills. One of the difficulties they face is that, like the provisions of this bill, the requirements for instructors became more and more onerous. The amount of responsibility and the number of checks and balances which in many cases were desirable and necessary nevertheless made it harder and harder to attract staff—the mums and dads who run these cadet units. As a result, many of those units in places like Southern Downs are struggling to survive.

Taking the parents group which might be associated with a cadet unit as an example, they will be working under these conditions as an incorporated body. This is simply adding to the demands on the good people who give their time for nothing but for the good of their community. It will impact on them. It will impose extra requirements which are not always available in the community for volunteers and thus will make it harder and harder for them to make that contribution. I certainly agree with the shadow Attorney-General in speaking about that. Speaking for the Granite Belt, the Warwick area and the Goondiwindi area in my electorate, I point out that without these associations we would not have a community. So much of what we do is dependent upon the people who do good work in those fields.

I turn now to the implications for mutuals and cooperatives. I acknowledge that the bill is a necessary action in the machinery of government since we need to align ourselves with the Commonwealth and the other states and territories and we need to have a system that is up to date. However, I would say that given that these two bills are so important, including the one referring to mutuals and cooperatives, why was there a complaint from the Law Society yet again that there was not enough time for consultation? Personally, I do not always see eye to eye with what the Queensland Law Society has to say, but I would say that they are very diligent and they have the greatest intention in looking after the public good in the role they perform in providing the committee I serve on, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, with feedback. Sometimes that feedback has been very astute and incisive, and I hope it has been the impetus for change for the program that governments put forward.

One of the things they have been saying repeatedly through the current president and also Mr Potts, the previous president, is that there has been inadequate opportunity for consultation. I think that is poor. We need to show more respect to them, the other community groups, interested parties and individuals who might wish to contribute to the committee process because that is what it is there for.

There are not as many cooperatives and mutuals in my electorate of Southern Downs as there are incorporated bodies. There is the Heritage Bank, which the shadow Attorney-General referred to, and I know he has an illustrious past serving that great institution. We have those in Southern Downs as well. There is also the Killarney Co-op, which is a marvellous institution. It is doing it tough at the moment but it is keeping its head above water. They run the service station, the supermarket and the rural supply store in Killarney and they are a much beloved and integral part of that community. There are also other commercial cooperatives and mutuals such as Go Vita, which has two stores in my electorate, in Stanthorpe and Warwick. That is run by John Bylicki. That is another service that people appreciate. It is a good business.

All of these examples are dependent upon the work we are doing here, so it really says something about the government's inattention to the implications, particularly in the bush, that these bills will have on the groups we depend on. There was limited time for consultation and we only get two hours to debate these bills in cognate. The submitters have complained again that there has not been enough opportunity for consultation.

We do support the bills apart from our opposition to clause 31 of the incorporated bodies bill. Other than that, I commend the bills to the House.



**Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.28 pm): I stand before the House to make a brief contribution to the two bills before the House, the Co-operatives National Law Bill and the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will speak to the cooperatives bill first as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that considered the bill. I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members, the wonderful secretariat team and, of course, the submissions received from the stakeholders.

Cooperatives are democratically controlled, jointly owned enterprises created for common economic, social and cultural needs and goals. There are some 165 cooperatives operating in Queensland across differing fields such as consumer goods, marketing, health and housing services, and community resources. This bill will repeal the Cooperatives Act and apply the cooperatives national law.

As a background, the cooperatives national law was developed with New South Wales appointed as the host jurisdiction but based on Queensland's Cooperatives Act. All states had agreed to participate in the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs to implement the national legislation. These laws commenced in New South Wales and Victoria in 2014, South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania in 2015, and Western Australia and ACT in 2017. However, despite these laws being modelled on Queensland laws as being the best in the country at the time, the Newman government withdrew Queensland from the national agreement.


Now we consider the benefits of Queensland co-ops participating in the national agreement under the cooperatives national law, and these include the reduction of reporting for small cooperatives. The cost of audited statements on an annual basis can be a large expense for small not-for-profits and other co-ops. They will still be required to report and provide financial records but will only need to produce audited documents when required to do so. It will provide for automatic mutual recognition in other jurisdictions. There is currently a cost for Queensland co-ops that are classed as 'foreign cooperatives' to register and operate in another state. By participating in the national agreement, it will reduce costs and red tape for Queensland co-ops, and they will no longer be disadvantaged in growing their operations into other states. Other improvements include increased governance to modern standards and updated directors' and officers' duties. The submitters supported Queensland participating in the cooperatives national law, and I support the bill as well.

In turning to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for its consideration. In coming to the House to contribute to this bill, I did catch a bit of the shadow Attorney-General's contribution in which he indicated that that side of the House appears to have a monopoly on supporting community and other associated incorporations. While loathe to turn this into some kind of contest where I rattle off a shopping list of how many cooperatives are in our organisations and our electorates—having been and worked in the community sector and as part of an associated incorporation during the Newman government years—the community sector knows exactly how much support they will have from an LNP government. The services of our not-for-profits were being privatised. They were ready to close their doors and sack their staff because they knew the funding dried up under an LNP government. They know exactly what is at stake when an LNP government is in charge and is funding the community sector.

In contributing to this debate, I declare that I hold a management committee position as president of my local Beenleigh District Community Development Association, better known as the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre. I have held this voluntary position for over five years. There have been significant changes in the not-for-profit sector over the past 10 years, particularly with the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. I attest that, for small associations managed by predominantly volunteer positions, many of the regulations governing them can be quite daunting and time consuming. If you look at who currently sits on these management committees and boards, you see the same types of people—committed and dedicated volunteers who have a vast amount of localised corporate knowledge. This is great to see, but I am often concerned about how accessible and inviting such positions are for younger people or those with limited experience in the sector. Any attempts to reduce reporting burdens are welcomed.

One of the key objectives of the bill is to reduce regulatory burden. The primary reporting reduction introduced by this bill will be the exemption of associations that are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission from Queensland government reporting requirements. It is anticipated that the removal of these additional reporting requirements will benefit over 16½ per cent of all incorporated associations in Queensland. Further, reduction in regulatory burdens include instances where a small association would not ordinarily have to report annually but for an unusual, non-reoccurring payment or a payout that triggers a requirement for an annual report as if it were a larger association.

I outline to the House that, even within my small organisation, the preparation of annual financial statements costs thousands of dollars, often an amount out of reach for smaller end associations. In these instances, the association will be able to apply to the chief executive to seek a declaration that the association is small and to report in such a manner. It is also timely that associations have the ability to conduct meetings using communications technology without requiring specific rules in their incorporations allowing such. Whilst I am lucky in my association's instance that we already had rules that gave us the option to continue our management meetings via Zoom, not all have that rule already standing. Certainly, during COVID-19 many committees have not been able to meet to implement rule changes to allow it. The ability to meet remotely has allowed us to be flexible and agile around COVID-19 changes and around the impacts on the community sector. The stakeholders and submitters were supportive of the bill. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.34 pm): Queensland's community groups, incorporated associations and cooperatives are the heart and soul of just about every community. They draw people together in a united cause, empowering them to work for the betterment of all. As renowned author and behaviourist Margaret Wheatley said—

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

The dedicated individuals who head and participate in these organisations often make unbelievable sacrifices to achieve these ambitious goals. These hardworking community members and often volunteers make sacrifices to help others, yet it is often these generous individuals who need a helping hand in putting their cause before themselves. As the lucky few chosen to represent our communities and legislate their betterment, the least we can do is provide them a helping hand. This is one of the core beliefs of the LNP: giving people a hand up, not a handout and getting governments out of their way to let them do their job.

Today I contribute to the debate on two bills which seek to make a small contribution to this effort. Debated in cognate, the associations incorporation and co-operatives national law bills each seek to modernise, streamline and clarify elements of the existing acts in order to improve consistency and reduce regulatory burden. Before I go on, I thank the committees responsible for the examination of each of these bills—the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee—both their secretariats and the submitters to their bills for all of their efforts.

The Co-operatives National Law Bill will modernise and improve the regulatory framework for the formation, registration and management of cooperatives by repealing the Cooperatives Act 1997 and adopting the nationally harmonised cooperatives legislation. The bill will introduce a tiered system of financial reporting, therefore reducing the reporting burden on smaller cooperatives, clarifying and updating the duties and responsibilities of a cooperatives director and their officers, and introducing the concepts of cooperative capital units. These changes will assist Queensland's 165 cooperatives that collectively produce a revenue of \$250 million and control \$366 million in assets and employ nearly 1,000 people. But, as I contend, more could have been done, especially to tailor the demands of accountability to the capacity of the organisations. Cooperatives are an essential asset in Queensland's economy. As a party that will always support small business and the growth of the state's economy, the LNP supports any measures which will achieve this goal.

The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill seeks to clarify the operation of incorporated associations by reducing the regulatory burden placed on these groups and by streamlining government processes concerning incorporated associations. The bill will insert a variety of new sections into the existing act which will impose additional obligations on members of an association's management committee. I give a shout-out to the member for Scenic Rim, who a few years ago sought to implement these changes and bring about this reform. I offer him our sincere congratulations. It will also clarify the duties of an officer in the association and create a provision requiring associations to undertake grievance procedures in the event of a dispute. For the most part, these insertions and changes are widely supported both by submitters to the bill and the LNP. This is not to say that the bill is without fault. Indeed, one glaring fault with the bill threatens to undo all of the good work this could achieve.

Clause 31 of the bill proposes the insertion of measures into the act which will place onerous, corporate director style duties on the shoulders of the officers of incorporated associations. This is simply ludicrous. As the Queensland Law Society suggested in its submission to the bill, this clause firmly shifts the management of community run and focused incorporated associations into the realm of the corporate regime. We all agree with accountabilities and administrative controls and demands, but they must be relevant and directly tailored to the capacity of the organisation. The community minded men and women who make daily sacrifices to fight for the betterment of their communities are not corporate elites and this Labor government should not allow them to be treated as if they are.


I want to make mention of just one of the many incorporated associations in my electorate and what impacts this clause will have on its operations. The Lockyer Valley Fauna Sanctuary works tirelessly to protect Lockyer's vulnerable fauna and provides rescue and specialised veterinary support for injured, rare and threatened species before releasing them back into the wild. David Locke and his volunteer team at the sanctuary give up countless hours and every spare cent they have to care for vulnerable animals. At any given time, David's property will undoubtedly play home to hundreds of vulnerable and threatened species in various states of rehabilitation. The sanctuary's work often goes without thanks or acknowledgement, but to David that does not matter. He and his team do not work for praise or returns; they do it to help animals and ensure that future residents of Lockyer are able to live alongside the same unique creatures we do now. Let me place officially on record my sincere thanks to David Locke and the Lockyer Valley Fauna Sanctuary.

Do these actions sound like a corporate elite? They certainly do not to me. The Lockyer Valley Fauna Sanctuary and its officers should not be forced to endure the same onerous obligations and responsibilities faced by corporate enterprises without first having access to the same regulatory defences. It is simply hypocritical to hold one group to the same standard as another without first

ensuring that each group has equal access to the same defences. A failure to do so will result in innumerable unintended consequences for the 22,000-odd community associations across Queensland and threaten the continued existence of especially small community based, focused and led organisations like the Lockyer Valley Fauna Sanctuary.

It is clear that this clause is a direct result of the lack of consultation completed on this bill. This is another concern highlighted by the Queensland Law Society's submission. The Law Society notes that reforms of this kind benefit from extensive and detailed consultation with stakeholders who work closely with incorporated associations. The consultation period offered for this bill could be called anything but extensive. Completed over the Christmas holiday period, it was simply impossible for all stakeholders to provide feedback or a submission to this bill, leaving it short on detail and short on input from those seriously affected by its changes. Sadly, this is the hallmark of Queensland Labor governments—big on ideas and headlines but small on details that matter, undertaking not consultation but insultation just ticking boxes.

Putting aside the criticisms that I have raised, these bills have some positives, but again this homework by Labor is just not as good as it could be. In any case, I will join with my colleagues in the LNP by not opposing the bill bar clause 31, as I mentioned. The LNP will always stand up and fight to boost Queensland's economy and protect Queensland from this Labor government. A Deb Frecklington LNP leading Queensland after 31 October 2020 is the only way to get Queensland working again with ambitious vision and a drive to see Queensland the powerhouse economy that it was when I was growing up.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the cognate debate of the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Co-operatives National Law Bill. The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was referred to my committee for inquiry in November last year, so my comments are largely directed at that bill. However, in general terms, both bills seek to achieve a similar aim. Both progress important reforms aimed at modernising and improving the regulatory framework within which associations incorporated and cooperatives in Queensland operate.


In respect of the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the bill progresses important reforms for more than 22,000 not-for-profit associations incorporated in Queensland. Every member of this chamber knows how important they are because we each have so many across our electorates. From local sporting groups, community and progress associations, Lions, Rotary and many others, they provide a service, connection and purpose for like-minded people across our communities and across Queensland, and that is why the reforms contained in the bill to clarify the operation of the Associations Incorporation Act to improve the internal governance of incorporated associations, reduce regulatory burden and streamline, enhance or otherwise improve governance processes are so welcome. Anything we can do to make the establishment and running of these entities easier for the volunteers who invariably run them is a positive and welcome reform.

Quite technical in nature, the bill attracted a small number of submissions to our committee inquiry from key stakeholders and peak bodies. As mentioned, the bill proposes a number of amendments aimed at reducing the regulatory burden experienced by incorporated associations and modernising the legislative framework that applies to them. For example, the bill will ensure all associations have the ability to conduct general meetings via communications technology if they desire to do so without necessarily having to amend any of their rules. The bill will also amend the act so that incorporated associations are no longer required to use a common seal. This will reduce red tape for associations in the execution of contracts and other documents and will bring the Associations Incorporation Act into line with equivalent legislation in other states.

The bill also introduces a requirement for incorporated associations to have a formal mechanism by which to address internal disputes to ensure parties to a dispute attempt to resolve the matter internally before seeking adjudication through the court system. Importantly, the grievance procedure must enable a member to appoint any person to act on their behalf and provide each party to the dispute with an opportunity to be heard. The grievance procedure must also provide for mediation. The bill provides that, if an association's rules do not contain a grievance procedure or contain a grievance procedure that does not comply with the principles set out in the bill, the grievance procedure outlined in the model rules will apply. This approach ensures all incorporated associations will be obligated to observe a compliant grievance procedure while also relieving associations of any implementation burden, as associations may choose to allow the model rule procedure to apply automatically. It is practical and measured and I believe of particular guidance to smaller associations incorporated that may not have access to expertise in drafting such a procedure but that equally should have such a mechanism in place for all parties involved.

The bill also introduces a number of amendments to clarify the operation of the act, including inserting an objects clause to clearly identify its purpose and scope, and introduces amendments to streamline internal governance processes—all of which I know will be welcomed by incorporated associations across Queensland. Stakeholders to the committee inquiry generally supported the bill but, however, raised a number of suggestions relating to amendments that will be the subject of further detailed consultation with regard to the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999 and model rules.

In closing, on behalf of the committee I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions and the Queensland Law Society and Clubs Queensland which appeared before the committee. I also thank officials from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who briefed the committee on the bill and responded to submissions and committee requests for further information. The committee made one recommendation—that the bill be passed—and I note that the legal affairs committee did likewise with regard to the Co-operatives National Law Bill. Accordingly, I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 and the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to start with the Co-operatives National Law Bill because, as was picked up by the shadow Attorney-General, the electorate of Glass House is basically the home of cooperatives in the state of Queensland and indeed has an international reputation. Many of the individuals who were instrumental in setting up cooperatives in the Glass House electorate went on to international fame and often were doing a lot of work in establishing cooperatives around the world.

At the outset I want to acknowledge a good friend of mind, Jill Jordan, who sadly passed away a number of years ago. Jill and I would be the first to admit that we come from different sides of the political perspective, but we did a lot of work in a previous career of mine around community and establishing community. It was Jill who was instrumental in setting up the Maleny Credit Union under a cooperative model at the time and many others in the area, including the Maple Street Co-op—one of the great grocery stores in the middle of Maleny.

We have plenty of others. We have land share type cooperatives such as Crystal Waters Community Cooperative and, as was mentioned, a number of hardware and agricultural supply cooperatives like Coochin Creek Fruit Growers' Cooperative, the Elimbah Fruitgrowers' Cooperative managed by Lionel Sach and the famous Wamuran Cooperative as well—my good mate Howard Walters, the de facto mayor of Wamuran, runs that cooperative. They do a fantastic job servicing the residential community of Wamuran but also the broader agricultural producers in the area with everything they need to get those strawberries, pineapples and the other fruit and veges we grow in our part of the world to market. I acknowledge each of those cooperatives.

The good news for those cooperatives is that this legislation will modernise and improve the regulatory framework in which they operate. Importantly, it will reduce the regulatory burden around financial reporting. The Coochin Creek Fruit Growers Cooperative put in a submission on the bill. They said that the existing financial reporting regulations are onerous on a small cooperative such as theirs. This bill removes the requirement to submit an audit or financial report to the registrar if a cooperative is considered a small cooperative. To be a small cooperative it needs to comply with two out of the following three: have consolidated revenues of less than \$8 million, assets less than \$4 million or fewer than 30 employees. If a cooperative fits within that definition there is a huge reduction in financial reporting requirements, which is great.

This bill also brings in a new fundraising opportunity through the offer of cooperative capital units to members and non-members. I think this is exciting. We have seen it in operation in New South Wales since 1992. It gives the potential for external sources to provide funding to cooperatives to help them grow, expand and continue their operation. It is fantastic to see this positive red-tape-reduction work in this bill as it pertains to cooperatives. I and the LNP will be supporting it.

I am concerned that it is the opposite approach being taken within the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I continue, like others I do need to declare that I am a member of a number of incorporated associations, as is my wife. I am also patron of a number as well. The shadow Attorney-General used the phrase 'this bill is a missed opportunity'. It really is. At a time when we should be looking for ways to reduce the regulatory burden on our largely volunteer associations, we appear to be making it harder and more onerous for them.

Does the government know what is going on in volunteer land at the moment? Let me give members one example. My wife serves on the executive of the local soccer club. Football of any code has been incredibly hard hit by COVID. We had only pretty much started the season, teams were starting to train, when COVID hit and everything was rightly shut down. No-one is disputing that. The

repercussions on an executive of a small volunteer based association like a football club is that a number of members lost their jobs, a number of members had serious health concerns, a number of members had to put aside their support of the club to focus on teaching their kids while their kids were not at school. It meant that keeping that club afloat during COVID became the responsibility of a couple of individuals.


As we have come through the worst of the health situation and into the economic crisis that is starting to arise through restrictions, some coaches and managers are wanting to get on the field sooner than the restrictions allow, while others do not want to have a bar of it. Teams are all over the shop. The rules are changing on a daily basis. We are relying on volunteers to step up and implement COVID-safe plans as well as continue to meet their obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act. It has put an extraordinary level of strain and stress on individuals such as my wife and others on that executive.

Shaun De Courcy at the Beegees—the Beerwah-Glass House United Football Club, the mighty Stanley River Wolves, who won the Sunshine Coast A division rugby league competition last year—and volunteers at all the sporting and community associations around the electorate of Glass House are really struggling with their responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Act. It pains me to read that we are increasing the regulatory burden on these people. As was mentioned by others, we will be opposing clause 31 because it does create onerous corporate director style duties on officers. The bill imposes many new compliance obligations on an association's management committee, some of which are quite onerous for organisations which are typically led and run by those volunteers I mentioned.

We agree with the view of the Queensland Law Society that the amendments shift the position of an incorporated association firmly out of the middle ground into the corporate regime and, in fact, have some more onerous regulatory features. It is not coupled with safe harbour defences available to directors of corporations. These are organisations largely run by volunteers yet we are treating them more harshly than corporates.

We are also concerned about the onerous reporting obligations under the bill. As the shadow Attorney-General mentioned, it seems that because of a small number of very large corporations all incorporated associations will be penalised by these new regulations. The Queensland Law Society were arguing that the Office of Fair Trading be given the power to move large organisations away from incorporated associations to a company limited by guarantee structure. That would seem like a far more appropriate solution to what we are facing. There is so much burden already on these associations. We should not be adding more and certainly not in an environment where many of them are struggling to continue because of COVID.

I believe this is an opportunity lost. I hope that an incoming LNP government actually picks this up and runs with it, that we do a lot more work at trying to find ways to reduce the regulatory burden on our incorporated associations, that we find ways to encourage people back into volunteering in their local clubs and their local community organisations, not trying to push them away because of the hurdles that they have to overcome. I think our communities are what they are because people step up and take on these roles. The fabric of our communities is changing because people do not want to do that anymore because they are fearful of those responsibilities. We will do a lot as a government, as a parliament, if we can come up with solutions that empower people to be part of these associations, whether it be sporting, community, financial or what have you, and get them back on those executives, powering those organisations within our communities.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 currently before the House. I first need to declare that I am a member of a number of local incorporations and I serve as a patron on many of our local organisations. This bill seeks to deliver a wide range of much needed reforms for Queensland's vast not-for-profit industry aimed at improving the experience of incorporated associations. These amendments seek to improve internal governance of incorporated associations, reduce the regulatory burden and to streamline and enhance government processes.

Incorporated associations provide an essential outlet for like-minded people like us to collaborate and participate in sport, social activities and hobbies, including industry representation as well as support for community or charitable organisations. I have a number of local incorporated organisations in my community. These are mostly run by hardworking and committed local people. Improving governance and reducing the burden on these local volunteers is so important to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our local organisations and all that these organisations provide for the constituents of my electorate of Mansfield.

Queensland businesses have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic and, unfortunately, incorporated associations have not been spared from this destructive force. This bill delivers upon the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to supporting and assisting incorporated associations through these challenging and uncertain times. I note that there have been many initiatives that the Palaszczuk government has announced recently for our local sporting organisations in particular. This will be achieved firstly by clarifying the operation of the Associations Incorporation Act. This bill seeks to establish a scheme for the incorporation of associations, as well as matters including corporate governance, financial accountability and rules and membership of incorporated associations.

This bill also seeks to eliminate any ambiguity surrounding whether an association may adopt the model rules at schedule 4 of the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999 after its incorporation. To achieve this clarification this bill introduces a mechanism to expressly allow incorporated associations to amend their rules with the current modern rules. By providing guidance on how management committee members and officers of incorporated associations should satisfy their governance obligations, this bill seeks to reform the governance standards of these associations. I thank all of the members of incorporations who have made submissions and I thank all of our committee members from both sides of the House for their contributions to this bill. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Sorensen, Mr T



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The last time that this House met, I discussed the economic pain that was being inflicted on Queenslanders because of the government's border shambles. I am surprised that, four weeks later, we are here again and the border shambles is still going on. Every day the confusion caused by this government is closing businesses and costing jobs. The Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, has made it clear that we must open Queensland to the rest of Australia and that we must tell the rest of Australia when that will happen. This great state of ours is a tourism state and we need tourists, because, of course, tourists mean jobs. Where are those jobs located? They are on the Gold Coast, in the Far North, in the Whitsundays, on the Sunshine Coast, in North Queensland, in the outback and in the South Burnett and Somerset regions—all of those beautiful parts of Queensland and everywhere else in between.

Queenslanders have flattened the curve and the Palaszczuk government must stop flattening our economy. Businesses need certainty. They need clarity about when the borders will be opened so that they can plan their way out of this economic crisis. The Palaszczuk Labor government must commit to opening the borders in July, as the road map has stated. The Premier refuses to rule out the possibility that our borders will remain closed until September or even longer. The Premier needs to stop playing politics with this issue and start focusing on people, because people's lives are being turned upside down by this crisis.

In the past few weeks we have heard a lot of talk about bubbles, be it a North Queensland travel bubble, a bubble with South Australia or even a bubble with New Zealand. However, the real problem that Queensland has is the Labor bubble, which is the bubble that this government lives in. We know that the ministers and the government are so out of touch that they buy investment properties on their smartphones. While they are building up their property portfolios, the jobs of ordinary Queenslanders are disappearing.

The Palaszczuk government is a threat to the tens of thousands of jobs in our tourism industry. We urgently need the dollars that interstate tourists bring to Queensland. They spend a lot of dollars right here in Queensland. To give the House some figures, every year interstate tourists spend \$2.35 billion on the Gold Coast, \$2.3 billion in Brisbane, \$1.48 billion in Far North Queensland, \$1 billion on the Sunshine Coast, \$312 million in the Whitsundays, \$218 million in North Queensland and \$188 million on the Fraser Coast. You cannot rip billions of dollars out of the tourism industry without destroying tens of thousands of jobs. It is time to stop flattening the economy. It is time to reopen our borders. Queensland can recover from this crisis, but first the Palaszczuk government has to get out of way.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you know I am from regional Queensland and I am proud of it. My team fights for the regions because we listen to the regions. My deputy leader, Tim Mander, and I spent last week on the road, travelling from Far North Queensland to Townsville. Along the way we met hundreds



of people who have a simple message for this government: stop flattening the economy. In Cairns I met Paul Harris, who runs Uncle Brian's bus tours.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The poor guy has had to lose 11 staff, and those opposite laugh. There are barely any tourists in Cairns. If the Palaszczuk government ministers and the Premier left the tarmac to speak to people in Cairns, they would know how much they are hurting. They are so out of touch. They have one or two people lined up to meet them. Did they go into Mackay and actually talk to the people? No, they did not! They jumped in and out. It is an absolute disgrace, but the good thing is that the people have seen through the Palaszczuk government. They have seen through those jokers opposite who actually think it is funny to get in a taxpayer funded jet and pop into a town for half an hour, making their way across Queensland but never once listening to the heartbreaking stories of business owners who are worried about their colleagues.

**Mr Mander:** The Treasurer is laughing.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** People are thinking of taking their lives. They are thinking of taking their lives, Treasurer, so you can sit there and joke as much as you like!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It does distress me and the people I met on that trip are distressed. Yes, they want to keep Queensland safe, but this is about their livelihoods. I see the member grin. I ask him to please not do it; it is embarrassing for him.

We met people such as Sharyn and Alan at the Ingham Royal Hotel. They said that I was one of their first regulars to come back. Chris Crowe's Rollingstone caravan park is at 13 per cent capacity. At this time of year, that park should be at 100 per cent or, at the very least, at 80 per cent capacity. In Townsville, at the Banyo Paterson Motor Inn the feisty Annette Langdon is definitely not laughing at the Palaszczuk government. Her business made it through the floods and she told us that now she is trying to encourage the Palaszczuk government to listen to business owners such as herself and her fiancé. There are no people staying in their motel because the borders are not open, but out of their own pockets they are paying two staff members as they use the last of their money to try to renovate their motel. I can tell the House that theirs was a sad story, so let us hope that this government starts listening. The people of Queensland deserve a government that backs them, that listens to them and that actually stands up for them, instead of just playing politics with people's lives. The list goes on and on.

While I was in Cairns, it was fascinating to hear about the debacle that is the Cairns Convention Centre, which is being built under Annastacia Palaszczuk's watch. The Palaszczuk Labor government refuses to let in southern tourists, but they will let southern construction companies build a Far North Queensland convention centre. In Townsville, the crime crisis goes on and on. We have seen the fatal consequences of that crisis with four young lives wasted, a community living in fear and police hamstrung by the Palaszczuk government. It is no wonder that the people of Cairns and Townsville are desperate for a change. I repeat: it is no wonder that people are looking for a change. That is why the LNP and my team have an economic plan to get Queensland out of the disastrous state that we have been in under the Palaszczuk government. Our plan includes the new Bradfield scheme, building the second M1, empowering our regions and securing our children's future. It is important that we have a decade of secure jobs going into the future.

Finally, I am sure that everyone in this House would like to pay tribute to the member for Hervey Bay. After serving the people of Hervey Bay for 27 years as a councillor, a mayor and then a member of parliament, Ted Sorensen has announced that he is stepping down at the next state election. He will be sorely missed by everyone in the LNP team. I know that his community of Hervey Bay will also miss him. Ted has played a central role in the development of Hervey Bay, bringing about better health services, better schools and a better airport for his community. He has served Queensland with distinction. We give him our love and our thanks. I wish him and Paula, their children and grandchildren all the very best for the future. Thank you, Ted, from all of us.

### LNP Opposition

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.10 pm): I begin by saying that nothing tests the quality of policy like adversity, and nothing tests the quality of leadership like a crisis and what a crisis we have had this year. What a contrast we have also

seen over the past few weeks. On one hand we have the calm, measured and effective leadership of the Premier; on the other hand, as we just saw, 10 minutes of whinging, complaint and criticism about Queensland from the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker—not 10 minutes, years—years of complaint and whinging about Queensland from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition wants the borders open, but she cannot even open the door of the party room to her party president. What a divided and chaotic rabble we have seen from the LNP. It was all on display. We saw a press article today saying, ‘This is a matter for the party; it is behind closed doors,’ except it is in the media every single day. They are a divided and chaotic rabble and Queenslanders know it. They know that is what defines the LNP. If you cannot govern yourself, you surely cannot govern Queensland. That is the contest: the calm, measured and effective leadership of the Premier of Queensland versus the chaos, division, whining and complaint from the LNP. We have a Premier who is looking to the future and an opposition leader who is watching her back. That is the truth.

The Leader of the Opposition floats on a sea of mediocrity. No-one defines that better than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Treasurer. What a contribution the shadow Treasurer has made to public debate in this Parliament! Remember when he told us that the problem with the Parole Board is that there were too many women on it? The member for Everton announced on radio that it was irrelevant and irresponsible to have a debt plan for Queensland. He declared the role of the Queensland government was to sell the state. Many a true word said in jest. Just last Sunday he announced his single laser-like focus not on COVID, not on jobs, not on the economy but on his own party room. That is the focus of the LNP. Being lectured to by the member for Everton on economic management is like being lectured to by the member for Broadwater on loyalty.

They keep going back to the same dishonest comments. He reproduced a claim on Twitter, already corrected in our parliament, that 18,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost in Queensland—utterly and completely untrue. Figures from March showed there were an additional 500 people working in manufacturing under our government compared to the 12,500 manufacturing jobs lost when he was a minister—12,500 jobs! What about full-time jobs? Under Labor, up 3,400; under them, down 14,700. I am proud to be part of a government that created 250,000 jobs.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned.

**Mr DICK:** Of course he talks about unemployment. He will not talk about the unemployment figure under their government. Even during COVID we are at 6.1 per cent. It got to 6.4 under the LNP! No apology to Queenslanders there. We created 250,000 jobs. We created 53,500 jobs in the past year to March. In the final year of the Newman government, 4,600 jobs were lost in Queensland without a pandemic.

I am happy to have a contest on economic performance, on economic management and on job creation. That is the truth. The election will be about who will invest, create and support jobs in Queensland, including investment in the future industries of our state—green hydrogen, renewable energy. That investment will complement the package we announced today—hundreds of millions of dollars to sustain jobs in our great cornerstone industries of agriculture, mining, construction, and then backing in those industries that are suffering—tourism, hospitality and the arts sector—making sure that those parts of the economy are supported through this crisis. There is a clear choice: a strong, united government delivering for Queensland or a chaotic divided rabble that is the LNP that will deliver nothing for our state.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; LNP Commitments**



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): When it comes to the Public Service wage freeze, the Premier is all over the shop. First it was effective from April, then it was effective from 1 July. First it was a wage freeze, now it is a deferral. Premier, what is it? It is chaos. There is no consensus, no consultation and no certainty. It shows that Labor has absolutely no clue. This is a total debacle, and it is one of the consequences of not having a budget.

Queensland is still the only state without a budget, the only state that does not have an economic plan to come out of the coronavirus crisis. The former treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, brought the budget forward to April, then used the excuse of the coronavirus to delay that budget. She then said she was going to deliver some financial statements in May. There is a new Treasurer here now. That promise by the government has gone.

We need a budget because we need to know how badly this state is going. Before the coronavirus, this state had the highest average unemployment rate over the last year, the highest number of bankruptcies, the lowest level of business confidence and the highest debt level in the country. That is why we need a plan to go forward. People deserve the right to know how many new taxes will be necessary to fund the promises that the Palaszczuk government has made and will make in the future. People have the right to know that.


In stark contrast, the LNP has made a commitment that in the first 100 days of a Frecklington government we will deliver a budget. If that means that senior public servants and I have to work through the Christmas break, then that is exactly what we will do. We will show in our budget within the first 100 days how we will fund some of the great plans that have already been announced by the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, a woman who has a vision for this state.

The New Bradfield Scheme is the most visionary project that any politician has announced since the Snowy Mountain Hydro Scheme. It will be a new hydro scheme that will store the monsoonal rains of the north and put it to more effective use to provide the water security that this state needs. It will provide hydro-electricity and water to irrigate an area the size of Tasmania, west of the Great Dividing Range, which will stop all that sediment going to the Great Barrier Reef, and it will create not one year of jobs, not two years of jobs, but a decade of jobs right throughout this state.

That is the type of vision that we need. We need a budget so that we can explain to people how that will take place. There is the construction of the second M1. It is providing competition for all electricity consumers in the retail market throughout the regions. By guaranteeing businesses that there will be no new taxes in the future, that there will be no new taxes in the first term of a Frecklington-led government and, when it comes to royalties, that there will be no increase in royalties for 10 years, that is the type of confidence-building needed by businesses so that they will invest in this great state.

We want this state to once again be the economic powerhouse of this country—just like it was when I was growing up. This was the state that everybody wanted to come to—the place of opportunity. Over the last five years the Palaszczuk government has totally smashed that reputation to smithereens. We have a plan that will be outlined in the budget delivered in the first 100 days of government. People will know that we are fair dinkum and that we are the only side of politics they can trust when it comes to managing the economy and creating an environment where businesses want to come to this state and invest. Investment leads to confidence and confidence leads to the creation of jobs.

### LNP Opposition

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): What a pedestrian effort from those opposite. What we see is, of course, a re-run of the previous Newman government plan—promise the world, promise a massive infrastructure program and promise no new taxes and when they get elected cut, sack and sell. That is their program. Under the Newman government we saw unemployment spike at 7.1 per cent. Growth flatlined at 0.7 per cent.

They had the biggest majority in history and they lost government after only one term. Why was that? They were economic incompetents. They sacked 14,000 people. They wondered why demand flattened. The Newman government held it over people's heads for so long before doing it that everyone stopped spending and the economy almost contracted. We saw an appalling economic outcome there.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Burleigh.

**Mr BAILEY:** They ordered trains from overseas. They ordered trains that were disability noncompliant. They cut road funding by \$600 million.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Burleigh.

**Mr BAILEY:** I had mayors lining up to talk to me about the cuts that were made by the Newman government. They thought they would be the opposite, but then they saw the harsh reality. The reality is that one cannot say that there will be no new taxes and there will be a massive infrastructure program because it does not add up—that is unless one cuts, sacks and sells, and privatises. That is what they did last time they were in government. They were caught out. There are two words we will never hear—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

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

**Mr BAILEY:** There are two words we will never hear in an opposition speech in this place and they are the words 'strong choices'. They are words that shall not pass their lips.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I hear the interjection from the disgraced member for Toowoomba North who had to resign because he could not comply with the health directives—one of the great performers over there!

That is their record. Compare their record to that of the Palaszczuk government. We have a unite and recover plan. Not only did we have a record budget last year, we added significant stimulus packages, particularly in my area of responsibility. There is a \$400 million road stimulus package across Queensland—across regional Queensland—which is targeted at growth areas. There is the \$180 million stimulus package under the Roads of Strategic Importance program being provided in conjunction with the federal government. Today we announced \$23 million in further relief for the taxi and limousine industry which has been badly affected by the pandemic.

We have an economic plan and we are implementing it. We are rolling it out. There have been more than \$4 billion worth of concessions under our unite and recover plan. What we see from those opposite is the same old sleight of hand—they promise the world and do not say how they are going to pay for it. Lo and behold, if they get elected it is out the door with that plan and it is privatise this and privatise that. We know the agenda.

What we are also seeing happening, which is fascinating, is the opposition at war with its own headquarters—a headquarters that is beholden to Clive Palmer. The party president of the LNP works for Clive Palmer, literally. Nothing has been done about this for six months. We find out this morning that Malcolm Cole, Larry Anthony and Bruce McIver are all on Clive Palmer's payroll.

We have to wonder whether it is the Liberal National-Palmer Party now. Clive Palmer has come home to the LNP. He is a former life member. He has been out there agitating and now he has come home. He is part of this leadership challenge. We see a party at war with itself four months out from an election. We are going to see more of this over the next few weeks, I have no doubt about that. They are not focused on Queensland.

I saw the member for Broadwater's presser yesterday. Wasn't he angry? He said he was not challenging, but God he stormed off in a bit of a huff. I wonder why that was? Why would he have been so angry and huffy if he was not involved in anything? He doth protests too much.

We have the plan. We invest in infrastructure. We invest in jobs. We invest in roads. We invest in the Queensland economy. We have steered this state through the biggest health emergency in 100 years. We are the best performing state in one of the best performing countries in the world. That gives us the firmest foundation to recover economically. We are way ahead of many others. Like other states, we will do things at an appropriate time that is in Queenslanders' best interests and in the interests of their health. We continue to execute our unite and recover plan.

### **Tourism Industry, Queensland Border Closure**



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.25 pm): The tourism sector, the hospitality sector and the retail sector in Queensland were already doing it tough before the coronavirus pandemic. We have suffered because of green tape that strangled regulation for ecotourism to get off the ground. As a result, our tourism offering has not grown at the same level as that of other states. Since coronavirus, it has been rocked to the core.

Those operators were prepared to take their medicine. They were prepared to look at vast open venues and say, 'The rule says we can only put 10 people in here. We think we can put more in safely, but we will play by the rules.' When it comes to borders, they have had enough. They have had enough of the mixed messages.

July was in the road map. The opposition maturely resisted the urge to say, 'Open them early.' The government had a road map that said July and we said that we would stick to that. Then one morning—perhaps without coffee—it became September. The shudders that went through the industry could be heard across this state. After weeks of pressure, it went back to July. Then today we had, 'Not until there is no active transmission.' Is it now not July? What does that mean? We just want some certainty. That is not too much to ask.

Today I have heard a lot about a road trip where I went and sold the message of this opposition and its leader, Deb Frecklington. We have done that because we are a team that wants to see this state working again. I am going to rise above the shenanigans of the tourism minister because I have had enough people cry on my shoulder in the last couple of weeks. Instead of focusing on me, how about focusing on the people lining up in the Centrelink queues? That is what Queenslanders want at the moment.

Queenslanders like Don, whom I met in Caloundra, who told me that despite halving his shopfront and trimming all his costs he believes he will not only lose his shop but also lose his house. He said to me, 'I can live with that. I am a bushy. I am happy. I will go back to the bush where I came from, but this week I have had to tell my kids that I cannot afford to send them to the school that they have been going to for many years.' That is what indecision means on the ground.

People like Rhonda from Marlin Waters holiday park in Palm Cove who 10 years ago bought a rundown apartment block with her husband and worked their fingers to bone to not only get that place up and running but also make it profitable. They are not eligible for any programs because they do it all themselves. They do not have any luxuries to fall back on. Despite running a profitable, successful business they are going to run out of money in the weeks ahead. That could all be fixed if they could tell their regulars, 'We are open from this date in July.' They could then fill bookings. Instead, the only time the phone rings is when it is people who have booked ahead and with great sadness ask if they could have their money returned because they have to book a holiday somewhere else.

That is what indecision means to real people. They are the sorts of issues that I heard driving 1,800 kilometres, Minister, not the shenanigans, not the silly games, that go on in this place. That is the sort of heartache that exists when a government cannot stick to a plan, when a government has no focus on economic employment and when a government has no ability to lead out of a crisis.

I am going to conclude by saying that Queenslanders did as they were asked because the whole purpose of this was to flatten the curve. The idea of flattening the curve was to make sure that innocent people did not have to line up at hospitals and not have access to respirators and not have access to hospital beds because of a surge in demand for medical facilities we were not ready for.

Now it has become almost as though if there is one case the government wants everyone to stop doing everything. A balance can be found. The balance involves a sensible outcome between health and economic recovery. If the balance is not found soon, the flattening will be of our economy.

### Coronavirus, Economic Response



**Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.30 pm): It has been interesting listening to those opposite talk about opening up the borders. I understand that they have been out talking to people who are saying, 'Open up the borders.' Every time the opposition are in the media saying, 'Let's get those borders open,' the phone in my office rings off the hook. A lot of people ring and say, 'I've never voted Labor in my life but I will be now because the opposition are trying to bully the Premier into opening the borders.' They do not want people coming to Queensland before they feel confident that they are not going to become unwell from having visitors. Maybe when those opposite are out on the road they need to talk to everyone, not just to those people who will give them the message they want to hear. There are a lot of people out there with a different opinion.

My region has been working its way out of COVID-19 hibernation. As we know, the virus has ripped its way through the economy, not just in my region but around the world. We are ready to come out of hibernation. We know that our region can lead the charge in getting back to having a good economy in Queensland. We can only do this because the Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan and is focused on the future. We are ready to unite and recover. We will do this by developing our manufacturing industry and ensuring that it continues to thrive. We want to diversify our economy in Mackay. We can do this with confidence because we have always had our eye on the future. We are going to come out of this pandemic and hit the ground running.

The Premier and Treasurer both visited my electorate last week. Neither of them stayed just the half an hour that those opposite have said. They spent a lot of time talking to a lot of different business people and to the mayors. They listened carefully to what was being said. We want to make sure that the projects that we support in our economic stimulus are those projects that are going to build economic stability and growth plus put locals into jobs. We want all of them to get the tick.

My region, like all regions in Queensland, has benefited from the \$800 million stimulus roll-out to businesses to maintain staff. As of yesterday, 104 businesses in the Mackay Regional Council footprint had accessed COVID-19 Jobs Support Loans to keep locals employed and to keep their doors open. They are ready to kickstart our recovery.

Travel Associates is just one of these businesses. Debbie Rains has been able to keep all 35 of her staff employed across their outlets. Dirk from Jayden Enterprises has kept his 16 tradies in work. He said that without his COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan he would not have been able to keep all of his workers and vans on the road. Without that money, he would have had to consider which of his employees he stood down. That is 16 families in my region from Dirk's business alone who have been

able to stay in work. More than \$7 million of payroll tax has been refunded to 312 businesses across the wider region of Mackay. This refund has given small to medium sized business much needed cash flow that will keep local families in work.

One constant topic of conversation in my region since the COVID-19 outbreak is the need to bring more manufacturing into our region and to diversify our economy. We do not want to just recover; we want to come back stronger and more resilient. We want our economy based on building a future for our kids. Mackay has all the raw resources—water, power and land. We have a strong METS sector. Our manufacturing hub at Paget is world leading in mining innovation. We export around the world. It is the Palaszczuk government that has a plan. It is going to lead us into the future.

### Turner, Mr N



**Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to pay tribute to my constituent Nathan Turner, who passed away on Wednesday, 27 May in Blackwater. Nathan was a much loved member of the Blackwater community and, at age 30, was tragically young when he passed away. I put on record my condolences to his family and to his fiancée, Simone, and to her family.

I also raise serious questions about what exactly happened, because it has put at risk the credibility of the COVID-19 testing process and the Queensland Health protocols that should be governing that process. This has occurred at a time when I am encouraging my constituents to trust both the testing and the confidentiality. I am encouraging them to do this because a trusted testing system for COVID-19 is the only way Queenslanders can continue to function while the world waits for a vaccine—and that wait may be a long one.

A week after Labor's CCC referral of a nurse, a young man living in an isolated town hundreds of kilometres from any COVID-19 hotspot died. The young man had a medical condition. Nathan had been unable to work since November last year. Furthermore, he had not left Blackwater since February, before the pandemic restrictions were put in place. Tragically, he was found in their home by his fiancée when she returned from work at 4.30 pm. Ambulance and police attended and a swab for COVID-19 was taken at the scene. Some hours later Simone was even more shocked to be told that it had returned a positive result. Understandably, she was still struggling to come to terms with what had happened to her since 4.30 pm. She needed all the support she could get. Instead, she was told that the situation was so urgent that the media must be briefed. This is where the story goes crazy.

As Simone was struggling with the shock of finding Nathan dead in their home, as she was still overwhelmed by grief, she was being pushed to agree to the state government taking the story public. Where was the testing protocol which required two more swabs to be processed in order to confirm the results before making any announcement? What happened to the privacy rules governing Queensland Health's release of patient information? It is one thing to act with judicious speed; it is quite another to go public before all the facts are ascertained.

There were so many reasons for caution: Nathan had a pre-existing medical condition, the fact that Nathan could not have caught it at work, the fact that Nathan could not have caught it outside Blackwater, the fact that Blackwater had no history of other COVID-19 cases. Somehow media was given the names of both Nathan and Simone.


Queensland Health told the media that Simone had been sent into isolation at Rockhampton Hospital. She was not. A second swab was taken and came back negative, but apparently the sample was bad. The media was told that he had symptoms for four weeks but, according to Nathan's fiancée, he had a sniffle for four days. The aged-care nurse was tenuously linked to the Blackwater case and was persecuted in the media.

It was suggested that the family might not want a post-mortem, but they did. It took three days to get Nathan's body to Brisbane, even though we knew the delay would make it harder to detect any virus. When the results come back, they were negative for COVID-19—the first being a false positive. Simone tested negative for COVID-19 all along, as did Simone's family and friends and hundreds of Blackwater residents. They were all negative—and so a stressful and disgraceful episode comes to an end.

For well over a week the people of Blackwater went through hell and back. The media descended on the tiny town of Blackwater and frightened people. There was concern and confusion. Questions need to be answered. Why was another test not taken before they went public with COVID-19? We have to think of the family here. Another 24 hours or even another 12 hours just to get the correct result could have avoided panic in the community and stress on his fiancée, Nathan's family, friends and loved ones and a concerned community.

You have probably all seen the pictures of the media that descended on Blackwater and the nationwide coverage. That community did not deserve to go through that. There could have been another test 12 hours later just to get it right and some privacy for the family, who were not only dealing with a possible COVID-19 case but the death of a loved one. They were treated horribly in this whole process. They need answers and we need to make sure that we learn from these mistakes.

### Coronavirus, Economy

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.40 pm): The global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19 and the Gold Coast has certainly felt that pain. When decisions were rightfully made by governments across the country to put in place restrictions to save lives, my office was inundated with calls and emails from workers and businesses who were not only terrified about the health consequences of this virus but the financial impact on households in my community—people who work really hard every day to keep a roof over their head and food on table and who were already receiving a minimum wage and scared about the prospect of losing their job.

According to a Grattan Institute article, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast are the hardest hit regions in Queensland and almost around the country when it comes to job losses caused by this global pandemic. On the Gold Coast alone almost 30,000 casuals were deemed ineligible for the JobKeeper payment because they had not been with their employer for more than 12 months. I table an article by myGC which lays out the issues around the federal government's restrictions for this program.

*Tabled paper:* Article from mygc.com.au online, dated 7 April 2020, titled 'Labor: 30,000 unemployed Gold Coasters overlooked for Job Keeper payments' [\[904\]](#).

Alongside many others, I have been calling on the federal government to widened their eligibility criteria and extend this program beyond September, particularly for the tourism industry. It is interesting to listen to those opposite talk about the tourism industry given their track record of cutting, sacking and selling: \$188 million was cut from the tourism industry by the Newman government and thousands of jobs were lost in the state of Queensland.

In stark contrast, our government is investing. We have an economic plan to kickstart our economy. We have announced: \$11 million for our theme parks on the Gold Coast and the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary to allow them to retain staff; \$25 million for our Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund; payroll tax relief; job support loans; today's announcement of a \$15 million package to secure new flights to Queensland; and another \$8 million to provide visitor infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to re-energise nature based tourism.

There is no denying that things are tough. I want my community to know that I will continue to advocate for the Gold Coast, both within the Queensland government and at a council and national level when I think more can be done. Last week I wrote to the Minister for Small Business asking for additional funding for small business grants. Today I was pleased to hear that this call has been listened to and an additional \$100 million has been allocated. I am also really happy to see \$100 million committed as part of our Housing Construction Works for Tradies program to build new social housing.


Multiple reports show that both before and during COVID-19 the Gold Coast was one of the worst affected areas when it comes to risk of mortgage and rental stress. We are implementing a number of measures to address this issue, including: building a new Youth Foyer with 40 self-contained units for at-risk young people in Southport—which is under construction right now, supporting local jobs—interest-free rental loans to keep loan sharks at bay and sustain tenancies; and nearly 400 new social housing homes are being constructed on the Gold Coast. We have also announced \$24 million of immediate response to COVID-19 support by providing safe accommodation for vulnerable and homeless Queenslanders needing to self-isolate; brokerage funds for specialist services to provide crisis accommodation; and expanding access to private support for people who have faced economic hardship.

Only last week I spoke with Lisa from the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre in my electorate, who has received funding under our Dignity First Fund to help provide food boxes to vulnerable Gold Coasters while supporting businesses by purchasing their food locally. In stark contrast, those Gold Coast LNP members opposite, who did not actually build a single public housing home for the Gold Coast when last in government, have recently joined their federal MP, Ms Bell, to talk about homelessness. It appears that as usual they are all talk and no action, because if Ms Bell and the LNP were serious about homelessness they would join our government and increase funding into public

housing like the federal Labor government did during the global financial crisis. They seem to have enough money to provide \$25,000 grants to people who have a spare \$150,000 lying around to upgrade their home but clearly are not quite as generous when it comes to vulnerable Australians.

It is a tough time for many in our community, but stage 2 of our Queensland economic recovery plan, announced by the Premier today, goes a long way in supporting businesses and industry to kickstart the economy and create jobs. I will continue to fight for the Gold Coast to ensure we get back to hitting record tourism numbers again like we did before COVID-19 and creating good, stable jobs for young Gold Coasters.

### Coronavirus, Health Response

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.45 pm): They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Yet again the LNP is setting the policy agenda in this state from opposition. On this side of the House we have a team with a plan to build a stronger economy and get Queensland working again. On that side we have a Palaszczuk Labor government that has cancelled the budget in a sign they have no economic plan and hides their economic mismanagement from Queenslanders before the next state election.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's about-face on elective surgery waitlists in Queensland shows once again that the Deputy Premier is more interested in politics than the care of Queensland patients. We saw it when they wasted taxpayers' money renaming the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital rather than focusing on the clinical care of our sickest kids, and we have seen it again with the announcement on the weekend. The Leader of the Opposition put forward our plan to partner with the private sector to reduce waitlists and ensure sick and injured Queenslanders get the clinical care they need in a timely fashion. We have long said there is no point having empty private hospital beds at a time when there are patients sitting on the public waitlist.

It might the business model of Queensland Health to attract private patients in public hospitals to use their private health insurance to prop up their budget bottom line, pushing more public patients onto long waitlists, but it is the LNP's plan to prioritise patient care regardless of the level of health cover of the patient. This was the policy the LNP announced over two years ago and the Deputy Premier has spent the last two years bagging. On 14 June 2018 the Deputy Premier said in the House—

Their plan to fix our public hospitals is to take money off the public hospitals and outsource and privatise our hospital services. I wondered why they would do that, because there are so few private hospitals in the places they plan to represent. Is it because the member for Nanango needs all of those Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast votes where they do have access to a private hospital.

...

Those opposite want to take it from our doctors and nurses and give it to their mates in private hospitals. It is a shameful disappointment for regional and rural Queensland.

On 31 July 2018 the Deputy Premier told estimates—

I know the member will not like me pointing out that their health policy is about propping up the bottom lines of their big private hospital donors—

Yet here we are over two years later, and a desperate Palaszczuk Labor government has finally acknowledged there is a problem with surgery waitlists and that the best plan to fix that is the LNP's plan. Given that the Palaszczuk government has decided to copy our plan, albeit two years later and in a half-baked fashion, the Deputy Premier might like to stop hiding the Queensland Health hospital performance data. It was revealed in a recent Economic and Governance Committee hearing by the director-general of Queensland Health that the department was still collecting the data; they just are not publishing it. I understand there was never a ministerial decision by national cabinet or the health ministers in relation to not publishing the data and it was only ever agreed to by state senior Health bureaucrats around the country.

Well, the curve has flattened. Thanks to the efforts of Queenslanders we only have a handful of active cases in the state. Queenslanders deserve access to the care they need. They deserve to know how our hospitals are performing. Only this morning the Queensland Health website still had the following disclaimer—

The COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge to health systems around the world. As part of our response to increase capacity and manage the impact, there has been national agreement to suspend public reporting of hospital performance until further notice. This aligns to the requirement to postpone elements of routine and planned elective surgeries and outpatient activity across Australia. We want to reassure you that we have one of the best health systems in the world and are well prepared to tackle novel coronavirus.



The national cabinet agreed to have elective surgeries restart at the end of April. I call on the health minister to start being transparent and accountable and stop hiding his bad health data. While the LNP has a plan for more support for our hardworking frontline nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics that provides better patient care and reduces hospital waiting lists, Labor continues to put politics ahead of patient care. Only the LNP has a plan to provide a world-class health system for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

### Ipswich, Social Housing



**Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.50 pm): Last week I had the great pleasure of visiting the site of a new social housing project in the Ipswich CBD which will provide 20 brand-new, affordable homes for Ipswich residents as well as support local building and construction jobs in Ipswich. When it is completed by this November, the project will have supported around 270 construction jobs—although when I was on the site, I was informed that between 500 and 600 people have actually done the induction to go on that building site which means that lots of tradies and apprentices have already gone through the induction training on that site.

Looking at its progress made me extremely proud to be a part of a government that is genuinely committed to investing in affordable social housing. Public housing has come a long way in recent years in terms of its architecture and livability. No-one should go without a roof over their heads, but for many people a house is a costly burden that chews up a large portion of their income. Housing stress is an unfortunate part of life for many working in the gig economy, for the unemployed and underemployed or for those dependent on government payments. We know that particularly now due to the COVID pandemic there are sadly more people falling into that category. That is why social housing is such a necessary investment, especially in places like Ipswich where a sizeable number of people live on low incomes and cannot afford to purchase their own homes.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to building 383 social housing properties in Ipswich over the five years to 2022. I want to thank the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Mick de Brenni, for doing an incredible job in this space. It makes me think whether the LNP will commit to delivering that volume of social housing for Ipswich. I am not confident that they would. Instead, the out-of-touch LNP have committed to splashing cash on wealthy renovators who have a spare \$150,000 lying around to carry out luxury renovations. I do not even know many middle income families in Ipswich who have a spare \$150,000 lying around for a reno.

I do know, however, that there are many households in Ipswich who live in badly run-down homes which need fixing up, but under the LNP's HomeBuilder package they do not make the cut. The HomeBuilder package, designed to create a tradie-led recovery for our COVID affected economy, will do anything but that. Its impact will be minimal in terms of the jobs it will create, and it will do nothing to boost housing affordability for those living on low to middle incomes.

Investment in social housing is sensible. It futureproofs our state, it boosts the number of affordable homes in our communities and it guarantees hundreds of jobs for our local tradies and apprentices. That is why I was so pleased to hear the Premier announce stage 2 of the Palaszczuk government's unite and recover plan this morning. Amongst a raft of welcome state government stimulus grants, we see the fabulous \$100 million Works for Tradies program, which will see an additional 215 social homes built across Queensland, including in Ipswich, and see 240 jobs created in the building and construction sector.

I am also pleased to hear about the \$10 million seniors accessibility and assistance package which will provide up to \$5,000 to seniors so they can carry out repair and maintenance works on their homes. These are people who do not have a spare \$150,000 lying around for renos but badly need to fix their homes so that they are safe to live in.

At a time when people and businesses are doing it tough through the COVID-19 crisis, I am incredibly proud to be a part of a government that is leading the way and doing whatever it takes to support jobs and create local business opportunities in Ipswich and right across Queensland. It is all part of the Queensland government's economic recovery plan. We have united as Queenslanders to smash the curve with COVID-19 and now we are ready to reopen and get on with the business of creating jobs and futureproofing our state with building and construction projects.

Investment in social housing is part of Labor's DNA. It not only helps the most financially vulnerable in our communities but kickstarts our local economic recovery effort. I know people in Ipswich who are looking forward to our new housing complex opening in November. It will be popular with local social housing residents who want to stay well connected to Ipswich. It is right in the middle of our city

and it is close to health and hospital facilities, public transport and other community services. It really ticks every single box. Not only am I keen to see the completion of these 20 new homes in Ipswich come November, but I also look forward to our government's continued social housing investment in Queensland.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Coronavirus, Economic Response



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.55 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House supports the Palaszczuk government's stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan which will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year and will include:

- (a) \$100 million for housing construction Works for Tradies that will support 240 jobs;
- (b) another \$100 million for small business adaptation grants;
- (c) a \$5,000 regional home building boost for people buying a new home worth up to \$750,000 in regional Queensland;
- (d) the extension of the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant;
- (e) \$10 million for a seniors accessibility assistance package to support more jobs for tradies and elderly people to repair their homes;
- (f) \$15 million of funding for airline route support that will support 4,500 jobs over the next year;
- (g) agricultural sector initiatives to grow our export markets, supply chains and agribusiness opportunities;
- (h) the development of new economy minerals to create more jobs in resources through the collaborative exploration initiative;
- (i) support for our arts and recreation sector to save and create jobs and help arts and live music venues to reopen safely;
- (j) a renewable energy training facility to prepare our young people for future skills in demand;
- (k) taxi industry support to help with the continuation of transport services for elderly and disabled Queenslanders; and
- (l) the Queensland to New Zealand export program to open up new supply chain and export opportunities across the Tasman.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.56 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier and Minister for Trade be permitted to immediately move the motion of which the Premier and Minister for Trade has given notice earlier today, with the following time limits to apply—

- three minutes for all members; and
- total members before question put—20.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Coronavirus, Economic Response



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.57 pm): I move—

That this House supports the Palaszczuk government's stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan which will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year and will include:

- (a) \$100 million for housing construction Works for Tradies that will support 240 jobs;
- (b) another \$100 million for small business adaptation grants;
- (c) a \$5,000 regional home building boost for people buying a new home worth up to \$750,000 in regional Queensland;
- (d) the extension of the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant;
- (e) \$10 million for a seniors accessibility assistance package to support more jobs for tradies and elderly people to repair their homes;
- (f) \$15 million of funding for airline route support that will support 4,500 jobs over the next year;
- (g) agricultural sector initiatives to grow our export markets, supply chains and agribusiness opportunities;
- (h) the development of new economy minerals to create more jobs in resources through the collaborative exploration initiative;

- (j) a renewable energy training facility to prepare our young people for future skills in demand;
- (k) taxi industry support to help with the continuation of transport services for elderly and disabled Queenslanders; and
- (l) the Queensland to New Zealand export program to open up new supply chain and export opportunities across the Tasman.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could we have a copy of the motion? I see no circulation of the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): We are waiting for it to come through and we will circulate it.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As we know, Queenslanders are doing it tough and that is why our next stage of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs is important to get this state moving. The First Home Owners' Grant has been applauded not just across regional Queensland but by the Master Builders and other industries across Queensland. We know the best way to help get people into jobs is to get our construction industry moving, and that is exactly what this government is determined to do.

I was joined by many stakeholders who came with us today to back in our announcement. They have actually worked with us because they are part of the alliance. It was great to see representatives there from AgForce who supported our package to look at how we can increase the supply chains and make sure we continue to focus on exporting our great agricultural produce to the rest of the world. We will continue to work with all of these sectors hand in hand as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

It was wonderful to be able to talk about our seniors accessibility and assistance package as well. This is fantastic for our seniors out there who can get repairs done to their homes of up to \$5,000. Once again, this is keeping tradies in work and also helping some of the most vulnerable people in our society—that is, our seniors. There is money for airlines because we know how important it is to get our airlines supporting Queensland and backing Queensland, and there is also money for our arts sector. Minister Enoch and I met with—


**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Toowoomba North!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Minister Enoch and I met with many representatives of the arts community and we know they are doing it tough. Unfortunately, the federal government has not assisted the arts sector as much as they would like to see. We have stepped in with over \$20 million of support because we value arts in this state and we will continue to grow the arts in our state.

We know that our mining and our resources have been the stabilisers in the Queensland economy. We want to make sure we continue to grow our state and back our mining industries and back agriculture throughout Queensland. These initiatives were worked through with the sector and they will deliver the jobs that are needed.

Whilst I am on my feet I want to also commend the renewable energy training facility supporting our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 and training the apprentices that are needed for the jobs of tomorrow.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.00 pm): Here we go again: the Premier is using this parliament as a little political plaything with no notice of the motion given. I think the motion has only just been emailed which I saw on my phone as I jumped to my feet. We had the business program motion—


**Mr Bailey:** That is how parliament works.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Main Roads. I know this is a parliament; I have actually been here a bit longer than him. I will tell honourable members what this is. It is an arrogant parliament led by an arrogant government led by incompetent ministers. That is what we have here: an arrogant government and an arrogant parliament led by this arrogant Premier and this arrogant Treasurer.

They might talk all they wish about the little announcement today, but where have they been? Earlier this year coronavirus—COVID-19—was declared a public emergency. Where has the money for businesses been? Where have the \$10,000 grants been which they increased today? There was an oversubscription weeks ago, not today. That was weeks ago. What about the other business grants they gave? They had to provide more money for the business grants but then told businesses it had been oversubscribed in the first round and they should not worry about reapplying because the additional \$500 million had already been allocated. False hope! That is what this government has given to businesses: false hope. They think they are going to win this election by going around and dropping \$10 million here and \$15 million there.

The arts community, which is included in the motion, were devastated the minute the government shut them down months ago, not today. The government should have started this economic recovery then. This has always been a health and an economic issue, not just a health issue. As we know with the Labor Party, they are always late to the party as far as business goes. We only have to look at the CCIQ website to see where it rates current members of parliament in terms of their support for small business.

The Labor small business minister, who sits on that side of the House, is 'Ms 33 Per Cent'. The chief body for small business says that the Labor minister responsible for the portfolio of small business supported small business on only 33 per cent of occasions. I suspect that the new Treasurer—he has been very quiet lately, I might add, although he was very out of the blocks for a couple of weeks saying, 'Look at me, look at me,'—is probably sitting on 33 per cent as well. Labor do not support small business. Everything they announce or debate should be looked at through the prism of 31 October—nothing more, nothing less. The best thing for Queenslanders to do to recover after this crisis is to elect an LNP government.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (3.03 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier because our state has never seen a crisis like COVID-19. What this requires from every government—in fact, every member of the parliament—is action, and action is what the Labor government is delivering for Queensland. Look around the world: GDP in the US in the March quarter contracted by 1.3 per cent; in the UK, by two per cent; in Germany, 2.2 per cent; in France, 5.3 per cent; and in China, 9.8 per cent. This is a crisis the likes of which our nation has never seen and our state's economy has never seen. That is why the Labor government is taking action to support business.

The member for Kawana says there is no support for business today. An amount of \$100 million in small business support was announced on top of the \$100 million we already put in.

**Mr Bleijie:** Late to the party.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. We were the first government in the nation that identified this as a crisis. In fact, we identified it when it did not even have a name. It was still a novel coronavirus and our government acted, putting almost \$30 million into it. What did we hear from Scott Morrison, the idol of the minister for Kawana? What did we hear from him? Absolutely nothing! When we called on him to act to back in business and industry, there was complete silence. Shamefully, he was dragged to act because of the actions of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

What we hear from the opposition day in, day out is no plan, no idea, no suggestions—just constant whingeing, complaints and them talking about what matters most to them: themselves. That is what they are obsessed with: how unpopular the opposition leader really is; a political party leaking against its own leader; how badly the deputy leader performs at press conferences; just when the member for Broadwater is going to launch his leadership campaign; and what the president of the LNP, Dave Hutchinson, is doing while he is on the payroll of another political party.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. I have read the motion, I have spoken to the motion and what the minister is speaking about is not contained anywhere in the government's own motion. As it is the government's own motion, I would have thought they would know what to speak to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Woodridge, come back to the motion.

**Mr DICK:** You know you have the member for Kawana, 'old glass jaw', when he takes a point of order. This morning I could not answer a question for 20 seconds before he took a point of order.

Let's talk about the investments. Let's talk about our actions. There are new investments today in agriculture and tourism, a boost to regional construction that has been welcomed by the Master Builders Association, new investments in resources and construction, and more support for small business. I was delighted to be out in the member for Burdekin's electorate last week talking to coalminers and the coal industry about what the Labor government is doing to support them, backing in the cornerstones of the Queensland economy. That is what we did today—mining, tourism and construction—backing in those parts of the economy that are struggling, such as small business, with \$100 million in grants. The member for Kawana can thank me later. We are taking action to support tourism. We are taking action to support those parts of the economy that need to recover. That is what Labor will do. We have a plan. They have a secret plan to announce after the election. We are going to get on with the job today.


*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.07 pm): This is a Clayton's motion if ever I heard one. The government came out with this plan this morning to spend money on building products to increase social housing, yet they have slammed social housing for the last seven years they have been in government.

When we first came to government in 2012 there were 23,000 people on the social housing waiting list. That is actual applications. There may be dozens of people on each of those applications, so we could be talking about 100,000 people. When we left government in 2015 those numbers had decreased to about 16,000. We reduced them by about 7,000 in the three years we were in government. What have we seen in the five years that this Labor government has been in power? They have blown back out to over 25,000 people on the waiting list. They are so embarrassed by this. Now they are going to change the way they categorise public housing. They cannot admit that they are making a complete blunder of public housing so they will just change the way they categorise it.

I put up a billboard on the Gold Coast last week asking for an opening of the borders. I did that because a number of people on the Gold Coast contacted me who had applied for the \$10,000 small business grant but it closed within 72 hours of opening. Those people had put in the effort to submit an application and they got no result, and they were devastated. I spoke to a guy who ran a golfing tour company. He had laid off all his staff and he was spending his time refunding people. That is how desperate he was. He applied for a \$10,000 grant but could not get it. Surprisingly, I saw the member for Gaven posted on her Facebook page last week that she had written to the minister. I wrote to the minister three weeks ago but it did not do any good. Apparently she has had success in a week, and now there is another \$100 million.

It is interesting that this government are putting forward \$17 million for a renewable energy project that is run by Electrogrouop, which is owned by the ETU. Last week they announced an amount of money for a hydrogen training scheme which is run by the Plumbers Union. That is what this government does. They are completely controlled by the unions. They have no idea how to run finances. They are robbing Peter to pay Paul and, quite frankly, Peter has now run out of money.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.10 pm): I stand firmly behind the motion supporting the Palaszczuk government's stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan which will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year. When we look at the impact of COVID-19 on the world—with global economic activity set to plummet by around six per cent this year and as we watch overseas countries like the US, Brazil and the UK botch their public health responses—I am fortunate to say that there is no better place to live in than Queensland at the moment under the Palaszczuk government.


All Queenslanders have united during this pandemic. Over the past few months, I have spoken to thousands of people in my electorate and we all have sacrificed a number of our personal freedoms to ensure the health and safety of all Queenslanders. We are putting all Queenslanders first, and now we look forward to our state reopening in a few weeks. Our response to the virus has been recognised as one of the best in the world, and because of this we can look forward to kickstarting the Queensland economy a lot sooner. Last month, the Palaszczuk government kicked off stage 1 of our state's economic recovery package, and now we are ready to kick off stage 2, providing support for more than 6,000 Queensland jobs over the next year and boosting investment and economic development as Queensland recovers from the global pandemic.

This plan is already seeing jobs created in Ipswich by bringing forward investment in futureproofing infrastructure such as the new social housing project I was speaking about earlier. It is being built in the Ipswich CBD. There will be 20 new social homes for residents and it will generate 270 local jobs in construction. Stage 2 of unite and recover will see even more social housing investment in Ipswich with the housing construction Works for Tradies program that will support 240 jobs across the state and deliver more affordable homes for Queenslanders.

Last month, with stage 1 announced, I was thrilled to hear that Ipswich would receive \$10 million for an upgrade to the Ipswich fiveways intersection which will support up to 15 jobs under the \$400 million accelerated works program. I was also pleased to hear of the Ipswich City Council receiving \$4.4 million to undertake works across Ipswich through the \$200 million Works for Queensland COVID recovery package. It is in addition to the construction work that is soon to commence on the East Ipswich station upgrade and on the Ipswich Hospital's new mental health unit.

This government is helping small business get through the COVID-19 crisis by providing another \$100 million for the COVID small business adaptation grants. Small businesses are one of the biggest employers. When I speak to my local president of the chamber of commerce—and they are really

kicking goals locally with some of the grants they are getting—I know that they are doing it tough. I reach out to my small businesses regularly. They understand what is going on. They are really grateful for the support and assistance this government has been able to provide.


 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.13 pm): If there are any words that describe this Labor government in a time of a pandemic they are ‘dithering’, ‘dysfunction’ and ‘distraction’. That is the Labor way of dealing with a problem—dithering around, wondering what to do and waiting for a lead from the federal LNP government. When the Prime Minister called for a national cabinet, guess who was on the first flight to Canberra to be part of it and to be seen in the photo? It was the member for Inala, who could not wait to get down there to stand side by side with someone who actually knew what they needed to do.

The federal government immediately put money on the line—\$1,500—for every worker kept on by the private sector to save jobs, houses and businesses. The federal government expanded the JobSeeker program to ensure people could get through. What did we see from members of this government? They put \$30 million into a tourism advertising program for which they then shut down the borders so tourists could not get here anyway. What a complete misreading of the situation! What a complete lack of foresight!

We see in this motion the stories about funding for the arts. Who is the biggest employer of arts in the state of Queensland? It is the state of Queensland. Who were not getting paid? The workers at QPAC, the workers working in the arts sector, because this government said, ‘No, no, no, we will not take our responsibilities seriously. We want the federal government to bail out state employees working at QPAC.’ I have the emails for that.

What about the business grants the government silently cut and closed up on a Sunday? All of a sudden, all that applicants received was a note from the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority website saying, ‘Sorry. Applications full.’ What they did not say is that they were actually full two weeks earlier and, ‘We kept hope alive unreasonably; keep sending your applications in.’ In fact, when the pressure was brought on by the LNP and the small business community, they expanded it by another \$100 million and now another \$100 million announced in a lousy way today—well after it was needed. This is a government, again, of distraction, dysfunction and dithering. The government does not know what to do and so does nothing, and Queensland businesses pay the price for it.

Members of the government are not telling us that, while they are putting the money into the business grants—belatedly, slowly, in dribs and drabs and well after it is needed by small business—they have cut all of the Advance Queensland grants and all of the innovate grants. Now people who had reached approval for stage 4 of those grants—anything from \$10,000 to \$200,000—are not getting the money. This is an unbelievable amount of mess and dithering. Then members of the government come into this place and have the hide to say they are doing the right thing. What a cheek!


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.16 pm): I support the Premier’s motion. The Palaszczuk government’s stage 2 of the Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year, and this is really needed. Regional Queensland is the powerhouse of the Queensland economy, and we have the capacity to drive our state through the economic distress of COVID-19. We know that we can do the heavy lifting in this economic recovery phase.

Our state is a resource statistic, with best practice in mining and innovation for decades. We always are researching and developing the industry. The Palaszczuk government’s commitment to the industry will next month see the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence open in Mackay. This is a joint government and local government project. The centre will roll out training. Workers will be able to get the majority of their underground tickets before going out to the pit. The centre will also be a drawcard for innovation and research nationally and internationally. The Mackay region will remain one of the world’s best sources for mining expertise and innovation in the METS sector.

We already have seen proven investment for local innovators pay off. Earlier this year, Real Time Instruments with the Made in Queensland grant increased its staff by 14 and is still adding to its team. Currently it is looking for two new staff members, and its reach into international markets keeps growing. Not a lot of Queensland companies can say that they export to the Republic of Congo! The company is able to do this because of the Palaszczuk government’s grant.

Our mining industry is always looking for the new minerals which are in demand for emerging technologies like battery storage. There is a huge potential to open up new reserves in our region. The Palaszczuk government’s \$10 million commitment to promote this vital exploration activity is vital. This will guarantee a pipeline of projects in the Queensland mining sector—what my region is asking for. Not everyone works in the mining industry, though.


Our construction workers and tradies need government support, and that is what the Premier delivered today. Greg Porter, a fifth-generation person in a hardware business in Mackay, has been advocating for the construction industry since COVID-19 slowed down business. He was excited when I called him this morning. The \$267 million construction package will let local builders start building homes. The extension of the First Home Owners' Grant is really welcomed. Locals such as Justin Giblett, who has struggled to meet the benchmark, will be able to get into the housing market.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.19 pm): I also rise to speak on this motion. Rather than have a piecemeal approach to economic recovery, as this motion details, why does the government not have a bit of vision? Why does the government not think about the next 10 years, not the next 10 months?

The LNP has a plan that will get Queensland working again. We will invest for growth. We will supercharge the regions and we will secure our children's future, and we will do that by being bold and brassy. Rather than having this piecemeal approach, why does the government not back the big, bold plans of the LNP with the New Bradfield Scheme or the Queensland Dam Co. to build the dams that this state is crying out for to give us water security, or open up the Galilee Basin with all of the royalties going to the Queensland infrastructure fund so that we can fund infrastructure for generation after generation after generation? What about offering cheaper electricity for those people in the regions in both the commercial sector and residential sector? What about giving some sort of assurance and confidence to business by having a no new tax policy like the LNP has?

Another way that the state could save a lot of taxpayers' money is by opening the borders. Reopen the borders because it is safe. The Prime Minister has said time and time again that it is safe to open the borders. The Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer has told us that it is safe to open the borders. Rather than running a scare campaign throughout the state by saying that the whole place has to shut down again when there is one infection out of five million people, what about showing some leadership and explaining to people that we have flattened the curve and that until we get a vaccine there will still be more infections but we can control them now, we can trace them and we can isolate? That is what Queenslanders have managed to achieve.


This morning the Treasurer came in here and said with regard to the borders that the government will not lift the drawbridge. He said that the government will not lift the drawbridge. Guess what, Treasurer? The drawbridge is already up! The drawbridge is up! We are asking the government to put the drawbridge down. While the drawbridge is up, there are tens of thousands of people dying economically in the moat that is being built around this state. We can save a heck of a lot of taxpayers' money if we get this economy going again by letting private enterprise thrive and by letting our tourism industry, as well as our hospitality industry, get back on their feet. Let us put the drawbridge down.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to support the motion. As Queensland unites and recovers from COVID-19, the state Labor government is providing the building and stimulus investment that my constituents need. The seniors and accessibility assistance program targets the people who need help the most. With a median house price of \$350,000 for a three-bedroom home in my electorate, many residents do not have a lazy \$150,000 laying around to renovate their homes. Their banks are not going to lend them half the value of their homes during this period to do a vanity project. My constituents are not benefiting from the federal government's upper-class welfare. This means that my local tradies and builders are not benefiting from the federal government's COVID-19 largess.

This state government has identified the people who need the renovations, people who need the home improvements—not to get the latest splashback but to make sure they can access their homes. Surely making a home more accessible, allowing people to stay in their homes longer, is a much better use of a building stimulus. The seniors and accessibility assistance program will assist with a subsidy of up to \$5,000 to eligible older people to make their homes safer, to make them more accessible and to make them livable—whether it is Wayne in Beenleigh who needs his hot-water system replaced or Grace in Loganholme whose floorboards are uneven and represent a trip hazard. Many of us would have had elderly residents who have tripped and fallen in their own homes. If there is something we can do to make their homes safer whilst keeping it more affordable, then let us do it.

This will also be a boon for the tradies in my electorate. Beenleigh is ground zero for tradies, whether it is plumbers or sparkies. These are the types of jobs that my local small businesses or my sole traders and family businesses are able to quote for. These are projects that are ready to go. A \$5,000 job to install a ramp is right up the ally of Cut It Up Carpentry, one of Macalister's small businesses.


During a recent phone call I had a chat with John from Beenleigh who has been a plasterer since the 1970s and he has never seen it as bad as it has been this year. He has been driving around all over giving quotes, but unfortunately no-one has the money to do the jobs that he is able to do as a 72-year-old man who is still working. Jobs like these where he can deliver his local services in local homes are exactly the kind of stimulus and jobs he can do. He is not and has never been able to quote on a \$300,000 renovation, but if it is a \$3,500 quote to make the doorway of a home more accessible he is going to get the job and that is great for Queensland as we unite and recover.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.25 pm): What we see today is just simply chaos and confusion from the Labor government. This morning we had the theatre of the business motion where the government lays out what the parliament will do for the week. We were told that there was only two hours to debate very important bills and that time is very restricted, yet we are now debating a motion that was not even circulated to members and we have to stand up and speak immediately because the Premier wants the parliament to be her plaything where she can simply come in here and lay out a bunch of different ideas. I do not know whether they were thought up earlier this morning after the business motion or whether they have been thought up this afternoon over lunch, but quite simply the government has put this motion forward. It is just a marketing exercise so it can get out there and mislead the people of Queensland.

We know for sure that the Treasurer does not know how much debt Queensland is in and we know for sure that we are not going to get a budget before the election. These are a bunch of numbers on a piece of paper with no facts, no figures and no backup. After a quick bit of maths, there is \$100 million for the housing construction Works for Tradies that will support 240 jobs. That is \$416,000 per job. The government is going to spend \$100 million to support 240 jobs? It seems like an awful lot of money to support that number of jobs.

I would suggest that the government needs to partner with small business and make sure that the grants are available rather than closed for two weeks when people are still diligently trying to get their applications together so that the money is available to the small businesses in my area that need to apply. There were people who were working with their accountants getting the information together so that they could put a competent application in only to be told, 'No, it's first in, best dressed.' That was never one of the criteria that was disclosed in the application process. If people had known it had been first in, best dressed, I am sure they would have applied much quicker.

Unfortunately, people do not run their businesses like this government wants to run the budget. People want to go to their accountant to get the information so they can apply in a proper manner for grants that are no longer available. This government is just making up numbers as it walks into the chamber with the latest thought bubble about how it is going to approach it. I am sure that the people of Queensland will not be hoodwinked again by this Premier, who said that we only needed 14 ministers. Does anybody remember that one? That disappeared pretty quickly. There will be a lot of things said before this election. The question will be: will the Labor Party follow through, because we know it cannot be trusted with the money? The Treasurer does not even know the debt.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion. This \$477 million stage 2 of Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan will support more than 6,000 jobs over the next year. This plan delivers for our agriculture and resource sectors, which are so important for the Rockhampton economy. It also includes a \$12.5 million investment in our agricultural sector that will benefit producers around Rockhampton, including \$5.5 million to support agribusiness to improve food supply chains including traceability and biosecurity which will make our agricultural business more competitive on the export market.


There is another \$5 million to promote trade relationships including e-commerce platforms and \$2 million for agribusiness diversification assistance including agritourism. Our agriculture sector, particularly our beef sector, has been a great stabiliser for the Queensland economy, with beef exports at more than \$6.7 billion over the year to April 2020 compared to \$5.7 billion over the year ending April 2019.

Another great stabiliser for Queensland's economy is our resources sector. This package includes \$10 million for exploration grants for new economy minerals and another \$650,000 to help small businesses benefit from our growing mining equipment, technology and services sector that currently employs around 20,000 people across the state. That means more exploration across Queensland and I will be advocating for investment in Central Queensland.

The regional home building boost of \$5,000 will support people in Rockhampton to build a new home valued at up to \$750,000. This will provide an invaluable boost to the construction sector and tradie jobs in Rockhampton. For eligible buyers it means up to \$20,000 will be available from the




Palaszczuk government for newly built homes. The additional \$10 million to support seniors and people with a disability to upgrade their homes will support further jobs. We cannot forget the LNP tried to cut home assist funding when it was in government. The \$15 million for airline route development will support 4,500 jobs over the next year and help our tourism industry get back on its feet. I call on the LNP to unite with us and other Queenslanders to support this \$477 million package that will support over 6,000 jobs.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.31 pm): This motion is yet another example of how the parliament is being mistreated by this Labor government. This morning we were told that we had a total of two hours to speak on two very important pieces of legislation. No doubt as we get to the final bills that we will debate this week they will be guillotined and cut short, yet we can allocate a full hour for the government to pat itself on the back for belatedly doing the job it was elected to do. There is nothing in this motion that this government should not have been on the front foot and delivered weeks if not months ago.

Let us look at the small business adaptation grant. Talk about pain and misery for the small business sector across my electorate of Glass House and, indeed, Queensland. As others have said, it should have been there months ago. When it did arrive there was only \$100 million and it was closed off in the space of three or four days while many businesses were still gathering the data that they needed to comply with the application process. I cannot tell members the number of emails I have received from small business owners who are distraught that they missed out when they finally thought there was an opportunity for them to have a lifeline during this COVID health and economic crisis.

Those opposite talk about agricultural sector initiatives. Here is a couple for them: build water supply. They have adopted every other LNP policy; adopt that one and stop regulating the agriculture sector into the ground. There is talk about the development of new economy minerals. We all know that that is only possible because the member for South Brisbane is no longer the treasurer and in charge of the economy here in this state. The fact that they are even allowed to use the words 'minerals' or 'coal' is only because she no longer sits in cabinet.

I have a couple of other suggestions. As other speakers on this side have said, open the borders. Give certainty to our tourism operators, to our hospitality sector, so that they can start to prepare for an influx of southern tourists. We need those borders open. We need to know when that is occurring. The Premier squibbed it again as recently as this morning in giving that clear direction. I have another suggestion: support the wedding industry. I have only just been told, four weeks after it was asked of the Premier, that they are not going to accept the wedding industry's COVID-safe plan. They have been told they have to operate under a tourism or a hospitality plan. We all know they are different. They have given the relaxation to the funeral industry so loved ones can grieve. Let us give the wedding industry the same opportunity so that loved ones can celebrate. This motion is an indication that this government has no control, has no plan, has no idea.


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion to back in the second stage of the Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. We have more people on JobKeeper in Cairns than in Brisbane. Our tourism businesses have been hit particularly hard by COVID-19 restrictions. The Prime Minister has flagged that the closure of borders to overseas visitors will continue. That means we need JobKeeper to extend beyond the end of September. It is vital for our economy. That is not just me saying it; that is what the OECD and the Reserve Bank are saying.

Today's package includes more support from the Palaszczuk government for tourism, with \$15 million to promote intrastate flights and to prepare us for interstate flights when they can resume. That package will support 4,500 jobs over the next year and is crucial to Cairns. It builds on the \$50 million committed under stage 1 of our unite and recover plan. Registrations are now open for the \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Projects fund, a fantastic and very popular investment opportunity. The tourism icons fund has provided \$4 million to support Cairns icons, including Quicksilver, Experience Co, Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Birdworld Kuranda, Kuranda Koala Gardens and other assets owned by both the Freeman and the Woodward families.

In addition, the Cairns construction industry will receive further support with a regional home building boost grant of \$5,000 for people building a new home in the region. This is in addition to extending the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant, meaning the Palaszczuk government will provide up to \$20,000 for a first home buyer in Cairns buying a new home. This package also includes \$12.5 million to support our agricultural sector, including support for our agribusinesses to develop integrated supply chains to improve food traceability, biosecurity and safety.

In addition, there is further investment in ecommerce and trade facilitation in key markets to assist with coordination of demand for regular aircraft services. This will be important in Cairns when combined with the work on the regional trade distribution centre to which we have committed \$10 million; \$2 million to support our agricultural businesses in relation to diversification into new areas such as agritourism; \$8.9 million for national parks works; and a jobs boost will also make our tourism more competitive in the future while supporting tradies right now.

The additional \$100 million round in small business grants will also be important for Cairns with half of the grants being reserved for regional areas. Stage 2 of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan will get up to 6,000 jobs secured. I call on members of this House to support the motion.


 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.37 pm): I cannot allow that contribution from the member for Cairns to go unchecked. I spent some time in that community the other day and I know how much that community is hurting because of the pigheadedness and the mixed messages on the borders.

To have the member for Cairns stand up and try to somehow masquerade as a representative for that city in its hour of need and not even mention the borders is an abrogation of responsibility. It is a complete and utter lack of leadership from that member. He spruiks in Spence Street but he whispers in William Street. When I toured that city they said loud and clear that Michael Healy is a pretty nice guy, but he says one thing here and a different thing in Brisbane. They have worked it out. He will stand up in the *Cairns Post* and beat the drum about the great convention centre but then will not say a thing when they fly in workers from Sydney.

The tourists cannot come in to create jobs, but the workers can come in to take jobs and he will not say a thing. I am sorry, but that contribution cannot be allowed to go unchecked because it was a failure of that member to stick up for his community. The people I spoke to are weeks away from losing everything and the member wimps it on the floor of this parliament. He needs to be called out. His day of reckoning is coming.

There is no vision in this motion, there is no budget and now there is no respect for the parliamentary process. For the Premier to begin debating a motion and not even have the decency to have it tabled so that the opposition could actually make a contribution shows a complete and utter lack of respect.

As the member for Glass House said, these grants are welcome. They could have happened earlier, but we welcome them. I suggest that this time there is a process that assesses and delivers grants in a way that ensures that they are awarded based on the quality of the applications, rather than using a first-in first-served system. When the grants were initially put forward, we were told that the process would be open until September. People spent money. They engaged their accountants. Then they were shown the door before they had an opportunity to lodge. I ask: can people be treated with respect? There can be nothing like a private sector revival to make up for the shortfall that we are experiencing, so any grant that helps the private sector is welcome. However, what would help right now is certainty on the borders, the government keeping its word and businesses in hospitality getting back on their feet.


 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier in the House today. I have just been on the phone with Peter Fry, the HIA executive director in North Queensland. He is jumping out of his skin. He said that this is absolutely fantastic news. He said the concreters, the chippies, the plumbers and the sparkies will be lining up for this funding. He is excited about the extra \$5,000 for the first home buyers scheme, which will mean a rejuvenation of the building industry in Townsville. He said, 'The problem is that I don't think we will have enough land.' That shows how confident he is about the announcements that have been made today.

This is about investing in our communities, whether it is the Townsville community, the Rockhampton community, the Cairns community or the Brisbane community. This is about creating jobs that will generate even more jobs and create flow-on benefits that will support our kids. This will create jobs into the future. It will strengthen the economy. This is about investing in the sectors that need it the most and what needs it most of all is the building industry, because the building industry will create more jobs and opportunities for young kids who are looking at buying their first home.

In Townsville, young people will be able to access the \$15,000 first home buyers grant, plus the extra \$5,000 as part of that grant, and the federal government is chipping in \$25,000. What an opportunity! People can receive \$45,000 towards buying their first home. If that is not incentive enough to build a house, I do not know what is. We know that when we create jobs for tradies, they will take on apprentices and they will buy new utes. That money will continue to flow through the Townsville economy, creating more jobs and ensuring that we can continue to build a future for our kids. This is about building our way out of COVID-19.

Last week when the Premier was in Townsville, we heard from the chamber of commerce and small business owners. They said, 'We loved the small business adaptation grant, but that \$100 million disappeared so quickly because people wanted to get their hands on it.' So we are backing it in with another \$100 million. This is about looking after our small business operators, because they are the backbone of our economy and it is what we need to do.

The allocation of \$15 million for airline routes is about bringing people back into the city. We need to ensure that we open up regional routes so that people can travel to our city, whether for tourism or for business. This is forward looking. It is future planning. This is not just about now; it is about looking after our kids and building a local economy that is based on real jobs. That is what this vision is all about.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.43 pm): I am disappointed that again we have a piecemeal approach to dealing with the economic crisis that the Palaszczuk Labor government is presiding over in Queensland. We had a health crisis, but they have moved that to an economic crisis. It is telling that the Palaszczuk Labor government was the last government to offer any real form of economic assistance but the first government to cancel a full state budget. Having no state budget means that there is no plan and no economic security for Queenslanders. Local governments are working on and delivering their budgets, but the state government is not.


If Labor members really want to provide some certainty and kickstart the economy, they need to announce the date when the borders will reopen. It might be of interest to some members opposite that the border closures are impacting ratepayers right across the state. My electorate covers some 1,000 kilometres of the borders with South Australia and New South Wales. Last week I was in the Paroo shire, where it is costing \$40,000 of ratepayers' money to keep the border closed. There is no compensation from the state government.

The state government is concerned about infection coming across the border, but the Northern Territory has zero cases. The other day in Morven I was speaking with three guys who are essential workers in the Northern Territory. There are no flights backwards and forwards. Every two weeks they drive thousands and thousands of kilometres to get to work and home again. Even though there are no cases of COVID-19 in the Northern Territory, those men cannot fly because this state has not opened the border. Airlines fly across borders and they have to fly in sectors. We need to open the South Australian and Northern Territory borders. If the government is not going to open the New South Wales border, it should open those.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Murrumba, I note that you are on the speaking list, so you will get a turn. At the moment, it is the turn of the member for Warrego.


**Ms LEAHY:** It goes to show that the members opposite think that Queensland stops in the south-east corner. It is interesting to see that. The Palaszczuk Labor government is spending less of the state's revenue on infrastructure than any other state. I do not see any road infrastructure funding coming through in this notice of motion. If we look at the money that is being removed from QTRIP, affecting North-West, West and South-West Queensland, that funding is going backwards. The overall allocation is being reduced. The Auditor-General has identified a backlog of maintenance worth \$5 billion. One only has to drive the roads in Western Queensland to see the impact that that has had. That is \$5 billion—\$894 million in the south-west region alone—of road money that is not being invested.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.46 pm): It might surprise the member for Warrego to know that the South Australian border is the responsibility of the South Australian government and the Northern Territory border is the responsibility of the Northern territory government, and they are both closed. I turn to this motion. Like my colleagues on this side of the House, I support Queensland's plan to get businesses back up and running and to get Queenslanders back into good jobs. Today we announced the next phase of the economic recovery plan to back Queensland jobs, businesses and industries.

The COVID-19 virus continues to sweep the globe. It has destroyed lives and livelihoods. We are not alone in this crisis, but we are ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to recovery. It is only because we took decisive action early that we have been able to contain the virus. We cannot afford a second wave. As I mentioned this morning, for 15 consecutive days Beijing did not have a new case, but in just one week they have spiked to 100 cases. The virus is highly contagious, it spreads

quickly and it can be lethal. Anyone who says that there is a choice between our health and our economy is drawing a false choice. Jurisdictions that thought they could choose their economies over the health of their people have suffered the same economic struggles—in fact, even greater economic hardship—than the governments that put their people first. Sweden has now admitted that it got it wrong. Sweden has counted over 4,500 deaths and over 40,000 infections in a population of 10 million. Sweden's neighbours imposed lockdowns and have seen between 200 and 500 deaths each in Denmark, Norway and Finland.

We have a long road ahead of us. Queensland will be feeling the effects of this pandemic long after the health threat is over. That is why this plan for recovery is so important. Today we announced more investment in our key sectors of agriculture, tourism, construction, resources and energy, arts and culture, and small business. We have committed more than \$6 billion in support packages for Queensland farmers, tour operators, tradies, musicians, students, seniors and many others, and there is more to come. We will stand with Queenslanders—with workers, businesses and industries—on this long road to recovery. The next steps in our economic recovery strategy will create jobs and help to rebuild a stronger and more resilient Queensland economy, and I am very proud to support them.


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.49 pm): The absolute hypocrisy of members of this government was highlighted as they were virtually silent when 30,000 people protested in the streets, not socially distant and in breach of the COVID guidelines. Meanwhile, businesses in my area, including restaurateurs, were being threatened with fines of up to \$6,000 if they did not keep to their COVID plans. They had tape measures out across their restaurants, were told how far to keep people apart, and that if someone dared go up and ordered a drink from the bar then that restaurant could face a fine because they would be in breach of the guidelines.

What we have heard from Labor today is a smokescreen, a hoax, a COVID cover-up. The fact that we saw this motion come before the parliament with barely any notice after all the arguments about how important it is to have time to debate it is just an example that the parliament is a plaything of the hermit kingdom of Queensland under a premier who hides behind the excuses of 'we are busy with COVID' yet does not want to be held accountable to this parliament to answer the questions about the rules and regulations she has flip-flopped on and how she has destroyed people's lives with her uncertainty.

We had a COVID recovery plan which indicated that the state borders would be open in July, and then 10 days or so later the Premier said it could be September or October. She flip-flopped again lately and said, 'I always said July,' but still not confirming when those borders will open. Businesses had their phones ringing off the hook with holiday bookings and then suddenly faced those phones falling silent.

I have talked to so many business owners who were crying and so distressed because they are facing a situation where they cannot get certainty. This Labor government has let them down badly. Now we have a drip feed flip-flop of government grants. It is almost like they are throwing out chunks of meat to people liked caged inmates while they have failed to listen to business about certainty and lead time. They have failed to support them with decisions that they know can be relied upon. The way our small business people have been treated is an absolute disgrace.

Grants were thrown out there and then closed within days. I have had word back from people who still have not heard whether their applications have been processed and whether or not they are successful. Will we see the same thing once again with the new grants that have been announced, where people will be led down a garden path and then let down because this government cannot manage the process? They are treating people with contempt and unfortunately we are starting to hear that it is pushing people over the edge. We must keep people safe, but part of that is also to have an economic plan that looks after the mental health of everybody. This government is failing to do that.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (3.52 pm): When you have been in parliament a long time—I think I started working here 20 years ago—you get to see the true colours of the people. One thing I will say about the member for Maroochydore is that she will always stand up for her local community. What we have seen there is someone who does care about small businesses in the community and is standing up for them—someone on the LNP side who actually does care.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the member for Broadwater because we know there is only one job in Queensland he cares about, only one job in Queensland he has been circling for.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): The member for Cooper has the call and I would urge the member for Cooper to read the motion and speak to the motion.

**Ms JONES:** In respect to the motion, this is about supporting Queensland jobs. We know there is only one job that the member for Broadwater cares about—and hasn't he been caught short this week? He has more front than a round house, but when push comes to shove there is nothing—nothing at all!

The contrast between the Premier's leadership throughout COVID-19 and our laser-like focus on creating an economic platform to rebuild Queensland's economy could not have been more stark compared with the antics and selfish motives of the member for Broadwater. Here it is for everyone to see. We have always seen it, but now he has been exposed for the blind ambition that he has.

Our side of government will always focus on what matters to Queenslanders. It is only because of the Premier's leadership through the health crisis, by making those tough decisions—and I note that the member for Warrego tried to rewrite history by saying that we were the last government to act on an economic package. We were the first government to act on an economic package. Right back in January we were the first state to declare a health emergency. Then we backed it up with the very first economic package by any level of government anywhere in the country. We did that because we listened to business. We listened to stakeholders. We had a meeting here in parliament, the first in the country. We continued to lead the way.

The Premier of Queensland has shown throughout COVID-19 her leadership—her ability to not only listen to the advice and to act on that advice but also to act in the best interests of Queensland. That is why today I support this motion. This motion is the second stage of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs package. By uniting together, we can recover Queensland's economy. I am so proud to be part of this government. We have just heard the member for Townsville talking about the extension of the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant. This will make a massive difference to the lives of young Queenslanders trying to get into that market. It will also keep people in work—the chippies, the electricians, the people who rely on us to back them when they need us most. I encourage everyone to support this motion.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.55 pm): This afternoon the Labor government wants us to talk about its economic plan for the state. I have some particular ideas for its economic plan which would relate well to my part of the world, the Toowoomba region. We are crying out for vision and for leadership across the Toowoomba region, and this state Labor government is just not giving it to us. Just as we were breaking in the last sitting of parliament, the unemployment numbers for March and April came out and it showed the Toowoomba region as the worst in the country, with unemployment topping 12.2 per cent, having risen five per cent across those two months.

Business sentiment remains strong and there is a positive atmosphere in Toowoomba; however, we need some vision. What could this Labor government do to help the Toowoomba region right now? First it could set down a budget. Budgets reveal priorities. Our region needs to know this government's priorities and that is exactly what Toowoomba & Surat Basin Enterprise and Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce is looking for as well—leadership and priorities from this state Labor government.

What else could this state Labor government do for us? It could give us certainty around grants programs and around a clear road map particularly for hospitality. I think of Richard at the Southern Hotel who I have spoken with regularly about social distancing requirements. Wendy at Beauty with Perfection at Westridge Shopping Centre simply wanted to get a grant application in but, because it was closed on a Sunday without any foreknowledge, she missed out on that opportunity. Clarity is so important when you are trying to run big organisations, big employers across the region, and that is what this government is failing to deliver.

Even the border closures in Toowoomba have had an impact. Two of the most beautiful wedding venues in Queensland—Gabbabar Homestead and Preston Peak—employ hundreds of people, if not directly then through indirect employment right throughout the economy because they engage photographers, florists and gardeners. These are major employers in our region that desperately need clarity on when they can open up their businesses again.

What can this state Labor government do otherwise? It can get behind some major projects in our region. It can invest for growth, road upgrades, inland rail—fully supporting that inland rail—and energy projects across the region. There are major jobs on the line if we do not get this state Labor government to intervene. Fund the new Toowoomba Hospital. We desperately need it. Our hospital is out of date and desperately needs upgrading for the 21st century. They could get behind the entertainment centre at Wellcamp Airport. They could listen to your calls, Mr Deputy Speaker, to call in

Fernleigh, which will deliver more jobs in our region—and off it will hang high schools, Catholic schools, public schools, road infrastructure. There are jobs on the line. Vision is more important than ever, and our region is desperately crying out for it from this government.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


## ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL LAW BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Debate resumed from p. 1184, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.59 pm): The LNP will not be opposing these bills, but I will make a contribution around clause 31 of the associations incorporation bill which, as the shadow Attorney-General has stated, we will be opposing and opposing with vigour. If this provision is allowed to proceed, it puts at risk the appetite and likelihood people will want to join an incorporated association—community minded people who want to sign up to do good. Why would somebody who seeks to sign up to do good wish to expose themselves to what is contained in this clause?

There are laws that exist for those who break the law. Fancy people facing a fine of \$8,000 for making a mistake while serving one's community in a volunteer capacity! It means that we are less likely to have good people sign up to these organisations and therefore more likely to have people involved in organisations who may not be suitably qualified or who may not have the right intentions.

The people who line up to be part of these organisations are the heroes of our community. Allow me to tell members about a few such organisations in my electorate of Broadwater and the work they have done for our community. I start with the Rotary Club of Hope Island. This is a club that packs an almighty punch for its membership. By working with all levels of government, particularly the state and federal government, and the business sector—I was very pleased to play a small role in allowing them to connect with the Bendigo Bank, which runs a great community program in my electorate—they raised \$150,000 to build a memorial for Armistice Day which proudly sits at Hope Island. It is a magnificent legacy. I thank all of those involved in that project. They all should be so very proud.


They have also been at the forefront of raising money to find a cure for malaria. Many members will know that one of the issues that Rotary has been working on is polio eradication. Malaria is the next cab off the rank. That research is being done at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. This club has an almighty involvement in that. They have provided \$700,000 for the Water for the West project. They have provided \$400,000 to distribute food under the Fodder for the West program. The Rotary Club of Runaway Bay runs an art fair and many youth programs. Its barbecue trailer is always seen around the place. The Lions Club of Sanctuary Cove, Hope Island and Runaway Bay fundraises for domestic violence shelters. They have raised money for Cure for Brain Cancer and hearing support dogs.

It is not just about a financial contribution. I have many Probus clubs in my electorate. The role they play in ensuring people can continue to come together to have engaging discussions and invite community leaders and make them dance with tricky questions and what it does for breaking social isolation is something we cannot put a price on. The fact that these clubs have not been able to meet during COVID has been a blow for many of the seniors who value this interaction so much.

Likewise, there are the school P&Cs. We have men and women who are involved in those organisations. I have three school P&Cs in my electorate. They do a mighty job. I say to all of them that we value what they do.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am happy to talk to the member about this outside. Yes, you are right. I have three P&Cs. They do a mighty job and they see a lot of me. People sign up to these organisations not for personal gain, not for personal glory, not for personal gratification. They do it because they love their community and they love their children. Any laws that stop good people from wanting to make a contribution to these groups should be resisted.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020, which are being debated as cognate bills. In my former life as a lawyer, with a small practice in Lowood, I frequently provided pro bono legal advice to a wide range of associations and cooperatives. I am aware that the law associated with associations and cooperatives is long overdue for review.

The groups I assisted, as an honorary legal adviser, included: the University of Queensland Gatton Past Students' Association; St Edmunds College Old Boys Association; the Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation of Wildlife Association; Brisbane Valley Meals on Wheels, the Lowood Darts Association, the Somerset Region Tourist Association; and the Ipswich Workers Community Co-operative. The type of advice I provided usually related to such things as compliance with the act and regulations, interpretation of the group's rules, governance issues, record keeping, privacy laws and audit requirements.

I was pleased to assist these groups, mainly operated by hardworking volunteers, who, like me, only wanted to do good for their communities. That is why I proudly wear a tie for one of those associations today, the University of Queensland Gatton Past Students' Association. I note that there are members in the House tonight who are past students.

The Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was tabled by the Attorney-General on 26 November 2019. The bill progresses important reforms for the more than 22,000 not-for-profit associations incorporated in Queensland. As the Attorney-General said in her first reading speech—

These associations represent and support many vital aspects of the Queensland community. The hard work and dedication of Queensland's associations sustain a range of important activities that are vital to our way of life. Incorporated associations provide a means for like-minded people to collaborate and participate in activities such as sport, social activities and hobbies, industry representation, advocacy, as well as support for a range of charitable or community causes.

When not-for-profit organisations decide to become an incorporated association, this act provides them with powers, benefits and responsibilities under the law. Incorporation means an association becomes legally separate from its members and allows an incorporated association to act in its own name, including owning property, opening bank accounts, entering into contracts and appearing in court.


As to the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020, the Attorney-General said in her first reading speech on 4 February 2020—

Cooperatives are democratically controlled, jointly owned enterprises created for common economic, social and cultural needs and goals. Cooperatives, when compared to corporations, have a distinct governance structure because their ownership, democratic structure and use of funds is for mutual benefit, rather than for the benefit of individuals.

The main objective of the bill is to repeal the Cooperatives Act 1997 and, in its place, apply the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 and its regulations as the law of Queensland. Cooperatives operate in Queensland in areas that include agriculture and fishing, dairy, water supply, child care, health services, grocery and hardware supplies, community housing, recycling, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts. There are currently 165 cooperatives in Queensland, with about 19,000 members. Amongst the largest cooperatives in Queensland are the Queensland Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries Co-operative Ltd, the Goondiwindi Co-operative Society Ltd, the Killarney Co-op and the NQ Co-op Ltd.

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee considered the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and recommended that the bill be passed. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, after consideration of the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020, recommended that it also be passed.

In closing, I would like to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee members, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee members, the respective secretariats of the committees, the departmental officers who assisted the committees, the submitters and Hansard. I would also like to thank the multitude of Queenslanders who as volunteers collaborate and participate to keep our associations and cooperatives operating for the benefit of our communities. I commend the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020 to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.10 pm): In speaking to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as most members have mentioned, there are 22,000 incorporated associations in Queensland that this legislation affects in some way or improves their operations in some way. When we frame legislation, we must ensure that it is beneficial to these associations and not to their detriment which makes it more difficult for them to operate.

Many of these associations are extremely valuable to smaller regional communities and are the lifeblood to many communities in regional Queensland. I would say that this country would be broke without all of these different organisations, particularly with their fundraisers that provide wheelchair access and disability support to the most needy. These community organisations need to be commended.


I have a few concerns to highlight for the minister's consideration—firstly, the potential misuse of the proposed dispute resolution procedures by association members who have conducted themselves in a way considered to be injurious or detrimental to the character or the interests of the association. Some of the submissions state that having a mediation process is simply adding another layer on top of what already exists and puts enormous pressure and strain on the serving management committees in place at present. Mediation is designed to resolve legitimate disputes between parties—not if a member has conducted themselves in a way considered to be harmful to the association.

The proposal to allow a fair trading inspector to enter the premises of an association and seize property without the association's consent and without a search warrant is highly unusual considering the Australian Securities and Investments Commission do not even have these powers themselves. If the powers of the fair trading inspectors are amended, they should be in line with the powers of ASIC, who can require the production of documents but can only enter or seize company property with a search warrant.

I commend the bill for amending the act to allow associations to hold their meetings using digital communications technology without having to amend their constitution to do so. We have seen how important being able to hold digital meetings is to allow businesses and now associations to operate uninterrupted, particularly during these periods of uncertainty and isolation.

I also support the amendment to allow persons who have been convicted or sentenced to prison to be elected as a member of the management committee following a rehabilitation period of five years. Often people guilty of doing stupid things in their youth want to contribute back to their communities in a meaningful manner. This allows that to occur. This is important to note.

I remember in my teens when a mate of mine was pulled over and breathalysed. He had a foam cooler from a pub. In those days people used to walk out of the pub and go into the nightclub with their foam coolers. Sometimes those drinking coolers would end up in their cars. He had to go through a process to be let off because it was a criminal offence to steal a cooler. Some people have been in a situation where they have not been able to be part of an organisation because they have been convicted of stealing a foam cooler. That is a little harsh. It is difficult enough to find people who genuinely want to serve on a management committee of an association, particularly in regional Queensland and small communities. I definitely support this amendment. I hope the minister takes on board some of these changes.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of this bill—in particular, to address the parts of the bill which present an act to apply a national law that regulates cooperatives. Queensland has had a strong history of support for cooperatives, with over 150 registered cooperatives in the state. They exist across industries, creating jobs for many Queenslanders and providing immense benefits to their communities.

At their core, cooperatives are democratically controlled, jointly owned enterprises created for common economic, social and cultural needs and goals. The bill aims to modernise and improve the regulatory framework for cooperatives in Queensland through nationally harmonised cooperatives legislation and reduce the associated regulatory costs.

It is undeniable that COVID-19 has dramatically altered our communities and our society. Thanks to the leadership of the Premier and Deputy Premier, Queensland has had one of the world's best health responses. We have never been luckier to be Queenslanders. However, what we are confronting right now is just as important. It is crucial that we get the economic recovery response right. We have a plan for Queensland: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. Adopting this national regulatory framework for cooperatives will help support the businesses and jobs that use this model.

In such a crisis, sadly, disproportionately, the hardest impacts are often felt by some of our state's most vulnerable. It is exactly these people that some of our state's fantastic cooperatives provide employment and support to. In my capacity as the Minister for Employment and Small Business, I have worked with some of these incredible cooperatives in the development of Queensland's first Social Enterprise Strategy. Social enterprise across our state provides pathways that help lift Queenslanders out of poverty and out of cycles of violence and provides families with the dignity that comes with work.




I was pleased to launch the strategy at the Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative with the member for Nudgee, who I know is a big supporter of social enterprise and cooperatives. They provide sustainable jobs and training opportunities for people with cognitive and/or psychosocial disabilities. While I was there I met Allan Duffy. Allan could not have been happier to be working at the Nundah co-op. He told me that what he loved most was working with such a great team and giving back to his community. If we are to weather this economic crisis, we need to do whatever we can to keep people like Allan connected to the labour market and connected to their communities. Co-ops can provide that glue.

The main objective of the bill is to repeal Queensland's current Cooperatives Act 1997 and in its place apply the act and its regulations as a law in Queensland. More significantly, the bill simplifies the financial reporting and auditing requirements for small cooperatives, reduces costs for small cooperatives, modernises directors' and officers' duties, and provides a new way for cooperatives to raise all-important funds.

In relation to funding, this act allows the introduction of a unique and flexible financial instrument that allows co-ops to raise funds from external sources without diluting member control and ownership. It is a fantastic tool to help the sector scale up in some cases. These reforms will ensure the ongoing viability of the sector, particularly small co-ops and those in regional Queensland.

I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the Queensland Social Enterprise Council, who have raised the importance of this issue with me, and their continued advocacy for the sector. Our cooperatives will help ensure that some of the state's most vulnerable people continue to be able to access employment and training pathways, along with the support they need. It makes it easier for them to scale up and run their businesses by reducing regulatory burdens.

This pandemic shows us the importance of communities coming together to support one another. Cooperatives turned this approach into a business model. It is great that today here in this House we can support them. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.18 pm): In making some comments about the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, I declare that I am a member and patron of various unincorporated associations under this act, as I am sure many members of the House are. I also put on the record the huge public benefit of all of those organisations in our communities that contribute so much to the public good by being incorporated under this act—from show societies to other sporting clubs. A huge variety of activities are undertaken in the community under this act.

Five years and six days ago I wrote to the Attorney-General in order to raise concerns about various issues with the Associations Incorporation Act. Today, five years and six days later, I suppose it is better late than never to receive a reply to that correspondence. While we do not agree with everything in this bill, there are many things that we can agree with. I would like to make mention of a couple of them as well as some of the things we do not agree with.

For example, I think that the introduction of penalty provisions for some of the provisions set out in the act is a positive step. I have seen locally in my area that sometimes in these organisations there are activities and behaviour that goes against if not the letter of the law then certainly the spirit of the law and the spirit of the organisations involved. There needs to be some type of mechanism to deter that untoward activity. While there will always be disagreement about the extent of the penalty provisions that are introduced, I think it is a positive step in the right direction. That was one issue I raised five years and six days ago.

It is also good to see that some duplication between the state act and the Review of Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Legislation has been resolved through this bill. That will make it easier for volunteers in those organisations to administer their organisations. It will take less time and, in some cases, less expense.

One of the big gaps in this bill concerns the issue of dispute resolution or grievance procedures. This is an issue that I specifically raised with the Attorney-General. I note that the bill refers to a grievance procedure that will be automatically incorporated if the organisation does not institute their own, but despite all of that the fact remains that if they cannot resolve issues then people have to go to the Supreme Court for a binding resolution. When you look at the range of activities that are conducted under that act and the community groups that are incorporated under that act, that is an entirely inappropriate situation.

It is disappointing that after five years of introspection nothing has been done to change that situation. I know that other members have spoken about jurisdictions where there is recourse to a tribunal or a lower court to have that type of adjudication put in place, but we have still not seen anything

come forward in the act. I find that very disappointing because goodwill only takes dispute resolution so far. Unfortunately, that is sometimes the case in communities. This was not dealt with in the bill today and it is a missed opportunity.

One of the other issues mentioned concerned the conduct of committees and executive committees in community organisations and the way in which they deal with their membership between AGMs. The model rules for these organisations set out some parameters for how AGMs in particular need to be run, but they are very skinny on prescription. I know that was probably a deliberate policy choice, but this is another missed opportunity that could have been taken to include some more prescribed matters between AGMs in relation to how executive committees need to communicate with members to keep them informed. This goes to the point of some sort of prescription around the reporting of correspondence received by management committees or executive committees under the act towards all of their members.

The other issue that the member for Toowoomba South raised relates to the increased regulatory burden. Executive committee members and organisations under this act can suffer consequences or be more exposed when it comes to matters like insolvency than directors under the Corporations Act. I do not know how that slipped through the net, because clearly the type of organisations that are by and large governed under this act do not require more stringent regulation than corporations under the Corporations Act. There are always exceptions, but in the main that will be the case. I would like to hear from the Attorney-General why that is the case and why suggestions for mechanisms to fix that are not going to be taken up, if indeed they are not going to be taken up when we have consideration in detail shortly.

There is just one more issue. I would like to table correspondence from the Attorney-General dated 11 August 2015 which sets out that a review would take place.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 9 June 2015, from the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, titled 'Associations Incorporation Act 1981—Deficiencies' [905].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 11 August 2015, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the member for Beaudesert, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 [906].

As I said, five years and six days after I raised it here we are in parliament. We have two hours to debate the bill. After five years and six days we are down to two hours of debate. Many members on this side will not be able to have their say—not because I am here talking but because the government has arranged a guillotine. I wonder if the guillotining of debates in organisations is dealt with in the act.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Thank you, member for Lockyer, for your interjection, but you have had your say today. I commend the bill to the House except for certain clauses which we will be opposing and which we should be opposing because they are bad for those organisations they affect.



**Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.26 pm): It is wonderful to rise today to make a brief contribution in terms of the Co-operatives National Law Bill 2020. Both of these bills provide for the important progress of reforms in terms of modernisation in this space. In particular, the cooperatives bill has always been of interest to me and is something that I was keen to speak to today.

Queensland was home to the first cooperative retail store in Australia back in 1859. Today we have approximately 150 co-ops operating in our great state. It may just be that I am a socialist at heart, but cooperatives are one of my favourite business models of choice. I remember very distinctly the family conversation where I learned about cooperatives in my primary years. Despite not having the best memory—admittedly—this is one that stuck with me.

At this time of year traditionally we see state pitted against state with State of Origin, so in a typical year I do not know if I would make this confession. I was taken by my parents—without my express permission, I might add—south of the border from the ages of two to 10. With both paternal and maternal grandfathers and a strong family unit in northern New South Wales, we were taken across enemy lines. It was during these years that I saw the innate benefit of cooperatives through the bananas my maternal grandfather would pick or through the dairy industry that my paternal grandfather would contribute to with milking. Through these conversations and experiences with small sized operators we learned how they could make their enterprises grow and thrive. Despite being stranded in the 'inferior' state, this stuck with me and it shaped my view of the world. That is why I get excited when cooperatives like ABC Honey in my electorate in Brendale come to me to share their vision for cooperative exporting into Asia—

(Time expired)

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Co-operatives National Law Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill**

Question put—That clauses 1 to 68 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 68 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

#### **Co-operatives National Law Bill**

Question put—That clauses 1 to 65 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 65 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

### **Third Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Co-operatives National Law Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### **Long Title (Cognate Debate)**

Question put—That the long title of the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Co-operatives National Law Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL**

Resumed from 27 November 2019 (see p. 3879).

### **Second Reading**



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This is a momentous day for workers in the community services sector. The portable long service leave scheme to be established under this bill will, for the first time in Queensland, allow community services workers to accumulate service across the community services sector as a whole, providing many of the 45,000 workers in the sector with access to long service leave entitlements for the first

time. In establishing this portable scheme, we recognise that it is very difficult for workers in the community services sector to accrue sufficient service with the one employer to attract long service leave. This is no fault of the workers or employers in the sector; it is simply a reflection of the short-term contractual and funding arrangements that operate in the sector.

Surveys indicate that over 70 per cent of community services workers with over 10 years of service in the sector had never achieved sufficient service with one employer to access long service leave—workers like Nick Collyer, who made a submission to the parliamentary committee inquiry. Nick has worked in the sector for 31 years and qualified for long service leave just once. Nick currently works in a position that is funded by a Commonwealth program until the end of June 2020. He has been in that position for almost nine years now. If, as often happens in the sector, the program ends, he will lose all his accrued long service leave, and for the second time in his career Nick would have missed long service leave by less than a year, through no fault of his own.

Maria Leebeek has worked 28 years in the sector across six employers and has never had long service leave. As she said in her submission to the committee, she wants to work in the industry to support those in the community who are most vulnerable and marginalised. This bill is all about making sure that, in future, workers like Nick and Maria—loyal, dedicated, professional, long-serving community services workers—get their just entitlement to a period of long service leave in recognition of their service and commitment to the sector.

We must remember that these are not high-paid workers we are talking about. They are largely female, with 75 per cent of the sector's workforce being women compared to 47 per cent of the total Queensland workforce. They are often exposed to traumatic and stressful situations. Day in, day out, they are on the front line supporting and advocating for some of our most vulnerable fellow Queenslanders—providing alcohol and drug services, child safety and support services, accommodation support, family and domestic violence services, disability support, mental health and homelessness support, to name just a few. If anyone deserves long service leave it is these workers, and that is exactly what this bill delivers.

I will quote again from the Services Union, which has campaigned tirelessly for its hardworking members and workers across the sector to see this come to fruition. It said—

... these are workers often working in high stress, crisis and trauma environments. They are dedicated to the industry, and have a passion for the work they do and the clients they support. Yet they are denied access to long service leave due to the nature of the industry, not because of their lack of service to it.

I welcome the report of the committee which was tabled on 14 February 2020. I would like to thank all members of the committee, chaired expertly once again by the member for Nudgee, and the secretariat. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I am pleased to report that the committee found there was broad support for the establishment of a portable long service leave scheme for the community services sector and recommended unanimously that the bill be passed without amendment. I look forward to the support of those opposite. It is certainly a bill that deserves bipartisan support.

The committee inquiry was the culmination of a long and extensive process of consultation and scrutiny leading to the bill currently before the House for debate. A regulatory impact statement consultation process in late 2018 received over 300 submissions from workers, employers and peak bodies in the sector, and it found there was broad in-principle support for a portable scheme. Throughout 2019, we undertook the detailed policy and actuarial work required to underpin the scheme.

In May 2019, I established a stakeholder task force to provide advice on the development, design and implementation of such a scheme. This was an important step because our experience is that these schemes work best when there is a broad level of support and consensus across the sector. The task force included a range of peak bodies and unions: QCOSS, the Services Union, the Community Services Industry Alliance, the Australian Workers' Union, National Disability Services, the United Workers Union, Community Legal Centres Queensland and the Queensland Council of Unions.

The task force met 10 times in total and was able to reach a consensus position on key features of a portable scheme which form the basis of the bill before the House today, including: broad coverage in line with the federal industry award, including administrative staff who work in a community services organisation; no recognition of retrospective service but earlier access to leave after seven years service, rather than the standard entitlement of 10 years in the Industrial Relations Act 2016; and a starting levy rate as low as possible. This agreed model provided a constructive way forward and I again thank all members of the task force for their hard work on this, and I thank other stakeholders across the sector who participated throughout the consultation processes.

I turn now to key features of the bill and the scheme that it establishes. Currently in Queensland, all employees, no matter what sector they work in, are entitled to long service leave under the Industrial Relations Act 2016 if they reach the qualifying period of 10 years service with their employer. Under this bill, eligible workers in the community services sector will be eligible to access long service leave after seven years service in the community services sector, whether that service is accrued with one employer or more. The amount of long service leave paid to a worker after seven years will be based on their ordinary wage at the time of taking leave, calculated proportionately on their pay and service during the period of accruing the entitlement. For example, a worker working full-time for seven years on the award rate of pay will be entitled to 6.1 weeks leave at the award rate of pay.

The scheme will work by employers registering and providing a 'return' to QLeave about the hours worked and earnings of their workers covered by the scheme for each quarterly return period, then paying a levy based on the earnings reported. The levy rate, to be prescribed in subordinate legislation, has been based on actuarial advice and is proposed to be 1.35 per cent of a worker's gross ordinary wage. It should be noted that employers in the sector are already required to make provision for long service leave for their employees. On average, this amounts to 1.67 per cent of wages based on the entitlement in the Industrial Relations Act. The proposed starting levy rate will be less than this and lower than the levies initially set in other jurisdictions when they first established portable long service leave schemes for this industry. Victoria started their community services scheme in 2019 with a levy rate of 1.67 per cent, while the ACT commenced at 1.67 per cent in 2010 and is now at 1.2 per cent.

A levy rate of 1.35 per cent achieves the aim of keeping the rate as low as possible for employers while delivering the most beneficial entitlement to workers. To ensure this continues to be the case, the bill includes a requirement for the levy rate to be investigated and reviewed at least every two years. While employers will be given 90 days to register with the scheme, workers will start accruing their portable long service leave entitlement from the commencement date. The levy will be calculated on wages paid from commencement of the scheme but will not be payable until 14 days after the first quarterly return period.

The scheme is not retrospective. That is, it will not recognise service before the commencement of the scheme. However, workers with existing service with their current employer when the scheme commences will still have that previous service recognised and have access to long service leave if and when they reach 10 years of service with that current employer. That is, the scheme does not displace the existing entitlement of workers to access long service leave after 10 years with a single employer.

The coverage of workers and employers under the scheme is intentionally broad. It will apply to workers across non-government organisations, in either the profit or not-for-profit sectors, that are established for, or whose purposes include, providing community services. Schedule 1 of the bill sets out a broad, indicative range of service types that are intended to fall under the scheme. Within those organisations, the bill covers frontline community services workers as well as administrative and management staff that support the provision of community services.

The scheme can extend to self-employed contractors who may elect to become both a worker and an employer under the scheme and make voluntary contributions. This recognises that during their time in the community services sector people may move between working on a contractor basis and being employed directly. Workers in the sector engaged through labour hire are also covered.

The scope of the scheme also includes aged-care or childcare workers if they work in a community services organisation. For example, childcare workers who work in a domestic and family violence service or a neighbourhood community centre would be covered, but those working in standalone kindergartens or long day care centres would not.

I note the committee's report into the bill considered the proposed scope of the scheme is appropriate to allow for flexibility in the community services industry, and to provide benefit to a wide range of roles and organisations within the industry. Importantly, QLeave and the Office of Industrial Relations will provide detailed guidance and supporting materials, including examples of scope and coverage, and will be available to talk with any organisations that may not be sure if they are captured by the scheme.

The administrative, governance, and compliance provisions for the community scheme are modelled on the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005, and the scheme will be administered by Queensland's existing portable long service authority, QLeave. This recognises the experience and efficiencies that QLeave can provide both in establishment costs and administration, and the long and successful record of QLeave in administering the existing portable

long service leave schemes for both the building and construction industry and the contract cleaning industry. Under the bill, a new governing board will be established to oversee QLeave's administration of the scheme, similar to the structure and governance model already in place for Queensland's existing schemes. The board will consist of a chair, a deputy chair with financial and management expertise and an equal number of employer and employee representatives.

The proposed commencement date for the scheme will be on a date to be fixed by proclamation, and I will be moving an amendment during consideration in detail to provide for this. The bill as it was introduced last December currently specifies a starting date of 1 July 2020. This starting date was based on the original parliamentary timetable that would have seen this bill being debated during the March sitting. This was not possible, of course, because of the impact of COVID-19. Given the delay in the bill being debated in parliament, the proposed commencement date will also be delayed to reflect this. Subject to passage of this bill, my department and I will then consult with stakeholders on an appropriate commencement date that starts the scheme as soon as possible for the benefit of workers while providing QLeave and employers with sufficient advance notice and time to prepare.

The bill also amends the Industrial Relations Act to confirm access to pro-rata long service leave for employees who are dismissed by their employer due to illness based incapacity. This amendment follows the case of David Schipp, a worker who finished at Star casino after nine years and 11 months service with that employer. Having just missed out on the general entitlement to long service leave after 10 years, Mr Schipp was then also denied access to pro-rata long service leave on termination after seven years because he was deemed not fit, because of illness, to perform the inherent requirements of his role. The decision by the employer to not pay pro-rata long service leave was upheld by Commissioner Thompson in the QIRC, and then, on appeal, by Deputy President Merrell in the Industrial Court. However, the outcome is inconsistent with the intent of the provision and common practice. It was never the intent of the legislation for a worker in this situation to be denied access to their long service leave entitlement.

The interpretation that was taken in relation to Mr Schipp creates the untenable situation where a worker who resigns because of illness would be entitled to pro-rata long service leave after seven years service, but the same entitlement does not apply if it is the employer who dismisses the employee for the same reason of illness based incapacity. In short, the entitlement in cases of termination related to illness related incapacity should apply equally in all cases. It should not be dependent on whether it is the employer or the employee who terminates the employment. The amendment makes this clear.

I would like again to personally acknowledge the efforts of David Schipp in this matter. I understand that it is little consolation for him in terms of his own case at Star casino, but his persistent advocacy has been instrumental in highlighting the need for legislative change and will benefit workers in future who are faced with a similar scenario.

Previously I flagged an amendment to be moved during consideration in detail to provide for the commencement date of the scheme to be a date fixed by proclamation rather than the original commencement date in the bill of 1 July 2020. For the benefit of the House, I now outline amendments that I will be moving during consideration in detail. First I turn to the amendments relating to the public holiday on 14 August. They include amendments to the Holidays Act 1983 to establish the start of the people's long weekend on Friday, 14 August for the city of Brisbane and a number of council areas across the state. These amendments give effect to the Premier's announcement in the House on 21 May that for one year only the Ekka show holiday would be moved from Wednesday, 12 August—I have missed out on a birthday public holiday—to Friday, 14 August for the city of Brisbane. We again thank the RNA for their cooperation on this matter.

It was obviously a difficult decision to cancel this year's Ekka. I know it is one of the key events in my electorate, and I have been going since I was a little girl. I will miss the Ekka this year, but the long weekend is a great opportunity to get out and support our wonderful tourism industry and small businesses. We might not be able to get our show bags this year, but we can pack our travel bags and support Queensland tourism. We look forward to the Ekka show holiday returning on People's Day in 2021.

I am delighted to report that a number of other councils across the state have taken up the government's invitation to also move their show holiday to the new public holiday of 14 August. I thank all councils for considering this invitation. As a result, under the amendments that have been circulated, the new public holiday of 14 August will also apply to the following council areas that have made the request: Gold Coast, Logan, Rockhampton, Livingstone, Mackay, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Weipa, Cloncurry, and Whitsunday for the Bowen area only.

I turn now to public sector wage arrangements. I will also move amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 2016 to establish new wage arrangements for the Queensland public sector that reflect and respond to the unforeseen economic circumstances we find ourselves in with COVID-19. At the beginning of 2020 none of us could have envisaged the catastrophic global crisis, from both a health and an economic perspective, that we have faced due to COVID-19. Thankfully, through Queenslanders working together, we have flattened the curve. However, as we know, many of those same measures required to flatten the curve and protect the health of Queenslanders have had a significant flow-on economic impact on Queensland workers, the Queensland economy and the state's fiscal position and will continue to do so. They are the facts, and that is why the Premier made an announcement in April regarding public sector bargaining and wage increases being placed on hold.

The Premier's announcement recognised that we all are in this together. We recognise and deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of Queensland's public sector workers, especially those working on the front line to fight against COVID-19. At the same time, with over 100,000 Queenslanders finding themselves out of work and many more on reduced hours and incomes, we need to look at how public sector finances are best directed to supporting jobs and driving our economic recovery as soon as possible. We have since taken the time necessary to sort through the detail of how this would work in a fair, consistent and equitable manner. As a result, we have arrived at a set of balanced public sector wage arrangements during a world health pandemic declared public health emergency that will form part of a new temporary, time limited chapter in the Industrial Relations Act 2016 to expire on 30 September 2020 and, we hope, never to be repeated again.

The key features of the new wage arrangements contained in the amendments include: clearly stating our longstanding commitment to maximising job security for Queensland public sector workers, so important during these unprecedented times; honouring current agreements and settling outstanding agreements; amending the timing of wage increases in all agreements to incorporate a zero per cent wage increase, or wage freeze, for the 2020-21 financial year, with a deferred wage adjustment to be inserted six months after the first payment made after the 2020-21 financial year; extending the nominal expiry date of agreements where required to facilitate these new wage arrangements; and allowing a streamlined process to certify new agreements not yet finalised due to COVID-19 delays in line with state public sector wages policy to bring about equity for all public sector workers.

All other matters contained in existing or new agreements such as reclassifications and new allowances will be honoured, and the legislation will not impact on the state wage case and wage increases for low-paid workers who rely on the award. This is a matter for the QIRC. To be clear, the amendments apply only to Queensland's public sector. There will be no impact on local government or other state system workers. We are not asking the public sector to do anything that members of parliament, ministerial staff and senior public servants will not also be asked to do. The government will amend remuneration policy to reflect our expectation that during 2020-21 there will be no performance based payments to the CEOs and senior executives in the government owned water, energy and transport corporations and statutory authorities.

These temporary amendments to the IR Act are expected to result in a saving of around half a billion dollars in 2020-21. This is money that can then be redirected into supporting jobs across the economy and into boosting our unite and recover efforts at a time when it is needed most. It is imperative that we get the economy recovered as a matter of priority.

I will also move amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to improve the operation of right-of-entry arrangements under the act and to increase penalties for prohibited conduct. Currently under the act, section 141A allows Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors to assist in resolving disputes between union and employer parties about entry to a workplace, including by issuing a direction in writing as to whether or not a right to enter a workplace exists. Section 142A provides for the review of inspectors' decisions under 141A by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

Since the commencement of these provisions in 2017, the experience is that they have not been used very often. Where they have been used, the inspectors are tied up in determining complicated entry issues, taking away their focus from compliance and framework. Based on this experience, a more efficient use of resources would be achieved by revoking sections 141A and 142A, removing inspectors from this role, and parties instead being directed to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. We want our inspectors to be focused on enforcement and compliance—a point which was reinforced by the recent coronial findings of the Dreamworld inquest and the recent safety issues caused through COVID-19—and that is what these amendments are about.

To ensure that matters are dealt with promptly, my department is currently finalising new processes with the QIRC to ensure that right-of-entry disputes are dealt with expeditiously by the tribunal. We are working on a period of no longer than 48 hours. My department will also work with stakeholders to prepare guidance that provides certainty around how the inspectorate will deal with disputes and provide information to parties on options for issue resolution.

The amendments will also increase the penalties for breaches concerning workplace entry. These are current penalties in the act that provide important protections against behaviour that hinders, obstructs or delays the critical work of inspectors and permit holders in ensuring safe workplaces. During COVID-19, it is imperative that this not be done. Protections also exist to ensure others in the workplace are not hindered, obstructed or delayed, or work is not disrupted by workplace health and safety permit holders. The amendments will increase the relevant penalties from up to 100 penalty units to up to 500 penalty units, and in the case of the offence of assault, threaten or intimidate inspectors from up to 500 penalty units to up to 1,000 penalty units. These increased penalties will provide an important deterrent measure and send a clear message that this behaviour will not be tolerated. As honourable members will note, the amendments circulated deal with several other matters, and I will leave it to those ministers to deal with these matters during the debate on this bill.

This bill continues the proud record of the Palaszczuk government in leading the nation in standing up for workers' rights and continually striving to improve the lives of working people. The Palaszczuk government went to the 2017 election with a commitment to investigate a portable long service leave scheme for the community services sector, and we are delivering on that commitment in this term of government. We believe that the time has well and truly come for professional and dedicated community services workers in Queensland who look after some of the most vulnerable members of our community to have fair access to long service leave in recognition of their service across the sector. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.57 pm): In rising to speak to this bill, the minister's proposed amendments number some 51 pages. The amendments are nearly the same size as the bill.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. There are not as many amendments as the minister moved with her racing bill—some 200 to 300 amendments—but it is close. The bill has been on the *Notice Paper* for quite some time. At the eleventh hour, the government is rushing in and moving amendments that have nothing to do with this bill. It is really a concoction of government bungles that its members now have to cobble together and fix, including those relating to the amendment to the youth justice legislation and to the minister sitting in the back. These amendments that the minister promised in March are finally coming to the House. There are other amendments that the minister just spoke about.

As I said, there are 51 pages of amendments but the bill itself is only 77 pages. The explanatory notes to the amendments are longer than the explanatory notes to the bill! The reason for that is that this government has no clue about what it is doing. In fact, one amendment of note amends the government's own COVID emergency response legislation because the minister failed to provide the regulatory information within the required 14 days—and now they have to fix that up! Let me get to the bill before I get to the amendments. It turns out that I will have to spend more time addressing all the amendments than the substantive nature of the bill. The bill is important, and the LNP will support those aspects of the bill.

I do not think that these amendments should be just tacked on to a bill for the sake of government expediency to get it through the House. It should have been a separate bill that should have gone to a committee—separately debated, separately consulted on. I was envisaging, because there has been all of this talk and rumour with the government about what it is doing with the industrial relations pay freeze, deferral, whatever—

**Mr Stevens:** The freeze has melted.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It depends on which day the Premier is speaking as to what she is calling it or what it actually is, but I think we now have some clarity around what it is. However, there has been no public consultation with the Queensland community. It is not going before a committee. The bail youth justice amendments are not going before a committee, and the devil is always in the detail.

One of the amendments that the minister will be moving in this bill is that people who are forced into quarantine because of government laws are now going to be forced to pay for all of their accommodation, food and so forth. I have not heard that spoken publicly about in Queensland with



regard to people forced into quarantine coming back from overseas. A poor worker who has been forced to work overseas coming back home to the beautiful state of Queensland and forced to go into government quarantine for 14 days will now be slugged by the Queensland government for their accommodation, food and expenses when they have no choice but to do it because the government has made a law to do it. Where was the discussion about that?

This is the bizarreness and the arrogance of the government. This should not be tacked on to this bill. These are substantive amendments that need their own consultation through a proper committee process rather than just tacking it on to a bill just for the sake of getting it through. What people need to understand is that when we go to the Business Committee meeting on Monday when the Leader of the House asks us how many hours we need for various debates and we give a view—and my view is always the same; it is never enough—never are we told that there is going to be 51 pages of amendments, because I can tell members that if we were told there were going to be 51 pages of amendments we would have said that it is going to take a lot more than three hours of debate time.

However, I will tell the House what I did do. I text messaged the Leader of the House following the Business Committee meeting and she advised that there were going to be amendments to this bill. Yesterday I texted the Leader of the House and asked her if we would be provided a copy of those amendments prior to the debate so we could properly look at the amendments. The opposition crossbench are not privy to cabinet deliberations. I am not sure if half the cabinet is even privy to what goes on or what is said, but we are not privy to those discussions. We are not privy to the caucus meetings and what happens in all of those meetings. The first we hear about these amendments is just now when they are tabled as the minister is on her feet.

I asked the Leader of the House for copies of the amendments. She said that she would check with the minister. She obviously checked with the minister and the minister said no. I asked for more than 24 hours notice to be given to this House so we could properly look at these amendments yet, as I said, 51 pages of amendments get lobbed into the parliamentary chamber as we start the debate. As a shadow minister I am expected, whilst the minister is making her little 15-minute contribution, to fully read the 51 pages, understand them and contribute to the debate. Luckily I am good and I have done it. I understand the 51 pages of amendments and what the government is trying to achieve and the bogus way it is trying to achieve it. I did read the 51 pages as the minister was speaking, and once you start reading the amendments it does not take long to work out that this government is a government in complete chaos. It has no idea what it is doing. There should have been a bill introduced and the government should have probably declared it urgent and we would have had the debate of urgency because it says that these are COVID related amendments.

Turning to what is now not even the substantive nature of the debate because the bill is far less than the actual amendments, I address what we should have been debating and are debating, the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019 introduced by the minister in November last year. The purpose of the bill, as has been set out by the minister, is to provide these additional benefits for workers in the community services industries following on from similar arrangements that were made for workers in the contract cleaning and the construction industries in Queensland. This is done by establishing a portable long service leave scheme for workers in the community services industry in Queensland administered by QLeave.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, for members' benefit, the portable long service leave scheme would cover workers listed in schedule 1 of the bill performing community services work. On behalf of all Liberal National Party members, I give a big shout-out to our wonderful community services workers in our electorates for the amazing work they do on the front line in all of our electorates across Queensland. They are an incredible group of people. That is why we are supporting the provisions in these amendments today. They include contract workers engaged by an employer that is established for, or with the purpose of including, providing community services. The description of 'community services' is informed by the sector profile in the Deloitte report, *Forecasting the future: community services in Queensland 2025*, and the scope set out in the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010.

The bill also covers other workers engaged by an employer to support the provision of community services work; applies to both profit and non-profit organisations in the community services industry; provides workers with a PLSL entitlement after seven years service with accrual at the rate of the existing statutory entitlement of 8.67 weeks after 10 years service so prescribed in the Industrial Relations Act 2016; requires an employer to pay a levy calculated on an employee's ordinary wages and report on an employee's service; be administered by the existing PLSL, QLeave, which currently

administers portable long service leave schemes for the building and construction industry and the contract cleaning industry, with oversight by a governing board consisting of a chair, a deputy chair with financial/investment expertise and an equal number of employer and employee representatives; and amends the Industrial Relations Act 2016 to make clear that an employee whose employment is terminated through an illness related incapacity will be entitled to pro-rata long service leave in accordance with these changes under the act.

The community services industry is an important industry that employs thousands of Queenslanders, many of whom support some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders. The sector is growing rapidly and undergoing significant change, in part due to the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Research shows that workers in the community services industry are less likely to accrue a long service leave entitlement due to the high mobility between industry employers and insecure work arrangements. These factors are largely a consequence of the limited life funding arrangements in the community services industry which often lead to staff being engaged on a series of limited term contracts and by different employers within the industry.

As the explanatory notes state, the portable long service leave scheme will be funded by employer contributions by a levy paid on the ordinary wages of their workers. Independent actuarial assessment has calculated the levy to be 1.35 per cent. This level of contribution, alongside a return on investment, will allow the scheme to be administratively self-supporting as well as meet its commitments to pay long service leave to industry workers. QLeave estimates that the cost of establishing and administering the new PLSL scheme for the community services industry is approximately \$1 million in the first year and annual administration costs of approximately \$800,000 thereafter. It is proposed that the initial establishment costs of the scheme be met by a loan from the contract cleaning industry PLSL fund.

The LNP, as I said, does not oppose these additional arrangements to support workers in the community services industry. These entitlements will improve job security and importantly encourage more female participation in the workplace given the gender disposition of these industries. This is important particularly given that under the Palaszczuk Labor government Queensland has the worst unemployment in the nation—I repeat: the worst unemployment in the nation—and that was before COVID-19. Queensland had the worst unemployment in the nation before COVID-19. Under this Labor government Queensland had the worst youth unemployment in the nation and the highest number of long-term unemployed people in the nation before the onset of coronavirus. That is nothing to be proud of. This government ought not be proud of its economic record in terms of the unemployment rate and those looking for employment in Queensland. The bill will also be helpful in encouraging long-term employment and reduced turnover in the industry, leading to better outcomes for clients and less costs in training and development of new staff for industry.

As a former minister who administered the QLeave scheme, I certainly appreciate and support the benefits it provides to both Queensland workers and businesses. In reforms made to the scheme under the LNP government, we were able to reduce the premium rate for building and construction projects and support large-scale resource projects whilst maintaining entitlements for workers in those industries. This government has been talking about levy increases—no surprise at all from a high-taxing, low-growth economic plan that has seen Queensland continue to have the worst unemployment rate in the nation. As I understand, these changes were under active consideration by the government but then snuck through as a regulatory change in March this year. During coronavirus the government just snuck this little regulatory change in. This is yet another Labor tax on jobs and another Labor tax on investment snuck through under the cover of the coronavirus.

These changes were subject to only industry consultation through an RIS process. In relation to those changes to the QLeave scheme it is worth noting the following comments from the submitters. Master Builders Queensland stated—

The case has not been made that the scheme is unsustainable into the medium-term.

The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) is inadequate. It does not provide financial modelling for the future costs and income of the scheme. Nor does it consider the future expected construction activity or industry employment trends.

The information that has been included in the RIS states that the funding ratio of assets to the Accrued Benefits Liabilities of the scheme is still within the target range of 105%-120%—a full four years after the 2014 changes that are the focus of the RIS.

Master Electricians Australia said they oppose any change being made to the current levy, stating—  
no analysis of the impact on the industry has been undertaken.

How can there be an increase in the levy and no analysis of that tax on the industry? That is how Labor governments work: just tax them and it will be right. If you tax industry, businesses have to fork out the money. The MEA goes on—

no analysis or explanation as to the level of the underfunding in the medium term and whether or not the additional \$7 million in funding is too much or too little to address the situation.

MEA opposes the imposition or reintroduction of GST into the calculation. GST is a tax and as such we see a tax on a tax being implemented.

How is that from the Labor government? A tax on a tax. Master Electricians Australia further stated—

The RIS again gives limited explanation concerning the so-called medium term lack of funds to justify the increase to the PLSL rate.

**Ms Grace:** This isn't a part of the bill.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Well, it is, because it is the PLSL rate that you increased through regulation and you had a regulatory impact statement so it is pretty relevant to QLeave which we are debating today.

MEA opposes the increasing of the PLSL rate.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Those opposite do not like what they hear, that is the problem.

**Ms Grace:** You don't even know what you're talking about. There is no GST.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, because we got rid of it and you are bringing it back. That is the problem.

**Ms Grace:** Well, what are you talking about then?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Guess what, I am not going to be lectured to by the Labor Party on the GST when their leader did not even know the GST rate.

The Housing Industry Association stated—

HIA opposes proposals that would see an increase in levies payable and the reversal of the move made in 2014 that excluded GST in the cost of building and construction work on which the levies are calculated. There is little in the Consultation RIS to justify such moves. If adapted, the industry would see levies increase from 0.475 to 0.53% with those percentages calculated on a higher—

Ready for it, Minister—wait for it—

GST inclusive amount. HIA does not agree with the Consultation RIS that the benefits of these changes outweigh the negative impacts that increased costs will have on levy payers in the building and construction industry.

The Consultation RIS notes that the proposed levy in the RIS should be considered within the industry's broader regulatory environment yet fails to acknowledge that the amount of legislative change that has affected the Queensland building industry over the past few years has been without precedent. It has in particular adversely affected the small residential builders by whom a majority of residential construction work in Queensland is built. Any legislative changes must be simple, for example, re-introducing the GST into the cost of building and construction work complicates matters at a time when small players are already struggling with the plethora of business processes the government has introduced.

Those opposite will never get the record for reducing red tape when the Housing Industry Association is saying small players are struggling with a plethora of business processes the government has introduced. The HIA further stated—

HIA strongly recommends that no changes are made at this time.

As part of this debate, which includes the impact on the entire QLeave scheme, I call on the minister to come clean on why this new building tax was snuck through under the cover of the coronavirus through regulation and implemented. As I said, it is just another Labor tax on jobs and another Labor tax on Queensland investment. In the middle of the coronavirus with—what did the Premier say today?—over 100,000 Queenslanders losing their jobs, this government sneakily goes about taxing industry. It did it with WorkCover. The Labor Party believed that an increase in WorkCover would have no effect. As I have always said, small businesses pay for it. The money does not grow on trees. The government does not hand the businesses the money to pay the increased tax. They literally think it grows on trees. It does not. Small business owners in Queensland work hard for it. I am glad that I am a member of a party that backs small business in this state. I am glad to be a member of a party that has a leader, Deb Frecklington, who has announced no new taxes under her government.

**An opposition member:** How refreshing!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That is refreshing. I take the interjection. What a refreshing attitude. All we have seen over the last five years of this Labor Palaszczuk state government is tax, tax, tax and now we have taxes on taxes. Debt and taxes is all they know.

At a time when Queenslanders are concerned about jobs and job security, particularly in the middle of the worst economic crisis in almost a century, it is disappointing that it has taken a number of months to debate these changes. The committee report was tabled on 14 February. It has taken over four months to get these legislative amendments to the floor of the House. As I said at the beginning of my contribution, the Liberal National Party will not oppose the provisions with respect to the portable long service leave. It works well in the construction industry and the contract cleaning industry. The date of implementation will be by proclamation, which is God knows when.

Since this bill was introduced people have been relying on it as an entitlement that they were able to get and now they will not be able to get it. The reason that is important is because there are people transitioning between jobs at the moment because of the coronavirus. There will be no certainty now. This was meant to be implemented on 1 July. Someone who starts in the next three weeks will likely not have this. In fact, if the proclamation is not made until the end of the year—the problem is that the proclamation could be made whenever—there will be many people who will possibly miss out because of their working arrangements.

These people are not going to hold off taking employment with the acknowledgement that they may, if they hold out, be entitled to this portable long service leave. They cannot do that because they cannot afford to put food on their table at the moment because of job losses through coronavirus. Thank goodness the federal government has had a clear and concise plan with respect to JobSeeker, JobKeeper and JobMaker.

I was talking to people after the Premier's announcements this morning, the motion we had and the Premier's press conference where she had 30 people behind her talking about various things. There is genuine confusion in the community and among business owners as to what on earth applies to them when it comes to the Queensland government assistance as opposed to the federal government assistance. Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister, has set out clearly the process of transitioning and recovering from COVID. Every day this government is announcing \$10 million here, \$15 million there, we are cutting this, we are stopping that, we are delaying this, we are going to proclaim this at a later date. There is no consistency and no plan for recovery. People need certainty. This amendment is now not by 1 July but some date with proclamation. Again we do not have certainty.

I will now address some of the issues the minister just raised. For honourable members who were not in the House at the time, as the minister was speaking her amendments to this bill were tabled. There are 51 pages. I note that is not a record. The minister does hold the record on the racing bill.

**Ms Grace:** You actually hold the record. Your IR changes hold the record.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, you are just a bit above me, Minister. We have had that debate once before, Minister.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! Come back to the bill. Direct your comments through the chair and return to the bill.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I know I passed 53 bills between 2012 and 2015—the most bills that a minister has ever passed.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** More than this minister has passed in five years.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I did it in 2½ years.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana! I do not expect to have to ask you three times. You are well aware of the rules of this chamber. I ask you to return to the bill, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister certainly beats it with amendments on bills.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Come back to the bill, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am talking about 51 pages of amendments. The minister spoke about the amendment to the Youth Justice Act, which relates to the government's own legislation with respect to bail. It is extraordinary that the government passed that legislation and now they sneak in this little amendment to get rid of their own provisions in the Youth Justice Act. They are not getting rid of an LNP amendment to the Youth Justice Act; they are getting rid of their own amendment. I might add that the minister responsible for youth promised that would be legislated on, I believe, 17 March 2020. The explanatory notes to the amendments tabled state—

The amendments to the YJA will ensure that a child is remanded in custody where there is an unacceptable risk that the child ...

They were saying that bail was the preferred option and we should let the kids out. Of course, there was community angst and across Queensland crime rates have increased. Now we are amending the act to get rid of that provision, because they know it is a bit of an issue, particularly in North Queensland. I am really looking forward to the contribution from the minister responsible for the Youth Justice Act, in which she will talk about getting rid of laws that she so fiercely defended when she introduced them. At that time she spoke about how important they were to give young kids a chance. Now she will be forced to delete provisions of her own legislation. I am looking forward to that debate.

The amendment to the Industrial Relations Act temporarily puts on hold Queensland's public sector wage increases and modifies agreement certification requirements. Members will recall the Premier's morning press conference at which she advised the people of Queensland, to the surprise of the Queensland Public Service, that she was going to freeze the certified agreements that had been signed off. I think that came as a complete shock to not only the Public Service but also her government. The Treasurer then came out and defended that. He said, 'No, we're sticking to the Premier's commitment.' As always happens with the Labor Party, when the unions, including the AWU, started bellowing and saying that they were not supportive, things changed. There were tweaks. When the Premier was asked, she said that it might not be a freeze; it might just be a deferral.

If that is the case, what is the difference between public servants receiving a 2.5 per cent rise this financial year and a 2.5 per cent rise next financial year—because already we are nearly at 1 July—and a five per cent deferral, giving them the wage increase in one hit, as is now going to happen? Are they seriously trying to suggest that in six months time the economy of Queensland will have recovered—

**An opposition member:** The rivers of gold.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Will rivers of gold be flowing in Queensland? Will the money just be there, even though apparently it is not there now? How can Queenslanders have any faith in the government if that is how they do policy direction in this state? Apparently, all of a sudden the money will be there. We know why they changed their position. It is because the Premier's own union was going to campaign against them in the lead-up to the election.

The explanatory notes state that the amendment will amend the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act to insert a new part to validate the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation. Why? Because the regulation was not tabled within the 14 days as required under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act. The minister has failed to respond to their own laws, so now they have to do a fix-up job.

Amendments to the Public Health Act and the Public Health Regulation will mean that, if you have been working overseas, when you come home and the government tells you that you have to quarantine for 14 days, they will charge you for that. The government will hit you up for accommodation and expenses when it has forced you into quarantine.

**Ms Boyd:** People are having a good time.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. Were they having a good time?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! Thank you, members. Let us come back to the long title of the bill, please, member for Kawana.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I cannot imagine that the constituents who were stuck in Ecuador, trying to get back to Australia and to Queensland, were having a good time. I cannot imagine they were having a fantastic time, stuck in a foreign country. There are workers who, while thankful to still have job, have to travel overseas for that job. They are required to quarantine for 14 days before they can return to their families. I cannot imagine that they will be happy that the government now says that they will have to quarantine in a hotel at their own expense.

**Mr Last:** At \$200 a day.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It could be \$200 a day; it could be more. They cover it up in here by saying that there will be a scheme for hardship and so forth. We know how the Labor Party works with business hardship schemes: no-one will get it. The reality is that this is a mess. The government are in chaos. They have no road to recovery through the ruin that was the health crisis and is now an economic crisis. There is no road or path to show where we are going. I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'referred back to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee to undertake full and proper examination of all foreshadowed government amendments to the bill and report back to the House by no earlier than 23 July 2020 so as to ensure compliance with and adherence to the spirit of s.26B of the Constitution Act 2001.'

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members are reminded that the total number of votes cast for each party includes those present under sessional orders and any proxy votes but must not include paired members or members asked to withdraw from the chamber and excluded from voting under the standing orders.

**AYES, 39:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 46:**

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

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT, PROCLAMATION

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instruments (Cognate Debate)



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.34 pm): I move—

That the proclamation made under the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 233 of 2019, tabled in the House on 26 November 2019, be disallowed.

That the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 234 of 2019, tabled in the House on 26 November 2019, be disallowed.

I start by declaring that my wife and I own two very small farms. Whilst both are leased and therefore this impact is very small, I feel it appropriate to declare that. I feel it also appropriate that it gives me an insight into the industries that we are discussing here this evening, and the towns that rely on them and rely on all that is magnificent about the reef and all that is magnificent about the farming communities that make up that area.

It would be wrong of me not to start my contribution on the amendments that the LNP first put forward when we were debating this many months ago. We did wish for it to be debated in the north and we did not get that opportunity. When it was eventually debated, there were three things the LNP put forward. I struggle to find in those three things how we could not have found common ground in this place. We could have found common ground which would have benefited the reef and would have benefited the farming community.

What were they? One was about removing the ability to just demand data. I fail to see how creating a situation where you pit farmer against consultant, farmer against supplier, can lead to a better outcome. That in fact will lead to behaviour that, in my mind, will run contrary to what we are trying to achieve.

Secondly, we were seeking a 10-year grace period for the ERA activities in the Burnett Mary catchment. The member for Burnett will be making a contribution on that shortly. That area was told that it would not be subject to these provisions at the commencement of this process many years ago. In good faith, the industry will move on that journey, but they were asking for a period of grace to be able to adapt the practices that many others have.

The third thing, and the one that I will die in a ditch over, was that the LNP wanted to stop power being handed to Brisbane bureaucrats to change farming standards. Under the amendment, standards would have been regulated and have parliamentary oversight. How can anyone in this place dispute the desire for this parliament to make the decisions on the standards we want to set for our agricultural industries, rather than hand it to an unelected person who has never been, more than likely, in any of the industries reliant on these catchments and who has probably never made a living in the tourism sector, in the hospitality sector or the agricultural sector?

When those opposite begin to throw the barbs and say that we on this side of the House hate Nemo, because that is coming—every time we talk about this, that is coming—I want them to tell me why on earth this place would want to hand over power to that building across the road.

There are 93 people who come into this place. We all have different opinions, we have different life skills, we view the world differently, but we have one common objective and that is to ensure that the people we represent are heard. We might disagree on how to do that, but I will back the views of people who are accountable to their electorate over an unelected person every day of the week.

I have seen firsthand the evolution of the farming sector. It is not perfect, but it has come a long way. Under programs like the BMP—and I will acknowledge the former environment minister Andrew Powell who was very passionate about that—there was major progress made. If the minister and the government believe that the progress is not quick enough, resource it, set the standards, put it in legislation, work with the industries and give them a target. To somehow suggest that you will just hand over power to an unelected person who can change those settings at the click of a finger is wrong.

We have heard a lot in recent times about six easy steps—a process that the farming community has embraced. Some people say it is too stringent and others say there should be more done, but it is a target. If the government wants to come in and say that we in this place need to make stronger laws then they should put the laws on the table. Let us have a debate about it.

We cannot hand over power and we cannot hand over a blank cheque. That is what this does. That is why we are moving this disallowance motion tonight. There will be those opposite who will mischievously attempt to use this debate to say that the LNP does not support tough laws for the reef. I will push back on that. What we are doing here tonight is asking the government to have another crack and put forward sensible laws that balance the best environmental outcomes with sustainable agriculture. I do not think that is too much to ask.

The government will seek to paint the LNP as being disinterested in the environment so I will attempt to give the government a history lesson on some of that.

**Ms Boyd:** Oh, please.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Watch for a publication shortly, member for Pine Rivers, that will show the difference between a side of politics that believes in genuine environmental outcomes versus a side of politics that believes in tokenism and virtue signalling. It can make people feel good, but, in the end, the things we are responsible for are practical and real. I speak of things like banning the oil and gas operation on the Great Barrier Reef and deeming the reef to be of World Heritage standard—

**Mr Millar:** Who did that?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** That was an LNP government. The world's largest marine park attaining World Heritage listing and new international standards in marine conservation by expanding the marine park's no-take sanctuary areas more than sixfold were undertaken by an LNP government. The last LNP government introduced the toughest laws ever to protect the reef. The increasing of fines for serious environmental harm to the reef of over \$3.5 million or five years in jail was done by an LNP government. Some \$35 million each year was allocated to improve water quality, including support for graziers—not vilification; not hanging them out to dry, but supporting them—and canefarmers to adopt best farm practice management and adopting healthy reef friendly practices. More work needs to be done. That is the way to work with people.

The LNP undertook an assessment of the Great Barrier Reef coastal zone—the largest ever strategic assessment undertaken for a natural system. An LNP government developed the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan guiding the protection and management of the reef for the next 35 years. An LNP government established the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership to ensure open, honest and accountable management of the harbour and put \$4 million towards this partnership. An LNP

government released a Queensland ports strategy restricting port development to the major long-established ports of Abbot Point, Gladstone, Hay Point in Mackay and Townsville as recommended by UNESCO.


An LNP government announced the Abbot Point port and wetlands strategy—a long-term plan for the development at the Abbot Point port that will see dredge material disposed of on land rather than at sea and nearby wetlands preserved and enhanced. An LNP government restricted capital dredging in the marine park and restricted it to land disposal. An LNP government invested \$9 million to implement a buyout of the east coast net fishery which provided conservation benefits and improved the profitability of the fishery and invested \$1 million to help control the crown-of-thorns starfish. There will be more of that to come in the future.

I go back to my first point and make it strongly. Tonight every time one of those opposite attempts to make this about being anti reef or about the farmers whom they seek to vilify and say do the wrong thing, I ask everybody in the House to push back. If this were a debate about what the standards are and if we knew what the levels in the legislation were then we could have a proper debate and the barbs could then fly. If those opposite do not support what we are seeking to do tonight then it is an abrogation of their responsibility. We are seeking to disallow the provisions. We are not saying to the minister that she cannot have another crack, but if she believes a great balance can be found then put her name to it.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take that interjection from a member of parliament who represents an area where the farm sector does a mighty job. I have not seen too many farmers, particularly in modern times, who are not well and truly aware of their role as environmental stewards. I have seen what it means to these communities. I can tell members that to sacrifice them at the altar of green ideology is wrong. These communities live and die on these industries. They need a viable farming sector just as they need a viable tourism sector. We do not have to choose one or the other. They are both possible with the right spirit of intent.

I will tell members one thing: those communities will come on the journey with the government if it sets the standards, having worked with all conservationists, with all farmers and with all those communities that live and die on the right balance. If it is placed in legislation and decided on by people in this House then it will be far more respected than what we are doing this evening. If we do not disallow this we are handing over a blank cheque to preserve the reef for the future and preserve the agricultural industries that we rely on. I am confident that with the right legislation that balance can be found.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.46 pm): I rise to oppose this disallowance motion as will other government members. I will not, as the member for Broadwater said, attempt to paint those opposite as anti reef. I am going to attempt to paint them as anti science. That is a much easier task. I will be using the words of James Joyce to illustrate that point. I firstly want to address the comments made by the member for Broadwater around bureaucrats making changes to these reef regulations. That is nonsense. We have committed to not change these minimum standards for five years. Even if we did, they would have to come back before the parliament.

We have heard earlier today that the Palaszczuk government has a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. The plan means we are bringing forward investment in infrastructure, buying locally in Queensland and supporting Queensland industries and businesses. As part of that plan, we need to make sure that we are protecting the reef as a crucially important asset for our state.

The Great Barrier Reef supports over 60,000 Queensland jobs and contributes over \$6 billion to the Australian economy. It is more than just an economic foundation for our state. It is a part of the natural heritage of every Queenslander and every citizen in the world. We look after the Great Barrier Reef on behalf on every person in the world. That is our responsibility.

Two of the biggest risks to our stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef are climate change and poor water quality. The LNP seems to believe these are not a problem or need to be ignored. I say to the LNP that the science is clear. Climate change and poor water quality are having bleaching and other impacts. Poor water quality has continued to harm the Great Barrier Reef. This summer we have seen the third, and most widespread, mass coral bleaching event on the reef in the last five years. This event impacted southern areas not previously impacted in the 2016 and 2017 back-to-back bleaching events, as well as northern and central reefs.



Although the extent of the impacts is thought to be less severe than in 2016, the fact that it has occurred so close to the other events means that it looks like it will prevent coral generation. This is also the first time that a mass bleaching event has occurred in the absence of an El Nino episode. While climate change is the biggest threat to reef ecosystems, better water quality is critical to improving reef health. With better water quality, the reef is more resilient and it can recover from events such as coral bleaching and cyclones.

We will no doubt hear tonight the LNP saying that these regulations are an imposition, that they are green tape and that they are an extra burden on farmers. Our action on water quality presents a great opportunity for canefarmers and pastoralists in Queensland. Action on water quality delivers funding to Queensland farms. Like our unite and recover plan, we are investing in Queensland infrastructure, businesses and industry. The government is investing a record \$330 million in the reef region—a lot of that is investment on our farms.

There is the \$10 million Farming in Reef Catchments Rebate Scheme. That gives rebates of up to \$1,000 to support producers to get agronomic advice. The Reef Water Quality Program supports the Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions, GRASS, program. That is a \$6.1 million program supporting beef producers in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions by delivering one-on-one support and tailored land management plans to address land in poor or degraded condition.


The Reef Water Quality Program also supports the \$15 million Landholders Driving Change, LDC, program. That is an NQ Dry Tropics project. That has engaged 80 per cent of graziers, managing almost one million hectares of grazing land in the Bowen, Broken and Bogie catchments. It includes 42 practice change contracts covering 21,945 hectares of grazing land, with 15 small-scale gully works and four large-scale gully works underway. That is estimated to eliminate 5,000 tonnes of sediment being dumped on the reef.

With improved water quality, the reef has a much better chance of recovering from recent climate change and extreme weather events. The short- to medium-term future of the reef will be determined by the action taken, including the programs I have just mentioned, over the next five to 10 years. The science is irrefutable. The time to act is now. That is what we are doing. The reef will not be helped by the LNP wanting to establish an 'Office of Science Quality Assurance'. This is an odd policy designed to undermine scientific rigour. Let us call it the 'Office of Alternative Facts'.

It is a great day to discuss the proposal to establish an 'Office of Alternative Facts' because today is Bloomsday—the day when all the action happened in the James Joyce book *Ulysses*. This is one of the 20th century's greatest books and it contains this quote which is so relevant to this debate: 'I fear those big words, Stephen said, which make us so unhappy.' There are so many big words in these regulations that make the LNP so unhappy—climate change, global warming, greenhouse gases.

How do the LNP deal with the big words and the big concepts like reef water quality that make them so unhappy? They choose new words, choose a new office, choose new facts and choose new arguments. They say things like, 'The science is still undecided,' or 'The science is perhaps unsound.' They say things like, 'More carbon dioxide is a good thing for farmers.' 'We can simply adapt.' 'Climate changes all the time. Remember when the mammoths roamed the earth?' I will always remember that line from those opposite. That will be remembered for years.

Their proposal to oppose these reef regulations and establish an 'Office of Alternative Facts' shows that they are scared of those big concepts like reef water quality and they are scared of those big words. It shows that the only party that can be trusted to take action to help save and protect this international icon, this international asset—the Great Barrier Reef—and to look after the economy is Labor.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.53 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister in relation to subordinate legislation Nos 233 and 234 of 2019. Firstly, can I say after hearing the shadow minister and the previous government member that I give a commitment to the Minister for Environment: I am prepared to sit down and work with the minister to do this properly, to make sure that we have a better result for farmers and for the Great Barrier Reef. We might not agree on everything and we might argue over certain issues, but I am happy to sit down with the minister and with agriculture and with the environmentalists and the conservationists to try to work out how we can do this better. That is my commitment to the minister.

I am concerned that these reef regulations breach fundamental legislative principles. I am concerned that they breach the rights of impacted landholders and farmers. I am also concerned that they constitute another attack on Queensland's agriculture and Queensland's regions with no benefit other than to secure preferences for Labor from the Green movement. These regulations are another example of the Labor Party putting its own political interests before the interests of Queensland.

Every Queenslanders loves the Great Barrier Reef. Our role as stewards is taken very seriously, particularly by Queenslanders living in adjoining catchments. To give members an understanding, I come from the Emerald irrigation area. I do not have a conflict of interest because my interest in that irrigation property was resolved seven years ago, but I have a strong and firm commitment to the Emerald irrigation area and to the cotton industry where we established best management practices back in 1996. To give members an understanding of best management practices in the cotton industry, we are looking at ISO 9002 as the benchmark that they meet. We have a social licence to be farmers. We understand that and we take that very seriously. The cotton industry has come a long way from the mid-nineties. We treat water quality and our environmental credentials very seriously.

To have legislation like this come into parliament erodes the confidence between government and farmer and government and grazier. It erodes that trust that we need to build up. We have fantastic organisations such as Cotton Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation that have been working very closely together with government—both the state Labor government and the federal government—to make sure that we have a rigorous program in place to meet our environmental credentials. We take them very seriously.

The former speaker from the other side mentioned that we have trouble with big words. We do not have trouble with big words, and saying things like that does not help the relationship between agriculture and the government. We have to work together. Right now agriculture plays a critical role in developing our economic wellbeing over the next 12 months to two years because of COVID-19. Agriculture is there and prepared to do the heavy lifting, along with other industries.

To say that the LNP are about not protecting the Great Barrier Reef is wrong. We love the Great Barrier Reef just as much as those opposite do and we respect that. That is why I am making this commitment to the minister: I am prepared to sit down with the minister to try to work out how we can do this better. We can bring the agriculture sector and the conservationists and the environmentalists together to find a sensible solution. That is what I am asking for. I am not saying I have all the great ideas. What I am saying is let's get together and protect what we have been able to establish over the last 30 years in agriculture to make sure that we have policies in place not only to protect the Great Barrier Reef but also to be able to grow agriculture to boost our economy. That is what we are looking for.

I can tell the minister now that agriculture is wanting to do that. They are sick of being the whipping boys when it comes to environmental regulation in Queensland. They are doing their best. I know that the member for Broadwater's family are involved in cane farms. I know his parents very well. They do more than they need to do—much more—not only because they want to protect what they do but also because they know they have a social licence to live up to in order to be able to farm where they do. I know that the member for Gympie is a grazier, and graziers have now become involved in this legislation because over the last 20 years the cattle industry have moved into significant environmental reforms such as cattle BMP.

I want to thank the former minister for the environment under the LNP, Andrew Powell, who introduced BMP grazing and BMP cane. He was able to convince agriculture and the environment movement that this was the way forward. It is important that we continue to have a relationship that is going to work. I also want to thank Mario Quagliata, Canegrowers' lead in the Green Shirts Movement, for pushing to establish a federal Senate inquiry into the current science being used by the Labor government and now questioned by scientists such as former JCU scientist Peter Ridd to establish what is fact and what is fiction. This is important for those opposite. What they are trying to establish is what is fact and what is fiction. Why not wait for that inquiry to say what is fact and what is fiction? Surely the Labor government could wait to see what comes from that inquiry.


As AgForce general president Georgie Somerset said, agriculture has done more than any other industry group to reduce impacts on the reef. Under the LNP agriculture steadily embedded the voluntary use of best management practices, but voluntarily is obviously not the way this Labor government wants to go. The Labor Party prefers centralised, bureaucratic regulations that punish and blame target groups. I think it is important that the members of this parliament come together to make

sure that we try to do the right thing when it comes to the environment. We need to understand that as legislators it is important that we do the right thing, and that includes involving agriculture, environmentalists and conservationists to get the right result.

I want to conclude with what we will be blamed for. As the shadow minister and member for Broadwater said, we will be blamed for Nemo not surviving environmental vandals. Have a look at the LNP's record over the last 70 to 80 years when it comes to the environment. It was the LNP that brought in serious penalties for environmental harming of the reef, including fines of up to \$3.5 million or five years. It was telling that Labor chose to vote against those laws. It was the LNP that banned oil and gas operations on the Great Barrier Reef. Under the LNP the Great Barrier Reef marine park was established, allowing World Heritage listing. It was the LNP that set new international standards in marine conservation by expanding the marine park's 'no take' sanctuary areas.

It was the Labor Party under Anna Bligh that planned to supersize the port of Abbot Point. In what would have been an act of environmental vandalism, Labor planned to dump—and I hope those opposite are listening—38 cubic metres of dredge spoil on top of the reef. Fortunately, the LNP was elected in time to fix Labor's mess, scaling back the proposed port, reducing the amount of dredge spoil and insisting that the spoil must be disposed of on land and not on the reef or its waters. It was the LNP that embedded protections for the reef into Queensland's port strategies, and it took the LNP to fulfil UNESCO's recommendations for port development. Before those opposite start spruiking how environmentally aware they are and how great they have been in the past, the LNP has also played a significant role in protecting the Great Barrier Reef.


We are simply asking if we could come together—bring agriculture, conservationists and environmentalists into one room and get this right. I ask those opposite to support the shadow minister's motion. Let's stop fighting about this. Let's get this right and let's do it properly.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): I rise to oppose the disallowance motion moved by the member for Broadwater.

Queenslanders have the great privilege of being the guardians of one of the greatest natural wonders of the world: the Great Barrier Reef. It is a role we take very seriously. If you ask any Queenslanders whether they think the reef should be protected from pollution, invariably they think it should be. That is what this government has done. When we came to government the Great Barrier Reef was on the verge of being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list. The Newman government had no interest in enforcing any standards that would help the reef survive. By not setting minimum standards you do not just let the few pollute the reef with no consequences; you also tell the many—the majority, in fact—that their efforts to do the right thing and protect the reef do not matter. Why work so hard to prevent fertiliser and sediment run-off from your farm if your neighbour can just go ahead and ruin that good work? Preventing pollution is crucial. Clean water and resilient coral are the only things that will give the reef a fighting chance against the challenges of climate change.

I have seen our reef after a coral bleaching event. The only thing worse than the site of ghostly white coral is hearing the stories of tourism operators losing their livelihoods. Reef tourism contributes more than \$6 billion to the economy. The Great Barrier Reef supports over 60,000 jobs. These jobs are overwhelmingly in regional Queensland. It is essential that Queensland emerge from the current public health crisis with the confidence that its major tourism drawcard and business generator, the Great Barrier Reef, is in good condition.

Every Queenslanders should have the same opportunity to show their children the Great Barrier Reef that I have had. When it is safe to do so we will welcome our friends from other states back to see it too. Queenslanders know the value of the Great Barrier Reef. Australians know the value of the reef. The international community knows its value. If the member for Broadwater could stop thinking about his own job for a moment and focus on the jobs of Queenslanders he might realise why the Great Barrier Reef is worth protecting too.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion relating to the disallowance of subordinate legislation No. 234 and No. 233. These regulations are a product of last year's punitive Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I also advise the House that, in accordance with my register of interests, I am a landholder who is impacted by the act.

The reef act is one of the most egregious examples of this government's desperation to be in lock step with the wishes of radical environmental activists; of a government willing to pander to a green agenda for some votes and Twitter accolades; of cynical political expediency being the central tenet of

government policy. The reef laws were rushed in to achieve a political agenda and granted sweeping legislative powers to the chief executive of the department to set underlying standards and requirements. The government rushed through legislation and transferred responsibility through subordinate legislation to the bureaucracy.

I support this disallowance motion because too much power is being put into the hands of the executive at the expense of parliament and because industries that are vital to Queensland's economic health are being hamstrung by excessive regulation and government overreach. We need to free up industries such as agriculture and tourism, not tie them up. If the government is truly genuine about addressing the economic challenges facing this state it will also support this disallowance motion.

Subordinate legislation No. 234 prescribes catchment maps and minimum agricultural practice standards which farmers will be forced to comply with. Specifying the standards, yet not including them within the actual regulation, has been identified as a potential breach of fundamental legislative principles. The parliament has no way to debate, amend or reject these provisions. A huge part of these laws is now in the hands of the unelected bureaucracy and the executive. They have been removed from parliamentary scrutiny. Imposing methodologies and mapping instead of preserving them in subordinate legislation is a blatant example of this government's active disdain for the parliament and parliamentary scrutiny. It also highlights the government's overwhelming contempt for farmers and regional communities who depend on the agricultural sector.

It is not surprising when the minister who is supposed to advocate for and support the agricultural sector refused to stand up in this parliament and speak against the reef laws. The minister sat back and let the green agenda roll right on by. Nothing was said to defend the interests of farmers and producers.

Last year we were told that AgForce members manage about 20 per cent of the grazing and grain land across the six catchments. In 13.4 million hectares, or 40 per cent of that area, they have already completed best management practice. The environment minister's speech showed the government's negative view of the sector with claims about farming practices when she said—

The standards will require growers to replace outdated high-risk practices with practices that are known to limit nutrient and sediment run-off and enhance efficiency, including in cost of production.

Those views contradict the story the agricultural minister told as a senator. Minister Furner told the Senate a different story about land management practices near the reef when he said—

... farmers in the region, as a result of consultation, have been taking a responsible approach and have been considering the way they conduct their agriculture and their land use in those areas. That is, to some degree, lessening the impact on the reef.

The minister also should know that regardless of their run-off risk and proximity to the reef everyone is targeted. The reef laws extended to catch primary producers further west and south than previously covered, including those in the Burnett and Mary catchment areas who were previously unregulated. The minister should know that AgForce asked how it is 'feasible for run-off water from a property near Alpha to travel 886 kilometres along the entire length of the Burdekin River to reach the reef?' There has been silence. No answer. The minister said and did nothing to support stakeholders. Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan told the committee—

... having meetings is one thing but feeling like we have been listened to is a different story ... It feels like the more meetings we have the worse it gets.


The agriculture minister does nothing to defend the industries he is supposed to support around the cabinet table. He is mute because he is more interested in appeasing inner-city activists. The minister allows them to trample over the agriculture sector with egregious overreach such as this. Judge them by what they do, not by what they say.

Farmers and primary producers seriously undertake their responsibility as custodians of the land, ecosystems and biodiversity. They understand it must be cared for now and for future generations. The management of erosion and sediment run-off is a top priority because land is one of their primary assets. To hold landholders solely accountable for sediment run-off is ludicrous, unfair and unaffordable.

Subordinate legislation No. 233 fixes the commencement date of 1 December 2019 for the remaining provisions of the GBR act. Our support of the disallowance motion is a natural consequence of our opposition to the reef laws and our amendments. Almost everyone wants to protect the reef, just as they want to protect the environment. Few people deliberately set out to be environmental vandals. Distorting the science to selectively choose the science to back a predetermined policy position creates bad policy and is bad government. The department even admitted during the committee hearings that independent consultancy and scientific work was needed on the reef laws.

The government was warned that the reef laws granted excessive powers to bureaucracy, were founded on little scientific basis, were rushed, impose exorbitant fines, ignore primary producers, devalue farming, were cynically shaped according to a green agenda and will do little to help the reef. It not only went ahead with them; it blamed the farmers and farming communities. Labor members from coastal electorates did not explain how they justified this attack on their regions, their workers, their families and their local businesses. They disappeared. They did not fight for their communities. These communities cannot trust that government members will stand up when it is needed. The public has lost trust in the government. The public cannot trust ministers to act in the best interest of Queenslanders and our industries. The public cannot trust that ministers are guided by anything other than blatant political self-interest and cynical political expediency.

The reef laws were a stitch up which eroded trust between primary producers and the government. Industries, workers, families and businesses which are impacted by reef regulations have all expressed concern about the government's contentious direction. I support this disallowance motion because including standards within the legislation allows full parliamentary scrutiny and provides certainty for both agricultural and environmental stakeholders.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.14 pm): Can I start by saying that for those opposite to categorise this debate as some sort of full-frontal attack on landowners and farmers in this state is wrong. We all know that the Great Barrier Reef is under enormous stress. It is fighting for survival and there are a whole range of things that have impacted the health of the Great Barrier Reef, from ocean acidification caused by an increasingly hot climate to what we are debating here today—that is, the quality of the water that runs off the land into catchment and out to the Great Barrier Reef. This is what we are debating today and we all have an obligation and a responsibility—politicians, people who live in the city and contribute to global warming, people who work the land and use nutrients that run off into the reef and have sediment that runs off into the reef, and urban towns that have water treatment facilities that need to be upgraded so that the quality of the water running into the reef is improved. There is an obligation on so many of us here in Queensland. This is not about attacking one party; it is about all of us recognising the things that we need to do to give the reef a fighting chance. And it starts here tonight.

Much has been said about the national cabinet process, about the cooperation that we have seen at an unprecedented level to fight a global pandemic that has frightened the world and frightened us here. We have lauded it, we have applauded it and we have held it up as a model for future collaboration between states and the Commonwealth going forward. Can I say for those members in the House tonight that we have actually been doing this for a while when it comes to the Great Barrier Reef. We have had a committee of the best possible marine scientists sitting around the table from a Commonwealth and a state level working collaboratively to find the best way forward to protect this incredible asset on Queensland's doorstep. We have had this template when it comes to the reef. What we have not had is the political will. That is what we have not had.

The Scientific Consensus Statement was put out by both the Commonwealth government and the Queensland government back in 2017. As I recall correctly, in 2017 there was an LNP government at the federal level—perhaps it was not headed by Scott Morrison, but there was an LNP government at the federal level—and there was also in Queensland as is the case now the Palaszczuk government. What we had in 2017 was the hangover of the Newman government's best management practice when it came to the reef. What did the Scientific Consensus Statement say about how we were tracking when it came to water quality? It said—

The evidence base supporting this consensus is provided in a series of four supporting chapters. The main conclusions were:

1. The decline of marine water quality associated with landbased run-off from the adjacent catchments is a major cause of the current poor state of many of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef. Water quality improvement has an important role in ecosystem resilience.
2. The main source of the primary pollutants (nutrients, fine sediments and pesticides) from Great Barrier Reef catchments is diffuse source pollution from agriculture. These pollutants pose a risk to Great Barrier Reef coastal and marine ecosystems.
3. Progress towards the water quality targets has been slow and the present trajectory suggests these targets will not be met.
4. Greater effort to improve water quality is urgently required to progress substantial pollutant reductions using an expanded scope of tailored and innovative solutions. Climate change adaptation and mitigation, cumulative impact assessment for major projects and better policy coordination are also required to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

And it goes on.

Fundamentally, what the Scientific Consensus Statement said, by both Commonwealth and state scientists, is that what we are doing now is not working. We have to be really honest and we have to confront that. We have to ask, 'What more can we be doing?' We do know that when there were regulations in place previously they worked. Regulations work. That is what we are revisiting here tonight. We are revisiting it for the sole purpose of giving the reef a fighting chance.

Back in 2015 when Labor won the election and the Palaszczuk Labor government came into office with a very strong suite of measures to ensure that the Great Barrier Reef was not put on the endangered list by the World Heritage organisation this was a commitment that we made. We made this commitment to Queenslanders, we made it to Australians and we made it to the world in terms of giving the reef a fighting chance. There was a whole range of things that we promised at the time, but improving water quality, setting targets and working towards those targets was a key commitment. Those commitments ensured that the Great Barrier Reef was not put on the endangered list by UNESCO. What that means is jobs; what that means is a viable tourism industry.

What we are doing here tonight is talking about giving the reef a fighting chance, making sure we are honest about the current policy settings and the fact they are not working and the fact that we need regulation to give them teeth, to give them strength and to give them muscle. What we are also talking about here tonight is jobs—jobs in the tourism industry. We have had such significant economic prosperity because of the Great Barrier Reef. It is time for us to give the Great Barrier Reef something back when it comes to ecological protection and to making sure we are improving the quality of the water that runs onto the reef.

Let me just address very quickly the cynicism of those opposite. They want to come in here and talk about preferences. Let me say that the only political party preferencing the Greens in this seat is the LNP, and I know it well. Those opposite have come in here opposing these regulations for the purpose of securing One Nation preferences. Let's be absolutely clear; they are being cannibalised by the One Nation Party and they have come in here to do over the reef so they can get preferences from One Nation. That will be their legacy.

Finally, I wish to correct the member for Broadwater when it comes to the protection of the reef. He wants to come in here and say that it was the LNP that protected the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling. A simple Google search will absolutely confirm for the member for Broadwater—and he should get up and correct the record—that it was the Bjelke-Petersen government in the 1960s and into the 1970s that wanted to drill for oil on the Great Barrier Reef. What sort of a tourism industry would we have had with great big oil rigs out on the Great Barrier Reef? None, absolutely none! Who was it? It was the Whitlam government in 1973 that passed the Seas and Submerged Lands Act which gave the Commonwealth the ability to override Joh Bjelke-Petersen and his oil rigs to ensure we protected the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.


**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I know that the aspiring leader for the LNP is out there interjecting heavily because he is so angry about his thwarted plans to lead the LNP. The member for Broadwater should really come clean—

**Mr Lister:** What about your thwarted plans?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Southern Downs, do that again and you will be on a warning.

**Ms TRAD:** I am not sure what language he was using just then when he was interjecting. The member for Broadwater should correct the record when it comes to oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef. The other thing that the member for Broadwater should come clean about is how many meetings he has had with Clive Palmer and what Clive Palmer has promised him in return for his leadership challenge. I think all Queenslanders are really keen to know.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the disallowance motion moved by my colleague the member for Broadwater. It is always a pleasure to follow the member for South Brisbane. She asks: what about the tourism jobs? I am going to stand tonight and ask: what about the jobs in the agricultural sector? What about the farmers? When the member for South Brisbane is having a meal tonight she might like to have a look at that meal and ask herself where it came from. While she is doing that she should ask herself where the clothes she is wearing came from, because they came from our hardworking farmers in this state.

I support this motion moved by the member for Broadwater because at the end of the day this legislation is yet another attack on regional Queensland by this government. If this government has its way, if it continues to bring this legislation before this parliament, there will be a wasteland in terms of agriculture from Cairns to Gympie. Its members will not be satisfied until they shut down all the farming operations between Cairns and Gympie.

Members opposite talk about this toxic water run-off from our farms and how it is polluting the reef. I went out to a canefarmer in the Burdekin a few months ago, Russell Hall up at Clare. He waded into his recycle pit. That is where all the water from his irrigation is collected. It is teeming with fish and birdlife. He had a glass with him and he went and filled it with the water and he drank it. I was so confident in him and his farming practices that I did, too. If that water is so toxic, if it is so full of chemicals and pesticides, why would all that fish and birdlife be present in that water? Why would it be clear when it is poured into a glass? We must ask the question: if these farmers are such environmental vandals why is that water quality of such a high standard?

Members opposite cannot have it both ways. Whilst they talk a big game on standing up for primary producers, at the end of the day when they bring legislation like this before the House, their true colours shine through. Is it not ironic that on the same day that the Premier stood up in this place and talked about a multimillion dollar stimulus package for the agricultural sector we are having this debate, which I can tell honourable members is absolutely demonising our farmers who are out there every single day busting their guts to try to make a living. They are doing it tough at the moment. Members can ask any one of them.

**Mr STEWART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member used unparliamentary language.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burdekin, would you like to withdraw that?

**Mr LAST:** I withdraw. Our hardworking farmers are out there trying to make a living and are up against it at the moment with depressed world sugar prices. If people go to places like the Burdekin they will find that those entire communities are dependent on the sugar industry and the rural sector. They can travel up the coast and look at a number of towns, and they do not have to go far: Maryborough, Bundaberg, Mackay, all through the Burdekin, Ingham, Innisfail, Mulgrave, Mossman—what would those communities be like without their sugar industry?

**Government members** interjected.

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

**Mr LAST:** Our canegrowers have continued to innovate and they have continued to play their part in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Despite the fact that farmers do not receive BMP funding and pay for the changes out of their own pocket, the number of cane farming enterprises participating in best management practices, as alluded to by the member for Broadwater, continues to increase. In fact, 1,953 cane farming enterprises are now benchmarked under the internationally recognised Smartcane BMP system. Instead of recognising this achievement, this government continues to persecute our sugarcane farmers. I do not know any farmer who puts on more chemical, fertiliser or water than they absolutely need to in order to grow their crops—


**An opposition member:** They can't afford to. It would cost too much.

**Mr LAST:**—because that is just like pouring money down the drain. It is in their best interests to retain every megalitre of water on their farms and not see it go down the river. They want to retain it because that is efficiency. They are developing systems—and I have seen it firsthand—and I have seen the cost that these farmers incur in building onsite recycling pits and water storage facilities so that they can recycle this water and engage in best management practices.

Tonight we have heard a lot about science. When I have a question about the Great Barrier Reef—and can I put on the record that I am as passionate as anyone in this place about protecting the Great Barrier Reef and making sure that it is there for future generations—I go to an institute in my electorate called the Australian Institute of Marine Science. I talk to those scientists, because they are at the cutting edge of scientific research when it comes to protection of the Great Barrier Reef in terms of measurements and analysis. That is where we should focus, instead of this scaremongering campaign that we have from those opposite—that the reef is dying and will not be there for the next generation.

The sugar industry supports \$4 billion in economic activity, 22,000 jobs and 10,000 businesses at a time when this state is reeling off the back of the COVID-19 pandemic. How important is that industry to the economic prosperity of this state? The sugar crush has started throughout Queensland and, of course, that generates even more jobs. It is an industry that we should encourage and support because, at the end of the day, those jobs provide much needed income for a lot of families across Queensland.

As members of this House, it is our responsibility to represent our constituents through the good and the bad. We stand or fall based on how we represent our electorate, the people who live there and the businesses that operate there. Every member of this House who voted in support of that reef legislation has let down their primary producers. While those opposite hide behind unelected people, through this disallowance motion the LNP calls on us, the elected members in this place, to be the people who decide the future of this key industry and all the others affected by this legislation. It is about time that those opposite stood up for the people who stood up for them. It is about time that every member in this House treated our primary producers with the respect and dignity that they richly deserve. I will back our farmers every single day of the week and I will stand with them shoulder to shoulder on this issue, because this issue is demonising them. It is having a big impact on them. It has put another level of red tape and bureaucracy on their shoulders that they can ill afford to bear. The first step tonight in supporting our agricultural sector and our farmers is supporting the member for Broadwater's motion.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (6.33 pm): I begin by acknowledging the outstanding contribution of the member for South Brisbane. The detail, accuracy and the delivery were fantastic, particularly when we talk about the history of the impact this has had at the federal level. It is very important. I want to make a couple of comments. Hopefully I will be able to get through this and not stimulate another discussion from the member for Broadwater about how things were. When he was talking to those tourism operators in Cairns, did he tell them that he was moving legislation to reduce protections on the Great Barrier Reef? I will address that a little later.

We on this side of the chamber accept the science but, more importantly, we acknowledge the importance of accepting that science. When it is portrayed as 'us against them', you would have to be dull and ignorant to push such an initiative. That is not what we are here about today. We are talking about what is vitally important, not just for industries but obviously in terms of the environmental perspective. While climate change is the most significant long-term threat to the Great Barrier Reef, improving water quality is an immediate step to building its resilience. This is what the science tells us. We are reacting to the science.

As a result, in November 2019 the Palaszczuk Labor government passed landmark legislation to protect the Great Barrier Reef and, in doing so, reflected its solid intention to protect not just the Great Barrier Reef but also our vitally important marine tourism industry. This legislation was welcomed not only throughout Queensland and Australia but also around the world. As the member for South Brisbane said, this was absolutely fundamental in ensuring that the reef was not placed on the endangered list. That would have had a detrimental impact on the jobs in our industry.

The Great Barrier Reef protection legislation sets pollution limits for each reef catchment to improve water quality. It establishes minimum agricultural practice standards, targeting nutrient and sediment pollutant from cane, bananas, grain and grazing. It also establishes a framework for recognising farmers operating at that industry best practice. This is a partnership. We have heard from the other side—and, although rarely, I do agree—that farmers appreciate and get the importance of the ecosystem. That is why we are working with farmers. That is why farmers have contributed and why many do contribute. These are the undisputed facts.


We could limit potential sources of pollution from new cropping and industrial development. We do this working with the agriculture industry, moving forward. The Queensland government is providing over \$10 million in farming and reef catchment rebate schemes, administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. The reef is an iconic natural wonder that needs to be preserved not just for us and for jobs but also for future generations.

As we heard, the Great Barrier Reef supports over 60,000 Queensland jobs and contributes over \$6 billion to the Australian economy. You only need to visit my city of Cairns to see the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in tourism and reef products. You can also see the significant investment in terms of generations of people having jobs in the Great Barrier Reef and hundreds of businesses it



supports. It is absolutely significant. The government's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs includes protecting the reef as an important asset. The science is clear: climate change is having a negative impact. Bleaching events and other impacts on poor water quality continue to harm the reef. With improved water quality, the reef has a much better chance of recovering from recent climate change and extreme weather events. The reef regulations are the strongest protections introduced by the Queensland government, protecting not just jobs but also the economy and, more importantly, the environment.

The Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$330 million in the reef over five years to boost joint management and to improve water quality to make the reef more resilient. On Friday, 30 August 2019 the reef outlook and Reef Water Quality Report Card were released. This is agreed science between the state and federal governments. The science says that we need to accelerate our efforts and work together effectively to secure a bright future. This is absolutely fundamental. The LNP's inability to comprehend the reliable science highlights the fact that it cannot be trusted with the responsibility of protecting the Great Barrier Reef, not just in terms of the amazing natural asset that it is but also in terms of the tens of thousands of jobs and the hundreds of businesses it supports.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.38 pm): The KAP supports the disallowance motion. Since time began, the Great Barrier Reef has been a political football. I was there in 1999 when the Beattie government introduced legislation to remove landowners' rights in terms of using their land. In 2004, the Beattie government removed freehold rights. In 2006, the government introduced wild rivers legislation to end sustainable management in the river catchment areas of Cape York Peninsula. That was opposed by the traditional owners and thrown out by the courts. In 2010, the Bligh government introduced ERMPs, environmental risk management plans, such that if landowners did not fill out the forms correctly they could be fined \$75,000 or if they did not at all fill out the forms they could be jailed. In 2017 the Palaszczuk government introduced the vegetation management laws that reversed the onus of proof such that people were guilty before proven innocent. In 2019 the state government introduced the environmental protection bill—the bill dealt with by this disallowance motion—and I believe that it does nothing to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Instead, massive regulations have been imposed on our farmers and there are up to \$270,000 fines if they do not abide by some of the regulations.

It sounds good and great that we are out there to protect the Great Barrier Reef. For the voters in Brisbane it also sounds great that we are caring for the Great Barrier Reef because it provides millions of dollars to the local Queensland economy. However, when it comes to funds and river trusts, there is very little. When it comes to funds for riverbank repair, there is very little in the way of that funding. During Cyclone Yasi I flew over the Innisfail region and all you could see as far as the eye could see was plume and settlement pushed out through the Great Barrier Reef system. If we compare the floods in Townsville to what that area copped during those cyclones, this is only a small amount.

It is important to remember that people want catchment groups to have a say and therefore we do not need government legislation. We do not need this forced legislation that treats farmers like criminals, but we need to work with farmers. There is an example of this cooperation right at the present moment which I want to bring to the attention of the House. That example is an Aboriginal business called Jaragun based in the Babinda region that is working collaboratively with traditional landowners, canefarmers, community groups, scientists and conservationists to improve water quality outcomes in the Russell River system which flows into the Great Barrier Reef catchment. This is unheard of—farmers and conservationists working together to improve water quality to the reef.

Jaragun has been working closely with the Department of Environment and Science on the Russell River catchment sustainability plan. Instead of constantly demonising farmers, this plan shows that when working together with all stakeholders a more positive outcome can be achieved. It might sound good for the government to pretend that it cares for the Great Barrier Reef by introducing draconian legislation that has little or no effect on the Great Barrier Reef whatsoever, but it damages our farming industry if that legislation is introduced. The department's own recent release, the Gurra Gurra Framework 2020-2026, calls for engaging in partnerships with traditional landowner organisations. It would be a complete betrayal of the department's own policy on working with Indigenous landowners if Jaragun's well thought out and established plan was not adopted when this group is working with those catchment farmers in those areas. I support this disallowance motion after bringing that to the attention of the House.



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.43 pm): I rise in opposition to the disallowance motion moved by the member for Broadwater, who I am sure thought he would be sitting in a different seat tonight to move this motion. Tonight we have once again seen the recklessness of the LNP on full display. The Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage listed icon. It contributes \$6 billion to the Australian economy every year and supports 60,000 jobs. Our government is committed to its ongoing protection, and that is what these regulations are all about.

The member for Broadwater is supposed to be the opposition spokesperson for tourism and the environment, and today he has turned his back on both of those groups. Why? Because his attention is on being the next leader of the opposition. He thought that this motion was going to be a good way to shore up votes on the backbench. However, this entire disallowance motion is an exercise in LNP internal party muscle flexing. This is a very difficult time for tourism operators in the wake of COVID-19, and for the LNP to come in this place and further jeopardise their livelihoods by risking the health of the Great Barrier Reef is outrageous.

The regulations that the LNP seeks to disallow commenced the provisions of the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. This act's primary objective is to strengthen measures to improve the quality of the water entering the Great Barrier Reef, thereby protecting the reef and the jobs that rely on it. Contrary to what has been claimed, the act is a considered and balanced approach based on best available peer reviewed science and the recommendations of leading experts.

I have stated before the importance of taking urgent action to improve reef water quality. Poor water quality is a major cause of poor reef health, particularly for inshore coral ecosystems. The other major threat is of course climate change. As members may be aware, the reef experienced a third mass bleaching event this past summer. While climate change requires global, national and local action to reduce emissions, responsibility and the capacity to improve reef water quality rests firmly with Queensland and Queenslanders and improved water quality flowing into the reef gives it the best chance of survival as the climate changes.

Tonight I have heard a lot from those opposite about working together, but to do that we have to acknowledge and accept the science. That is what I call on those opposite to do: to accept the science—the consensus science around this—rather than attack it. The science about poor reef quality is very clear. The 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement, the Reef Water Quality Report Card 2017 and 2018 and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's reef outlook report 2019 all confirm that, in spite of the efforts of some, poor water quality continues to threaten the reef. In fact, last year's outlook report gave the troubling message that the outlook for the reef is very poor. Excess nutrients and fine sediments from land based sources are polluting the reef.

The Great Barrier Reef protection measures enacted on 1 December 2019 by this regulation and by this government directly respond to and act on this science—science that is backed in by so many sources. The measures also directly respond to the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce in its 2016 report. Made up of economic and industry experts and leading water quality scientists, the task force was convened to provide the best possible advice on how to meet the water quality targets essential for a healthy reef now and into the future. The task force advised that a mix of tools was necessary to drive a step change in improving reef water quality and that this mix of tools should include strengthened regulations. Again, these were experts from multiple disciplines coming together and recommending a regulatory approach.

Regulation was considered necessary along with other measures such as funding for innovation and on-ground practical advice to achieve the changes in land management practice at the vast scale required for a healthy reef. More recently, the Australian and Queensland governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the benefits of using science and expert advice to guide complex decision-making when facing difficult problems. Likewise, the Great Barrier Reef protection measures are based on clear science and expert advice.

Instead of responsibly acting on the scientific evidence, what we have seen from the LNP at both a state and federal level is a callous disregard for the facts and a shameful attempt to discredit reputable peer reviewed science. The worst example of this from the LNP is not in its appalling Senate inquiry that is giving oxygen to unsupported claims about the reef and not the constant attacks on science from the members opposite; it is the appalling proposal that Queensland should introduce an office of science

quality assurance. That is right, Deputy Speaker: you have heard that right. The LNP wants to create a government body whose specific job it will be to vet and censor independent peer reviewed scientific evidence in our state. That is what that office of science quality assurance is all about. If members were not frightened before, they should be now. In the year 2020, what kind of political party thinks that governments should be able to intervene in what expert advice scientists provide? It is a disgraceful suggestion from a party that has quite simply run out of ideas.

Coming back to the regulations themselves, while the efforts of the agricultural industry, individual farmers, local governments and others to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in reef waterways is acknowledged, more widespread and rapid action is required.

The Great Barrier Reef protection measures set pollution load limits for each reef region, establish minimum agricultural practice standards targeting nutrient and sediment pollution from key industries, set standards for the quality of advice provided to regulated producers, establish a framework to recognise farmers operating at industry best practice and seek to counter additional pollution from new cropping and industrial development. We need every industry, not just every farmer, to implement practices that we know reduce the potential for nutrient and sediment run-off and we need every agricultural adviser to support our farmers in this effort.

These measures will ensure that certain high-risk practices are no longer used and instead farmers take the steps many of their neighbours have already taken and seen success with. For example, graziers in the Burnett Mary have received funding and advice through the Better Beef for the Reef project to help fix erosion hotspots on their property. Using increased ground cover to address the erosion has resulted in less sediment run-off. Adopting practices that keep valuable soil and nutrients in the paddock helps farm productivity and maintains jobs and communities. That is because these regulated practices are based on expert advice and industry accepted best practice on how to maintain or improve productivity and profitability while limiting the risk of nutrient and sediment losses off farm and onto the reef. We also know from the body of evidence gathered from on-farm trials over many years that regulated practices reduce run-off without limiting agricultural productivity. For example, one large sugarcane farm increased its profits by over \$100,000 by refining the amount of nitrogen applied using soil tests and crop needs. The grower saved money on fertiliser costs and increased their revenue through greater sugar yields. In this way farms can be productive, profitable and sustainable.

The Palaszczuk government supports the growth of the agricultural sector; its growth can be reef safe. Our approach on managing new cropping development is pragmatic and it is expected that most new enterprises will involve standard applications and be subject to standard conditions. A standard application can be made if new cropping activities are proposed of no more than 100 hectares of land and the land does not have a cropping history. A standard application can also be made for new cropping activities for banana production for any area of land if it is being done to move an existing banana production out of an area that is subject to a notice about Panama disease, for instance. This means most applications will be straightforward with a streamlined application process. All standard applications will be promptly approved subject to the same set of conditions. The conditions will relate to farm design to manage the risks of nutrient and sediment losses off farm, including setbacks from natural waterways. Application fees are minimal and annual fees will not be payable. If one or more conditions are not workable on a particular site or for a particular operation a variation application can be made and alternative conditions set.

Further and importantly, only land that has never been cropped or not been cropped in a long time is subject to the new cropping requirements. Farmers are also able to readily respond to market demand and commodity prices with changes in crop type not triggering additional requirements. New cropping activities for more than 100 hectares will be subject to a site specific assessment process and will require proponents to provide site specific information for that assessment. This more stringent approach means that the development of large areas for intensive cropping can be carefully assessed to ensure that water quality impacts will be effectively managed.

Further consultation about the standard conditions for new cropping and horticultural activities will occur once restrictions to manage the COVID-19 pandemic are eased. In response to the unprecedented circumstances of the global pandemic, I took the reasonable step to suspend the stakeholder consultation process that was underway and delay the commencement of the new cropping requirement. This strikes the right balance between progressing these important measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef and alleviating potential pressures on industries and communities affected by the impacts of COVID-19. The delay means producers will not need an environmental authority until

1 June 2021 to start new cropping and horticulture on land that that does not have a recent cropping history. It also means producers have an extra 12 months to get ready for the new requirements and extra time to consider the draft standard conditions and provide input on their design. Consultation will recommence later this year as restrictions lift. Industry and real-world feedback is so important to ensuring the proposed standards are workable for producers as well as being effective in reducing the risk of water pollution.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting our agricultural industry and protecting our reef and the jobs and economic benefits that both generate. To support producers to meet the new regulations the government is investing \$10.1 million in rebates of up to \$1,000 for eligible graziers, sugarcane farmers and banana growers to obtain professional advice about managing nutrients and sediment. This is on top of over \$120 million in Queensland government investment since 2009 in industry-led best management practice programs and one-on-one support. Additionally, these regulations will have little to no impact on farmers who have already adopted industry accepted best practice standards. This is because the act recognises industry accreditation programs such as the Smartcane BMP program that support producers to meet or exceed the regulated agricultural activities standards. Producers who are accredited through recognised industry best management practice programs or similar programs will be considered as meeting the minimum practice standards and will be a very low priority for compliance visits. Many producers support this approach because it recognises and values the efforts already made by the growers who are already doing the right thing.

I would also like to remind the House that the government has committed to not changing the minimum practice agricultural standards for sugar cane, bananas and grazing for five years. I made this commitment last December to provide greater certainty and assurance to farmers. I would also like to point out that even after five years the standards cannot be changed without due process. The law requires that these provisions can only be changed after a rigorous process involving a regulatory impact assessment, public consultation and consideration of all submissions received. The changes then need to be approved by regulation with the regulation subject to parliamentary scrutiny and, of course, disallowance. The Queensland government has also committed that after three years of operation it will review the legislation's effectiveness in reducing the load of dissolved inorganic nitrogen and fine sediment in the Great Barrier Reef catchment waters.

While the agricultural sector has a major role to play, it is important to emphasise that all industries in our reef catchment are playing their part in improving water quality. New, expanded or intensified regulated industrial land use activities that release nutrients and sediment into waterways will also need to meet new requirements. This includes sewage treatment plants, of course. This will ensure that new activities in the Great Barrier Reef catchment do not jeopardise the progress made to date largely by our farming communities towards meeting the water quality targets.

The Great Barrier Reef protection measures do not target farmers, they do not target the agricultural industry. They seek to ensure that good practices put to use also protect the health of the reef. Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of the Queensland government's six priorities under Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities. It is the world's largest coral reef ecosystem and an Australian and global icon. It is critical to the spiritual, cultural, economic and social wellbeing of the more than one million people who live in its catchment and to Australians generally. It is the centrepiece of Queensland's vibrant tourism industry and the top reason people visit our beautiful state.

I trust the science and I trust the expert advice that these measures will result in improvements to reef water quality and give the Great Barrier Reef the best possible chance in a changing climate. Improving water quality will help the reef recover more quickly from coral bleaching, which is more important now than ever before. The bleaching this summer affected a broader area, impacting southern areas not previously bleached in 2016 or 2017. While the effects of this event do not appear to be as severe as previous years, it is worrying to note that this is the first time that a mass bleaching event has occurred in the absence of an El Nino episode. The significance of this cannot be overstated. Like the fires last summer, coral bleaching is what climate change looks like. There is no surprise that the bleaching followed the hottest February ever recorded in Australia. Addressing water quality will provide the greatest prospects for a reef that is resilient to a changing climate.

This is a shameful disallowance motion by a desperate LNP in an attempt to bolster support from the backbench. We are debating a motion that will risk the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the thousands of jobs that rely on it, all for the sake of one person's job. I oppose the motion before the House.

Division: Question put—That disallowance motion No. 1 be agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members are reminded that the total number of votes cast for each party includes those present under sessional orders and any proxy votes but must not include paired members or members asked to withdraw from the chamber and excluded from voting under the standing orders.

**AYES, 42:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**NQF, 1**—Costigan.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 47:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the negative.

Division: Question put—That disallowance motion No. 2 be agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members are reminded that the total number of votes cast for each party includes those present under sessional orders and any proxy votes but must not include paired members or members asked to withdraw from the chamber and excluded from voting under the standing orders.

**AYES, 42:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**NQF, 1**—Costigan.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 47:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the negative.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Long, Mr RP



**Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.11 pm): Tonight I call for Childers backpacker mass murderer Robert Paul Long to remain behind bars. I acknowledge survivor Richard, who is in the gallery with us tonight. At that time, he was here on a working holiday and, like many others, has fought hard to get this wrong righted. On behalf of the victims, the survivors of the fire and their families, we want to make a case for Robert Long's parole application to be quashed. The convicted killer's bid for freedom is causing indescribable torment to the survivors and their families as we reach the 20-year anniversary of the fire. Two decades on, victims and their families are reliving the nightmare all over again, while facing the possibility that that despicable man could be let out of jail. Fifteen young lives were cut short and another 70 victims have been left emotionally scarred for eternity because of that evil man.

I have letters from survivors, including Richard, who were in the prime of their lives when they experienced the horrific Childers fire. The letters outline the significant trauma that they experienced then and continue to experience from the nightmare. I table those electronically, so that others can reflect on how important this issue is.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from Kate and Lauren, to the Parole Board Queensland, regarding the parole application by Mr Robert Paul Long and the Childers Backpacker Hostel fire [907].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 June 2020, to the Parole Board of Queensland, regarding the parole application by Mr Robert Paul Long and the Childers Backpacker Hostel fire [908].


Survivor Kate Morris suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. In her letter she outlines how, to this day, she and her sister suffer from nightmares. They both suffer from flashbacks and anxiety. In part her letter states—

I will never forget the noise, smell and the screams inside the building, every day I still think about our friends and fellow travellers who never made it. They were murdered in their sleep by an absolute lunatic who purposely tried to kill us all.

We in this chamber need to remember that that man lit a fire when he knew everyone was sleeping. He sprayed accelerant on the fire. He threw pillows onto the fire. He knew the smoke alarms were disconnected. He wanted to kill 84 people that night. We should not rest until we secure a guarantee that that convicted killer will remain behind bars for the rest of his life. The parole application for Robert Long should be burnt, just like he burnt down the historic backpackers hostel in Childers. One of Australia's worst mass murderers deserves to be locked up for life. He belongs behind bars.

We call on the House to do all it can to ensure that Robert Long never gets parole. Let's not forget that he has only ever been convicted of two deaths. Let's not allow this issue to become a potential wrong. Those people all over the world who have been affected by this issue deserve our justice. Those people who put so much in over 20 years deserve our justice. We in this state in particular must take action on Robert Long's issues that confront us. I know from just recently that hardened police officers are still reliving this issue 20 years on and are deeply disturbed. The previous mayor of the Isis Council, Bill Trevor, who did a tireless job, deserves our support in keeping Robert Long behind bars for the rest of his natural life.

### JobKeeper; JobSeeker


 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (7.14 pm): When out and about in my community, the number of people who have talked to me specifically about the state of the economy, the state of jobs right across Australia, the impact that the coronavirus has had on their workplaces, their hours of work, their wages has been quite significant. I want to say from the outset that at the time that JobKeeper was announced I came out and absolutely supported the federal government's move to provide a safety net in the workforce through JobKeeper. But we cannot have an arbitrary time frame around the conclusion of JobKeeper. In fact, there are some communities we know well—the Whitsundays and Cairns—these communities were the first hit by the tourism downturn and will be one of the last communities to emerge out of the COVID economic coma.

What I really wanted to talk about tonight as well as JobKeeper, and joining the chorus of calls for the Commonwealth to keep JobKeeper in place, is JobSeeker. We know that JobSeeker is Newstart with an additional supplement, a COVID-19 supplement; it is a doubling, essentially, of Newstart. This is a much more dignified payment for people seeking employment than Newstart was. We know that for quite some time a number of organisations—ACOSS, QCOSS here in Queensland, Micah Projects in my own electorate—many welfare based organisations have been calling out for Newstart to be increased to something that people can live on with a sense of dignity. I have spoken to women and children escaping domestic violence who have had to go onto Newstart, and I say that \$40 a day is not enough to feed yourself, to put a roof over your head and look after your children. It is an absolute shame.

Tonight, I am calling on the federal government to not snap back the Newstart payment to what it was before coronavirus hit. Yes, it took a pandemic to get an LNP government to increase unemployment benefits in this nation to something that is far more dignified than the level of payment under Newstart, but it should remain in place regardless of when we come out of this pandemic. It is critical and important. It is a far more humanitarian level of benefit for those who are trying to get a foot in a workplace, those who are trying to upskill and train themselves, those who are trying to do all of that while raising children and putting a roof over their heads. I call on the Commonwealth to keep JobSeeker at the current level.

*(Time expired)*

### Northern Gold Coast, Infrastructure

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.17 pm): As part of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's COVID-19 economic recovery program, I am hopeful the Queensland government will back him, get on board on the northern Gold Coast because there are many shovel-ready projects that should be fast-tracked, so let's bring them on.

The construction of the exit 49 upgrade is not scheduled until 2023 at the earliest. That is a \$100 million spend that we could start on right now. The same situation for exit 41 which is a \$96 million spend. It is stuck in the slow lane. When will construction really start?

When the Pimpama Railway Station was promised by the Palaszczuk government in 2017, they did not bother telling anyone that it would not be built until 2024. That is a \$40 million spend that we could bring on and fast-track to 2021.


The federal government committed \$15 million for 400 car parks at the Coomera Railway Station back on 18 May 2019 and this minister will not even commit to spend it. Fast-tracking the building of the hard fought-for—and I was originally told never to be built—Pimpama Police Station, there is another around about \$10 million to \$12 million. Finally we saw in mid-May the fence put up at the Ormeau train station. The plan was for there to be 70 car parks, but I fought for, and we got, 125 car parks there as an absolute minimum. There are many, many other projects that need to be considered in the northern Gold Coast.

I come back to the fast-tracking of the Pimpama Railway Station. At the moment there is a petition containing 1,079 signatures of Queenslanders who wish to draw to the attention of the House the fact that the northern Gold Coast, centred on the Pimpama region, is the fastest growing region in Queensland and therefore the construction of the promised Pimpama Railway Station needs to be fast-tracked. The construction could form part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package. As I said earlier, the Labor government promised it in 2017, but not for delivery until 2024. I urge all people to get on board, go online and sign the parliamentary petition. Go to the parliamentary website, sign the petition and make sure you are counted as one of the people who wants to see that railway station fast-tracked.

There is so much more that can be done. We need to fix the Pimpama State Primary School car park. There are five additional bus bays desperately needed to overcome the bus stop debacle at Pimpama State Secondary College. We need additional bus stops. We need additional bus services on the northern Gold Coast. There is so much growth in Pimpama, yet no new bus services to speak of. The northern Gold Coast has been left behind for far too long. It is time now for them to shine.

*(Time expired)*

### Townsville, Water Supply; Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.19 pm): There is no doubt that every person in this House knows about Townsville and the great investment the Palaszczuk government has been making in this great city. We have built a brand-new school, invested in hospital infrastructure and built—

**Mr Harper:** The Townsville stadium!

**Mr STEWART:** Riverway Drive.

**Mr Harper:** Oh, Riverway Drive.

**Mr STEWART:** Riverway Drive. As the member for Thuringowa highlighted, we have also built the stadium. What a great investment in our city that is. It was fantastic to go to the opening event, being the Elton John concert, and then to go to the north versus south clash between the Cowboys and the Broncos.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** We will not talk about the outcome. I take that interjection.


The Premier was in town again just recently. This time it was to officially open stage 1 of the water pipeline. The existing pipeline was built for a Townsville population of 30,000. The new pipeline will supply enough water for a population of 300,000 or more. Some 1,000 local jobs were created and it cost \$215 million to build. This was a major project to help the economy after Queensland Nickel closed. When Queensland Nickel closed 800 jobs were lost in one day. When Queensland Nickel closed 3½ thousand indirect jobs were lost. The Palaszczuk government stepped up. It has a proven track record of stimulating jobs in the local economy. Let us have a look at what the government did

after the closure of Queensland Nickel. It created a very clear plan to get out of that situation. The Premier invested in a range of initiatives designed to create local jobs across a range of areas not just one big project.

Now with COVID-19 what are we seeing? We are seeing a loss of jobs. This time in completely different sectors—the hospitality, tourism and retail sectors. We have a recipe that works. We know it works because we saw it implemented after the closure of Queensland Nickel. What are we doing now? We are accelerating works like we did with the roadworks after Queensland Nickel's closure. We are investing in a range of projects. I just spoke to Simon Walker from Elliot Springs. He is a very happy man tonight. He has had a reduced staff load, but with the announcements today around the home owners grants those staff will come back on board.

It is about building confidence in the community. It is about training the future workforce for the jobs on the horizon. The Palaszczuk government's unite and recover economic recovery plan is based on a proven plan of recovery. It is about growing jobs and stimulating the economy beyond the simple sugar hit that other governments will do.

### Gold Coast, Crime

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.23 pm): For most of us coronavirus has put our normal lives on hold, but for a number of crooks in my area of the Gold Coast they did not get the stay home message. Tonight, I want to raise the concerns of my community about the level of crime in our suburbs. It has gone unchecked and many people feel unsafe in their own homes and on their streets.

In March, after hearing stories of break-ins, stolen cars and property, and other brazen attacks across Parkwood and Arundel, I ran a community crime forum at the iconic Arundel Tavern. I do not say iconic lightly. A big shout-out to Deb and her amazing team. Their renovations are looking fantastic. I was honoured to pour the first beers when they opened again the other day.

Ironically, at the same time I was getting messages or hearing about increased crime, the Arundel Police Hub, a fantastic facility with over 100 police from our area based there, was opened. Those officers are the elite RAP squad and it does concern me to hear a number of them are currently on border duties instead of getting around our city.

Getting back to the forum, we had over 200 locals come along and share their views with senior police officers and our shadow ministers. It was important because it let our community be heard by the people who can do something about what they are going through. Much of the night was spent talking about youth crime. There is a clear sentiment that the justice system is not working, particularly when it comes to these repeat young offenders. Stories of juveniles getting caught and getting a slap on the wrist means residents feel like there is no point even reporting a crime. It means these kids will often laugh off the possibility of ever being held to account for their actions.

Most attendees filled out a survey and the top three concerns about crime were safety at home, soft punishments for young people committing crimes and locals scared to use public transport, particularly at night. The last one is a real worry because these two suburbs have light rail stage 2 right next to them. We do not want any disincentive to use our trams. Alarming, 77 per cent of people felt the criminal justice system is not working. People said they wanted to see more police on the ground and increased penalties.

Two very special people came along that night too, Brett and Belinda Beasley. Brett and Belinda lost their 17-year-old son, Jack, last December. He was stabbed to death outside the IGA in the middle of Surfers Paradise. These Parkwood locals have gone through hell. The immense loss happened just before Christmas and only months before what would have been Jack's 18th birthday.

The young men charged with Jacko's murder have been granted bail and that shattered the Beasleys' faith in our justice system. Brett summed it up saying, 'It's a kick in the guts, but that's the system. It absolutely sucks.'

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Member, that is unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw.


**Mr O'CONNOR**: I withdraw. They have set up a foundation to change the culture of knife crime and to reform a system that is putting no fear in these grubs that their actions have consequences. To wrap up, we need more police on the ground, tougher penalties and a system that does not just put offenders straight back on the streets.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member, you have used unparliamentary language again. Even if you are quoting, you cannot use unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr O'CONNOR**: I withdraw.



### **Gleeson, Mr R; Barraister Coffee Co.**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.26 pm): I rise to speak about two matters this evening. First, I pay tribute to a good, hardworking man, a comrade and a friend, Mr Robert 'Bobby' Gleeson AM, who sadly passed away on Friday, 5 June 2020. Bob was a working man's hero—a shearer from Longreach, a staunch union man and a life member of the Australian Labor Party, having joined the Longreach branch back in 1962.

Queenslanders, particularly those in the federal seat of Kennedy, might remember seeing Bob's name on a ballot paper a couple of times. It is a real shame he never got to represent the ALP bush vote in the parliament. He would have done us all proud. Bob did make a contribution to local politics—serving on the Longreach Shire Council—before finding his real passion: the preservation and education of Australian outback history, especially as it relates to the trade union movement in Queensland.


Bob pursued this passion with acclaim as the CEO of the Barcaldine Australian Workers Heritage Centre. It is a place that holds fond memories for me. It contains the history of working Queenslanders. He was associated with the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre for over 20 years. Bob is an honorary life member of my union—the ETU—and a foundation member of the Tree of Knowledge Committee. Rest in peace, mate, you have earned it.

I want to continue on a lighter subject. I extend my congratulations and support to a great local businessman, James 'Jimmy' Sullivan, and recognise his unusual business venture taking the world by storm. If you drive along Pitt Road at Burpengary on your way to work, if you are part of the Burpengary State Secondary College community, if you visit the Burpengary fresh food and vegetable markets on Saturday mornings or if you just live around Burpengary, chances are you know about Jimmy's Barrarister coffee van and have sampled his wares. Jimmy is also a passionate fisherman, hence the name Barrarister.

Jimmy set up his van locally in 2013. This year he has raised the stakes again, launching the Barrarister Coffee Co.'s new chilli coffee with business partner, Doug Bates. It was great to get along to their world-first launch on Tuesday, 10 March this year. I shout out to another Burpengary business, Basil and Vine, for hosting the occasion and creating the accompanying chilli inspired desserts. If people need proof that people like their coffee hot, I can tell them that Jimmy and Doug have already scooped up a prestigious Mr Chilli award for the best new product. Chilli coffee was featured on the news last month with channel 10 describing it as 'palate priming'. I bought my chilli coffee a while back, and I concur it is my go-to in the office most days.

This year's COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions have made things even tougher than usual for small business. Jimmy is larger than life and through hard work and perseverance, the orders for chilli coffee are still coming in, including from overseas. Post COVID, the full potential is unknown, but I have a feeling we will be seeing a lot more from the Barrarister Coffee Co. and Jimmy Sullivan.

### **Coronavirus, Restrictions**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.29 pm): The pandemic that has changed our world has led to many questions—from scientists and virologists seeking its behaviours to Australians confronted with stay-at-home directives and MPs translating what appeared at times to be disconnected and inconsistent messaging. This is understandable in an emergency. All levels of government have done an incredible job under severe duress without a template, and we thank all who contributed to these efforts.

Now in recovery there is some confusion regarding the rationale of decisions being made, and Queenslanders seek answers to their questions. After our local fires, I spoke of the vital component of any emergency disaster and recovery, which is accurate, timely and understandable information. Without this we increase angst and decrease trust. This can lead to unrest in our communities, with blame, anger and criticism consuming energy and redirecting our focus from where it needs to be.


Credit needs to be given to Queenslanders. They appreciate plain speak, not excuses or confusion. They know that directives and decisions can change, as they do this every day in running their very own businesses and households. They just ask for notification so they can plan, with clear explanations of the reasons why.

Ideating, testing and refining, flexibility and adaptability—these are essential to build resilience and strength and are vital during our recovery and in a post-COVID world. We have seen much innovation during the pandemic including the implementation of initiatives such as JobKeeper, necessary amendments to legislation and change to processes to accommodate our distilleries making hand sanitiser—all in record time.

Red tape was slashed through necessity with an attitude that 'we must' versus 'we can't'. Solutions were found and the questions were answered. It was truly fabulous. This is a mindset and culture that all governments now must retain and take forward as part of efficient and effective decision-making and in tackling the challenges we are now confronted with. These include rebuilding our economy in ways that address multiple needs such as connecting our PTSD veterans to jobs through construction of affordable emergency housing or addressing the backlog in maintenance of government assets such as roads through apprenticeships and traineeships.

As someone once said, 'It is not what happens to you; it is how you respond.' Queensland responded during the emergency united. Now in our recovery we need to do the same. The slogan is 'we are in this together', and so we are. Let us not see divisions created through a lack of answers to the questions Queenslanders are asking, inequity in applying rules or uncertainty through misunderstanding. Clarity, consistency and clear communications are key.

### **Bancroft Electorate, Infrastructure**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.32 pm): Today we have heard about the unite and recover plan from the Palaszczuk government. That plan is about how we invest in infrastructure, invest in buying Queensland products and invest in our business and industry to put us on the road to recovery from COVID-19. I can see no better illustration of that plan and outlook than what is happening to infrastructure in Bancroft. I am talking about the Deception Bay Road overpass and Deception Bay Road.

Work on the Deception Bay Road overpass has started. They have started the drilling and geotechnical work, boundary realignment, clearing and service relocation. There is \$30 million coming from the state for that. Overall, \$80 million will be spent on Deception Bay Road from end to end during our term of government. That includes \$7 million for Morris Road, and that work is happening at the moment; \$37 million on the Rothwell intersection; and \$6 million generally on Deception Bay Road. That compares to just \$369,000 that was spent on Deception Bay Road during the term of the last LNP government.

Bearing this in mind, the question is: what is the LNP's plan for Bancroft and for Queensland? They said they have a plan for the Bruce Highway. I point out that the planning and works have already started on a lot of those projects. There is \$66 million being spent between Caboolture and Steve Irwin Way. The Moreton Connector is a \$2.1 billion project, and planning and early design has started for that.


I see no LNP candidate for Bancroft either. They keep asking people to run and they keep saying no.

**Ms Pease:** You're too good a member.

**Mr WHITING:** I thank the member for Lytton. I cannot blame them though. Why would they want to sign up with a mob that has won only one election since Joh Bjelke-Petersen was premier? Why would they sign up with a team that does not realise that COVID-19 is the enemy, not other Queenslanders? That reflects on what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday.

If we look at the LNP's plans for Queensland and for Bancroft, it is very clear that they do not have the ability, they do not have the capacity, they do not have the empathy and they do not have the unity to be trusted to rebuild the Queensland economy. It is the ALP that has the plan. We are seeing that plan already taking us on the road to recovery from COVID-19. It is very clear to Queenslanders that they should not trust this mob opposite to lead us out of this crisis.

### **Scenic Rim Electorate**

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.35 pm): Tonight I am calling out the delays of the Palaszczuk Labor government in building Beaudesert's new police station. It has been three years and three days since it was announced as an item to be funded in the 2017 budget, yet construction is still no closer to being started. Just recently I have been informed that a date for the completion of a temporary police station has been decided. With the number of delays we have seen so far on this project, I have no doubt that there will be further delays. It is just another example of another promise from this Labor government that was promised before the last election and potentially will not be delivered until after the next election. We have seen that in other areas of policy such as in the health system, with hospital beds that were promised in Ipswich. They were promised in part of the service area for my electorate around Ipswich. They were promised before the last election but will not be delivered until after the next one.

When it comes to delivering improvements for our roads and other services in the region, I have been fighting tooth and nail for improvements to our road system and for safety improvements in our towns. One of the projects that I want to lobby for now is in relation to Canungra State School. Improvements are required to the stop-and-go areas at the Canungra State School. I am aware that they have put in an application for funding under the School Transport Infrastructure Program. I urge the government to please consider that application with gravity. The road running through Canungra is a busy one. The school is right next to the road. There is great difficulty with the traffic in the morning and afternoon with only one entrance in and out. This project that has been proposed will improve safety immensely. I urge the government and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to consider that project.

When it comes to roads, a number of issues need to be progressed by Main Roads—in particular, Henri Robert Drive and Main Western Road on Tamborine Mountain. There has also been a considerable increase in complaints in relation to noise issues on Beechmont Road and Main Western Road on Tamborine Mountain especially. We are a tourist area. A lot of people come to our area to drive and enjoy the scenery, but that does not mean that the residents need to be subjected to excessive noise all of the time and every weekend. There should be more enforcement from police and also consideration given to permanent improvements to those roads to deter speeding and hooning. We need more police. Residents know that I have fought for more police in our area and also more police vehicles at Canungra and Tamborine Mountain, but still the complaints keep growing. We need to look at those resources and increase them further and we need to look at improvements for roads such as Beaudesert-Nerang Road at Wonglepong. That road could really do with improvements like those we did on Lamington National Park Road.

### **Coronavirus, Economy; Redcliffe Electorate; McGoldrick, Mr S**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (7.38 pm): The Palaszczuk government has moved quickly to unite and recover Queensland. I have been informed that the COVID-19 Jobs Support Loans scheme, administered by the department of my esteemed colleague, Minister Furner, has provided to date over \$53 million worth of loans to businesses in the Moreton Bay region which has supported around 4,486 jobs. Further, I have been advised that across the Moreton Bay region as at 14 June approximately 484 businesses have applied for and received payroll tax refunds totalling over \$11 million, deferring their tax payments this calendar year. The Palaszczuk government has announced our next phase of economic recovery which will support a number of sectors, including small businesses in our local Redcliffe community, with an additional \$100 million allocated for small business grants across the state.

I want to thank our local Redcliffe community for continuing to stand by our local businesses and buying local. Whether it is visiting the Golden Ox in Margate for a delicious meal, the Over There Cafe at Dolphin Central for a great cuppa, or Pick a Lily Forest at Peninsula Fair Shopping Centre for flowers for that special someone, the Redcliffe peninsula has a smorgasbord of great small businesses on offer not only to locals but anyone who wants to come visit us on the peninsula.

While I have the chance I want to give a shout-out to Avopiling, a small business of a different variety in the Redcliffe area which has been awarded a large contract to drive the piles into the earth to form the foundations for some of our new Cross River Rail stations. This project will support 38 workers and is a great opportunity for our local community to be part of this transformational public transport project. The value of the project is almost \$6 million for this local business.

Finally, I want to pay special tribute to one of my retiring principals, Mr Stephen McGoldrick. Mr McGoldrick has been the principal of Scarborough State School for the past 11 years and he has been an educator for over 45 years. Mr McGoldrick will shortly retire to spend some much deserved time with his friends and family, including his young grandchildren, who I know will benefit from his wealth of educational experience. On behalf of the entire community I want to thank Mr McGoldrick for his service to Queensland teachers, teaching staff and students whom he has worked with, taught and mentored over so many years. I wish him all the very best going forward.

I want to again acknowledge all of the contributions of the people from Redcliffe, who are working so hard to ensure that we contain the spread of COVID and to support local businesses. I am just overwhelmed by the number of people who have reached out to my office to support the road map that the Palaszczuk government has put into place. They understand the real risks because they have seen it in other countries and they know what is possible. Queensland has handled it so well, and I want to thank the Palaszczuk government for that.

The House adjourned at 7.41 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, 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, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting