



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	1245
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Operation of Parliament.....	1245
SPEAKER'S RULINGS	1245
Right of the House to Legislate; Restrictions on Debate	1245
Same Question Rule	1246
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	1247
International Cleaners Day	1247
TABLED PAPER	1247
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1247
Coronavirus, Economic Recovery	1247
Coronavirus, Creative Industries	1248
Coronavirus, Health Update	1249
Coronavirus, Economy	1249
Cross River Rail; Gold Coast, Theme Parks.....	1250
State General Election	1251
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled 'Statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-19 Queensland General Election'.	1251
Coronavirus, Small Business	1252
Coronavirus, Economic Recovery	1252
Coronavirus, Seniors	1253
Mining Industry, Exploration	1254
NOTICE OF MOTION	1254
Queensland Border Closure.....	1254

Table of Contents – Wednesday, 17 June 2020

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1255
Child Protection.....	1255
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Table, undated, titled 'Queensland Government response to Mason Jett Lee Coronial Inquiry recommendations' [911].	1255
Child Protection.....	1256
Building and Construction Industry.....	1257
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Funding	1257
Agriculture Industry	1258
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women	1259
PRIVILEGE.....	1260
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of House	1260
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1260
Coronavirus, Health Services	1260
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Staffing	1260
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	1260
Notice of Motion, Dissent from Speaker's Ruling	1261
Coronavirus, Economic Recovery.....	1261
Child Protection.....	1262
Coronavirus, Research	1263
Family and Child Commission, Investigations	1263
Police Resources	1264
CopperString 2.0	1265
Sunshine Coast, Road and Rail Infrastructure	1265
Labor Party, Branch Stacking.....	1266
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	1267
Rookwood Weir, Funding	1267
Volunteer Firefighters, Blue Cards.....	1267
MOTION	1268
Suspension of Standing Orders	1268
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	1268
Office of the Information Commissioner, Report	1268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Commissioner Report 3: 2019-20—Follow-up report No. 3 of 2017-18: Audit of Ipswich City Council's implementation of recommendations: Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy	1268
COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL.....	1268
Second Reading	1268
PRIVILEGE.....	1286
Alleged Interference with the Rights and Privileges of Members	1286
COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL.....	1286
Second Reading	1286
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.	1287
Resolved in the negative.....	1287
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.	1288
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1288
Message from Deputy Governor.....	1288
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 16 June 2020, from the Deputy Governor recommending government amendment No. 9 to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019.	1288
Consideration in Detail.....	1289
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments	1289
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments.	1289
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.	1289
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1289
Division: Question put—That amendments Nos 1 to 13 be agreed to.....	1289
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1289
Amendments agreed to.....	1289
Division: Question put—That clauses 1 to 135, and schedules 1 and 2, as amended, be agreed to.	1307
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1307
Clauses 1 to 135, and schedules 1 and 2, as amended, agreed to.	1307
Third Reading	1307
Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be read a third time.	1307
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1307
Long Title.....	1308
Division: Question put—That amendment No. 14 be agreed to.	1308
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1308
Amendment agreed to.	1308
Division: Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.....	1308
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1308

Table of Contents – Wednesday, 17 June 2020

ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT	
BILL	1309
Second Reading	1309
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 37, 56th Parliament—	
Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill	
2019, government response.	1309
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Crime and Corruption Commission Report—Operation Yabber: An investigation	
into allegations relating to the Gold Coast City Council, government response	1321
MOTION	1333
Queensland Border Closure	1333
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, undated, from the President, Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce,	
Mr Martin Hall, to the Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council, Cr Tom Tate, titled 'City of Gold	
Coast response to COVID-19 crisis'.	1339
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 11 June 2020, titled 'Sydney, Victoria	
flights into Gold Coast soar despite border closure'.	1339
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Documents showing flight details from Sydney to the Gold Coast	1340
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery'.	1341
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery'	1345
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.	1346
Resolved in the negative.	1346
ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT	
BILL	1346
Second Reading	1346
ADJOURNMENT	1355
Kawana Electorate, Coronavirus	1355
Cairns Electorate, Coronavirus	1356
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Redlands Coast	1357
Coronavirus, Economic Response	1357
Child Protection	1358
Algester Electorate, Queensland Day Awards; Pallara State School	1358
Coronavirus, Economic Response; Mount Morgan Mine	1359
Ipswich State High School	1360
Warrego Electorate, Schools	1360
Sandgate Electorate, Small Business	1361
ATTENDANCE	1362

WEDNESDAY, 17 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.

PRIVILEGE

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Operation of Parliament



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (9.32 am): Mr Speaker, I want to draw your attention to increasing behaviour of the government and the parliament that I believe requires a serious response. It relates to substantive motions being moved without members having copies of them. It also relates to amendments to bills.

In relation to the portable long service bill, yesterday 51 pages of amendments were moved. Last night at 9.08 members received an email from the Clerk containing 100 pages of amendments to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. These amendments have not been to a committee. I believe that fundamentally they should go to a committee so the Queensland community can consult. These are substantive debating matters. With reduced speaking opportunities and substantial amendments, members are not being afforded a proper opportunity.

This goes to the rights of members and also to section 26B of the Constitution of Queensland, wherein committees are not afforded the right to deliberate on these important matters. I think that the people of Queensland are not being served by these huge amendments which members are not being afforded the opportunity to speak about. I will write to you with respect to this, Mr Speaker.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the matter raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, I question whether that is an actual matter of privilege that should be raised in this House. To complain about getting amendments ahead of time I find quite extraordinary—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I heard the matter of privilege from the member for Kawana in silence. I will hear the point of order from the Leader of the House in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: I do question whether this is a matter of privilege. This goes to procedural matters. The Manager of Opposition Business can raise these matters with the CLA. I think it would be appropriate to do so in that way, but I do not believe they are a matter of privilege.

Mr SPEAKER: I have listened to the statement made by the member for Kawana. Whilst it does not identify an individual in terms of a matter of privilege or a complaint, as I hear it it does go to the rights of members and members' privileges. I will obviously take great notice of what he writes to me and give the matter consideration at that time.

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Right of the House to Legislate; Restrictions on Debate



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the government business motion indicates that the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill will be debated this week. That bill contains provisions that arose out of a recommendation by the Crime and

Corruption Commission in its assessments of a matter. That matter is now before the Ethics Committee. I have circulated the ruling. I seek leave to incorporate a ruling regarding the application of standing order 271 to debate of the bill.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—THE RIGHT OF THE HOUSE TO LEGISLATE AND OTHER RULES LIMITING DEBATE

Standing Order 271 is a relatively new Standing Order, being introduced in the then new 2004 Standing Orders.

Standing Order 271 provides:

271. Restriction on debating matter in the House

A matter referred to the ethics committee must not be debated in the House until such time as the ethics committee has reported on the matter if, in the opinion of the Speaker, such debate could prejudice the matter.

Its purpose was to largely replicate for Ethics Committee proceedings the sub judice rule that has long existed in respect of criminal proceedings, so as to minimise prejudice to persons subject to allegations/inquiry.

In respect of the Sub Judice rule, Standing Order 233(7) provides:

The sub judice rule is always subject to the right of the House to consider and legislate on any matter.

Standing Order 233(7) is based on long standing House of Commons practice. Erskine May provides that subject to the discretion of the Chair and to the right of the House to legislate on any matter or to discuss any matters of delegated legislation, matters awaiting adjudication of a court of law should not be brought forward in debate (May, 24th Edition, p 441).

Successive Speakers in the House of Commons have exercised their discretion to allow matters to be discussed (although they fall within the strict terms of the sub judice rule) on which they have considered that no substantial risk of prejudicing proceedings would arise (May, 24th Edition, p 442).

In short, I am convinced that in exercising my discretion under SO 271, it is appropriate for me to take into account the right of the House to consider and legislate on any matter. I will, therefore, allow Members in debate on the bill to refer to the motivation or reasons behind the legislation.

However, debate must be reasonable and reference to the reasons for the legislation moderate in language and temperament. I warn all members that I will not allow the debate to descend into personal attacks or pre-empt any findings by the Ethics Committee.

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have circulated a statement about the application of the same question rule to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019, the government act, and the proposed amendments circulated by the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill, the government bill.

Amendment No. 13 to the government bill includes a range of proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992. Most of the provisions which the government is seeking to amend are provisions on which the House has already made a decision on its consideration and passage of the government act. Accordingly, the same question rule applies to amendment No. 13. I seek leave to incorporate my ruling into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE TO YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL

On 22 August 2019 the House passed the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, with amendment. The bill received royal assent on 5 September 2019.

During consideration in detail on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill the House agreed to the insertion and replacement of a number of clauses in the Youth Justice Act 1992.

The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations has circulated amendments to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill. Amendment No. 13 proposes amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992.

A detailed clause-by-clause analysis has been undertaken.


On the whole, provisions which the government are seeking to amend in amendment No. 13 are either provisions on which the House has already made a decision on its consideration and passage of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill or are consequential references.

Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened with respect to amendment No. 13 containing proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

International Cleaners Day

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, 15 June each year is International Cleaners Day—a day to give thanks and show our appreciation for cleaners who ensure that we can live, work and play in clean spaces. Specifically, on behalf of members I wish to place on record our thanks to the cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service who ensure that we can work in clean chamber offices, dining rooms and, for many, have a clean place to sleep at night.

To thank our cleaners, the Minister for Public Works and I hosted a morning tea for Parliament House cleaners earlier this morning—a nice cup of tea and a chance to apologise on behalf of all members for everything we have left out or left untidy in this place. However, as one cleaner pointed out to me, 'If you didn't make a mess we wouldn't have a job.'

The work of our cleaners is critical for the safety of the parliamentary precinct. The enhanced cleaning procedures undertaken by the cleaners have of course played a critical role in protecting us all from COVID-19. Now more than ever the work of the cleaners of the parliamentary precinct is greatly valued. I hope you can join me in wishing them all well for International Cleaners Day, which was held this week.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Burdekin (Mr Last)—

[909](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the proposed freeze on pay rises

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Economic Recovery

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Yesterday I announced the second stage of our economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs. Like the first stage, it is a plan to restore and create new jobs for Queensland and get our economy moving again. Yesterday my ministers and I stood together here at parliament with an alliance of industry, business, unions and the community, including AgForce, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Master Builders, QCOSS, LGAQ, QTIC and representatives from the arts community and tradies, just to name a few. This was a show of commitment and focus that we as Queenslanders and as a community are united as we recover for Queensland jobs.

I want to start with Ruth, who caught the train down from Sandgate to stand with us. She is a senior and over the moon with our \$10 million Seniors Accessibility and Renovation Assistance package. I am also very proud of this initiative, which will give seniors and people with disabilities a hand to make home repairs of up to \$5,000. It will also give a great boost to our tradies in the process. Ruth said, 'It will help with a new shower, as it is difficult to keep stepping into a bath.' She said, 'It couldn't happen at a better time for me. But apart from that, for years now I've had the benefit of Home Assist and it's the most marvellous thing I've come across in a long time.'

Melissa is the operations manager of McGrath and Frisby, a plumbing and electrical team based in Ashgrove. Melissa said that her company does a lot of work with our elderly community and the Home Assist program, which this is an extension of, allows clients to maintain their homes at a fraction of the price they would usually pay. She said, 'It not only keeps our team employed on a regular basis but also allows us to give back. It allows us to work for people like Ruth. I'm pleased there is additional funding.'

Our \$267 million boost to the housing construction sector, which also includes extending the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant, committing to a new \$5,000 regional home building boost grant and another \$100 million to accelerate a program of works for tradies and housing projects, was welcomed by Master Builders. Paul Bidwell said that it was a great package for the industry. He said—

On 19 May the Premier promised there would be a second instalment, and I can say that the Premier has delivered today for the building and construction industry.

QCOSS also welcomed the investment into social housing. Aimee McVeigh said—

This investment will create jobs, stimulate the economy and help deal with the issue of homelessness.

Our small businesses got an extra boost with a further \$100 million of grants. Up to \$10,000 will become available on 1 July as part of our \$200 million Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program. It was welcomed by CCIQ. Jack Baxter said—

The latest announcement of \$100 million for an extension of those \$10,000 grants is welcome news for the small business community and it's really timely as well.

QTIC also said—

We have thousands of small businesses in tourism and hospitality and the \$10,000 that were awarded so far have made a huge difference to the recovery path of all those businesses into the future. The additional \$100 million will give that many more businesses the opportunity to build a future and we are very pleased with that announcement.

Daniel Gschwind also welcomed the expansion of the aviation attraction fund to \$15 million. He said—

It puts the Queensland Government into position to become a partner with airlines industry with airports to bring those aviation services back.

The LGAQ's Greg Hallam was happy with the extra \$50 million for South-East Queensland councils to build infrastructure and create jobs, which builds on our \$200 million extra under stage 1 for all councils under the Works for Queensland program. He said—

All up that brings the funding to around \$250 million and that will create just around 6,000 jobs. We'll have that money out the door as soon as it arrives and I am told that'll be very soon so there'll be lots of people that aren't in a job today that'll be in a job by July.

I can advise the House that we will get that money out as quickly as possible, and I know that the councils will have no problem spending it because it is about getting people into work.

The Electrical Trades Union's Peter Ong applauded the investment for a \$23 million renewable energy training facility. He said—

Not only will it provide up-to-date training in the renewable sector, both hydro, solar, wind, but also train 750 apprentices a year and it will also complement the government's initiative of moving to renewable energy, 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030. So it's a great initiative.

It was also backed by the Australian Conservation Foundation, with 'More of this please' posted on Facebook. The \$10 million in exploration grants was welcomed by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, with chief executive Warren Pearce calling the package 'nation leading'. He said—

Queensland has huge potential for the discovery and development of new economy or critical minerals, and the \$10 million booster pack will be a strong attractor for new investment into Queensland. This nation-leading package further cements Queensland as a destination for critical minerals investment and will ultimately help the state become a major contributor of minerals into battery and renewable energy technologies.

Our \$8.9 million in the National Parks Works and Jobs Boost Program was welcomed by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Pepe Clarke, the deputy director, said—

Investing in our national parks will provide practical work and economic benefits for regional communities during the economic recovery period, while leaving lasting benefits for Queensland's nature-based tourism industry.

These are just a few of the initiatives. This is only the next step. This will be a long road to recovery but we have a strong economic plan. We are focused on jobs and, most importantly, we are focused on Queenslanders.

Coronavirus, Creative Industries




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): An essential element of our recovery is to help our great arts community across Queensland. Our stages have gone dark, our theatres have fallen silent, but we will not forget the thousands of workers on stage, back stage and in our screen and streaming industries who form Queensland's \$12 billion arts community. Yesterday I announced \$22.5 million as part of our unite and recover package for the arts industry—with \$11.3 million to offset revenue losses in music and performing arts venues and Indigenous arts centres across Queensland, \$4.2 million to provide a pipeline of live music and performers to support the tourism recovery, \$2.9 million in partnerships with local councils, venues, festivals and other organisations to continue employment and provide those experiences, and \$4 million to support temporary outdoor infrastructure and virtual venues.

This is in addition to measures already announced, including \$2 million to boost the Queensland Arts Showcase Program and rent relief for organisations in Arts Queensland properties. We want to get the shows back on the road because they provide value for our culture and pay packets for 92,000

Queenslanders. It is also worth noting that, although the concert halls and performing arts centres have been closed, the artists themselves continue to create and lift spirits—performing in driveways and retirement homes and reaching out on YouTube and Zoom helping us get through isolation. As Jo Thomas from Metro Arts said yesterday, ‘I’d rather be an artist in Brisbane than on Broadway.’

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): Today I can advise the House that we have one new confirmed case of COVID-19 in Queensland—a woman in hotel quarantine on the Gold Coast who likely contracted the virus overseas. She is now in isolation. That brings our total to 1,066—five of those cases are active, one is in hospital in intensive care receiving ventilation. In the last reporting period, we exceeded our goal of 5,000 tests a day, completing 5,113 tests.


Queensland is in an enviable position. The US now has over two million cases and more than 100,000 deaths. I mentioned yesterday that Beijing were experiencing a second wave. They had gone more than 50 days without a case and now have a severe outbreak of more than 100. Since I spoke yesterday, they have again shut down their schools. We cannot afford for that to happen in Queensland. We cannot be complacent. Having to go backwards on restrictions would be devastating.

The credit for Queensland's world-class response to COVID belongs to Queenslanders. They include our doctors, nurses and hospital workers, our police and emergency services but also mums, dads, grandparents and children who have performed heroically to keep us all safe. All Queenslanders are eager to keep going forwards because there is a long way still to go. We all want to get back to normal. That is the goal of our unite and recover plan—Queensland's plan to get back to work and back to normal.

Today I announce another step on that road back to normal. In Queensland we love our sport. We love to play and we like to cheer. I am proud the AFL and the NRL were able to return to play in Queensland stadiums, and today we add the missing ingredient—the fans. As of this Saturday, stadiums can host up to 2,000 fans. Some of the codes have requested this number as a trial. That number might not be reached but it is an acknowledgement of how well the codes and the fans have done their part in controlling the spread of COVID-19. It is a small step but a sensible one. Like a great game of football, we have to ensure our defences but we also have to make our breaks when we can. Queensland has earned this small step back to normal.

I want to thank our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and all of the public health staff who have worked with stadiums and codes on these plans. I also thank the Minister for Sport and his team for their support and assistance. I know he is committed, like we are, to continuing to expand not just the return to professional sport but also the return to community sport.

Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Queensland's economy is facing a significant challenge from COVID-19. Global economic conditions have weakened and unemployment rates have risen globally, with the national unemployment rate forecast by the Reserve Bank of Australia to hit 10 per cent by June. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force data for April shows seasonally adjusted employment in Queensland fell by 129,600 persons in April and the unemployment rate rose to 6.8 per cent, up from 5.7 per cent in March.

The national response to COVID-19 has impacted businesses across the state and hundreds of thousands of Queensland jobs, particularly the closure of national borders and the consequential restrictions on international travel. Queensland's nominal retail trade seasonally adjusted fell a record 15.7 per cent in April 2020, more than offsetting the 8.9 per cent surge in March as consumers stockpiled essentials. This is the largest drop since those records began 38 years ago in 1982. The nominal value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports fell 6.6 per cent in the April quarter 2020—that is the three months to April 2020—compared with the same period a year earlier. Subdued industrial production across several of Queensland's major trading partners is lowering demand, and consequently prices, for key commodities, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Queensland Treasury's initial estimate is that around 20,000 Queensland businesses were directly impacted by necessary restrictions designed to keep Queenslanders safe. Those businesses are estimated to directly and indirectly employ around 130,000 Queenslanders. In addition, businesses employing an extra 90,000 Queenslanders are likely to have been impacted due to partial restrictions

on their activities. Across Queensland thousands of businesses employing tens of thousands of people are enduring the toughest operating conditions they have ever experienced. That is why our government has designed our recovery strategy to support our regions, to support our cornerstone industries and to support businesses most in need like tourism so they are ready for when international travel begins again.

That is why in Cairns last week I was pleased to be able to announce \$3.5 million in funding for care and maintenance of the Cairns Aquarium including, of course, food for Chang the grouper, currently the most famous fish in Queensland. I heard last month that Chang had gone off his food when the aquarium had to close its doors to visitors in March and he could no longer look out at the thousands of children who came to visit him. Thanks to the enterprising students at Torbanlea State School in the electorate of Maryborough, Chang is eating again. Torbanlea students sent pictures they had drawn to adorn the walls of Chang's tank, their own isolation while their school was closed giving them a sense of what Chang was going through over 1,000 kilometres away. I can report to the House that Chang the grouper is feeling better.

However, one thing that Chang the grouper does not need is a second wave of infection. I am advised by Queensland Treasury today of their analysis that the cost to the Queensland economy of a second wave of infection would be \$4.8 billion in 2020 alone. The fact is that the supposed benefits of opening interstate borders would be wiped out and obliterated by the financial cost of a second wave. That is not to mention the human cost of additional infection and death. If the federal Treasurer wants to do something useful for Queensland that does not put thousands of lives at risk—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DICK: I take the interjections from the members opposite. The Queensland economy has suffered a severe and grievous injury. This will not be resolved in days. It will not be resolved in weeks. It will not be resolved by 27 September when the federal government turns off the JobKeeper tap. This will take years to resolve.

Mr Mander: Where's the drawbridge?

Mr DICK: Experienced economic commentators, unlike those members opposite, have said it will take up to four years to return Queensland to pre COVID levels of employment. That is why our government has a plan—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned.

Mr DICK: That is why our government has a plan for economic recovery, a plan that will run to 27 September and beyond. If the federal Treasurer wants to do something useful for Queensland, something useful that does not put thousands of lives and livelihoods at risk, he could resolve the uncertainty and announce the extension of JobKeeper. If the member for Everton does not believe me, I ask him to go to the Logan Central Plaza and speak to the businesses in my electorate that have called on his federal Treasurer to extend JobKeeper to keep those small businesses alive. Businesses like the Cairns Aquarium—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton will put his comments through the chair.

Mr DICK:—and those at Logan Central Plaza depend on international tourists. They depend on those tourists. They depend on business coming to Queensland. So long as Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg ban international tourism, they must provide JobKeeper to those affected businesses.

Cross River Rail; Gold Coast, Theme Parks



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.53 am): Through our unite and recover plan, we are investing in construction to rebuild Queensland's economy and support local jobs during these tough times. Our government understands that by building infrastructure, we drive private sector investment and also keep thousands of Queenslanders in work, bringing home a pay packet to their families when so many thousands have lost their job. That is why yesterday in this House the Premier unveiled in stage 2 of our unite and recover economic plan a further \$100 million stimulus package for housing construction works. This comes on top of our commitment to continue with our more than \$50 billion investment in infrastructure to keep people in work.

I am proud to announce that today we will witness a great milestone on Queensland's largest ever infrastructure project. Today I can confirm that workers are now assembling road headers so they will be ready to start tunnelling the station cavern on the largest Cross River Rail site. No matter where

we look throughout the city, construction is ramping up to deliver Brisbane's first underground. At Boggo Road workers have driven in more than 120 piles to form the foundations of the new station. At the Exhibition site they have established a work site and are preparing for demolition. At Roma Street demolition is underway, while tunnelling has already reached 31 metres below ground. At Albert Street workers are building a large acoustic shed to contain dust and noise during construction in the heart of our city.

Once it is complete, Cross River Rail will take around 48,000 cars off the road, making it quicker and easier to catch a train throughout the whole of South-East Queensland. It is also creating thousands of Queensland jobs. As we speak, more than 2,000 workers are employed on Cross River Rail and more than 90 per cent are locals. These are Queenslanders working on a project that will support over 7,000 jobs throughout construction.

We understand that to stimulate Queensland's economy, we must invest in construction and projects just like this. That is why we are full steam ahead with Cross River Rail. It is not only us that is full steam ahead; it is also great to see that Queensland's theme parks are coming back on line. Village Roadshow have today announced reopening dates for Movie World, Sea World and Wet 'n' Wild along with other major attractions. This morning I was talking to the Village Roadshow CEO, Clark Kirby, and he said that the staff are over the moon; they are just so excited to be back—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Premier. They are just so excited to be back in the workplace doing what they love most, which is welcoming tourists and visitors alike back to the Gold Coast's renowned theme parks. Dreamworld has also announced that they will start reopening their attractions. They will have a staged reopening of their venues from July. The SkyPoint Observation Deck and Climb will reopen on 10 July and they will continue to announce the opening of other attractions as well.

We can have these attractions open for the school holidays because of the great work that our government has done in partnership with Queenslanders to keep us safe during COVID-19.

State General Election



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.56 am): We have smashed the COVID-19 curve, but we are not out of the woods yet. That is why the Palaszczuk government is making it easier for Queenslanders to vote safely at the state general election in October. Today I announce the release of the Palaszczuk government's statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-safe Queensland general election, which I electronically table.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-19 Queensland General Election' [910].

That means more pre-poll locations, longer pre-poll hours and more pre-poll voting days in the two weeks prior to polling day. That means every effort is being made to provide a safe election-day stand-up vote where Queenslanders can proudly attend their normal school or community hall to safely cast a ballot in person. It means Queensland will have an election period, not just an election day.

After the fantastic work that we have done together as a community, Queenslanders deserve nothing less. We will ensure that the ECQ has the capacity to accept telephone votes from vulnerable voters. While Queensland has smashed the curve on COVID-19, we need to be vigilant and prepared for any eventuality. We will be providing the ECQ with the resources to respond to an emergent public health risk. In extreme circumstances such as a localised outbreak this could include the ECQ delivering the election to some electorates as a total postal vote. Of course, any steps taken by the government or the ECQ will be taken in consultation with our respected Chief Health Officer.

These principles build upon the great success of the 2020 local government election and Bundamba and Currumbin by-elections. Despite the World Health Organization declaration of a global pandemic a mere five days before the commencement of pre-poll voting for the local government election and the Bundamba and Currumbin by-elections, the Palaszczuk government was able to provide a framework in accordance with the health advice for the ECQ to provide a COVID-safe election, and that is what it was: it was a COVID-safe election. There were no cases of COVID-19 linked to the election.

For that election, the Palaszczuk government gave the ECQ the tools to facilitate more than 2.5 million votes across the state with more than one million of those votes occurring at pre-poll, almost double postal voting numbers from the last local government election with 570,000 postal votes being cast; significant increases in pre-polling capacity, including weekend pre-poll voting, and an increase in the telephone voting staff from 16 at the start of early voting to 162 staff, delivering 37,000 telephone

votes as opposed to the 5,000 that were planned pre COVID; and employing approximately 4,000 additional staff in the last two weeks of the election period to enforce strong social distancing and personal hygiene measures.

The ECQ has since been contacted by election officials in New Zealand, Canada and also across Australia to share details of the successful delivery of the local government election model in a COVID environment. The Palaszczuk government has put Queensland in the best position to unite and recover for October and beyond. We are a government with a plan to adapt and ensure the safety of Queenslanders should the need arise, and that is what we are doing in establishing our statement of principles for the upcoming general election.

Coronavirus, Small Business



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to back our local homegrown businesses. During COVID-19, we know our small businesses have been doing it tough. We have a plan to unite and recover for Queensland and support our local businesses to keep their doors open and keep providing jobs for Queenslanders. Measures our government has already introduced include the Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program, energy rebates, payroll tax relief, interest-free loans and free online training.

Just yesterday, the Premier extended the support for small businesses with a further \$100 million under a second round of small business COVID adaptation grant funding. Businesses like the Kuranda Pet Resort in Cairns have already benefited from the first round of grants. Owners Diane Ward and Graham Wright lost 95 per cent of their business income during the pandemic. They will use the \$10,000 grant to upgrade the dogs' outdoor exercise equipment—great for the dogs—as well as kick off a digital marketing campaign to drive more customers to their business. I am also proud that just last month we set a target to make sure we support our local businesses even more.

Queensland is a leader once again. We are the first state to set a target of 25 per cent of all government spend on goods and services to go to Queensland small and medium sized businesses. Not only are we the first state, but our 25 per cent target is well above the Commonwealth target of 10 per cent. This means \$4 billion back in the hands of Queensland small and medium businesses. We will increase that target to 30 per cent by 2022.

We have everyday Queenslanders who run small and medium businesses producing top-quality products—businesses like local manufacturer Macrack in Mansfield which has produced its high-quality pallet racking for the department of natural resources and energy. Whether it is pallet racking from the southern suburbs of Brisbane or serving up Torres Strait crayfish in the Parliament House dining room, we know we have the best right here in Queensland. The government is a huge customer and our plan is to buy Queensland and back Queensland jobs. We have a plan for Queensland to kickstart Queensland's economy together, and those opposite are a risk to this plan.

Coronavirus, Economic Recovery



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): The global pandemic has impacted economies globally, and our state is not immune. The response of Queensland and Queenslanders to COVID-19 has been world class and, because we have managed well the health impacts, Queensland is good to go. Our unite and recover plan will create Queensland jobs when they are most needed.

Yesterday, the Premier announced the second stage in Queensland's plan for recovery, delivering almost half a billion dollars in stimulus investment for small business, new jobs, regional councils and projects. In my portfolio, that includes our hardworking taxi and limousine industry, which I am proud to say will receive a \$23 million shot in the arm. There are more than 3,200 taxi and 500 limousine licences right across Queensland, representing thousands of small businesses that need our support. They are critical to keeping our Queensland economy connected and are key to our economic recovery. Per vehicle, our package will provide support payments of \$3,500 for operators, an additional \$1,000 for licence holders and \$1,500 for booking entities per vehicle. This package is especially important for Queenslanders with a disability, with the package to include an additional \$1,000 payment for wheelchair-accessible taxis. The Taxi Council Queensland has welcomed this announcement, with many of its members seeing demand plummet in the past few months by upwards of 70 per cent. Its CEO, Blair Davies, said—

Along with many other industries, we have been brought to our knees by COVID-19 but it is now time to start standing back up and get going again. The Government's assistance package will be a well-timed tonic to help our members do just that.

I thank Blair and the Taxi Council for working closely with government to support our taxidriver in developing this package. It builds on the \$54½ million essential transport package released in April and a \$585 million Queensland roads stimulus package previously announced. It adds to the \$23 billion pipeline of roads and transport projects supporting 13,500 regional Queensland jobs.

Recently I travelled to the South and North Burnett and to the Darling Downs—in the seats of Callide, Nanango and Toowoomba North—to see how our roads investment is supporting jobs at such a crucial time. I saw traffic controllers, water truck drivers and bitumen sealers on the new \$18 million Three Moon Creek Bridge and \$3 million Mundubbera-Durong Road upgrade. I joined the local mayor, Rachel Chambers, and AgForce president Georgie Somerset to announce our \$5 million contribution for the John Peterson Bridge and the \$8 million to seal Monto-Mount Perry Road.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Mr BAILEY: One would have thought the member for Nanango would welcome these announcements, but clearly from her interjections she does not support these—that is very sad to hear. I announced \$13 million for the New England Highway between Yarraman and Toowoomba and inspected the \$9 million Emu Creek Bridge south of Yarraman and works on the new \$7.5 million Highfields route. One might think that the member for Nanango is feeling the pressure.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease her interjections. The minister will continue with his statement.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I inspected the \$7½ million Highfields Bikeway, a fantastic new corridor where cyclists will not have to mix with vehicles on the highway. It is a safe, picturesque investment with lots of local jobs there as well. Investing in Queensland infrastructure and business means jobs in regional Queensland and throughout the state. That is what the Palaszczuk government does. We support Queenslanders and we support Queensland jobs. We will continue to support Queensland jobs with our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan.

Coronavirus, Seniors

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government has always stood up for older Queenslanders, our seniors. Throughout COVID-19, we know our seniors have been particularly vulnerable. As well, we know that Queensland seniors have worked incredibly hard, doing their bit, staying safe through this pandemic. Staying safe has meant sacrificing time with friends and grandchildren and not being in their communities. In flattening the curve and reducing the risk of COVID-19, we have prioritised the health of our elderly and most vulnerable. That is entirely consistent with the Palaszczuk government's record on protecting Queensland seniors.

The Palaszczuk government has and will continue to prioritise the rights, dignity and welfare of older Queenslanders. In the last year alone, through our Home Assist Secure program, we have invested over \$21 million to help seniors stay safe in their homes—over 31, 000 seniors households so far this financial year in fact. These are seniors who have been able to stay living in their own community.


In 2017, the Palaszczuk government led the nation in responding to the retirement village rip-offs when we passed laws to increase transparency and give certainty and a fair go to seniors in retirement villages. In 2020, new rules for COVID-19 will be in place for seniors living in lifestyle parks, including a moratorium on rent reviews that may lead to rent increases. Of course, the Palaszczuk government's Care Army made contact with 262,000 Queenslanders.

We are continuing in this vein with our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs by supporting jobs that support Queensland seniors. On top of the \$21.25 million update to the Household Resilience Program targeted at pensioners and low-income families that we announced last sitting, yesterday we announced a further \$267 million investment to support construction jobs, which includes \$100 million to construct an additional 215 social homes, supporting vulnerable seniors right across Queensland. We topped it off with \$10 million for the new seniors and accessibility assistance program. This program is delivering \$5,000 subsidies for essential maintenance and upgrades around the home for seniors and for Queenslanders with a disability. It is those subsidies of up to \$5,000 that will help keep seniors in their home safe while at the same time supporting local tradies to keep working.

Our investment means that seniors like Ruth Kootsookos—a proud Queenslander who was not too proud to say that she was incredibly excited to come to Parliament House and meet the Premier and the Treasurer yesterday—will be able to continue paying the tradies who help her stay in her home. It is the Palaszczuk government's funding that means that Ruth can pay someone to help her install a new walk-in shower to replace her bathtub, potentially avoiding a disastrous slip and fall.

The seniors and accessibility assistance package of up to \$5,000 subsidies are available right now, and I am pleased to announce that we have already approved applications. On day one—yesterday—the Palaszczuk government has already approved a 69-year-old Coorparoo resident who lives on her own a new hot-water system. With winter here, it is perfect timing. Local tradies will be on site any day now. I am advised that local business Spratt Plumbing will soon be hard at work at her home, keeping it in a job and helping Queensland to unite and recover.

Mining Industry, Exploration

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government has an economic plan for Queensland to unite and recover, and the resources sector is central to that plan. I am pleased to detail our \$10 million booster pack that will supercharge exploration for new economy minerals. These extra exploration grants will speed the development of new mines in Queensland so that we can take advantage of the high domestic and international demand in the growing green economy. Queensland is rich in the minerals needed to manufacture the computers and the smartphones that we are communicating with, the renewable energy components needed to power them and the batteries that we need to store this power.


The Palaszczuk government wants Queensland to become the leading global exporter of new economy minerals, just as we did with LNG a decade ago. This booster pack has the potential to create the next round of mega resource projects and jobs for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the demand for new economy minerals with the increased use of digital communication technology. Let me quote the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. It said—

There is no doubt that these type of exploration initiatives create jobs, revenue for local communities and future royalty streams. Alone, these projects could create more than \$2 billion in investment and up to 2,000 jobs during construction and operation. That is how you unite and you recover.

Let us be clear: the world economy is struggling and will continue to struggle. The battle is only just beginning. The resources sector has been a traditional strength of our economy. It was vital in supporting the Queensland economy through the COVID-19 crisis and it will power our economy as we unite and recover. However, it is essential that the JobKeeper payments continue beyond the arbitrary date in September. Stopping JobKeeper now is like pulling the drip out of a patient on their way to recovery. You do not expose your patient to unnecessary danger when they are fighting back. Withdrawing JobKeeper in September is just that—exposing our nation's struggling economy to a disastrous setback. Our small and medium businesses need to be sustained so that Queensland and the nation can be strong yet again, and that is what half a billion dollars worth of stimulus does—it supports and creates jobs. The Palaszczuk government's economic plan is starting to deliver. We need to unite and recover, and JobKeeper must continue.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Queensland Border Closure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes the following in relation to border closures:
 - (a) the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer have said it is safe to open interstate borders;
 - (b) published on 8 May, the Premier's road map says that interstate travel will be permitted from 10 July;
 - (c) on 18 May that the Premier stated, 'I would say that things would look more positive towards September' and she would give people advice at the end of May;
 - (d) last year, 8.1 million interstate visitors travelled to Queensland;
 - (e) interstate travellers directly spent over \$9.2 billion in Queensland in 2019;
 - (f) the Palaszczuk government has not done economic modelling on closing the borders which the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce President Martin Hall said, 'That is possibly the most ludicrous thing I have ever heard';—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer is warned under the standing orders. I have made myself clear about listening to these motions.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The motion continues—

- (g) Duffy Down Under Boat Hire owner Gordon Kerr, whom the Premier has met with, said last week the government was delusional to argue border closures had no impact on business;
 - (h) Dreamweavers event management Chief Operating Officer John Bond said it 'seems ridiculous other states appear to be getting on with business and Queensland isn't';
 - (i) Gold Coast restaurant owner Nuccia Fusco said 'that is not protecting Queenslanders at all by keeping them out of work, on the streets and desperate for money'; and
2. condemns the Premier for her mixed messages and thought bubbles on the reopening of the interstate border that has closed business and cost jobs across Queensland.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Child Protection



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.16 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to the catastrophic and systemic failures of the child safety system under the Palaszczuk Labor government which have seen the tragic loss of 18 children. Will the Premier overhaul the child safety system and adopt the LNP's policy stance of a child protection force, with the force working 24 hours a day, seven days a week with a no-second-chance compulsory drug-testing model to save the lives of Queensland's most vulnerable children?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It is a very serious issue and it needs a very serious response. First and foremost let me say this: there have been issues regarding child safety that go back decades. I do not think there is a government on record that has not had to deal with the complex issues of child safety. When the LNP was in office there was the Carmody inquiry and we continued to implement that. Under the Beattie government there was also an inquiry into child safety. These are incredibly complex and serious issues. The number of families that are now presenting to the department come with a whole array of complex issues, whether that be drug use or whether it be domestic and family violence. The number of families presenting are presenting with more and more complex issues.

Everyone needs to do better. Governments need to do better and the community needs to do better. Today I say to the Leader of the Opposition that my government is willing to work with those opposite. What I am suggesting today is a new approach to child safety in this state. What I am saying to the Leader of the Opposition today is that I am asking those opposite to work with my government, and let us get it right. Just yesterday I had a conversation with my chief of staff and my director-general. I said that we need to have not just more police working in Child Safety; we need to have more health professionals working in Child Safety and we also need to have more staff dealing with mental health as well. In a spirit of bipartisanship, I ask the opposition to work with the Minister for Child Safety and let us address—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Further, as we know, the Deputy Coroner has handed down her recommendations in relation to the inquiry into Mason Jett Lee and today I advise the House that my government will accept all of those recommendations. The final recommendation was in relation to adoption. I think we need to absolutely, as a government and community, look at this.

My commitment today to the people of Queensland is that we will work with the stakeholders to bring legislation into this House and I ask the opposition to be part of that. I table that and will send that through electronically.

Tabled paper: Table, undated, titled 'Queensland Government response to Mason Jett Lee Coronial Inquiry recommendations' [911].

We also need more foster carers. As more and more children are presenting to the department of child safety and the work is so complex, we need to have more foster carers—good people of Queensland out there, good families—

(Time expired)

Child Protection

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. The Palaszczuk government claims it has implemented the findings of the Child Death Case Review Panel report on Mason Jett Lee. However, we have seen the tragic death of a four-year-old girl from Cannon Hill, the neglect of the Stafford twins, two babies from separate households die from drug overdoses and now the revelations on *A Current Affair*. How can the Palaszczuk government claim the child safety system is working effectively when vulnerable Queensland children continue to be abused and tragically die?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to address the question. I am happy to start at the beginning. When we came to office we had to restore 225 child safety jobs that were cut under the LNP. Since 2015 we have put in place an additional 500 child safety officers.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will put her comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have a budget of \$1.3 billion.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are nearly 10,000 children currently in care and there are more and more families—

Mrs Frecklington: The system is broken.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just like your leadership, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Seventy-five per cent of the children who are coming into the care of Child Safety have one or both parents with drug or alcohol problems. It is not good enough. Parents have to be responsible for the children that they—

Mr Mander: Drug-test them!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We do. The policy was introduced by Minister Fentiman back on 29 November 2016.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill.

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me also say that 25 per cent of children who come into care had a parent with current or previous methamphetamine use, up 34 per cent, and 75 per cent of households where a child experienced significant harm or was at risk of significant harm experienced multiple issues, including mental illness and domestic and family violence. As I said, these are very complex cases. The department of child safety needs to do better. That is why we need to have a new model. We need to have a new approach.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy for the Leader of the Opposition to get up in this House and explain why 225 child safety officers were cut.

Ms Bates: That is not true. Child safety officers weren't. They were CSSOs, not CSOs. You have misled the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is on the record.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not going to get into that because these are really important issues for Queenslanders. Those opposite had the Carmody inquiry.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are absolutely committed to Supporting Families Changing Futures, with over \$500 million put into that program.

Building and Construction Industry

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. How will stimulating the construction sector help the state rebuild from COVID-19?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for the question. We know that we have a lot of work to do. The road to recovery is long and hard. As a decentralised state we have many regions across Queensland that are feeling the impacts of the COVID pandemic. Earlier this morning the Deputy Premier was talking about the impacts around the world and concern about a second wave. As I said in this House and I will say again, Queenslanders are concerned about a second wave, as I am, every single day. Do not think for one moment that I do not realise the enormous responsibility that Queenslanders are placing on myself and my government to make sure that we can do everything we can to stop a second wave but also to get people back into work in a measured and responsible way. That is what we are planning to do.

Industry is saying to us that we need to make sure that construction is continuing across our great state. I welcome comments that I witnessed on the television last night from Cairns where they welcomed the stimulus package. We will see more social housing built in regional Queensland, but also the regional boost will be so good. That \$5,000 is for any new home. You do not have to be a first home owner, you have to be building a new home and you can be eligible for the \$5,000 grant. If you are a first home owner in regional Queensland you will be able to get the \$15,000, plus the \$5,000 regional boost and may be eligible for \$25,000 from the federal government. That is a \$45,000 investment in your first home. This is what Queenslanders need. If you are building houses right across Queensland you are employing tradies and that means jobs.

I thank Master Builders Queensland who raised with me at the alliance meeting that if we can put this grant in place it will mean a great stimulus for the building sector and jobs in regional Queensland. That is exactly what we have committed to do. I know that the member represents Cairns extremely well in this House. He is a very strong advocate and when I have been up there it is wonderful to see the work that you are doing with the local businesses.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The great work he is doing advocating on their behalf. We will continue to back our construction industry. Our commitment of over \$50 billion over four years will secure a pipeline of works across Queensland and, as Minister Jones said, great work is happening on Cross River Rail, the first underground rail in the south-east.

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Funding

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Given that Labor has cancelled the Queensland budget this year, will the Treasurer advise how much extra funding has been requested and approved by the department of child safety next financial year to address the systemic failures in Queensland's child safety system leaving young children at risk?

Mr DICK: I thank the honourable member for his question. Perhaps I can start with a fact—that is, a \$466 million increase that our government has funded to the child safety department since our election in 2015. That is almost half a billion dollars in additional funding the Labor government has provided to Child Safety.

Ms Bates: \$409 million before from the LNP.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. She has been consistently interjecting this morning because the member for Mudgeeraba is ashamed of what she did when she was a minister in the Newman government. The member for Mudgeeraba protests too much because she is ashamed of what her government did to the child safety department.

Ms Bates: \$409 million!

Mrs Frecklington: How about you think about the children.

Mr Mander: We don't care about the blame game. Save our children!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Mr DICK: Our government has been responsible for a 54 per cent increase in funding to the child safety department. While the member for Everton, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba might wish to ignore the facts, the number of children and families coming into the child safety system with increasing complexity with the curse of methamphetamines, with multiple problems, has increased significantly.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mr DICK: Instead of sacking child safety workers, like the LNP did, we back child safety workers, dealing with a number of—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, I gave some latitude when you were the subject of the Treasurer's comments. That is no longer the case. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: In this financial year, the budget for the child safety department has increased by 54 per cent and is now \$1.3 billion. Every one of those dollars matters for a child in a distressing situation. We do not want them to be in a distressing situation. We back the public servants. We do not sack them, like members of the LNP did when they were in government. As the Premier has quite rightly said, there is increasing complexity. There are multiple complex problems in families. It is amongst the most challenging of all portfolios. I commend the Minister for Child Safety for the work that she has been doing. Now is not the time for interjection; now is the time for the opposition to take up the offer of the Premier—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Everton. He says, 'It's our plan.' This is not a time for pride. This is not a time for trumpeting yourself. This is a time for the Leader of the Opposition to meet with the Minister for Child Safety to work on a bipartisan plan to address child safety issues once and for all in this state. You may wish to make it political, member for Everton, because you think it suits your purposes.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: The member for Everton may wish to make it political, because it may suit the member for Everton's political purposes, but we will put first children in the electorates of Woodridge and Inala and all over this state and make them safe.

(Time expired)

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Agriculture Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Premier and the Minister for Trade. How will yesterday's announcement of \$12.5 million to support the agriculture and food sectors benefit the Mackay economy and surrounding regions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. Of course, we know how important the agricultural industries are to the Mackay region, with a value of over \$1.3 billion. Minister Furner and AgForce have been working collaboratively as we unite and recover in the best interests of Queenslanders. During this time, Queenslanders want to see people working together. They do not want to see fights and brawls. They want to see Queenslanders backing Queenslanders. They want to see a government that is listening and responding.

I know that the industries in the member's region will definitely benefit from the money that we announced yesterday. There is \$5.5 million for digital technology, \$5 million for trade opportunities and ecommerce, and \$2 million for diversification. As we know, Queensland's clean green food production is among the safest in the world. I am very proud of the produce that comes out of Queensland. It is exported around the world. In this state we are very lucky to have such industries and we support them.

Yesterday, Michael Guerin from AgForce was with us. He said—

Agriculture is one of Australia's most important industries and Queensland is the largest agricultural state in Australia, so to have this government backing our industry and thinking about our recovery will make a big difference to our industry and to confidence in our communities.

He said—

It will allow them to contribute strongly to the post-COVID economic recovery.

We also know how important the horticultural industry is to the region surrounding Bowen. It is an important food bowl for the rest of Australia, especially with its winter produce. Every time I go there I try to drop in to see Carl Walker, a great local farmer who is also connected with the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association. It was wonderful to attend one of their functions before COVID came upon us.

On this side of the House we are absolutely united and focused on Queenslanders. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same about the opposition. During this time of pandemic I find it incredible that they are focused on themselves. There seems to be a huge rift between the parliamentary party and the executive. The leader does not have faith in the president of the party, who is working for Clive Palmer. There are the 'faceless men': Bruce McIver, Malcolm Cole. It is very disappointing that, in this time of global pandemic, they are only interested in themselves.

(Time expired)

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Can the minister advise whether any of the 21 child safety staff involved in the Mason Jett Lee case and referred to in the Deputy Coroner's recent report have been promoted in the past three years?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. Regarding the staff referred to in the coroner's report, the member for Burnett will know that the Premier has requested that the Public Sector Commission examine the way in which those staff were dealt with after the death of Mason Jett Lee. That report is being undertaken as quickly as possible. It will be released in the coming days. Regarding the status of any one of the staff referred to, I will need to confirm those particular details and get back to the member.

I go back to the response that the Premier gave to the opposition leader's question about the LNP policy that we saw detailed in the *Courier-Mail* today. I echo the Premier's comments about welcoming the efforts of the LNP to actually have a child safety policy. That is very important. I know they did not take a child safety policy to the last election, but we welcome that announcement because we say that child safety is everybody's responsibility. By that we mean not just the department of child safety. We mean that the police, health, education and non-government agencies, as well as every single person in Queensland need to be aware of our vulnerable children. We all need to support them. We all need to make sure that we have a line of sight and take up that responsibility. Therefore, I welcome the conversations.

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to commit today to not cutting child safety officer numbers. We have heard that they want to cut one-third of the Public Service. We have 3,300 officers in Child Safety and 1,100 of them work directly with children. I ask the opposition leader to please commit to not cutting child safety officer numbers. Every single day those officers work with our vulnerable children. I note that the last time they were in government they cut \$200 million from the Child Safety budget. If we cut \$200 million now, we would be cutting the funding of every single non-government organisation that works with us to take care of kids. That means Queensland Foster and Kinship Care, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, Act for Kids, PeakCare and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak. However, that would not be enough. To cut \$200 million, we would also have to sack child safety officers. I welcome this bipartisan approach and I ask for that commitment.

Mr BENNETT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I confirm that the minister agreed to take the question on notice earlier in her contribution? I did not interrupt at the time, but I seek her commitment to take the question on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: You do not have to do that. You can do that after the question has been answered. Minister, will you provide that information under the standing orders to the House?

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have reiterated that. As I said, I would welcome a commitment from the opposition leader today that they will not cut funding and they will not sack our dedicated child safety staff.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of House



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.38 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Both the Treasurer and the minister have spoken about cuts, the LNP and child safety officers. I advise that that is completely not true. Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you with respect to this misrepresentation in the House this morning.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Coronavirus, Health Services

Ms LUI: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the steps that the Palaszczuk government has taken to support health services during the COVID-19 pandemic and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cook for her question. It is an important one and I know how passionate she is about health services right across the state, given that she represents so much of it—her electorate being such a big part of the state and such a hard area to deliver high-quality health care to. Queensland was very well placed to face the COVID-19 pandemic because this government had rebuilt our health services. Since 2015, we have employed 2,450 more doctors, 7,358 more nurses and midwives, and 721 additional ambos. As we saw the virus coming our way, we also employed another 610 new nurses, 42 more doctors, 659 support staff and 64 more allied health professionals.

We had to rebuild our frontline health services because they had been devastated by the LNP and by the Newman government. We could not have responded how we did if it were not for the lengths we went to, to rebuild our health services. Who knows what state we would be in if those opposite could have kept cutting for five more years as they did for three?

Now we hear that they want to do it again. The Leader of the Opposition said on ABC Radio, 'We did it last time and we will do it again.' Let's remember some of the things they did last time and think about how they want to repeat it if they are elected. Last time they were in office they cut 4,400 health staff. That is what they did last time and that is what she wants to do again. They cut 1,800 nurses and midwives. That is what they did last time and that is what she wants to do again. They cut 69 pathology staff, the front line in our response to any pandemic. That is what they did last time and now she wants to do it again. Some 177 public health staff were cut by them in their three years. That is what she did last time and that is what she wants to do again. Not to mention the more than 100,000 Queenslanders left to languish on the waiting list—just to get on the waiting list. That is what they did to Queenslanders last time and that is what they want to do again.

The Palaszczuk government has a proud record of rebuilding health services. We have a plan to continue to rebuild health services as well as a plan to work to get our economy moving again and to get people back into jobs. We need to continue to invest in both health and in our economy, and that is precisely what this government has done and will keep doing.

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Staffing

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety. Given the minister is unsure of senior positions in her own department, can the minister explain why Julie Smith, who was then a regional director, is now an acting executive director for the Placement Enhancement Project, and why Julieann Cork, who was the then regional director, is now a regional executive director for the Moreton region—both clear promotions?

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order, Premier and member for Kawana! I am going to rule the question out of order on the basis that, in my view, the question could well have been asked by reference to the public sector officials' positions as opposed to naming those members.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you members to my right.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Morayfield is warned under the standing orders. I am giving a ruling. I rule the question out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I recall two or three sittings ago you made a ruling with respect to the Under Treasurer when we asked the question to the Treasurer or the Premier by name and we named the public servant involved, and my understanding was that, Mr Speaker, you ruled that was okay at that time.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am not going to explain my ruling to the House. What I will say is that in that circumstance there is only one Under Treasurer, as there is only one director-general for each agency, and it is clear that with or without that name, there can only be one individual concerned. In this case I believe the question could have been asked in a different way. That is why I have ruled it out of order.

Notice of Motion, Dissent from Speaker's Ruling

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I will move dissent from your ruling on that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana.

Coronavirus, Economic Recovery

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the honourable Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the honourable Treasurer update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs will support the economy and fiscal recovery and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: As the member for Mansfield knows, our government was the first in the nation to declare COVID-19, when it was still unnamed, when it was a novel coronavirus, as a public health emergency. We did that at the end of January. We were the first government in Australia to provide support to businesses that were impacted, particularly in the north of our state—the tourism industry, and agricultural and fisheries operators. We were the first to act. We were ignored by the federal government. This parliament called on the federal government to act, as honourable members will recall, and finally they were dragged kicking and screaming to support Queensland businesses.

Mr Millar: They were not.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. They did not support this government and they did not support Queenslanders until they were forced to, and a motion of this parliament assisted with that. I am asked for alternative approaches. We have a clear unite and recover plan for Queensland. That is our plan that will run until 27 September when JobKeeper stops. It will continue beyond then and it will run for at least two years. That is what I anticipate, as the Treasurer, because it will take that long for our economy to recover from this grievous injury that has been caused to it and to Queensland workers from circumstances entirely beyond their control.

What we hear from the opposition is silence on their plan. They have said one thing: they will do a budget. We will do our fiscal and economic review, comprehensively reporting to this parliament and the state in September, but they have said they will not do anything this year. They are going to do their budget, they are going to do their fiscal and economic review, after the election. They will do it in January. The members of the opposition will not be upfront with the people of Queensland. Why are they not coming forward with a plan in September? What are they hiding? It is why they incessantly talk about debt and debt of government owned corporations. Why do they talk about debt of government owned corporations? Because they want to sell them. That is their way to get debt down. They talk about government debt because that is what they want to do.

Mr Millar interjected.

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

Mr DICK: I am calling on the opposition to come forward with your plan before the election. How are you going to fund your \$8 billion in unfunded promises, plus all the other matters you have announced in the last week? How are you going to do that? The Leader of the Opposition is not doing it and the members opposite are not doing it because they are weak. They are weak. They will not stand up. They will not stand up to the president.

Our enemy is COVID-19. That is our enemy. The enemy of the Leader of the Opposition is Dave Hutchinson and she cannot move him on. The Leader of the Opposition is incapable. Now we have Clive Palmer saying that it is an abuse of human rights for Queensland opposition leader Deb Frecklington to attack his staff. Mr Speaker, who is running the LNP? Is it the Leader of the Opposition, is it the president of the LNP, Dave Hutchinson, or is it Clive Palmer? This is an unfit rabble. They are unfit to govern Queensland.

Child Protection

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety. The damning coronial inquest report released recently said—

Although it is the position of the department that the recommendation in regard to adoption has been implemented by the department, it is obvious it in fact has not been implemented in any real sense. From 2013 to 2019 a tiny handful of children have been adopted from out-of-home care.

Can the minister explain why the department has all but ignored this important recommendation?

Ms Palaszczuk: I just tabled it.

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I take the Premier's interjection that she just tabled our response to the Deputy Coroner's report. I will just make a couple of statements. This government was the first state in Australia to institute and clearly articulate in legislation the concept of permanency. At the same time, we were the first, and remain the only, state to articulate child placement principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and the right to self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families about the future of their children. We are very proud of that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba South and member for Cooper, you are both warned for quarrelling across the chamber.

Ms FARMER: As I said, we are very proud that we were the first state in Australia to introduce those permanency options. Since 2013 some 62.5 per cent of our children are in long-term care arrangements.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are already under a warning. You are consistently interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.50 am.

Ms FARMER: Some 62.5 per cent of children in care are now on long-term orders. We continue to work to implement the permanency options we put in place.

I am gobsmacked that the LNP has the cheek to raise issues about child safety when they completely ripped that system apart when they were in government. Campbell Newman promised \$400 million to implement the Carmody reforms. Not only did he not deliver that \$400 million—

Ms Simpson interjected.

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

Ms FARMER: Not only did he not deliver that \$400 million; he ripped \$200 million out of the system. We could not even start implementing the Carmody reforms until Labor came to government. Those opposite sacked 225 child safety officers.

I note that the member for Mudgeeraba was saying that they were only child safety support officers as if they do not matter. Her disregard for the efforts of our staff is absolutely appalling. We have staff working their hearts out every single day and they face the upmost depravity every single day. They sacked 225 of them and she said, 'They were the ones that did not matter. They are the ones that support our child safety officers.'

The audacity of those opposite. They cut funding to Foster Care Queensland. They repealed the legislation that required us to table annual child death review reports. Do not come at me and this government and say that you have the high moral ground when it comes to child safety because we had to pick up after you and invest so much to look after our vulnerable children.

Coronavirus, Research

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to investing in Queensland research to fight COVID-19?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question. I know that he has been working hard in his local community to support businesses to get back on track as we reunite and recover together here in Queensland. As we have already heard from the Premier and Deputy Premier this morning, there is so much as Queenslanders that we can be proud of as we continue to tackle both the health and economic crisis that COVID-19 has inflicted not only on us in Queensland but around the world.

Queenslanders are leading the charge when it comes to developing a vaccine for COVID-19. We need to think about the figures. We have more than eight million cases of COVID-19 worldwide and more than 100,000 new cases every day. The work that is happening at the University of Queensland has the potential to save millions of lives not only here in Australia but also globally.

Tomorrow marks a significant milestone in the journey they have been undertaking at UQ. Tomorrow Brisbane based research laboratory Nucleus Network will put out the call for the first 120 volunteers to take part in the human trials of this vaccine. If you are fit and healthy and aged between 18 and 50 then please put your name forward to be a special part of history for Queensland. I know that there has been a lot of acknowledgement of the team that is working around the clock. Some are describing them as superheros. When I talk to them they say that they do not like that title very much because they feel they are just doing their job. They want to help. They are very grateful that in Queensland we do have the resources and facilities to fight on the front line.

There is another group of superhuman people emerging in Queensland.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: I will get to that, Premier. Thank you very much. There is a squad or a team of them. It is interesting because by day they wear Palmer gold and by night they wear LNP blue. They are called 'Palmer's Avengers'—moonlighting as the LNP executive at night and working for Palmer all day long. We have the LNP party president, David Hutchinson, Palmer property consultant; LNP heavyweight Bruce McIver, director of Palmer development company; LNP state executive member Malcolm Cole—I quite like Malcolm—Palmer communications consultant; and federal Nationals president, Larry Anthony—a good bloke too—consultant for Palmer. Don't they want to avenge?

I have never really followed Clive Palmer's tweets. I have better things to do with my time. There are some good ones today. He has tweeted—

We need leaders that will bring us together so we can achieve all we can be, leaders who can set a clear political and economic agenda," he said.

It is disappointing that Deb Frecklington needs to use my name to gain publicity for her own notoriety.

Isn't it just starting to all fall apart over there! We have Clive Palmer pulling the puppet strings of the faceless men behind the LNP who want Deb gone.

(Time expired)

Family and Child Commission, Investigations

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety. Will the minister immediately release the terms of reference for the Queensland Family and Child Commission investigation into the tragic death of a four-year-old girl in Cannon Hill and the horrendous case of the Stafford twins and commit to the reports being released before the next state election?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. In relation to releasing the terms of reference, I point out that the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner reports to the Attorney-General, so the member will need to ask her that question. When I announced, with the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner by my side, that this inquiry would be undertaken, Family and Child Commissioner Cheryl Vardon made it clear that she would release the report as soon as it was available. She said about six weeks. I hope the member is not suggesting that we should interfere with a statutory authority and tell it what and how it should do things. I am sure the member is not suggesting that—though we can never be sure. The commissioner made it very clear that she would release that report as long as it did not identify private and confidential details about any child or their siblings or their family. That is in the public arena. I know that members opposite would like to make something of that.

I reiterate that child safety is everybody's responsibility. We are pulling our weight. We have allocated a budget of \$1.3 billion this year. By the end of next year there will be 500 new child safety staff. We have the runs on the board. We have case loads down to 18 as opposed to 21 under the LNP. We now have the best response to our 24-hour urgent cases since pre-LNP days. We are the only state in Australia to stabilise the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children coming into the system despite the fact that we get one call every four minutes.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The minister is answering the question. She is not taking the interjections and those on the other side continue to yell and scream so that the minister cannot be heard.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. There is no point of order. Minister, you have one minute and 11 seconds remaining.

Ms FARMER: Our huge investment in staff and resourcing the child safety department is starting to show results. There is so much work to be done. In fact, the Deputy Coroner acknowledged in her report that every single government around the world is facing the challenges of increasing complexity in their child safety systems. What we need—what the vulnerable children and families in Queensland need—

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill.

Ms FARMER:—is a commitment from this side of the House to not sack child safety staff.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Moggill, I was not going to interrupt the minister, but your interjections are clearly designed to. You are warned under the standing orders. You will cease your interjections.

Ms FARMER: We need a commitment from them to not cut \$200 million out of the child safety system—which is what they did last time; a commitment to not cut funding to Foster Care Queensland—which is what they did last time; a commitment to support our foster care recruitment campaigns—which is what they did not do last time. We want them to make a commitment to the vulnerable children in Queensland. Let us say it outright. Let us not talk about it. Let us get a commitment and an announcement straightaway about funding and keeping our staff. That is what we want to hear today.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders. He has made quite an impact in a short time in the chamber.

Police Resources

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister please update the House on current police numbers in Queensland?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. He is a strong supporter of police not only right across the state but in his electorate of Thuringowa and throughout the Townsville district. We see strong support from our local member for the police numbers in the Townsville district. Our government is delivering more resources and more police for Townsville.

Strong advocacy from the member for Thuringowa and his colleagues in Townsville for that policy will see extra police in Townsville—53—on top of the 20 that we delivered for the RAAF, as well as new facilities like the Upper Ross police facility and the 10 officers there. There is great commitment from our government for extra resources in Townsville and right across the state. We have record numbers of police in our state at the moment—over 12,000. For the first time ever, we have over 12,000 police.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North.

Mr RYAN: That is possible because of our government's record budget in policing. We have the biggest and best funded Police Service in Queensland's history. That is because of a Labor government. It is a Labor government who is investing in the front line.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr RYAN: We only have to look back a short time to see what those opposite did to our Police Service when they were in government.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Theodore, I had trouble seeing you before. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: We only have to go back a few years to see what those opposite did to our Police Service when they were in government. They sacked over 300 police personnel—senior officers and frontline support officers. They cut funding for training for our police. They told senior police that they were not going to fund important commitments like new cars and tasers and other equipment that our police need. That is their record.

They do not learn much when we see history repeating itself. I did a bit of detective work. I found the Borbidge-Sheldon review following Campbell Newman's massive loss in 2015. I did not have to go far into the report. Recommendation 1 states—

The relationship between the two wings of the LNP—

that is the organisational wing and the parliamentary wing—

is the single most important issue that must be addressed ... sustained into the future. We recommend the preparation of and agreement to a compact that defines the role and responsibilities of the parliamentary and organisational wings ensuring that goodwill, a constructive, harmonious and positive working relationship prevails into the future.

If they cannot get recommendation 1 of the Borbidge-Sheldon review right, how can they ever expect to govern Queensland? This is a demonstration of weak leadership—a weak leader who does not contribute to the party and will not contribute to Queensland.

CopperString 2.0

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. We welcome the near \$15 million for CopperString. However, this initiative will be a failure if critical infrastructure decisions are allowed to be made by Glencore, risking thousands of jobs associated with copper refining in Townsville. Therefore, can the Premier assure the House that she will pull all necessary levers to ensure the copper smelter remains open and CopperString is built to save Townsville jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for his question. It is a very good question. I know he is very passionate about the community that he represents. We are very passionate about making sure that there are jobs right across Queensland, especially in some of our most remote parts of Queensland.

In relation to the CopperString project, this is something that my government is very keen to champion because we know it will be one of the largest infrastructure programs ever seen from Townsville to Mount Isa out to the north-west. That is why we put in place \$14.8 million to get that project underway.

In relation to the copper smelter, I am keenly aware of the media articles in relation to concerns about jobs in terms of the amalgamation of their operations. I commit to asking my minister Dr Anthony Lynham to continue to engage with Glencore, as I know he does on a regular basis. To reaffirm, in 2016 we offered \$15 million to support the rebricking of the smelter under our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. Our commitment as a government has been on the public record. I know that the people of Mount Isa recognise that.

We are putting in place more money for the exploration of new economy minerals which we hope they will find more of in the North West Minerals Province. We will update the member on those developments. I can advise the member that we will continue to speak with Glencore. We know the importance of the copper smelter to the people of Mount Isa. That is how the town came about. Many people continue to be employed. We want to make sure that we can secure those long-term jobs for as long as possible. I ask Dr Lynham to update the member about any further discussions that happen. I thank the member for that very important question today.

Sunshine Coast, Road and Rail Infrastructure

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the government's road and rail investments on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Pine Rivers for her question and for her interest in Sunshine Coast infrastructure and jobs. With the Palaszczuk government's unite and recover plan, we are well positioned to get jobs going on the Sunshine Coast. We already had a record \$3.2 billion commitment in terms of roads and rail on the Sunshine Coast before the pandemic happened. Let me go through that.

The Bruce Highway upgrade from Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway—\$812 million—is well advanced. The upgrade to the Maroochydore Road and Mons Road interchanges has started. The Gympie bypass will start very soon—that is \$2 billion. Widening of the Bruce Highway on the way to the Sunshine Coast between Caboolture and Steve Irwin Way is starting later this year. We are doing work at Ridgewood Road thanks to the hard work and advocacy of Jason Hunt, the Labor candidate for Caloundra. We have record investment in Sunshine Coast roads and rail.

What do we get from those opposite? They are meekly allowing Clive Palmer to take over the LNP again. The old dinosaur is back. We remember the Hyatt Regency Coolum resort. He absolutely flatlined one of the great facilities in the country. Hundreds of jobs were lost. We saw the actual dinosaur burn down and we saw years and years of fighting in the courts—residents fighting Clive Palmer and his destruction of jobs on the Sunshine Coast.

Yet we learn in the last few days that a whole range of LNP operatives are on Clive Palmer's payroll. He referred to them in his tweets in only the last hour as 'his staff'. We are talking about Bruce McIver, Malcolm Cole, Larry Anthony and the president of the LNP being on the Palmer payroll. Clive Palmer has quietly brought the *Titanic II* in overnight and docked at the LNP wharf. He has taken over. He has come home. The LNP is harbouring Clive Palmer and his *Titanic II*. He has half of them on the payroll.

Mr Millar interjected.

This is the future for the Sunshine Coast: you have a clear commitment for a unite and recover plan for Queensland jobs by the Palaszczuk government investing in Sunshine Coast jobs—thousands of jobs are coming this financial year because of our commitment—or you have the 'Liberal National Palmer Party' over there not learning from the past, not learning from the destruction, not learning from the Coolum resort—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, I tried to give you some guidance earlier. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Gregory, you were already under a warning for consistently interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 11.09 am.

Mr BAILEY: Like the quiet and decrepit old Palmer resort that is rotting there, all we get is silence and inaction from those opposite when it comes to Clive Palmer and his insurgency into the LNP. That is what we are seeing over there. That is what Sunshine Coast residents will get if they vote for the LNP, or they will get jobs with Labor.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you can leave the chamber for one hour. I would have thought that, warning you less than 30 seconds ago, you would have been able to control your behaviour in the chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.10 am.

Labor Party, Branch Stacking

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that Mike Kaiser, who was identified by the Shepherdson inquiry as a branch stacker, is now contracted by the Premier; and given that the Premier's former chief of staff, David Barbagallo, was also identified as a branch stacker; and given that the former deputy premier, the member for South Brisbane, is still under investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission for corruption, will the Premier guarantee Queenslanders that the events we have seen in relation to branch stacking in Victoria and now New South Wales are not occurring in Queensland today?

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are under a warning. I am taking advice from the Clerk. You can leave the chamber for one hour. Standing orders are not flexible, members. I have made myself clear on numerous occasions.

Whereupon the honourable member for Toowoomba South withdrew from the chamber at 11.11 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, at the end of the question I believe there may be an inference which I would ask that you perhaps remove. You can rephrase the question. I will give you one attempt at that.

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Parliament should be very concerned that we have seen the issue of branch stacking by governments in both Victoria and New South Wales. Can the Premier guarantee Queenslanders that that is not occurring in Queensland?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the first part of your question was fine because it related to units of government business. You have rephrased the question to remove all of those elements which were relevant and now this is a question about the party unit, which is not the Premier's responsibility as the Premier of Queensland. I rule the question out of order.

Rookwood Weir, Funding

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the federal government's provision of funding for Rookwood Weir?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. The Palaszczuk government is steaming ahead with the construction of Rookwood Weir. Our local members, the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton, are staunch advocates for this project. They know that this project is about jobs for local tradies, and that is happening right now. It is all about jobs and opportunities for the future because Central Queensland farmers will use this water for high-value agriculture. That is how Queensland will rebuild and recover under our economic plan—by building on our strengths such as agriculture.

Our recovery plan will focus on local jobs like the jobs we have already created. One of the companies working on Rookwood Weir right now is the Hartecs Group. The member for Rockhampton is very familiar with them. They have young graduate engineers from Central Queensland University gaining experience right now on this region-changing project. In years to come those young engineers will be able to point to that weir and say, 'I was part of that. I was part of Queensland's recovery after COVID-19.'

Let's hope that the federal LNP has finally coughed up the cash by then. We can only hope they will cough up the cash. Yesterday in the media the Leader of the Opposition said she is going to grab federal funding for dams with both hands. Well, good luck. I thought she would be too busy using those hands to hang onto the leadership while she fends off Clive's props. They are big and mean, and the LNP thought they were on her team. Instead of focusing on Queensland the opposition leader is more worried about when they are going to blow the whistle on her career.

Works on the \$352 million Rookwood Weir have been underway since November last year thanks to Palaszczuk government funds alone. It is our money that is building Rookwood and our money alone. All we are getting from the federal LNP is stalling. There were even protests against the Palaszczuk government's initiative on Rookwood Weir by the local federal member. I challenge those opposite to get back into the main game. Get your mates in Canberra to start delivering on the promise you made to the people of Central Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, member.

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Speaker, is it too late? Has the whistle blown? Has the opposition dropped the ball completely on Central Queensland? If you are not strong enough to captain and manage your own team, how can you kick goals for Queensland? The Palaszczuk government is delivering on our economic plan for Queensland jobs: we are building Rookwood; we are building dams for the future; we are delivering water for farmers; and we are united for recovery.

Volunteer Firefighters, Blue Cards

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Given the minister's extension of the deadline for blue card applications by rural fire volunteers, will the minister withdraw the termination notices issued prior to the extension and send a written apology to those volunteers with an invitation to return to their brigades?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (11.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to enable—

1. the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill with all existing clauses to pass all stages, and
2. the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations to move the amendments circulated to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (11.17 am), by leave: I lay upon the table of the House a report by the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Follow-up of report No. 3 of 2017-18: Audit of Ipswich City Council's implementation of recommendations—compliance with right to information and information privacy*.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 3: 2019-20—Follow-up report No. 3 of 2017-18: Audit of Ipswich City Council's implementation of recommendations: Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy [\[912\]](#).

The report presents the council's progress in implementing the 12 recommendations of the 2017-18 compliance audit. I table the report in accordance with the requirements of section 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 16 June (see p. 1222) on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (11.18 am): I rise to speak in support of the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019, but before I turn to the substantive nature of the bill I want to set the record straight in respect to some comments made by the member for Kawana yesterday in his speech on the bill.

The member yesterday took issue with the four months the bill has taken to get to the floor of the House and also commented on the 51 pages of amendments tabled with the bill. We all know the member for Kawana likes a good record and luckily for him this one remains firmly his, because it was his bill—I understand the Directors' Liability Reform Amendment Bill 2012—which took 11 months to reach the floor of the House and had 108 pages of amendments tabled just before the debate.

Ms Howard: How many?

Ms LINARD: It was 108—I take that interjection—which is more than double what he raised yesterday, and of course there was no world health pandemic at that time. No-one could forget when the former member for Callide had to move 169 amendments during consideration in detail to fix the member for Kawana's unconstitutional IR laws around midnight—in the dead of night no less. The member for Kawana gets to keep this record, which is of course the record you do not want to have.

I move now to the substantive matters before us. At a time when our focus is so resolutely on job creation, job security and the nature of work in our state, it is timely to consider this bill which seeks to make provision for a sector in our community that is particularly vulnerable—that is, community services workers. The bill before us for debate establishes a portable long service leave scheme for the community services industry. The scheme covers workers performing community services work, including contract workers engaged in non-government, for-profit and not-for-profit organisations. It provides those workers with a portable long service leave entitlement after seven years service, with accrual at the rate of the existing statutory entitlement of 8.67 weeks after 10 years service as prescribed in the Industrial Relations Act.

How does what is proposed differ to the current provision and why is a variation justified? Currently, as members are aware, eligible workers are able to access long service leave at 10 years service with a single employer under the IR Act. However, this presents a particular challenge to many in the community services sector because of the nature of the sector itself.

The 2016 data from the ABS indicated employees in the healthcare and social assistance industry experienced a high prevalence of insecure work, with almost one in four workers not receiving any paid leave entitlements. Further, ABS data from the 2017 Participation, Job Search and Mobility survey found only 18 per cent of Queensland community services sector workers had been engaged with the same employer for over 10 years, below the Queensland average of 26 per cent.

This data was further borne out by a survey in 2017 of community services employees by the Services Union which found the following: 80 per cent identified as having worked for up to five different employers within 10 years of service in the industry; 72 per cent of respondents who had over 10 years of service had never achieved long service to access the leave entitlement; and respondents who had over 10 years of service on average worked approximately 6.7 years per employer. Taking all respondents' answers, the average period of employment per employer was 3.25 years. As stated in the explanatory notes, taken together the data reveals high levels of structural labour mobility which impacts on workers accessing a long service leave entitlement in the sector.

The nature of the social and community services industry is such that employees are regularly working in high-stress, crisis and trauma environments, covering sectors of the industry such as child protection, community legal services, community and neighbourhood services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community services, health, alcohol and other drug services, disability and mental health, homelessness, as well as migrant and settlement services. Workers are providing care and expertise in areas of great need but equally areas of significant stress and trauma. These services are also provided in a sector that is largely funded by short-term contracts which must be retendered on expiry.

Whilst our government's commitment to fund pay equity rates and introduce longer term funding contracts has been acknowledged as already creating a more sustainable social and community services industry, the majority of both federal and state funding remains tied to these short-term contracts, contributing significantly to the insecure nature of the work. I appreciate that this problem is further exacerbated by the move to consumer driven funding with the introduction of the NDIS.

These structural characteristics have resulted in a workforce with short-term tenure, often with multiple employers but paradoxically long-term service within the industry—and they are not alone. In recent history, we have seen the introduction of portable long service leave schemes in other industry sectors where it is very difficult for workers to accrue sufficient service with the one employer to attract long service leave. This is no fault of the workers or employers in those industries but represents a structural issue in the industry itself that calls for, in my opinion, some substantive equalising to achieve greater equity, and that is what this bill does.

Similar reforms have seen portable schemes introduced for the building and construction industry and contract cleaning sectors. Proudly, both industries were provided with such schemes by Labor governments under former premiers Goss and Beattie, and we continue that tradition today, but we do not do so alone. As always, it has been done following consultation with workers, employers and the industry itself. Prior to the bill being introduced and referred to my committee, a consultation RIS was released by the department with over 300 submissions received indicating broad, in-principle support for a scheme. During our committee process, 23 submissions were received—again, with broad support indicated for the proposed scheme, of course particularly by workers themselves.

The key issues raised by submitters related to clarity around scope, practical issues for employers preparing for the scheme and provisioning concerns. While discussion around these issues is contained in the committee's report, I do want to make some brief comments in regard to the provisioning concerns or costs raised. The portable long service leave scheme will be funded by employer contributions, paid on the ordinary wages of their workers. Independent actuarial assessment has calculated the levy to be 1.35 per cent lower than both the ACT and Victorian schemes, and I know there has been a real focus on keeping the rate as low as possible for employers and the sector.


Employer concerns in respect of cost are very real. The short-term nature of contracts equally makes budgeting difficult for organisations, but I think it is important to note that the proposed levy to fund the scheme is less than the current rate required by employers to provision for long service leave entitlements for their employees. This scheme does not increase what employers are actually required to provision; it just changes the freedom they currently have in regard to how that provisioning occurs.

and fundamentally increases the number of employees who will be able to access those entitlements. This has benefits to the sector beyond the individual by helping to attract new entrants and retain skilled and experienced workers in the industry.

The community services industry is an industry of workers who have a passion for the work they do and the clients they support. I choose these words because they come from one of the strongest advocates of the sector—the Services Union. Their impassioned call for the introduction of portable long service leave for community workers has been consistent and long made. Their contribution to the inquiry in respect of both their detailed and evidence based submission and their appearance at the hearing was of great value and assistance. I am proud to be a member and am a great supporter of the work they do.

I thank all individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill and the officials from the Office of Industrial Relations in the Department of Education for their assistance. I also warmly acknowledge and thank the minister, Grace Grace, for her ongoing commitment to workers in this state and for bringing these reforms forward to provide for these workers who daily support our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

In closing, I would also like to acknowledge the advocacy of Mr David Schipp, whose case in the Industrial Relations Commission highlighted the need to clarify that, in cases of termination related to illness related incapacity, the entitlements should apply in all cases and not be dependent on whether it is the employer or the employee who terminates the employment. His advocacy highlighted the need for legislative change and will benefit workers into the future. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): I rise to speak on this bill. In particular, I rise to speak about the so-called wages freeze by the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government has treated Queensland's hardworking public servants with absolute contempt. We have had the Premier change her position, change her mind, on at least three or four occasions over the last couple of months which has caused confusion and uncertainty for Queensland's public servants.

Most of us on this side of the House—and I am sure on the government side as well—have had their electoral offices inundated by public servants, police, firefighters, ambos, nurses and teachers who just cannot believe that a Labor government would do this to them. This is a sleight of hand trick. There is no budget repair at all in the announcements that have been made by the Palaszczuk government and the details in this bill. Let us not forget that this is after 51 pages of amendments came through yesterday without proper examination. The committees have not been able to look at this and ask the questions that need to be asked. This is typical of the contempt that the Palaszczuk government treats this parliament with, as mentioned by the Manager of Opposition Business this morning.

Because of this confusion, because of the contempt that the public servants have been treated with, because of the hard work that our public servants have been doing, particularly over the last three months, because of those frontline people who in lots of ways have risked their own lives for Queenslanders and because an agreement is an agreement, the LNP will be opposing Labor's wage freeze for our frontline public servants.

It is important to know that one of the reasons there has been confusion is there has been no budget. Without a budget they have no plan for the future and these decisions cannot be examined properly. We say without any doubt whatsoever that we back those public servants who have entered into these agreements that are legally binding with goodwill. The only way that this government can rescind those is to come in here with legislation. We will also be attempting to introduce legislation to freeze the salary of members of parliament over the next 12 months. Knowing that people are doing it tough, we need to send a signal to the community that members of parliament should not be included in any salary increases, that our pay should be frozen.

We will be continuing to oppose that. We will be continuing to communicate to our constituents that the LNP believes that agreements entered into in good faith and that are legally binding should not be rescinded as the Palaszczuk government is attempting to do. This is a government that is supposed to be the friend of the worker. We can see their true colours now; they have treated public servants with contempt and so we will be voting against those clauses.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.32 am): I rise to speak specifically to the amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992. All Queenslanders deserve to be safe in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities, and community safety is at the heart of everything we do in Youth Justice. The Queensland government has listened to communities across the state and

understands their concerns over youth crime. That is why in March we announced a five-point plan to crack down on repeat tough offenders. It is why we have invested over half a billion dollars in youth justice reform, which has meant new detention centre beds—in fact the number of beds has increased by a third as opposed to the zero built by the LNP when they were in government. It has meant significant investment in early intervention programs; and again there was nothing from the LNP. It is why we are debating legislation today to strengthen the legislation as it relates to youth bail.

There is a perception in the community that the law has not been clear, and these changes will leave no doubt that the safety of the community comes first. The changes make it crystal clear that if a young person is a risk to the safety of the community they must be refused bail.

The Youth Justice Act has always stated that bail decisions must take the risk to a person's safety or welfare into account. In 2019 we added a further consideration: the safety of the community. That provided a strong link between the bail rules and youth justice principle No. 1, that the community must be protected from offences. These amendments build on the 2019 reforms to make it even more clear that if there is a real risk to community safety bail must be refused. The amendments change the current test from 'may' keep a child in custody to 'must' where there is an unacceptable risk of the child committing an offence that endangers the safety of the community or the safety or welfare of a person and that risk cannot be adequately mitigated with bail conditions. With these amendments, we are clearly telling courts that if there is an unacceptable risk to community safety young people must be kept in custody.

These amendments also streamline the decision-making process introduced with the 2019 amendments. Currently, it is a two-stage process: firstly, determining whether there is an unacceptable risk and then, if there is, determining whether release might still be inconsistent with community safety having regard to matters in section 48AD. The amendments simplify the process to one decision including reference to the section 48AD matters.

The policy intent of the Youth Justice Act will not change and has not changed since the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. As I said in my introductory speech to the 2019 bill, importantly, these amendments do not remove judicial and police discretion and aim to balance enabling the appropriate release of children from detention and maintaining community safety.

The Palaszczuk government has committed over \$550 million to the youth justice system since 2017, and this investment has already started to pay dividends with a number of our programs resulting in significant drops in reoffending rates. As an overall statement, there has been a 30 per cent drop in the number of young people committing offences since 2010. Mr Speaker, I acknowledge that if it was your grandma who was seriously assaulted, if it was you whose car was stolen or any of those other serious issues, those figures are small comfort. We know that what we are left with is a small, hard core group of about 10 per cent of young offenders who commit about half of all proven offences, and these new laws are targeted squarely at that group. The Premier has been clear, the police minister has been clear and I have been clear: community safety is paramount.


I know what some of the LNP speakers are going to say if they speak about youth justice. They will roll out their old, tired, failed policies—if you call two ideas they thought up themselves a policy. They are going to roll out the old breach of bail argument that they present to the community as being the answer to everything. They will not talk about the boot camp initiative—the only other thing they actually did in youth justice. They will not tell honourable members that that initiative resulted in 66 per cent of participants reoffending and was \$7.4 million over budget. However, I am sure they will wheel out the breach of bail argument: they want to introduce beach of bail.

Let me tell honourable members about breach of bail. Let's tell the truth about breach of bail here and now and get it on the public record. Do honourable members know what actually happened with breach of bail? It was a miserable failure with very few found guilty and then the court ruled that it did not work. Of those convicted of this offence that those opposite introduced, 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and 94 per cent reoffended within 24 months. The LNP cannot come at me or this government and try to pull the wool over the eyes of the community, who just want to feel safe.

Do members know what else makes a difference in youth justice? It is services. I want to acknowledge the many service providers with whom we work, who work alongside us night and day to make a difference in youth justice. The LNP cut services. I can tell honourable members that if we cut services crime will go up. The LNP needs to have some respect for Queenslanders and come up with genuine solutions that actually work. That is what we are doing. We are coming up with solutions that actually work and we are seeing the results.

When former police commissioner Bob Atkinson delivered his report to me in 2019 suggesting the way forward for youth justice reform he said unequivocally that our youth justice reforms must be book ended by community safety and community confidence. With the amendments that we are putting before the House today and with the results we have achieved, that is exactly what we are doing. We are building on the significant commitment we have already made to changing the story for the community and for our young people.

Lastly, I refer to some comments made by the member for Kawana yesterday that I fiercely defended our amendments last year. Yes, I did and I make no apology for listening to what the community has said about youth justice since that time because what I want to do is keep the community safe. If the community raises this concern—and I acknowledge it is a huge issue for many people in our community—then I will listen, and I do not apologise for doing so. The member for Kawana's comments are just water off a duck's back. We have listened. The amendments currently being proposed build on what we put in place last year. They strengthen and they streamline existing legislation. I commend it to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.39 am): As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for communities, shadow minister for disability services and seniors and shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019. As any Queenslanders involved in the community services sector can attest, whether they are part of the for-profit or employed within not-for-profit non-government organisations, this sector has rapidly grown and continues to undergo significant changes, particularly thanks in part to the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

In my various portfolio roles as a Liberal National Party shadow minister, I have been particularly fortunate to regularly see the substantial and vital contribution of those employed in the community services sector, be they Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community support services, mental health services, disability and respite support services, seniors community support organisations or the vital work that has been done by those involved in violence prevention support organisations. Before continuing, I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the outstanding work by all involved in the community services sector who have been quite literally at the forefront of providing and maintaining crucial support to Queenslanders who have needed it most during the recent unprecedented COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

Queenslanders who dedicate themselves to the service and support of their fellow Queenslanders are people whom we simply cannot commend highly enough. Indeed, as our state's recent history has shown, working for the support and betterment of the lives of others, whether or not we know them, is a quintessential Queensland trait. It is for that reason that those employed in this sector deserve to have their dedication and service not only recognised but also rewarded and appropriately remunerated.

Analysis has shown that workers in this sector are less likely to accrue a long service leave entitlement due to a high mobility between industry employers and the potential for insecure employment. The community services sector simply cannot afford, both metaphorically and literally, to lose the incredible depth of knowledge and skills of such workers. It is ultimately in the best interests of all community service organisations that the knowledge, skills, expertise and dedication of such workers is retained for the benefit of the sector and the provision of all of these services throughout Queensland. As such, given the high levels of structural labour mobility and impacts on workers accessing a long service leave entitlement, this legislation seeks to establish a portable long service leave scheme for workers in the community services sector. In enabling portable long service leave for this sector, I note that the application of this scheme will 'cover workers performing community services work, including contract workers, engaged by an employer that is established for, or with the purpose including, providing community services; and, apply to both for-profit and not-for-profit organisations in the community services industry'.

Once this scheme is enacted, workers in this sector will be provided with a portable long service leave entitlement of approximately 8.6 weeks after 10 years of service. I note that, whilst the application of this scheme will not be retrospective, workers already employed within this sector will gain access to this entitlement after seven years of service.

In its examination of this bill, the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Small Business Committee received 23 submissions from a range of stakeholders in the community services sector, including employer organisations, employee organisations and peak industry bodies. This was

also in addition to the 29 written submissions that were received in response to the regulatory impact statement released in September 2018, with a further 320 letters received from workers in the community services industry and members of the Services Union supporting this scheme.

As reported by the Queensland parliamentary committee, the consultation process showed broad in-principle support for a portable long service leave scheme in the community services sector. That being said, some legitimate concerns were raised by stakeholders during the consultation process. Chief amongst these concerns included calls for greater clarity on the scope of the proposed portable long service leave scheme, particularly given the meaning of key terms used in the bill such as 'community services' and 'community services work, worker and employer'. I also note that the committee understood the views of some stakeholders and their concerns in that the scope of the scheme was not sufficiently clear. The committee, however, was ultimately satisfied by further advice provided by the Department of Education that the scope as drafted in the bill is appropriate and will allow for flexibility in the community services industry.

At a time when Queensland workers and families face an unprecedented health and economic crisis, what Queenslanders need and deserve right now is certainty, especially when it comes to employment and associated entitlements and benefits. Unfortunately, what we see from the Palaszczuk state Labor government, particularly when it comes to workers in Queensland, is a Labor state government sending mixed messages on wages and awards and unfairly picking winners and losers when it comes to Queensland's industrial relations system. The amendments that the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations tabled only last night—indeed some 51 pages of amendments inserted into a bill that is only 77 pages long—are an insult to Queensland's hardworking frontline staff including our nurses, teachers, ambulance officers, health professionals and others including serving members of the Queensland Police Service.

These workers have been asked to go above and beyond during the COVID-19 health pandemic. That is exactly what they have done and what they continue to do on behalf of all Queenslanders. Now, rather than supporting these workers and acknowledging their incredible contribution, service and even sacrifice to our state, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to honour enterprise bargaining agreements negotiated in good faith. That is why the Liberal National Party will be opposing the Palaszczuk state Labor government's wage freeze on frontline workers.


The boast of the Labor Premier and the state Labor government that they are the friend of the worker, that they are committed to jobs in Queensland, has been finally exposed for the duplicitous claim that it has always been. The Palaszczuk state Labor government needs to do so much more to not only create jobs but also protect jobs, especially when Labor continues to keep our borders closed and send mixed messages on the border despite the expert health advice of Australia's Chief Medical Officer. The Palaszczuk state Labor government proudly claims that it has a plan to unite and recover for Queensland when in fact it is seeking to divide and destroy. The Palaszczuk state Labor government is dividing Queenslanders, destroying our economy, destroying jobs and destroying Queensland's future. It is simply not good enough. Hardworking Queenslanders deserve better. Our hardworking frontline workers deserve better.

The Liberal National Party understands the importance of honouring enterprise bargaining agreements. The Liberal National Party also understands the importance of providing long service leave entitlements and the portability of these for community services workers and the need not only to enshrine these entitlements in legislation but also to support and fund the scheme with due diligence and oversight by the Queensland state government.

In conclusion, I thank all submitters for their contribution to the consideration of the legislation by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I also thank all parliamentary members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for their careful examination of this legislation and the committee secretariat for their preparation and submission of this comprehensive committee report to the 56th Parliament. It is only the Liberal National Party that will stand up for workers in Queensland. It is only the Liberal National Party that will create jobs and protect jobs in Queensland. It is only the Liberal National Party that will provide sound economic management to ensure that our services and our departments in Queensland are delivered for the benefit of all Queenslanders. It is only a Liberal National Party government in Queensland that can get Queensland working again.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): I thank the member. We will have quiet in the chamber.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.47 am): I was startled by some of those comments. I rise to speak in support of the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill. As people may recall, at the 2017 election the Palaszczuk Labor government committed to investigating options for a portable long service leave scheme for the community services industry. The community services industry provides communities with critical support services for vulnerable Queenslanders, including support, education, information and activities to foster community inclusion and wellbeing, harm prevention strategies and, just as importantly in these current times, crisis management.

Long service leave is an employment entitlement that provides workers with an extended period of paid leave in recognition for long service with the same employer. Portable long service leave schemes provide the opportunity for workers in industries with higher mobility to receive an entitlement. The community services industry is characterised by a high level of worker mobility and short-term funding arrangements which have resulted in workers being less likely to acquire and qualify for a long service leave benefit compared to the broader and wider workforce. The introduction of a portable long service leave scheme will provide community services workers with a unique benefit and encourage skilled and experienced workers to join and remain in the industry long term. The scheme will lead to reduced recruitment and, most importantly, training costs for employers across the industry in the long term by developing a skilled and experienced workforce to draw upon and help reward and retain highly skilled and experienced workers to care for vulnerable people in our society.


The scope of the scheme is determined by the employer's purpose. If the employer has been established for, or with a purpose that indicates, providing a community service in Queensland, then the employer must register with the scheme. The description of 'community services' is provided in schedule 1 of the bill. The scope is broad to reflect the range of services considered by the industry to be community services and was informed by consultation with stakeholders and from a Deloitte Access Economics study of future workforce requirements in the Queensland community services industry.

The bill provides flexibility for the range of different roles and structure of employees in the industry, as well as administrative ease added for employers and QLeave. It also ensures an equitable outcome for employees within organisations that identify as community service workers despite not working in a direct frontline capacity and for those who perform multiple community service roles. Determining which workers to include in the employers return to QLeave will depend initially on the services being provided by the employer and then on what work is being undertaken by each worker. Employers and workers will be able to seek information and advice from QLeave about their individual circumstances.

The scheme will be funded by a levy system. This will involve employers paying an amount on a quarterly basis into a central fund. The levy is a set percentage based on an ordinary worker's wages. Based on forecasts which were relied upon when determining the appropriate rate at which to set the levy, the average weekly levy rate as of 1 July 2020 would be approximately \$16 for a full-time worker and less than \$9 for a part-time worker. Ultimately, the goal of a portable long service leave scheme is to improve the attraction and retention of skilled and experienced workers so that the industry can continue to fulfil its vital role in delivering quality human services within Queensland communities.

The introduction of a scheme for Queensland for the community services industry is recognised as an investment in the industry that will help build, reward and retain a skilled and experienced workforce. It is estimated that in 2015 there were 44,495 community service employees throughout the state. The scheme will also provide an avenue for workers to access leave to ensure that they can have a recuperative break from work that is often physically and emotionally demanding.

In closing, I want to thank my committee colleagues and acknowledge the hard work of the executive and all who have contributed to this bill. I am proud to be part of a government which not only recognises the importance of providing a secure economic future for Queenslanders but also actions those beliefs in legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (11.52 am): Today I rise to make a short contribution on the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill. I thank my colleagues for letting me, at late notice, jump the order because I want to specifically address the amendments in relation to the Public Service pay freeze. Everyone on this side of the House and all Queenslanders appreciate the work that our public servants do, particularly our frontline services like the police, our ambos, nurses and teachers. They have a long history in this state of standing up time and time again. They have always done so and will continue to do so, and it is our police in particular that I want to address.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Stop the clock. Members to my right, the member has the call.

Mr PURDIE: I particularly want to focus my comments on the police, as a former police officer and now as the shadow spokesman for police. Police have a long history of standing up when we ask them to. Whether it is a planned event like CHOGM, G20 or more recently the Commonwealth Games which require a lot of planning and detail, our police have always risen to those challenges. Whether they are unplanned events like the many disasters we unfortunately experience in Queensland—cyclones, the fires which impacted my electorate around Peregian only late last year or floods—our police rapidly respond to that changing environment. Like never before, they have had to stand up and protect us from a global pandemic. When I went through the police academy there was certainly no module about how to police a pandemic and I understand there is still not one now. In a very short amount of time our police had to rapidly adjust their protocols to do everything they could to keep us safe, and that is certainly what they did.

Traffic branch police, uniformed police and even detectives were asked to attend the homes of confirmed COVID-19 carriers to confirm that they were abiding by their isolation orders. We were asking our police to go to those people's homes and interact with people who were confirmed to have COVID-19. When the rest of us were being told to stay away and isolate and keep our distance, that is what we asked our police to do, together with our nurses, doctors and other frontline service personnel. Once again without any question or any shadow of a doubt, our police sprung into action and did that, and they did that well and they will always do that. However, not only did they put themselves in harm's way, so did our nurses and teachers. I want to acknowledge my wife, who is a primary school teacher. She and her colleagues, as all teachers did across Queensland, worked tirelessly and rapidly to reimagine how they could continue to educate kids in their class. They worked around the clock to get all of their learning material online, navigate the IT systems and roll that out while trying to manage at home as well. Our police, teachers and nurses were also taking on the risk of returning home after a day's work and potentially exposing their families to the virus.

That is why those on this side of the House are making a stand here today and opposing the amendments which will see the pay freeze to our frontline police and other emergency services and Public Service workers. We have asked them to step up again and put themselves and their families in harm's way. This is not the time to be dishonouring their lawfully binding agreements. Those on this side of the House appreciate that a deal is a deal—a deal that was negotiated for some time in good faith and ratified by the Industrial Relations Commission. This is not just about the pay rise. Those EB agreements have other factors built into them about productivity, efficiency and training.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr PURDIE: I acknowledge that the Minister for Industrial Relations is in the chamber, and I call on her to recognise that it is not too late. It is not too late for you to pull these amendments and give—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member.

Mr PURDIE: I call on the Minister for Industrial Relations to support the members of her union and pull this regulation and give them the lawfully binding agreements that they negotiated in good faith which will see particularly our frontline workers get the pay increases that they are entitled to.

I want to put on the record in the parliament that if Labor does use its numbers, like it often does, to barge this legislation through, if the LNP is elected on 31 October one thing we will particularly look at doing is reimbursing the most senior teachers, nurses and police across the state who are going to be adversely affected by this in their retirement. I received a very personal letter from a local principal. I do not want to go into too much detail and identify him, but he has worked across the state in remote communities and in the city as a teacher. He provided me with the calculations as to what this pay freeze is going to cost him, and it is not just the 2.5 per cent in the first year. It is tens of thousands of dollars. Doing that to people in our frontline services who have worked for decades across Queensland, who have stood up time and time again, is a slap in the face.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr PURDIE: I urge the minister—I acknowledge her interjections now—that it is not too late to pull these amendments—


Ms Grace interjected.

Mr PURDIE:—or cross the floor to support our frontline workers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Minister, thank you for your support. I will run the House. You have made your point. You have made your contribution. The member has the call.

Mr PURDIE: A deal is a deal. We are calling on the government to support that, but also making a commitment that should the government barge this legislation through, which they often do, and should we become the government on 31 October we will not be looking to reverse the next deal in relation to the deferral. I do not want there to be any miscommunication out there. We are not opposing the deferral going forward. We are opposing this government tearing up binding financial certified agreements.

To wrap up, I was lucky enough to walk in and hear the tail end of the speech of the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. I appreciate that she is now talking tough on youth crime, but I would like to draw her attention to 23 September last year when she was singing the praises of a bill that her government put before the House, the aim of which was to remove barriers that may contribute to children being refused bail in Queensland. I spoke on that bill. I highlighted that it would only transfer the problem from youth justice to the police. Here we are now with a youth crime epidemic. The police have had a gutful. More needs to be done.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.00 pm): This afternoon we have heard from the opposition in relation to the working conditions of public servants. Can I turn back time to a couple of years ago when I was principal at Glenala State High School. At that time I led more than 200 public servants in my community. As a school leader I have been leading public servants for many years. I remember the words of the Premier at the time which were 'Public servants, you have nothing to fear'. In my four and a half years as principal at Glenala High I dealt with a rapidly growing student population yet my teacher numbers were declining rapidly. This was in a complex environment. I was in a situation where many of our services that were providing support to my local students and families had their funding cut immensely—services like the Inala Youth Service, local accommodation services that provided support for my families and other support services in a context where many of our students suffered not just one issue of poverty, but existed on a day-to-day basis experiencing layers and layers of poverty. As we know, and on this side of the House we believe, one's future should not be determined by the postcode in which one is born.

I rise today to make my contribution to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019 which is currently before the House. The many workers with whom I have worked in many communities across Queensland, as a teacher and as a principal, did not have the benefits that I had working for one department. Those workers I supported and who supported me through my career were working for a number of different employers, a number of different agencies, and because they did not have the fortune that I had of working with one single department they were not entitled to the long service that I was entitled to.

This bill seeks to establish a much needed portable long service scheme for Queensland's community services industry. Such a scheme will provide coverage for all workers employed by non-government organisations, employees that I spoke about in either the for-profit or not-for-profit sectors, whose predominant mission is delivering community services in Queensland and often to our most vulnerable communities. In addition, this bill will amend the Industrial Relations Act 2016 to confirm access to pro rata long service leave by employees who have been dismissed by their employer due to illness based incapacity.


This bill expands upon a 2017 election commitment and priority of the Palaszczuk government, of which I am proud to be a member, to investigate the options for the development of a portable long service scheme for our community service workers. Characterised by short-term funding and service arrangements which seldom ensure employment security, the community services industry employs approximately 45,000 workers. Workers employed in this industry are tasked with providing communities with critical support and services for vulnerable Queenslanders, including education, information, as well as harm prevention strategies and crisis management to foster community wellbeing. Given the industry's high level of worker mobility, transience and short-term funding arrangements, community service workers are relegated to a position where they are less likely to accrue and qualify for a long service leave benefit compared to the wider workforce.

Long service leave is an employment entitlement—an employment entitlement that I have had the great privilege of accepting over more than 25 years with the Department of Education. As a former principal and educator I understand and value the importance of our service workers and the vital service that they provide to our community. If I turn to my electorate of Mansfield, I think of organisations like Mt Gravatt Community Centre, Blue Care and TriCare, whose employees make such a valuable contribution to the lives of my local families. They provide employment, they provide care and they provide support to some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

This scheme was largely modelled on Queensland's existing Contract Cleaning Portable Long Service Leave Scheme and informed by the Victorian and ACT schemes. The development of the scheme was also informed by Queensland's portable long service leave authority, QLeave, which successfully operates two other schemes in Queensland: for the building and construction and contract cleaning industries. In establishing a portable long service leave scheme, workers who are provided long service in the community service industry will be able to enjoy the reward that workers in more employment-secure industries benefit from. Consequently, the bill proposes a scheme to recognise long service to an industry rather than continuous service with one single employer. Under the Industrial Relations Act 2016 the long service leave entitlement for 10 years leave is 8.887 weeks of leave. This scheme will enable workers to access a proportionate entitlement after seven years service in the industry, which I know, as a teacher, that our teachers are already entitled to if they do not meet the minimum 10 years long service leave entitlement.

To fund this scheme it has been proposed that employers pay a levy on an employee's ordinary wages and report on an employee's service quarterly. To secure the most beneficial entitlement for workers, actuarial modelling suggests that a levy rate of 1.35 per cent be paid on ordinary wages for a worker for the return period. To ensure that this industry is not unnecessarily burdened with an excessive levy, the bill requires that QLeave assess and report on the adequacy of the levy rate every two years. This levy rate reflects the extensive stakeholder consultation undertaken with both employer and employee organisations, peak bodies and service providers in the industry.

Along with the reward for workers, this scheme also seeks to advantage the community services industry by fostering a more skilled and experienced workforce, encouraging the most talented leaders in this workforce to remain in the industry, to remain in the workforce and to continue with great support for our local Queensland communities. This bill also ensures equal worker rights by allowing workers who have been dismissed due to illness based incapacity to access pro rata long service leave via an amendment to the Industrial Relations Act 2016. I am comforted knowing that our workers are afforded their deserved worker rights should they find themselves in need of a well earned break or a further extension of parental or carer's leave to look after their children or vulnerable family members when required. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.09 pm): No budget in Queensland equals no plan for Queensland's budget. This state government has not been transparent about the books. It has not been transparent about what will be expended in the next 12 months. No transparency in the hands of the powerful leads to abuse, which is what we see here.

COVID-19 required some extraordinary legislation, particularly in the early days. That happened with bipartisan support. However, it was not a free pass to keep looking the other way while executive government rushed matters into this House without the full scrutiny of the parliamentary committee system or the time to allow the community to look at the legislation. Now COVID-19 is being used as a cover-up of the excessive use of executive power in these rushed amendments. Late last night more than 50 pages of amendments were tabled. This is an example of the government not wanting to be held to the highest standards of scrutiny. I remind the government that, particularly in a unicameral system where we have only one house of review and legislation can be passed very quickly, even greater attention has to be paid to being accountable, to providing scrutiny in a timely way and to not abusing executive power. The amended legislation will be an abuse of executive power.

In communities throughout Queensland thousands of jobs have been lost. Some will point the finger at public servants and politicians and say that we have jobs, and they are right. That is a responsibility that we must take humbly and carefully. We have to understand that we have jobs while others have been facing tremendous pain. However, that is not an excuse for a government to abuse its power, not just by walking back on but also by undoing its commitments to legally made agreements. Great powers require greater scrutiny, not less. The way that these amendments have been introduced shows us that this government is abusing its power because this legislation will undo legal commitments that it has entered into. No other employer gets to do that.

I have listened very carefully to people in my community, including many public servants who have contacted me. I have listened very carefully to those who will suffer a greater impact under this legislation. We have to be very careful when a government uses its power to undo agreements that have been legally entered into. No other employer gets to do that. Teachers and other public servants have told me that these amendments to the legislation will have a longer term impact for them because there is a longer tail in regard to their superannuation when they retire. We have not yet heard any good explanation from the government about how to address the fact that some will suffer a bigger impact under these amendments.


No budget in Queensland equals no plan and no transparency equals an abuse of power. However, we see two failures in the proposed amendments to the legislation. Firstly, they do not achieve the budget repair that the government claims they will achieve. This is a deferral rather than a wage freeze, and you can argue about the semantics. Essentially it is a deferral, but one that has a bigger tail of impact for some through their superannuation schemes. Some people will be facing a longer term impact at retirement and will not be able to catch up. The amendments also fail to achieve principles of fairness in terms of how an employer negotiates with the public sector when they enter into legally binding agreements. Those are fair points, but we have not yet seen a fair explanation from the government. The concern is that we want both a measured and responsible approach to budget repair, but as parliamentarians and as a community we have to respond in a way that does not sell out our principles. The power is there to do this, but no other employer gets to do it.

Quite clearly I support the proposition that the state LNP opposition is putting forward. We believe that as members of parliament, at a minimum, we must have a pay freeze. Many of us have chosen to contribute significantly to our communities by supporting people who are under a great deal of distress. I know that is happening across the parliamentary chamber. We believe that politicians' wages, at a minimum, should be frozen.

There are legal responsibilities when governments enter into negotiations. The agreements entered into are legally binding, so this does undermine the credibility of how the processes will be handled in the future. We oppose these provisions. We clearly state that you need systems that are fair and you need systems that are respectful, particularly where governments have great power.

I wish to put on the record that, among the many thousands of jobs lost around Queensland, hundreds of media jobs have been lost. In my own area I understand that as many as 50 media jobs have been lost. Not all of those are journalists' jobs, although many of them are. The private sector media employs journalists and many others to provide independent conduits of news. I am concerned because that has an impact upon the fourth estate. Within our democratic system we need to hear voices from across the spectrum of views.

This has a double impact on the parliament where we see unprecedented gagging of debate, such as we have never seen in the history of this parliament. Never before have we seen standing gags on debate that we see under the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is an abuse of power. It is an abuse of democracy. Some people might think that that is just parliamentary nerd world, but no; if you do not have freedom to speak in this place, you do not have it in the streets. We must stand up and speak for the diversity of opinion in our communities. We must hear it and listen to it. We must take the responsibility that we in this place have to represent those views. We must also be fair. We must not allow the executive to remove scrutiny, which is an abuse of the power that they have been given. Unfortunately, they have overreached in this regard. This is not good legislation. It fails on multiple points. I agree with the concerns raised by other LNP members in the debate today.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to join the debate on this legislation and to speak specifically on the Youth Justice Act. We all want crime to stop. We do not want families to have to deal with the tragic consequences of crime. We have been listening to victims. We have been listening to the community. We have heard their concerns over youth crime. We have also listened to the community on the issues of youth bail, which is why today we are toughening and simplifying the youth bail laws. In the community there is a perception that the legislation is not clear. These laws will make it crystal clear that if a young person is a danger to the community they must be refused bail. This legislation makes it clearer for the police. This legislation makes it clearer for the courts. This legislation makes it clearer for the community. The community must be safe and protected from offending.

The community also wants the government to address the causes of crime, which is why retired Major General Stuart Smith has written a report on the matter, having interviewed over 800 community members. He broke it down into three main areas: addressing the causes of crime, looking at breaking the cycle of crime and holding to account those who commit crime. We know that nearly 70 per cent of young people in detention have experienced domestic and family violence, about 15 per cent are suspected of having foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, nearly 40 per cent have a parent who has been held in custody and nearly 40 per cent have used ice.


That is why we have invested over half a billion dollars in new early intervention programs, new detention centre beds and programs which reconnect kids with education, culture and their families. We also now have more police on patrol. We have delivered 76 extra youth detention centre beds. In Townsville we are spending more than \$40 million on youth justice initiatives, including after-hours

services, Transition 2 Success, intensive community supervision of high-risk offenders, and the introduction this month of co-responder strike teams. The trial of new on-country programs will be up and running next month.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural mentoring programs commenced on 1 November last year and have already engaged with 20 young people up to May this year. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services in Townsville and Palm Island have provided service to support 35 families from October last year to December last year—such a short period of time. Other services in Townsville include Queensland Youth Services and Specialist High Risk Youth Court. We are seeing these dividends are starting to pay off. We know that we now have a small group of hardcore young people, about 10 per cent of young offenders, who commit half of all those crimes.

The whole of government—that is Police, Youth Justice, Child Safety, Health, Education and the department of justice and community leaders—are all working together to target repeat offenders. Reducing youth crime is everyone's responsibility and we all need to step up and play a part. We will not turn around socially disadvantaged people overnight, but when we have the right programs in place to get the jobs done, this legislation will be vital so that victims and the community are safe while we work towards turning around damaged young lives and families.

My final words for today are that my thoughts and prayers go to the families and the communities of the four young people who died in the tragic accident in Townsville 10 days ago. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019. I rise in strong support of portable long service leave. This reform is important for all sectors and is something that the Greens have been advocating for years. The community sector in particular needs this reform. Against this backdrop, it is unbelievably cynical for the government to have adopted their shameful pay freeze into this bill. It is morally, industrially and economically indefensible. This pay freeze is a shameful betrayal from Labor, straight out of the LNP's playbook. Despite my firm support for portable long service leave and the Greens' strong track record on this issue, I cannot support this bill including the proposed amendments. The Greens firmly support portable long service leave, not just in the community sector but across all industries. Our workforce is increasingly casualised and mobile, and as workers move from one employment to another more quickly than we ever have before, we need this change.

This does not mean long service leave should be lost to the past as an entitlement. Since 2014, Greens MPs have worked in state and federal houses of parliament to enact portable long service leave for all workers. More than any other, we have to enact portable long service leave in the community sector as a priority. There are some key features of the sector that make this the case.

The Services Union laid out in their excellent submission the widely documented features of this sector: that it is low-paid, largely female and sustained by short-term funding arrangements. This results in short-term tenure for employees, often with multiple employers, but, paradoxically, really long-term service within the sector. Support for our communities depends on the experience, the commitment and the care of these workers, and community workers often find themselves in high-stress environments exposed to crisis and trauma.

More than any other sector, funding for these roles in the community sector is dependent on government support and philanthropic contributions. Government support is often uncertain, subject to political moods, and has a history of being conditional on community organisations holding back on criticism of the government. Government funding also means that wages tend to be no more than the award wage. The nature of state and federal government funding means that roles are tied to short-term contracts which must be retendered on expiry. The introduction of the NDIS is expected to compound this. Fundraising, too, is inherently uncertain and depends on general economic conditions, which are particularly bleak at the moment, and the cycle of the issues that are of most concern to donors at a point in time.

During my time in the community sector, I learned about this instability the hard way. I worked in the community legal sector for five years before being elected to this place. Within weeks of accepting my job as an environmental lawyer, state funding was abolished by the Newman LNP government and my role became inherently uncertain, along with those of a host of other community organisations, like Sisters Inside and Tenants Queensland, then known as the Queensland Tenants Union.

The inquiry into this bill heard submissions from many individuals who told personal stories about how portable long service leave would make their working lives more fair, and said that the best way to protect the entitlements of community workers is to enact portable long service leave in the way this bill proposes. I would like nothing more than to be able to stand here and simply support this bill and the

well-deserved entitlement for the community sector, but if I support this bill I will be breaking my promise to stick up for the hundreds of thousands of workers betrayed by the short-sighted morally and economically indefensible wage freeze that the government has snuck into the bill. I cannot fathom how a Labor government can pull off such a deeply cynical manoeuvre as this—giving to the community sector with one hand and taking away from the entire Public Service with the other.

What kind of mind-bending illogic allows the Premier to stand in front of the media and tell us she is honouring her commitment to freeze public sector wages? What about the legally binding commitment to Queensland teachers that she has just ripped up? Let's be clear: the Premier is blithely dishonouring her commitment to hundreds of thousands of Queensland public servants.

This Labor government, by backing out of hard-won pay agreements for public servants, puts at risk any remaining faith workers might have in our enterprise bargaining processes. Why should workers and unions be expected to engage in good-faith negotiations when this is the possible outcome? It is a broken promise and a betrayal of some of the most crucial and hard-working people in this state, and this from the party that claims to look after workers and respect their rights. It is a deep betrayal and I am sure it is one that will not be forgotten.

This kind of extraordinary legislation, which goes to great lengths to tear up an agreement, is not unprecedented, but we have not seen it since the Newman government legislated to override conditions around permanent employment and workload protection. What great company the government keeps, taking cues again from Campbell Newman himself and the *Courier-Mail* and making policy by press conference. We know tough times are ahead and someone has to pay for Queensland's economic recovery, but with these amendments the government is saying that that should be everyday frontline workers—not them, not us and not their big corporate donors.

This government froze mining royalties in the same year the resources sector exported \$68 billion worth of resources. We could raise billions of dollars each and every year from the resources sector by simply raising royalties to a fair amount, but instead they get a freeze that protects their profits. The Greens' Fair Share Plan would raise \$55 billion in four years and that is even if thermal coal production halves by 2025, on track to be phased out by 2030. If the government imposed just a 0.5 per cent levy on the big banks in Queensland, we could raise \$4.7 billion over four years, but they will not touch big business profits. Instead, they are cutting workers' wages.

There is no justification for this pay freeze. It is morally indefensible, as I have said, it undermines the entire system of enterprise bargaining and it is terrible economics. The freeze affects some of the lowest paid public servants in the state. These are people who are more likely to spend money when they have it, including at local businesses that desperately need it. It is a pretty straightforward proposition that you do not cut spending during a recession. We need stimulus to support our economic recovery, not austerity, and this freeze will cost jobs and be a further drag on our state's economy.

I have had countless emails over the last few weeks sharing stories of disappointment and fear about this pay freeze. A pay deferral does not mean these workers get the same money a bit later on, and that is especially the case for those who are on defined benefit superannuation. Their superannuation benefits could be affected if the wage increase is not in place before 1 July. Teachers who planned to retire this year have told me they do not know what they are going to do now that the government is reneging on their EB.

Overwhelmingly these frontline workers tell me they are still grateful to have a job, of course, in such uncertain times, but many of them are also trying to house, feed and clothe family members and loved ones who have lost their jobs. One example came from a school guidance officer in my electorate who spoke about how her colleagues went above and beyond during the COVID-19 lockdown, giving up holidays and working round the clock to deliver online learning and even driving to families' homes in their own cars to get learning packs to kids. Another teacher told me—

My husband has lost half of his work hours and stands to lose his job altogether in June. With three children to raise, this leaves us in a precarious position financially. Teachers have partners and families. We have mortgages. We have bills to pay. This decision assumes that none of that matters; that teachers don't matter.

Another said—

This government is thanking us sincerely with one hand and slapping us in the face with another. I really felt for once teachers were finally being valued. It certainly does not feel that way now.

Yet another heartbreaking message read—


The government relied on the teachers like me and my colleagues to turn up to work every day during the crisis so that essential workers could get to work during the crisis. We were essential. We were crucial. We were frontline. We were vital to keeping the economy and necessary services running. Having served our purpose, now the government appears to have forgotten how vital we are and appear to be using the crisis as an excuse to penny pinch and add to our struggles. We appear expendable once again.

If I support this bill I would be breaking my promise to stick up for those affected by the wage freeze. It is a travesty that under a Labor government hundreds of thousands of workers will be worse off. It is genuinely staggering that Labor has moved so far to the right that it has now been outflanked on the left by these bleeding hearts of the LNP.

For that reason, despite my strong and longstanding support for portable long service leave for the community sector, I cannot support the bill if it is amended as it is proposed to be today. I want to thank the Services Union, my union, for all the work they have put in to get these amendments up, but I am genuinely sorry that I am likely to be in a position where I cannot support this hard-earned reform.

This is a topsy-turvy place today. The LNP is going to introduce amendments proposed by the Greens to freeze MPs' pay rather than the pay of the Public Service. The member for Moggill has said it is only the LNP that will stand up for workers in Queensland. I accept that he was not here during the Newman years so perhaps he has a blind spot to that. Labor will be voting against workers where the LNP sees fit to support them.

I cannot believe the Labor Party is carrying on with more of this tough-on-crime rhetoric to the point where we are committing more kids to be locked up. They are legislating and mandating the precise circumstances that led to the children in watch houses scandal. We know that this disproportionately affects Indigenous kids and is absolutely reprehensible in light of the recent outcry about Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody. It is shocking. I cannot support this bill in its format.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the portable long service leave bill before the House today. I commend the minister for bringing this on. As someone who prior to joining the Ambulance Service struggled to get five years of recognised long service from another health sector, I wish this had been done a long time ago. I commend the minister for these amendments today.

I want to now speak to the youth justice amendments which I am particularly interested in and which go to the core of ensuring community safety remains a priority for this government. In Townsville we have been working hard in a number of areas to address the issues of youth crime. There is not one easy solution. We need to understand the causes of youth crime which are incredibly complex and often linked to family dysfunction.

We are a government that listens to the community and puts in place a range of programs to address the causes of youth crime, but we also need to ensure community safety. This amendment does that, particularly in relation to bail. To be more specific, it ensures that a person who poses a serious risk to the community must not get bail. We are going after the hardcore group of repeat offenders who commit a high percentage of youth offences. They are the ones causing our community grief and they are the ones we are going after.

These changes to the Youth Justice Act follow our government's announcement in March of a hard line on youth crime through our five-point action plan to target repeat youth offenders, including: tougher action on bail; a police blitz on bail; appealing court decisions where appropriate; a police strike team targeting high-risk offenders in communities like Townsville; and culture based rehabilitation through new on-country initiatives in the communities of Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa. Those on-country programs will commence in July. The car responder strike teams where police and youth justice workers team up to target high-risk offenders are rolling out across the state.

Members can clearly see that our government is not one dimensional like the LNP was with their poor attempt and failed efforts to address youth crime in Queensland during their time in government. The LNP left behind a legacy of failure. There was the multimillion dollar cost blowout for the failed youth boot camps that saw recidivism rates of 66 per cent. The LNP had a failed breach of bail policy which was weak and had little effect. The LNP can pretend to call it a breach of bail offence, but let us have a look at it.

The Newman government introduced an offence of being found guilty of another offence whilst on bail which did not work. It actually was not a breach of bail offence. The offence did nothing to deter or reduce crime. During the period it was in force, there were 185 young people across the state with a proven offence and of those 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months. In Townsville there were fewer than 40 people with a proven offence over a two-year time frame. That is fewer than 20 young people a year on average with a 90 per cent probability that they reoffended. This new legislation nullifies breach of bail because those hard-nut offenders will not get bail. What we need is a suite of programs to address a complex issue backed in by strong legislation. Our government has delivered this, including through the youth justice amendments today.

In Townsville we have delivered over 100 additional police since 2015, including 53 in this term alone. This morning the police minister talked about the additional 20 police that I was able to deliver for the Rapid Action Patrol hub in Condon, which was only 50 per cent staffed thanks to the LNP. They talked up a big game but failed to staff that unit in their time in government. It took a Labor government MP to deliver adequate staffing.

In the Upper Ross I recently delivered a new police facility, increasing its staffing from two officers to 10. I thank the minister for ensuring community safety is a priority.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: The LNP do not like to hear it, but we will get adequate staffing and resources.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, you are on a warning. I remind the member for Gregory that he has existing warnings in place.

Mr HARPER: Programs like Project Booyah and Transition 2 Success have proven to be a success, with over 70 per cent of participants not reoffending after completing these programs. That is a stark difference to LNP's failed boot camp legacy.

Our government is delivering on our cultural mentoring and on-country programs. We need to work hard to reduce the over-representation of Indigenous youth in our youth detention centres, but at the same time we need to ensure community safety is maintained. Our elders and representatives want to make change. I applaud their passion and dedication to make positive change. In just a few weeks we will see the on-country program delivered by whoever wins that tender. I know it will add a string to the bow of our suite of programs that tackle the causes of youth crime.

In Townsville our community was numb at hearing the devastating news of four young people who lost their lives in terrible circumstances as a result of a stolen car crashing. Nothing good comes from the death of people. I have been working very closely with a range of Indigenous elders and community representatives, particularly in the last two weeks given those absolutely tragic events in Townsville two Sundays ago. No matter which way we look at it, it was devastating to hear. We as a government must work even harder to never see these tragic events repeated. Nothing bad ever comes from doing the right thing.

Having attended very similar events in my former role where young people lost their lives in very similar circumstances, it is absolutely tragic no matter who is in government at the time. We have families who are now grieving. We need to be sensitive to our community. My heart goes out to those families who lost loved ones in what were tragic circumstances for all involved. Above all, we need to ensure community safety. Today we achieve that through delivering this legislation.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.38 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak on yet another bill that delivers for the workers of this great state. We have a brilliant track record of delivering for workers over the last five years. I will jog the memory of the member for Maiwar. He could not remember the track record of the member for Moggill, but I sure do. When the member for Moggill got up in this place earlier and said that he believes in honouring EBAs, it got me thinking back a couple years—

Ms Grace: Doctor contracts?

Mr BROWN: Doctor contracts, yes. I take the interjection from the minister. He led the charge to rip up the enterprise bargaining agreement and negotiate individual agreements. He says one thing in this House, but we only have to go back and look at his actions before coming into this place to see that he got booted by his own association because he spearheaded the charge to rip up the doctors' EBA.

This is a fantastic initiative in regard to bringing in portable long service leave for community sector workers. It has been a long time coming and has been fought for by unions such as the ASU and union delegates like one of my constituents James Farrell. This leads on from programs we have had in the area of contract cleaning and also construction. This week we had International Cleaners Day. I want to acknowledge all of the cleaners in the electorate of Capalaba and the fantastic work they do.

We know that workers in the community services industry, construction and contract cleaning have insecure work even though they may be working in the same workplace. Many community sector workers have worked 10 years with the same client, yet, until this bill passes today, they have not been entitled to long service leave because it is insecure work and employers keep changing. That is what we are doing today: we are fixing that to ensure that we recognise those workers who give so much in our community and who have very little job security. We are improving their conditions to ensure that they at least have long service leave when they complete 10 years of service.

We should be going further and looking at other industries as well. I know one industry from my days working for the union that we should look at, and that is contract security. I know that they face the same challenges as the community services area and contract cleaning. They could be working at the same shopping centre or at the same pub for 10 years yet not be entitled to the long service leave entitlement that we are now putting in place for community services workers. I think that is something that we as a government should look at in years to come.

I want to move on to the amendment around the wage freeze or the wage deferral and talk about our track record of delivering for public sector workers over the last five years. I note the congratulatory comments from the head of the Police Union when we negotiated their EBA and the conditions that we put in place. When it comes to teachers, I heard the member for Maiwar go on about the fact that this was supposedly ripping up their agreement. We have delivered more for teachers in the last five years than successive governments over the last 20 years. We have delivered many of the conditions that the Teachers' Union have fought for for decades.

We gave them the highest graduate wages of any industry, and we did that in the first five years of Labor government. We gave them recognition for post-graduate qualifications, and we did that in the first five years of Labor government. We recognised those teachers who love teaching and want to continue teaching as their career and not go into the administration side of it—which is where principals and teachers felt they were forced to go to progress their career and their pay levels—and we gave them career progression within teaching. That is what we did in the first five years of Labor government.

Before coming into this place, I sat opposite the Newman government during the public sector negotiations—in particular, in the health area. Not only did they force a wage freeze during that time even though they did not have the economic headwinds that we see today; they went after conditions such as penalty rates. We could not take it to a vote because workers would lose so much more than just having a wage freeze. They would lose hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars each and every year because of the cuts to conditions that were on the EBA negotiation table. We could not get those votes to go forward for three years. When we came to government, straightaway we looked after those workers and made sure that those cuts to conditions were off the table. We also recognised the wage freeze that had occurred during the years of the Newman government.

It was interesting to hear the member for Maroochydore say that 'at a minimum' she supported the wage freeze. They want to go further. If they get back into government, not only do they want to bring in a wage freeze but they also want to come after conditions and sack workers yet again. We know it to be true. We heard Tim Mander's comments in May saying that he supports the wage freeze. We heard the member for Maroochydore's comments saying that she supports the wage freeze 'at a minimum'. They are going to go further. They are on the record. They are coming after public sector workers. They should be very fearful of a Deb Frecklington government.

Mr Bleijie: No. We want them to get their pay rise. They want me as their IR minister again.


Mr BROWN: I can just see that he cannot wait to sit across the bargaining table. He is going to be after every single one of their penalty rate conditions. He is coming after their wages.

Mr Bleijie: Sign the petition to bring me back.

Mr BROWN: You are itching.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Put your comments through the chair, member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: The member for Kawana is itching to get his hands on IR as the minister. Not only will he come after wages; he will come after conditions and he will sack public sector workers like they did under the Newman government. I support the bill before the House.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019. In doing so, I first acknowledge all of the amazing organisations in my community of South Brisbane that provide such critical care and support for so many vulnerable people within our community—those people who are experiencing homelessness, those people who are seeking asylum or who are refugees in our land, those people who work in organisations like the terrific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health organisation and all of those people who work in disability services. I want to pay tribute to those organisations and to all of those workers for the tremendous work that they do.

On my way to parliament this morning I stopped by the West End Community House, where since the COVID pandemic hit our community they have been running a community pantry from about 8.30 to 12.30 every day. Members of my community have been coming along and donating pantry items to that community pantry where people who are socially isolated can come and get some much needed pantry items for their home.

I bumped into Mick this morning. Mick is an amputee. He is a terrific fellow. He came to get some fresh food, which was provided by Community Plus+ at their Yeronga kitchen to West End Community House, and he was doing so for his neighbours. He cycled up to West End Community House. He got some fresh food and some pantry items. We had a great chat and off he went to help support his neighbours, and he could do so because of the great community organisations that are Community Plus+ and West End Community House. For the benefit of the House, I do want to acknowledge that my sister, Marilyn, is a volunteer with Community Plus+ and does an excellent job and is well loved by that organisation.

Portable long service leave is something that is critical and important particularly for the community services sector. As the report by the parliamentary committee notes, this is a sector that has a number of key features that make it long overdue for a scheme that seeks to underwrite and support a very important employment condition which is long service leave. This sector, as has been noted in the Deloitte report, is a sector that unfortunately does not have long-term secure funding as one of its key features. There is a high level of burnout by staff. In fact, I think that the average rate of employment at any one organisation is under four years. It is heavily feminised. All of those features make it an environment and an industry where workers do not accumulate enough working years in order to become eligible for long service leave.

What the minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government have done through this mechanism is to underwrite a condition that is critical and important and seeks to address the erosion of employment conditions within the Australian workforce generally. We know that increasing rates of casualisation of the part-time workforce means that people are not employed enough and do not have enough working hours. There is significant casualisation and we also know that women's work is interrupted. This sort of provision underwrites employment security, which we know is much needed and which COVID has exposed in terms of our economy. It is something that I hope we can address. I know that the ACTU has put it on the agenda in terms of the reform mechanisms that the Prime Minister established. This is critical reform. I want to commend the minister and the cabinet for bringing this forward. It is long overdue. There will be many people in the community services sector, many female workers and many vulnerable Queenslanders who need their support, hard work, dedication and experience who will be thankful to the government for underwriting this employment security condition.


I will turn to other matters contained in the bill. I want to talk a little bit about the wage freeze or wage deferral and pick up on some of the issues raised by the member for Maiwar and the member for Capalaba. Nobody on this side of the House is entirely comfortable with a mechanism that seeks to overwrite conditions. I think it is fair to say that as trade unionists and as people who come from a party that has its roots in defending workers in this state—the state that gave birth to the Australian Labor Party with all of the incredible reforms for workers that we have seen because of the Australian Labor Party—difficult decisions had to be made. I endorse the statements made by the member for Capalaba. Having been involved in decision-making in relation to a number of categories of workers the state has funded over the past five years, I know that we have done a hell of a lot when it comes to firefighters, paramedics, teachers and nurses. I am incredibly proud of our track record.

The Queensland government is providing more front-line services today and more expertise when it comes to nursing, teaching, paramedics and firefighters. We are doing that because we have made the investment in wages and conditions. It is pretty hypocritical for those opposite to introduce provisions that have been drafted by the Greens when you consider that those opposite refused to negotiate with trade unions and Queensland public sector workers for three years. They had a three-year wage freeze. Let's be absolutely clear: when we came into government in 2015 we had to address the fact there was a three-year wage freeze in Queensland that we rectified, and we replenished front-line services and we got Queensland working again. I think it invites a little bit of analysis and criticism when the member for Mermaid Beach talks about nurses. I would like to see the member for Mermaid Beach front up to a nurses' union meeting, do a little bit of a chicken dance, and have them come on board with his party's agenda. I doubt they would.

Let me say this in terms of my closing remarks. We are facing significant employment difficulties in this state because of the coronavirus. I have been speaking to a number of people in my community who have had their wages cut, people who have had their hours slashed, and people who are on JobKeeper and do not know whether or not they will still have a living wage come the end of September. These people are desperate for our economy to return to pre COVID levels.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Those opposite may like to interject and not listen, but the fact of the matter is the government needs to be pulling all levers right now in the private sector, supporting businesses and industry as well as paying public sector wages. Difficult decisions need to be made and, quite frankly, if the Greens political party ever got to a position where they would have to make a difficult decision then God help us all. The member for Maiwar had to make one decision about defending tree-clearing laws that were brought in by the Labor Party, and what did he do? He introduced an amendment that could have been drafted by Andrew Cripps or Campbell Newman himself. When push comes to shove the member for Maiwar looks exactly like an LNP member, which is why the preference deal in South Brisbane—and we know there are more to come—sits so comfortably with the Liberal National Party and the Greens political party.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.55 pm): I rise to support the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill as I think it fairly enhances the working conditions of those who work in the community services sector in Queensland. During this time of COVID-19 we know there are people who are reaching out for help from this sector who perhaps thought they would never in their lives reach out for this type of assistance. We know there are stressors on families and individuals who thought they were so robust they could take anything thrown at them. They know this government is focused on recovering and unifying Queenslanders. We know those people who are reaching out are sometimes experiencing the toughest parts of their lives they could ever imagine, so it is right that we recognise those in the sector who seek to give them that helping hand.

We know that workers in the community services sector have a tough job working to help vulnerable Queenslanders during the most difficult period of their lives. We know that many in the sector are not motivated by big pay or conditions, but by a love of community and a love of their fellow Queenslanders who are hurting and in great need. However, this bill is important because it will ensure that despite the nature of their employment they will receive the long service recognition they deserve.

Workers in this sector can in some cases move from contract to contract and employer to employer. Generally, the long service leave that a member builds up under one contract is not able to follow the employee from organisation to organisation, creating a difference after 10 years of service between different employers. The portable long service leave scheme this bill puts in place will mean that the employer contributes to long service leave liabilities through a central fund.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr POWER: Are you right there, member for Glass House? Is there any—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan, I will manage the House. Order, members!

Mr POWER: It is disappointing, member for Glass House, because this is important. Portable long service leave means that the employer will contribute their long service leave liabilities to a central fund—I hope you do support that—which can then be used to pay long service leave for those in the industry who have contributed enough service. This should prove attractive to those thinking of working in the industry. It is an incentive to build up long service leave in the community services sector. We know that for many employees the insecurity of going from contract to contract—as the Deloitte report highlighted—means that they sometimes wonder whether it is worth it. When something is particularly difficult it makes this type of service work really stressful for them and it makes them ask themselves, ‘Is it worth it?’

These people have enormous skills and reservoirs of compassion and knowledge about their sector, and if we lose that because there is no incentive to continue we will lose people who have so much to contribute to those in need. We know that they provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community services, accommodation support services for those who are homeless through domestic violence or simply through job losses—which we are seeing more of during COVID—and alcohol and drug services. We know the enormous benefit that gives us economically. If someone recovers from periods of alcoholism and drug abuse it means they can be a massive contributor to Queensland, whereas if they succumb to alcohol and drug abuse they might be lost firstly to their families and those who love them dearly and also to the economy.

We know that child safety and support services as well as community development services are vital. This is especially important in communities like mine that are growing so quickly. Yarrabilba, Flagstone and the Park Ridge area are all brand-new communities with huge amounts of enthusiasm but little structure and traditional community. We want to inject into them some of those services.


Flagstone is moving ahead with a community centre. We have our own community health hub at the school. That is where we are binding people together and getting them the services they need and connecting them with people, and it is those very people who will benefit.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Interference with the Rights and Privileges of Members

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.00 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Prior to the lunchbreak, I had an agreement with the Leader of the House that the debate time for consideration in detail on this bill would be extended by 25 minutes. Upon the Leader of the House finding out that I had an amendment to move with respect to freezing politicians' pay rises, I have just been advised that that deal has now been reneged. I believe this impacts on my rights and privileges as a member of parliament.


Further, on another matter of privilege suddenly arising, I had also asked the Leader of the House that the opposition be given time in consideration in detail on this bill being debated, hence the 25-minute agreement that we had before lunch. I said that I only wanted to talk about amendment No. 9, which is with respect to the deferral of Public Service pay. Just before coming in here, I have now been advised by the Leader of the House that no extra time will be given and the clock will be wound down another 14 minutes. Again, this impacts on my rights and privileges to speak and move amendments on this bill. I will be writing to the Speaker about these matters.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Manager of Opposition Business has just raised some matters, but if he wants to start talking about commitments and undertakings given then by all means it would be good to see the opposition stand by decisions. Discussions were ongoing in relation to what we do. If the Manager of Opposition Business is going to write to the Speaker about not getting additional time, I would remind him that this parliament already made a decision on the Business Committee motion at the start of the week. To complain now about something already passed by this chamber is not a matter of privilege.

COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.02 pm): I rise to speak on this important bill and the amendments circulated. This delivers a basic entitlement to our unsung heroes in the community sector. The bill establishes a system where long service leave will accumulate for Queensland's 45,000 workers in non-government organisations, for we have each heard stories of those workers who have moved between similar organisations but never before had this long service recognised. During the 2017 election campaign, I committed to look at options for a scheme to recognise this valued service in the same way it applies in other industries like construction and contract cleaning. Today we deliver on that commitment.

The Ekka is a Queensland institution where the country and the city become as one. As Queenslanders, no matter where we are from, we all have fond memories of the Ekka—the ring events and livestock, woodchopping, sideshow alley and of course sample bags—and People's Day is a highlight. We are all very disappointed that the COVID-19 pandemic has meant many of our shows have been cancelled, but we can shift that disappointment towards helping our struggling tourism and hospitality industries. For this reason, I announced that People's Day will become the people's long weekend. This bill moves the traditional Wednesday holiday to the Friday, creating a three-day long weekend. My government wrote to all councils and many will adopt the people's long weekend.

There is no denying the significant impact on Queensland's economy and budget from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The OECD is predicting a best-case scenario of a contraction in Australia's economy of five per cent if we are spared a second wave of the virus. This is the biggest contraction in Australia's economy that we have seen in our lifetime. Around the world, we are seeing the largest

recessions start to unfold since the Great Depression. We are very fortunate to be living in Australia and in Queensland. Nevertheless, we will feel the impacts here. A hit to revenues at a federal level will flow through to the state budget, particularly as we are reliant on the Commonwealth for nearly 45 per cent of revenue and we are yet to see the GST numbers.

The biggest hit to the budget from COVID-19 is expected to occur over the next year when a hit to jobs is expected as well. My top priority is keeping as many Queenslanders in jobs as possible. We worked tirelessly to support the creation of more than 250,000 jobs between January 2015 and March of this year. To see over half of that undone in just one month is absolutely heartbreaking. Thousands of Queenslanders lost work in the pandemic, and this is deeply troubling.

My government's economic response has been about doing all we can to support the economy and help as many people as we can. We have seen a 7.1 per cent reduction in total wages across the Queensland economy between 14 March and 30 May as jobs and wages have been cut across the private sector, but we will not do what we know the Queensland LNP would do at this time and sack workers to respond to the budget impact. That would be irresponsible and would cost jobs to the economy. My government has restored the LNP cuts and we have grown the Public Service in line with population growth.

In May I said, 'My understanding is the federal government is doing a six-month pay freeze. I am doing a 12-month pay freeze.' I also said that there are people out there at the moment who have lost their jobs. I was equally clear just yesterday when I said there would be a wage freeze from 1 July for one year. On 17 May the deputy opposition leader said on the ABC that the LNP would not seek to do a pay rise.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the opposition members are not afforded the opportunity to speak, nor should the Premier. I move—

That the Premier be no longer heard.

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

AYES, 36:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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.

NOES, 45:

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

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the negative.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The deputy leader of the LNP was on the ABC and he said he would not seek to undo a pay rise hold. He said, 'At this time when Queenslanders are doing it very tough there should be a pay freeze for Queensland public servants.' In early April the same deputy opposition leader said he did not think pay rises for public servants on the front line were appropriate at the moment, and just 12 days ago the opposition leader also said she backed the freeze. Now, today, there is a backflip. Let me tell honourable members why there is a backflip. It is because the LNP does not believe in job security in this state. The member for Kawana, the architect of the job cuts throughout Queensland, is an absolute disgrace.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we have said very clearly is that the agreements will include a zero per cent wage increase, or wage freeze, for the 2020-21 financial year, with the deferred wage adjustment to be inserted six months after the first payment made after the 2020-21 financial year because we know the impact of COVID on the economic budget.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim.

Ms PALASZCZUK: At this point in time—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Buderim, you are not directing your comments through the chair. Your interjections are designed to disrupt the speaker on their feet. You are warned under the standing orders for the second time today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will put my standing in the community against any one of the LNP in terms of standing up for job security in this state. I sat in this House and watched tens of thousands of people march here against the LNP and what they thought about workers in this state. That is what they thought about it, and the main architects were the member for Clayfield and the member for Kawana. Today they stand against job security. On this side of the House we stand for job security.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I will ask you to resume your seat. The time being 2.13 pm, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

AYES, 45:

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

NOES, 43:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Message from Deputy Governor



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.20 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency recommends the amendments circulated by the minister. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

COMMUNITY SERVICES INDUSTRY (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL 2019

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES AC, DEPUTY GOVERNOR, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to provide for an equitable and efficient system of portability of long service leave in the community services industry, and to amend this Act, the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005, and the Industrial Relations Act 2016 for particular purposes

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Dated 16 June 2020

Tabled paper: Message, dated 16 June 2020, from the Deputy Governor recommending government amendment No. 9 to the Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019 [913].

Consideration in Detail



Hon. G GRACE (2.20 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [914].

Tabled paper: Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [915].

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with sessional order 2B, the House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules, any postponed clauses and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note that the minister's amendments Nos 6 to 13 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

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, 46:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That amendments Nos 1 to 13 be agreed to.

AYES, 45:

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

NOES, 43:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 7, before 'This'—
insert—

(1)

2 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 8, '1 July 2020'—
omit, insert—

a day to be fixed by proclamation

3 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 11, after 'part 13'—
insert—

, divisions 2 to 7

4 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, after line 12—
insert—

(2) Part 13, divisions 5 and 6 commence on 1 July 2020.

5 Part 13, heading (Amendment of Acts)

Page 69, line 13, 'Acts'—
omit, insert—

legislation

6 After clause 128

Page 69, after line 19—
insert—

Division 1A Amendment of Bail Act 1980

128A Act amended

This division amends the *Bail Act 1980*.

128B Amendment of s 19B (Review of particular decisions)

Section 19B(7), '48AD'—
omit, insert—

48AAA

128C Amendment of s 19C (Review by Supreme Court of magistrate's decision on a review)

Section 19C(6), '48AD'—
omit, insert—

48AAA

7 After clause 132

Page 71, after line 4—
insert—

Division 3A Amendment of COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020

132A Act amended

This division amends the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*.

132B Insertion of new pt 8A

After section 24—
insert—

Part 8A Validation provision

24A Validation of particular regulations

(1) This section applies to each of the following regulations—

- (a) the *Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Wills and Enduring Documents) Amendment Regulation 2020*;
- (b) the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020*.

(2) The regulation is taken—

- (a) to have been validly made, notified and tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and
- (b) not to have ceased having effect under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 49, as modified under this Act, section 5(9) or 24(9).

- (3) All acts, matters and things done before the commencement in reliance on the regulation are taken to be as lawfully done as they would have been if the regulation had not ceased having effect as mentioned in subsection (2)(b).
- (4) To remove any doubt, it is declared that—
 - (a) the limitation for passing a resolution disallowing the regulation under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 50(1) continues to apply in relation to the day the regulation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (b) the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 51 does not apply to the regulation; and
 - (c) a document made before the commencement in compliance with the regulation is taken to be as valid as it would have been if the regulation had not ceased having effect as mentioned in subsection (2)(b).

8 After clause 132

Page 71, after line 4—

insert—

Division 3B Amendment of Holidays Act 1983

132C Act amended

This division amends the *Holidays Act 1983*.

132D Insertion of new s 13

After section 12—

insert—

13 Particular public holiday in 2020—People's long weekend

- (1) A public holiday is to be observed on 14 August 2020 in a participating district.
- (2) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a reference in an industrial instrument under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* to a public holiday is taken, in a participating district, for 2020, to include 14 August 2020.

- (3) In this section—

Bowen area means an area of the Whitsunday local government area shown on map LGB20 edition 2 under the repealed *Local Government (Areas) Regulation 2005* as any of the following divisions of the former Bowen local government area—

- (a) division 1;
- (b) division 2;
- (c) division 3, to the extent it is north of the Bogie River from its confluence with the Burdekin River to its source and then easterly by the Clark Range to the eastern boundary of the former shire.

Editor's note—

A copy of the map is available for inspection from the department in which the *Local Government Act 2009* is administered.

participating district means—

- (a) each of the following local government areas—
 - (i) Burdekin;
 - (ii) Charters Towers;
 - (iii) Cloncurry;
 - (iv) Gold Coast;
 - (v) Livingstone;
 - (vi) Logan;
 - (vii) Mackay;
 - (viii) Rockhampton; or
- (b) the area of Brisbane under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*; or
- (c) the area, known as the Weipa Town Area, excluded from the Cook local government area under the agreement made under the *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957*; or
- (d) the Bowen area.

9 After clause 135

Page 72, after line 19—

insert—

136 Insertion of new ch 15A

After chapter 15—

insert—

Chapter 15A Public sector response to COVID-19 emergency—maximising employment security

Part 1 Preliminary

952A Main purpose of chapter

The main purpose of this chapter is to maximise the protection of public sector employment and respond to the financial impact of the COVID-19 emergency by—

- (a) deferring the payment of wage increases that would otherwise be payable under certified agreements during—
 - (i) the 2020—2021 financial year; and
 - (ii) the following financial year; and
- (b) providing for 2019 wage adjustments and other variations to certified agreements; and
- (c) temporarily modifying the collective bargaining process under chapter 4.

952B Application of chapter

This chapter does not apply in relation to—

- (a) an employer that is—
 - (i) a local government sector employer within the meaning of the *Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009*; or
 - (ii) a parents and citizens association under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*; or
 - (iii) the Darling Downs—Moreton Rabbit Board established under the *Stock Route Management Act 2002*; or
- (b) employees of an entity mentioned in paragraph (a).

952C Definitions for chapter

In this chapter—

2020—2021 financial year means the financial year ending on 30 June 2021.

2020—2021 wage increase, for part 2, see section 952E(3).

COVID-19 emergency see the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*.

relevant agreement, for part 4, division 3, see section 952M(1).

wage increase—

- (a) for part 2, see section 952D; or
- (b) for part 4, see section 952J.

Part 2 Deferral of wage increases

952D Meaning of wage increase for part

- (1) For this part, a **wage increase**, under a certified agreement, is any of the following provided for under the agreement—

- (a) an increase to wage rates by an amount equivalent to 2.5% effective from a stated day after the commencement;

Examples for paragraph (a)—

- Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.2.1, to the extent it provides for wage increases on 1 August 2020, 1 August 2021 and 1 August 2022
- Department of Education State School Teachers' Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.1.1(b) and (c)
- Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement 2019, clause 12(1), to the extent it provides for wage increases on 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2021

- (b) an increase in an allowance payable to employees that takes effect in conjunction with an increase mentioned in paragraph (a).

Examples for paragraph (b)—

- Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2019, clause 6.1.3
- Department of Education State School Teachers' Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.2
- Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement 2019, clause 26

- (2) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the following matters provided for under a certified agreement are not a **wage increase** for this part—

- (a) an increase in wages that takes effect only because of a change to wage rates under a modern award that applies to the employees covered by the agreement;
- (b) an increase in wages of an agreed amount or an amount decided under a wages determination;

Example for paragraph (b)—

State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2019, clause 2.10

- (c) the introduction of a new allowance, classification or pay point;
- (d) a reclassification of a position.

952E Application of part

- (1) This part applies if a certified agreement provides for a wage increase to take effect during the 2020—2021 financial year.

Examples of certified agreements that provide for wage increases to which this part applies—

- Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.2.1, to the extent it provides for a wage increase on 1 August 2020
- Department of Education State School Teachers' Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.1.1(b)
- Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement 2019, clause 12(1) to the extent it provides for a wage increase on 1 July 2020

- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter whether the certified agreement—
- (a) was certified before the commencement; or
 - (b) is certified after the commencement under chapter 4 as modified by part 5.
- (3) For this part, a wage increase mentioned in subsection (1) is a **2020—2021 wage increase**.

952F Deferral of 2020—2021 wage increase

The certified agreement is taken to be varied to provide that—

- (a) no wage increase is payable under the agreement during the 2020—2021 financial year; and
- (b) the 2020—2021 wage increase takes effect on the day that is 1 year from the day the wage increase would, but for this part, have taken effect under the agreement.

952G Deferral of subsequent wage increase

- (1) This section applies if the certified agreement provides for 1 or more further wage increases after the 2020—2021 wage increase.
- (2) The certified agreement is taken to be varied to provide that the wage increase immediately after the 2020—2021 wage increase—
- (a) is not payable on the day provided for under the agreement; and
 - (b) takes effect on the day that is 6 months from the day the wage increase would, but for this part, have taken effect under the agreement.

Examples of certified agreements varied under subsection (2)—

- Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.2.1, to the extent it provides for a wage increase on 1 August 2021
- Department of Education State School Teachers' Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.1.1(c)
- Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement 2019, clause 12(1) to the extent it provides for a wage increase on 1 July 2021

- (3) This section does not affect any wage increase after the wage increase mentioned in subsection (2) that is provided for under the certified agreement.

Example for subsection (3)—

Stadiums Queensland Staff Certified Agreement 2019, clause 4.2.1, to the extent it provides for a wage increase on 1 August 2022

Part 3 2019 wage adjustments

952H Application of part

- (1) This part applies in relation to a certified agreement mentioned in schedule 4A, column 1.
- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter whether the nominal expiry date for the certified agreement had passed before the commencement.

952I Variation of certified agreement on commencement

- (1) On the commencement, the certified agreement is taken to be varied to provide for a 2.5% wage increase effective from the date stated for the agreement in schedule 4A, column 2.

- (2) The wage increase is payable only to employees who are covered by the agreement on the commencement.
- (3) In this section—

relevant terms, of a certified agreement, means the terms of the agreement mentioned in schedule 4A, column 3.

wage increase, in relation to a certified agreement, is an increase to both of the following—

 - (a) the wage rates (however described), provided for under the relevant terms of the agreement, effective immediately before the commencement;
 - (b) an allowance payable to employees under the agreement immediately before the commencement, if the agreement provides for the amount of the allowance to be increased in conjunction with increases to wage rates.

Part 4 Other variations of certified agreements

Division 1 Preliminary

952J Meaning of *wage increase* for part

- (1) In this part, a **wage increase**, in relation to a certified agreement mentioned in schedule 4B, part 1, column 1 or part 2, column 1, is a 2.5% increase to both of the following—
 - (a) the wage rates (however described), provided for under the relevant terms of the agreement, effective immediately before the wage increase is payable;
 - (b) an allowance payable to employees under the agreement, at the time mentioned in paragraph (a), if the agreement provides for the amount of the allowance to be increased in conjunction with increases to wage rates.
- (2) In this section—

relevant terms, of a certified agreement mentioned in schedule 4B, part 1, column 1 or part 2, column 1, means the terms of the agreement mentioned in column 4 of that schedule.

Division 2 Variations on commencement

952K Application of division

- (1) This division applies in relation to a certified agreement mentioned in schedule 4B, part 1, column 1.
- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter whether the nominal expiry date for the certified agreement had passed before the commencement.

952L Variation of certified agreement

On the commencement, the certified agreement is taken to be varied—

- (a) if a date is stated for the agreement in schedule 4B, part 1, column 2—to extend the nominal expiry date for the agreement to the stated date; and
- (b) to provide for a wage increase that is—
 - (i) effective from each date stated for the agreement in schedule 4B, part 1, column 3; and
 - (ii) payable to all employees covered by the agreement on the stated date.

Division 3 Deferred variations

952M Application of division

- (1) This division applies in relation to a certified agreement mentioned in schedule 4B, part 2, column 1 (the **relevant agreement**) if—
 - (a) an application to certify a new agreement covering all of the employees covered by the relevant agreement is not made on or before 31 August 2020; or

Examples for paragraph (a)—

 - an application to certify a new agreement that has the same scope as the relevant agreement
 - an application to certify 2 agreements that collectively have the same scope as the relevant agreement
 - (b) both of the following apply—
 - (i) an application to certify a new agreement, covering all of the employees covered by the relevant agreement, is made on or before 31 August 2020;
 - (ii) the new agreement is not certified by the commission on or before 14 September 2020.
- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter whether the nominal expiry date for the certified agreement had passed before the commencement.

952N Variation of certified agreement

- (1) On the variation day for the relevant agreement, the agreement is taken to be varied—
 - (a) if a date is stated for the agreement in schedule 4B, part 2, column 2—to extend the nominal expiry date for the agreement to the stated date; and
 - (b) to provide for a wage increase that is—
 - (i) effective from each date stated for the agreement in schedule 4B, part 2, column 3; and
 - (ii) payable to all employees covered by the agreement on the stated date.
- (2) In this section—

variation day, for a relevant agreement, means—

 - (a) if section 952M(1)(a) applies in relation to the agreement—1 September 2020; or
 - (b) if section 952M(1)(b) applies in relation to the agreement—15 September 2020.

Division 4 Other provisions**952O Effect of extension of nominal expiry date of nominally expired agreement**

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the nominal expiry date of a certified agreement is extended under this part; and
 - (b) before the extension takes effect, the agreement had nominally expired.
- (2) On the extension taking effect—
 - (a) the certified agreement stops being nominally expired; and
 - (b) if the parties to the agreement were bargaining under chapter 4 immediately before the extension takes effect—
 - (i) any steps taken in relation to the bargaining process are of no effect; and
 - (ii) without limiting chapter 4, part 8, the parties can no longer take protected industrial action.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that, if subsection (2)(b) applies, this section does not affect the validity of protected industrial action taken while the agreement was nominally expired.
- (4) This section applies despite section 223.

Part 5 Modified bargaining provisions**Division 1 Preliminary****952P Interpretation**

A term used in this part that is defined in chapter 4 has the meaning given in chapter 4.

952Q Modified application of ch 4

Chapter 4 applies subject to the modifications provided for under this part during the period—

- (a) starting on the commencement; and
- (b) ending on 30 September 2020.

Division 2 Modification of ch 4, pt 5, div 1**952R Modification of s 189 (Application for certification of agreement)**

- (1) Section 189(1) and (2) does not apply.
- (2) An application to certify an agreement may be made only by a negotiating party who is an employer.
- (3) An application to certify an agreement may be made even though it has not been signed by or for all of the parties if—
 - (a) all employers who are negotiating parties have agreed on the terms of the agreement; and
 - (b) a majority of the negotiating parties have agreed on the terms of the agreement.
- (4) For subsection (3)(b), all employers who are negotiating parties are collectively to be counted as 1 negotiating party.

952S Commission must decide application without hearing

- (1) Sections 191 and 192 do not apply in relation to an application to certify an agreement.
- (2) The commission must decide the application without a hearing.

Division 3 Modification of ch 4, pt 5, div 2**952T Application of division (Deciding applications)**

- (1) This division applies in relation to a part 5 application for certification of an agreement.
- (2) Chapter 4, part 5, division 2 applies subject to the modifications provided for under this division.

952U Commission's decision on applications

Sections 193(1)(b) and (3) and 194 do not apply.

952V Compliance with bargaining process requirements

Section 195 does not apply.

952W Agreement to be signed or agreed to by parties

- (1) Section 196 does not apply.
- (2) The commission must be satisfied the agreement—
 - (a) is in writing; and
 - (b) has been signed by or for all the parties.
- (3) Subsection (2)(b) does not apply if the commission is satisfied that—
 - (a) all employers who are negotiating parties have agreed on the terms of the agreement; and
 - (b) a majority of the negotiating parties have agreed on the terms of the agreement.
- (4) For subsection (3)(b), all employers who are negotiating parties are collectively to be counted as 1 negotiating party.

952X Approval by relevant employees

Section 197 does not apply.

952Y Other provision that does not apply

Chapter 4, part 5, division 2, subdivision 3 does not apply.

Division 4 Modification of ch 4, pt 7**952Z Extension of nominal expiry date of certified agreement**

Section 223(2)(b) and (4) does not apply in relation to an application to extend the nominal expiry date of a certified agreement.

952ZA Modification of s 225 (Amendment on application)

- (1) Section 225(1) to (3) and (5)(c) does not apply to an application to amend a certified agreement.
- (2) The application may be made only by an employer who is a party to the certified agreement.
- (3) The commission must approve the application if—
 - (a) all employers who are parties to the certified agreement have agreed on the terms of the amendment; and
 - (b) a majority of the employers and employee organisations who are parties to the agreement have agreed on the terms of the amendment.
- (4) For subsection (3)(b), all employers who are parties are collectively to be counted as 1 party.

952ZB Modification of s 228 (Termination after nominal expiry date)

- (1) Section 228(1)(b) and (c) does not apply to an application to terminate a certified agreement.
- (2) Section 228(3)(b)(i) applies in relation to the application as if the reference in the section to the other parties to the agreement were a reference to a majority of the employers and employee organisations who are parties to the agreement.
- (3) For subsection (2), all employers who are parties are collectively to be counted as 1 party.

Part 6 Miscellaneous**952ZC Particular terms of certified agreements of no effect**

To the extent a term of a certified agreement is inconsistent with this chapter, the term is of no effect.

952ZD Entitlements relating to deferred payments

- (1) This section applies in relation to a payment deferred under this chapter.
- (2) A person is entitled to receive the payment only if the person is an employee on the date to which the payment is deferred.
- (3) An employee is not entitled to be paid any amount relating to the period of the deferral.

952ZE Relationship of chapter with other provisions about variations

- (1) This chapter applies despite section 224.
- (2) The variation of a certified agreement under this chapter does not of itself prevent the agreement being terminated under chapter 4, part 7, division 3.

952ZF Publication of certified agreement as varied

- (1) This section applies if a certified agreement is varied under this chapter.
- (2) As soon as practicable after the variation takes effect, the registrar must—
 - (a) publish the certified agreement, as varied, on the QIRC website; and
 - (b) give the parties to the agreement notice of the variation.
- (3) For complying with subsection (2), the registrar may ask an employer covered by the certified agreement for information reasonably required by the registrar.

Part 7 Expiry**952ZG Expiry of chapter and schs 4A and 4B**

This chapter, and schedules 4A and 4B, expire on 30 September 2020.

137 Insertion of new ch 18, pt 4

Chapter 18—

insert—

Part 4 Transitional provisions for Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2019**1087 Existing proceedings not affected by ch 15A, pt 2**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a proceeding that—
 - (a) started, but was not completed, before the commencement; and
 - (b) relates to employees' wage entitlements before the commencement.
- (2) Chapter 15A, part 2 does not affect the outcome of the proceeding.

1088 No double payment of 2019 wage adjustment

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) on the commencement, a certified agreement is varied under chapter 15A, part 3; and
 - (b) after the commencement, another agreement (the **replacement agreement**) is certified under chapter 4 that covers the employees who were covered by the certified agreement mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (2) The replacement agreement must not provide for an additional wage increase in relation to 2019.
- (3) This section applies despite chapter 4.

1089 Application of modified collective bargaining process

Chapter 15A, part 5 applies in relation to an application to certify an agreement if the application is made on or after the commencement, regardless of when the agreement was made.

1090 Transitional regulation-making power

- (1) A regulation may make provision about a matter for which—
 - (a) it is necessary to make provision to allow or facilitate the operation of chapter 15A; and
 - (b) this Act does not make provision or sufficient provision.
- (2) The regulation may have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than the commencement.
- (3) The regulation must declare it is a transitional regulation made under subsection (1).
- (4) This section and the regulation expire on 30 September 2020.

138 Insertion of new schs 4A and 4B

After schedule 4—

*insert—***Schedule 4A 2019 wage adjustments**

sections 952H and 952I

Column 1 Name of certified agreement	Column 2 Effective date for 2019 wage increase	Column 3 Relevant terms of agreement—wage rates
Building and Asset Services Field Staff Certified Agreement 2016	1 September 2019	Clause 3.1 Appendix 1
Building and Asset Services Office Staff Certified Agreement 2016	1 June 2019	Clause 2.1 Appendices 2 and 3
CITEC Certified Agreement 2016	1 November 2019	Clause 2.1 Appendix 1
Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 2) 2016	17 October 2019	Clause 20.1 Schedule 3
Queensland Health Building, Engineering & Maintenance Services Certified Agreement (No. 6) 2016	1 September 2019	Clause 2.4 Schedule 1
Queensland Public Health Sector Certified Agreement (No. 9) 2016	1 September 2019	Clause 2.1 Schedule 1
State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2015	1 September 2019	Clause 2.1 Appendix 3
State Government Security Certified Agreement 2016	1 May 2019	Clause 2.1 Appendix 1
TAFE Queensland (TAFE Services Employees) Certified Agreement 2016	1 September 2019	Clause 10 Appendix 1
Transport and Main Roads Enterprise Bargaining Certified Agreement 2016	1 July 2019	Clause 5.1 Appendix 1
Transport and Main Roads Operational Employees' Certified Agreement 2016	1 September 2019	Clause 5.1 Appendix 1

Schedule 4B Variations of certified agreements

sections 952J to 952N

Part 1 Variations on commencement

Column 1 Name of certified agreement	Column 2 Nominal expiry date	Column 3 Effective dates for wage increases	Column 4 Relevant terms of agreement—wage rates
Department of Education Cleaners' Certified Agreement 2018	31 August 2022	1 March 2022	Clause 3.1(a) and (d)
Department of Education Teacher Aides' Certified Agreement 2018	31 August 2022	1 March 2022	Clauses 11.1(a) and 11.2
Maritime Safety Queensland Maritime Operations Certified Agreement 2018	30 September 2022	1 April 2022	Clause 5.1 Appendix 1

Column 1 Name of certified agreement	Column 2 Nominal expiry date	Column 3 Effective dates for wage increases	Column 4 Relevant terms of agreement—wage rates
Medical Officers' (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 5) 2018	30 June 2022	1 January 2022	Clause 2.1.1 Schedule 1
Nurses and Midwives (Queensland Health and Department of Education) Certified Agreement (EB 10) 2018	31 March 2022	1 October 2021	Clause 13.1 Schedule 1 Schedule 9, clause 7.1
Office of the Information Commissioner Certified Agreement 2018	31 October 2022	1 May 2022	Clause 2.1 Appendix 2
QFleet Certified Agreement 2018	31 August 2022	1 March 2022	Clause 2.1 Appendix 1
Queensland Ambulance Service Certified Agreement 2017	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 13 Schedule 1
South Bank Employing Office Employees' Certified Agreement 2019	28 February 2023	1 September 2022	Clause 4.1 Appendix 1
WorkCover Employing Office—Certified Agreement 2018	30 September 2022	1 April 2022	Clauses 3.1 and 3.3

Part 2 Deferred variations

Column 1 Name of certified agreement	Column 2 Nominal expiry date	Column 3 Effective dates for wage increases	Column 4 Relevant terms of agreement—wage rates
Building and Asset Services Field Staff Certified Agreement 2016	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 3.1 Appendix 1
Building and Asset Services Office Staff Certified Agreement 2016	31 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 June 2020 1 December 2021 	Clause 2.1 Appendices 2 and 3
CITEC Certified Agreement 2016	31 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 November 2021 1 May 2022 	Clause 2.1 Appendix 1
Health Practitioners and Dental Officers (Queensland Health) Certified Agreement (No. 2) 2016	16 October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17 October 2021 17 April 2022 	Clause 20.1 Schedule 3
Queensland Health Building, Engineering & Maintenance Services Certified Agreement (No. 6) 2016	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 2.4 Schedule 1
Queensland Public Health Sector Certified Agreement (No. 9) 2016	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 2.1 Schedule 1
State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2015	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 2.1 Appendix 3
State Government Security Certified Agreement 2016	30 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 May 2020 1 November 2021 	Clause 2.1 Appendix 1
TAFE Queensland (TAFE Services Employees) Certified Agreement 2016	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 10 Appendix 1

Column 1 Name of certified agreement	Column 2 Nominal expiry date	Column 3 Effective dates for wage increases	Column 4 Relevant terms of agreement—wage rates
Transport and Main Roads Enterprise Bargaining Certified Agreement 2016	30 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 July 2021 1 January 2022 	Clause 5.1 Appendix 1
Transport and Main Roads Operational Employees' Certified Agreement 2016	31 August 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2021 1 March 2022 	Clause 5.1 Appendix 1

10 After clause 135

Page 72, after line 19—

insert—

139 Amendment of sch 5 (Dictionary)

Schedule 5, definition *public holiday*, last dot point, 'section 2, 11 or 12'—

omit, insert—

sections 2 and 11 to 13

11 After clause 135

Page 72, after line 19—

insert—

Division 5 Amendment of Public Health Act 2005

140 Act amended

This division amends the *Public Health Act 2005*.

141 Insertion of new ch 8, pt 7AA

Chapter 8, after part 7A—

insert—

Part 7AA Fees for quarantine during COVID-19 emergency

362MA Definitions for part

In this part—

parent, of a child, has the meaning given by section 362H(4).

quarantine see section 362MB.

relevant invoice see section 362MD(4).

362MB Meaning of quarantine

A person is required to **quarantine** if—

- (a) the person is required, under a public health direction or a direction given under section 362H(1)(a), to stay at or in a stated place; or
- (b) the person is a child and a parent of the child is given a direction under section 362H(1A)(a) to keep the child at or in a stated place.

362MC Fees payable

- (1) A regulation may prescribe the fees payable for a person who is required to quarantine at a place other than the person's home.

Examples of a place other than a person's home—

a hotel, a motel

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a regulation may prescribe amounts as fees by reference to—

- (a) the types of costs associated with a person's quarantine; or

Examples of types of costs—

cost of accommodation, cost of meals

- (b) whether a person is required or permitted to quarantine with 1 or more other persons in shared accommodation.

Examples of persons in shared accommodation—

- 2 persons in a hotel room
- 4 persons in an apartment

362MD Persons liable to pay fees

- (1) A person required to quarantine is liable to pay the fees prescribed by regulation for the person's quarantine.

- (2) However, if the person is a child, the parents of the child are jointly and severally liable to pay the fees prescribed by regulation for the child's quarantine.
- (3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), if 2 or more adults are required or permitted to quarantine together in shared accommodation, whether or not with any children, all the adults are jointly and severally liable to pay the fees prescribed by regulation for the quarantine of each person quarantined in the shared accommodation.
- (4) The chief executive must give a person liable to pay fees under this section an invoice (a **relevant invoice**) stating—
 - (a) the date of the invoice; and
 - (b) the name of the person to whom the invoice relates or, if it relates to more than 1 person, the name of each person; and
 - (c) the amount of the fees owing for the quarantine of the person or persons to whom the invoice relates.
- (5) However, if 2 or more adults are jointly and severally liable to pay fees under subsection (2) or (3)—
 - (a) the chief executive may give any 1 of the adults a relevant invoice; and
 - (b) for section 362MF, the invoice is taken to have been given to each of the adults.

362ME Waiver of fees

- (1) A person liable to pay fees under section 362MD may apply to the chief executive, as provided under subsection (2), for the waiver of payment of all or part of the fees.
- (2) The application must—
 - (a) be in the approved form; and
 - (b) be made within—
 - (i) 30 days after the date of the relevant invoice for the fees; or
 - (ii) a longer period agreed by the chief executive and the person.
- (3) The chief executive may ask the person to give any further information the chief executive reasonably needs to decide the application.
- (4) The chief executive must decide to—
 - (a) waive payment of all or part of the fees; or
 - (b) refuse to waive payment of the fees.
- (5) However, the chief executive may decide to waive payment of the fees as mentioned in subsection (4)(a) only if the chief executive considers it appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the person or of another person to whom the relevant invoice relates.

Examples of when waiver of payment of fees for which a person is liable may be appropriate—

 - 1 The person is experiencing financial hardship.
 - 2 The person is a vulnerable person.
- (6) If the chief executive decides to waive payment of the fees to the extent sought under the application, the chief executive must give the person a notice stating—
 - (a) if the application is for the waiver of payment of all of the fees—that payment of the fees is waived under this section; or
 - (b) if the application is for the waiver of payment of part of the fees—that payment of that part is waived under this section.
- (7) If the chief executive decides to refuse to waive payment of the fees to the extent sought under the application, the chief executive must give the person a notice stating—
 - (a) the decision; and
 - (b) the reasons for the decision; and
 - (c) if payment of any part of the fees is waived—that payment of that part is waived under this section.

362MF Payment and recovery of fees

- (1) A person liable to pay fees under section 362MD must pay the fees, or any part of the fees not waived under section 362ME, within the later of the following periods to end—
 - (a) 30 days after the date of the relevant invoice for the fees;
 - (b) if the person has made an application under section 362ME(1) in relation to the fees—14 days after the person receives a notice under section 362ME(6)(b) or (7) in relation to the application.
- (2) An amount not paid by the person under subsection (1) may be recovered from the person as a debt due to the State.

362MG Expiry of part

This part expires on 18 March 2021.

142 Insertion of new ch 12, pt 7

Chapter 12—

*insert—***Part 7 Transitional provisions for Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2019****Division 1 Provision applying on commencement****499 Application of s 362MD**

- (1) Section 362MD applies in relation to a person required to quarantine only if the requirement for the person's quarantine is made on or after the commencement.
- (2) However, if the requirement for the person's quarantine is made on the person's arrival in Queensland from overseas, section 362MD does not apply in relation to the person if the chief executive—
 - (a) is satisfied, having regard to documentary evidence given by or for the person, that the arrival date for the person's travel to Queensland was confirmed on or before midnight on 17 June 2020; and
 - (b) gives the person, or a person who would otherwise be liable to pay fees under that section for the person's quarantine, a notice that payment of the fees is waived under this section.

Division 2 Provisions applying on expiry of chapter 8, part 7AA**500 Application of division**

This division applies on the expiry of chapter 8, part 7AA.

501 Definitions for division

In this division—

expiry means the expiry of chapter 8, part 7AA under former section 362MG.

former, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force immediately before the expiry.

502 Words have meaning given by former ch 8, pt 7AA

Words defined under former chapter 8, part 7AA and used in this division have the same meaning as they had under the former part.

503 Continued application of former s 362MD

- (1) Former section 362MD continues to apply in relation to a person who was required, before the expiry, to quarantine.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a relevant invoice may be given under former section 362MD(4), on or after the expiry, in relation to a person mentioned in subsection (1).

504 Existing entitlement to apply for waiver under former s 362ME

- (1) This section applies if, immediately before the expiry—
 - (a) a person was entitled to apply under former section 362ME(1) for the waiver of payment of fees, but had not applied; and
 - (b) the period under former section 362ME(2)(b) for applying had not ended.
- (2) The application may be made under former section 362ME as if that section had not expired.

505 Deciding applications for waiver under former s 362ME

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) an application for the waiver of payment of fees was made under former section 362ME; and
 - (b) immediately before the expiry, the chief executive had not given a notice in relation to the application under former section 362ME(6) or (7).
- (2) This section also applies if an application for the waiver of payment of fees is made on or after the commencement under former section 362ME, as provided for under section 504.
- (3) The chief executive may deal or continue to deal with the application under former section 362ME as if that section had not expired.

506 Application of former s 362MF

- (1) Despite its expiry, former section 362MF continues to apply in relation to a person liable to pay fees—
 - (a) before the expiry under former section 362MD; or
 - (b) under former section 362MD as applied under section 503.
- (2) For applying subsection (1), a reference in former section 362MF to particular matters under section 362ME includes a reference to those matters under former section 362ME as applied under section 505.

Division 6 Amendment of Public Health Regulation 2018**143 Regulation amended**

This division amends the *Public Health Regulation 2018*.

144 Insertion of new s 61A

After section 61—

insert—

61A Fees for quarantine during COVID-19 emergency—Act, s 362MC

- (1) For section 362MC of the Act, this section prescribes the fees for a person's quarantine.
- (2) For an adult, the fees are—
 - (a) for accommodation, including cleaning, for each night of quarantine—\$135; and
 - (b) for meals, for each day of quarantine—\$65.
- (3) For a child, the fees are—
 - (a) for accommodation, including cleaning, for each night of quarantine—\$135; and
 - (b) for meals, for each day of quarantine—\$32.50.
- (4) However, if 2 or more persons are required or permitted to quarantine together in shared accommodation—
 - (a) the fee under subsection (2)(a) or (3)(a) applies for only 1 of the persons; and
 - (b) the fee under subsection (2)(a) or (3)(a) for each additional person is nil.
- (5) This section expires on 18 March 2021.

12 After clause 135

Page 72, after line 19—

insert—

Division 7 Amendment of Work Health and Safety Act 2011**145 Act amended**

This division amends the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

146 Omission of s 141A (Powers of inspector asked to assist in resolving dispute)

Section 141A—

omit.

147 Omission of s 142A (Review by commission of decision made by inspector under s 141A)

Section 142A—

omit.

148 Amendment of s 144 (Person must not refuse or delay entry of WHS entry permit holder)

Section 144(1), penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

149 Amendment of s 145 (Person must not hinder or obstruct WHS entry permit holder)

Section 145, penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

150 Amendment of s 146 (WHS entry permit holder must not delay, hinder or obstruct any person or disrupt work at workplace)

Section 146, penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

151 Amendment of s 147 (Misrepresentations about things authorised by this part)

Section 147(1), penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

152 Amendment of s 148 (Unauthorised use or disclosure of information or documents)

Section 148, penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

153 Amendment of s 188 (Offence to hinder or obstruct inspector)

Section 188, penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

154 Amendment of s 189 (Offence to impersonate inspector)

Section 189, penalty, '100 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

500 penalty units

155 Amendment of s 190 (Offence to assault, threaten or intimidate inspector)

Section 190, penalty, '500 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

1,000 penalty units

156 Insertion of new pt 16, div 6

Part 16—

insert—

Division 6 Transitional provisions for Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2019

321 Definitions for division

In this division—

amending Act means the *Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2019*.

former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

322 Application of former s 142A to decision made before commencement

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an inspector made a decision, before the commencement, under former section 141A in relation to a dispute; and
- (b) immediately before the commencement, the dispute had not been dealt with by the commission.

(2) From the commencement, the commission may review the decision under section 142A, as in force immediately before the commencement, as if the amending Act had not commenced.

323 Review proceedings under former s 142A

(1) This section applies if, before the commencement—

- (a) the commission was dealing with a dispute under section 142; and
- (b) an inspector had made a decision under former section 141A in relation to the dispute.

(2) If, immediately before the commencement, the proceeding had not been finally dealt with, the commission may continue to review the decision as if the amending Act had not commenced.

(3) A person dissatisfied with the commission's decision on the review may appeal the commission's decision under section 142A(4), as in force immediately before the commencement, as if the amending Act had not commenced.

324 Application of amended WHS civil penalty provisions

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) the maximum penalty for a WHS civil penalty provision is amended by the amending Act; and
- (b) a monetary penalty for contravention is imposed under section 259(1) after the commencement.

(2) For section 259(2), the maximum amount of the monetary penalty for the provision is the penalty for the former WHS civil penalty provision in effect at the time of the contravention.

13 After clause 135

Page 72, after line 19—

insert—

Division 8 Amendment of Youth Justice Act 1992**157 Act amended**

This division amends the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

158 Amendment of s 48 (Releasing children in custody in connection with a charge of an offence)

Section 48(2) to (7)—

omit, insert—

- (2) The court or police officer must decide to release the child unless required under this Act or another Act to keep the child in custody or exercising a discretion under this or another Act to keep the child in custody.

Notes—

- 1 See, for example, sections 48AAA(2), 48AE and 48A for when a child must not be released from custody.
- 2 See also the *Bail Act 1980*, section 13 for when only particular courts may grant a person bail.

159 Insertion of new s 48AAA

After section 48—

insert—

48AAA Releasing children in custody—risk assessment

- (1) This section applies if a court or police officer is deciding whether to release a child in custody in connection with a charge of an offence or keep the child in custody.
- (2) The court or police officer must decide to keep the child in custody if satisfied—
- (a) if the child is released, there is an unacceptable risk that the child will commit an offence that endangers the safety of the community or the safety or welfare of a person; and
- (b) it is not practicable to adequately mitigate that risk by imposing particular conditions of release on bail.
- (3) Also, the court or police officer may decide to keep the child in custody if satisfied that, if the child is released, there is an unacceptable risk that—
- (a) the child will not surrender into custody in accordance with a condition imposed on the release or a grant of bail to the child; or
- (b) the child will commit an offence, other than an offence mentioned in subsection (2)(a); or
- (c) the child will interfere with a witness or otherwise obstruct the course of justice, whether for the child or another person.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—
- (a) the child is before a court; and
- (b) the court has information indicating there may be an unacceptable risk of a matter mentioned in subsection (2) or (3), but does not have enough information to properly consider the matter.
- (5) The court may remand the child in custody while further information about the matter is obtained.

160 Amendment of s 48AA (Matters to be considered in making particular decisions about release and bail)

- (1) Section 48AA(1)(a), '48(4)'—

omit, insert—

48AAA(2)

- (2) Section 48AA(1)(b)—

omit, insert—

- (b) whether there is an unacceptable risk of a matter mentioned in section 48AAA(3);
- (ba) whether to release the child despite being satisfied there is an unacceptable risk of a matter mentioned in section 48AAA(3);

- (3) Section 48AA(4) and (5)—

omit, insert—

- (4) In making a decision mentioned in subsection (1)—

- (a) the court or police officer may have regard to any of the following matters of which the court or police officer is aware—
- (i) the nature and seriousness of the alleged offence;
- (ii) the child's criminal history and other relevant history, associations, home environment, employment and background;
- (iii) the history of a previous grant of bail to the child;

- (iv) the strength of the evidence against the child relating to the alleged offence;
 - (v) the child's age, maturity level, cognitive ability and developmental needs;
 - (vi) if the child is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander—a submission made by a representative of the community justice group in the child's community, including, for example, a submission about—
 - (A) the child's connection with the child's community, family or kin; or
 - (B) cultural considerations; or
 - (C) considerations relating to programs and services established for offenders in which the community justice group participates;
- Note—*
See also section 48AC.
- (vii) any other relevant matter; and
- (b) for a decision mentioned in subsection (1)(c)—the court or police officer may have regard to any of the following—
 - (i) principle 18 of the youth justice principles;
 - (ii) the desirability of strengthening and preserving the relationship between the child and the child's parents and family;
 - (iii) the desirability of not interrupting or disturbing the child's living arrangements, education, training or employment;
 - (iv) the desirability of minimising adverse effects on the child's reputation that may arise from being kept in custody;
 - (v) the child's exposure to, experience of and reaction to trauma;
 - (vi) the child's health, including the child's need for medical assessment or medical treatment;
 - (vii) for a child with a disability—the disability and the child's need for services and supports in relation to the disability;
 - (viii) if the child is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander—the desirability of maintaining the child's connection with the child's community, family and kin;
 - (ix) if the child is under 14 years—the particular desirability of releasing children under 14 years from custody due to their vulnerability and community expectations that children under 14 years are entitled to special care and protection.
- (4) Section 48AA(6), '48(4)(b)'—
omit, insert—
48AAA(3)
- (5) Section 48AA(7), 'a risk or unacceptable risk of a matter mentioned in section 48(4)'—
omit, insert—
an unacceptable risk of a matter mentioned in section 48AAA(2) or (3)
- 161 Amendment of s 48AC (Representatives of community justice groups must advise of particular matters)**
Section 48AC(1), '48AA(5)(f)'—
omit, insert—
48AA(4)(a)(vi)
- 162 Omission of s 48AD (When children may be released from custody despite unacceptable risk)**
Section 48AD—
omit.
- 163 Amendment of s 48A (Releasing children found guilty of terrorism offences or subject to Commonwealth control orders)**
Section 48A(5), '48(4)'—
omit, insert—
48AAA(2) or (3)
- 164 Amendment of s 50 (Dealing with children not brought before Childrens Court in accordance with s 49)**
Section 50(4)(a), '48AD'—
omit, insert—
48AAA

165 Amendment of s 52A (Other conditions of release on bail)

Section 52A(2)(a)—

omit, insert—

- (a) there is a risk of the child doing a thing mentioned in section 48AAA(2)(a) or (3);
and

166 Amendment of s 289 (Recording, use or disclosure for authorised purpose)

Section 289(c)(i), '48AA(5)(f)'—

omit, insert—

48AA(4)(a)(vi)

167 Amendment of s 301A (Protection from liability)

Section 301A(1)(b)(i), '48AA(5)(f)'—

omit, insert—

48AA(4)(a)(vi)

168 Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary)

Schedule 4—

*insert—****keep the child in custody*** includes, for a court, remand the child in custody.

Division: Question put—That clauses 1 to 135, and schedules 1 and 2, as amended, be agreed to.

AYES, 46:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.**NOES, 42:**

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.**NQF, 1**—Costigan.**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 1 to 135, and schedules 1 and 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will be rung for one minute.**AYES, 46:**

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.**NOES, 42:**

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.**NQF, 1**—Costigan.**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Division: Question put—That amendment No. 14 be agreed to.

In division—

Mr SPEAKER: Members, clearly the audio system is working again. I would like to thank the Clerk on behalf of all members for his assistance earlier. He wanted me to let you know that he also does software updates to PCs and helps set up home audiovisual systems.

AYES, 46:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

14 Long title

Long title, from 'this Act,'—

omit, insert—

this Act, the *Bail Act 1980*, the *Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991*, the *Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005*, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*, the *Holidays Act 1983*, the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, the *Public Health Act 2005*, the *Public Health Regulation 2018*, the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the *Youth Justice Act 1992* for particular purposes

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will be rung for one minute.

AYES, 46:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, 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, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 28 November 2019 (see p. 3949).

Second Reading



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced on 28 November 2019 and was referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. I seek to electronically table the government response to the Economics and Governance Committee report.

Tabled paper: Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 37, 56th Parliament—Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, government response [\[916\]](#).

The bill contains amendments relating to funding and expenditure for state elections—chapter 2; signage at state elections—chapter 3; new offences in relation to certain dishonest conduct of ministers—chapter 4; and new offences for certain dishonest conduct for councillors and other local government matters—chapter 5.

The Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs will speak separately on chapter 5, including foreshadowing amendments relevant to that chapter which are intended to be moved during consideration in detail of the bill. I would like to thank the minister for his ongoing hard work and cooperation in delivering this important legislation and I thank his department and his office for their assistance. I am pleased to inform the House that on 7 February 2020 the committee tabled its report and recommended that the bill be passed.

In relation to the chapter 2 amendments, the committee also recommended that I consider amending the bill to address the concerns of small not-for-profit third-party organisations regarding the regulatory burden of the political donation and electoral expenditure cap schemes such as by increasing the threshold for third-party registration. I will address these issues in my contribution to today's debate.

I thank the committee for its careful consideration of the bill and commend the member for Logan, as chair of the committee, for ensuring the proposed legislation was properly scrutinised and considered. I would also like to thank those who contributed to the committee process through their submissions and at public hearings. I also thank my hardworking department for the fantastic work they have done on this extremely complex piece of legislation. I also thank the Electoral Commission of Queensland for working with us closely on this legislation. I notice that the Minister for Local Government has joined us and I thank the Minister for Local Government, as I mentioned before he appeared in the chamber.

I have always said that I had hoped the committee process would be a genuine exchange of ideas that would allow the government to further refine our proposed legislation to ensure the integrity of our democratic institutions and our electoral processes. I was heartened by the level of engagement that this bill received from our community, with over 70 submissions being made to the Economics and Governance Committee. The Palaszczuk government is a government that listens, and that is reflected by the amendments I will be moving to this bill.

Before turning to the amendments I will briefly outline the substantive elements of the bill. The main purpose of the amendments in chapter 2 of the bill is to fundamentally reform the financing of electoral campaigning in Queensland to enhance integrity and public accountability for state elections and support public confidence in state electoral processes and public institutions. The proposed election funding and disclosure regime in the bill is intended to ensure that no single person or entity is able to improperly influence those involved in electoral campaigning for state elections, whether they be political parties, members of parliament, candidates or others engaged in campaigning to influence voting and ensure that those who do campaign in an election have a reasonable opportunity to communicate with voters but are precluded from drowning out the communication of others.

To this end, chapter 2 of the bill provides for caps on political donations and on the electoral expenditure by registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties that campaign. To assist in compliance with the donation and expenditure caps, dedicated state campaign accounts will be required to be kept with a financial institution for registered political parties, candidates and those third parties registered with the Electoral Commission of Queensland. Political donations to

registered political parties and candidates for state electoral purposes must be paid into these accounts. Electoral expenditure must be paid out of them. There are also amendments to clarify and strengthen key terms such as 'electoral expenditure' and 'gift'.

Chapter 3 of the bill relates to election signage. It limits a candidate or registered political party to no more than two signs up to a specified size within 100 metres of a polling centre entry and restricting times for setting up signage on election day until after 6 am.

Chapter 4 of the bill creates two new offences in the Integrity Act 2009 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 applicable to cabinet ministers who behave dishonestly and with an intention to obtain a benefit for themselves or others or cause a detriment to others. The new offences seek to ensure conflicts of interest are declared and to reduce the risks of intentional misconduct. The purpose of the two new offences is to ensure conflicts of interest are declared when they arise with respect to ministerial responsibilities and to ensure there are consequences for ministers who dishonestly and intentionally fail to comply with their current obligations with respect to the register of interests.

The offences only apply to ministers, which reflects the higher obligation on ministers to uphold the standards of integrity, recognises the more immediate role of ministers in government decision making and ensures there is public confidence in government. Each of the new offences has a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment or 200 penalty units. I note a member of parliament may also face the additional consequence of losing their seat in circumstances where they are convicted of either offence and are sentenced to more than one year's imprisonment as provided in section 72(1)(i) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

Charges for the new criminal offences will not be able to be laid without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The majority of committee members supported these offences in the form that they are drafted. I note that mixed views were expressed about these two proposed offences, both in written submissions and oral evidence to the committee. The position of the government in accepting the recommendations of the CCC and the subsequent drafting of the offences was predicated on the substance of the CCC's 6 September public statement.

As the committee process progressed, so too did the CCC's position in relation to how the proposed offences ought to be structured. The evolution in the CCC's position is legitimate and I make no criticism of the gradual clarification provided by the CCC, both to the Economics and Governance Committee and to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. However, after coming to more fully understand the nuance of the CCC's position, the government has determined that it will not legislate for strict liability offences for ministerial conflicts, nor will it legislate for a strict liability register of interest offence to apply to all members in this place. Instead, we will be retaining the offences as originally drafted in accordance with the government's understanding of the original CCC recommendations.

Let us be clear: the offences as they appear in the bill will lead the nation. These are nation-leading ministerial integrity laws in a nation-leading integrity bill. While some will say that the offences should go further, it should be recognised that some submitters to the committee rejected the need for any new offences to be created to cover this type of conduct by ministers. Such submitters included Jennifer Menzies, Principal Research Fellow at Griffith University's Policy Innovation Hub, the Parliamentary Ethics Committee and the Clerk of the Parliament.

In particular, I would direct any individual seeking to gain a greater understanding of the complexity associated with the proposed offences to read through the submission of the Clerk of the Parliament. His submission identifies the following detrimental outcomes that would arise from the implementation of the strict liability register of interest offence: the implementation of a strict liability offence would require a review and narrowing of Queensland's nation-leading disclosure regime, potentially leading to less transparency; the implementation of a strict liability register of interest offence would lead to a reticence of members to admit honest mistakes or errors, leading to less disclosure; it would lead to the registrar, currently the Clerk of the Parliament, becoming an enforcer of criminal law rather than a source of ethical advice; and, finally, the implementation of a strict liability register of interest offence would sideline the universally respected and impartial Ethics Committee.

The parliamentary Ethics Committee articulates the view that the existing legislation, guidelines and conventions are sufficient to achieve the ends sought by the CCC. These observations are important. They are not made to denigrate those with an opposite view but simply to highlight the complex nature of the recommendations of the CCC. Ultimately, the government has decided that the approach in the bill strikes the right balance in creating a new criminal offence that targets conduct by ministers that falls short of community expectations but also ensures that ministers are not unfairly

punished criminally for an honest mistake or inadvertence. When implemented, these laws will mean that when it comes to ministerial accountability and integrity Queensland will have the toughest laws in the nation—a proud day for us all.

I will now turn to the amendments that I intend moving during consideration in detail of chapters 1 to 4 of the bill. Amendments will be made to chapter 2 of the bill so that the expenditure caps apply for the 2020 general election from 1 August 2020, the donation caps and election funding apply no earlier than 1 July 2022, and changes to policy development payments apply from 1 January 2022, allowing the first payment under the new rules in July 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every facet of our lives. Its implications for our economy have been significant. However, thanks to the strong leadership of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the hard work of the Treasurer, Queensland is well placed to unite and recover. As we do that, it is unreasonable to expect that we will be able to immediately commence the amended political finance model that is set out in the bill. Deferring the commencement of the donations caps and the accompanying change to public financing will allow the Palaszczuk government to prioritise resources as we focus on getting Queensland back on its feet. The new funding framework is tied to the operation of the donations cap so we can ensure that, while we significantly reduce the power of special interests money, we can be assured that political parties and candidates are able to exercise their freedom of political communication. Ensuring the actual and perceived integrity of our democratic process requires the introduction of a donations cap, and the Palaszczuk government will deliver on this issue.

There was considerable attention in submissions to the committee on the implications of chapter 2 of the bill for small third parties, including charities and not-for-profit organisations. As introduced, the bill: caps political donations to third parties at \$4,000 per term; caps third-party electoral expenditure at \$1 million generally and \$87,000 for an electoral district for a general election and at \$87,000 for a by-election; requires the registration of third parties that spend over the registration threshold of \$1,000 electoral expenditure during an electoral term, with voluntary registration also being available; requires donations used for electoral expenditure to be accompanied by a donor statement; and requires registered third parties to appoint agents and maintain state campaign accounts.

Many submitters raised concerns that the reforms impact on small not-for-profit organisations that rely on donations and are not resourced to comply with the administrative requirements of the bill. In particular, it was submitted that the bill would have a disproportionate impact on smaller organisations, particularly regional organisations that rely on a smaller donor base. There were concerns that the bill would muzzle the voices of charities and ordinary Queenslanders while leaving big businesses such as industry associations, peak bodies, trade unions and corporations, which earn revenue from business or membership fees, to run large-scale election campaigns. Concerns were raised that, rather than ensuring that the quieter voices are not drowned out by the communications of others, the reforms proposed by the bill would instead persuade small organisations to avoid public advocacy.

Some submitters suggested an exemption for small charities and charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission from some or all of the requirements imposed by the bill. The government is not persuaded that exemption for a class of third party on the basis of charitable status would be appropriate. The issues raised by third parties will instead be alleviated by: removing the donation caps from third parties engaged in electoral campaigning; increasing the registration threshold for third parties from \$1,000 to \$6,000 of electoral expenditure incurred during the capped expenditure period for an election; removing the need for third parties to disclose gifts used to incur expenditure for political purposes, which includes electoral expenditure, where less than \$1,000 of the gift is applied to expenditure for political purposes; and creating an exception to the offence for not keeping a state campaign account, to be modified to apply to agents, so that it does not apply where the agent of a third party did not know, or it was not reasonable for them to know, that the third party was required to be registered for the election.

Additional amendments will also be moved to the bill to ensure it operates in the fairest, most effective manner, including: shortening the capped expenditure period applying to ordinary general elections; and clarifying the definition of 'electoral expenditure'. It is proposed to amend the definition of 'electoral expenditure' as provided for in the bill to: provide a specific, non-exhaustive list of particular purposes of expenditure that would be for the 'purpose of promoting or opposing a political party or candidate in relation to an election or influencing the voting at an election'; clarify that expenditure with the dominant purpose to educate the audience on, or to raise awareness of, a public policy issue is

excluded; clarify that electoral expenditure excludes staffing costs, but not the costs of consultants; and clarify, by way of example, that electoral expenditure includes the costs of data used to produce, identify a target audience for, or communicate an advertisement or other election material.

For an ordinary general election, the bill provides for the capped expenditure period to start 12 months before polling day. In response to stakeholder submissions, it is proposed to reduce the capped expenditure period so that it applies for an ordinary general election, which is on the last Saturday in October—being the ordinary general day—from the business day after the last Saturday in March, which is the usual date for local government elections.

I am satisfied that, with these changes having been made, all participants will have an opportunity to have their voices heard throughout the electoral process. Given the reduction in the time of the capped expenditure period but the retention of the initial quantum of expenditure caps, I do not think it could be reasonably argued that the expenditure caps pose an unreasonable burden on anyone's right to political communication.

One concern in relation to the operation of the expenditure caps was the impact that it would have on independent candidates contesting the election. It is true that, taken together, political parties and their endorsed candidates will have a higher expenditure cap in an individual electoral district than independent candidates. However, the suggestion that this would create an unfair advantage to party endorsed candidates in individual seats is a misplaced concern. The reality is that, unlike independent candidates, political parties have to run statewide campaigns spanning different media markets. This means that even where expenditure is targeted to a particular seat it will not always be done to explicitly praise or endorse the candidate contesting that electoral district. Instead, it may be done to raise awareness of the party's leader or a general issue that has arisen in the campaign.

By way of contrast, an independent candidate will have significantly more expenditure power than a party endorsed candidate, which will be solely directed to gaining electoral advantage for themselves. Moreover, ECQ data establishes that an \$87,000 cap for independent candidates is more than sufficient, given the most money expended by an independent candidate during the 2017 state election was less than \$30,000. The Palaszczuk government believes that the levels of the expenditure caps provide all electoral participants a reasonable opportunity to have their voices heard and the evidence bears this out.

The potential for the stockpiling of material such as campaign T-shirts and corflutes prior to the capped expenditure to avoid the expenditure caps will also be addressed. Electoral expenditure will be taken to be incurred at the first time goods are used in the capped expenditure period for an election if obtained before the capped expenditure period for the dominant purpose of use during the capped expenditure period. This means any goods such as corflutes or T-shirts that are purchased after the commencement of the bill but delivered prior to the commencement of the expenditure cap would count towards the expenditure cap.

I note that this amendment does not change the time of publication provision as it relates to radio and television advertisements, direct mail-outs or billboard advertisements. As per the provision of section 281 that is contained in the bill as it was introduced, it does not matter when these things were contracted for. If they are published during the capped expenditure period, they will count to the electoral participant's cap. This will be the case even if the publication has been contracted for prior to the commencement of this legislation.

We will also be ensuring that electoral participants who wilfully flout the expenditure caps in an attempt to pervert our democratic process are held to account. This will be done by amending section 281G of the bill to ensure that a person who knowingly exceeds the expenditure cap will face up to 10 years in jail. This reflects the objective seriousness of ensuring the integrity of our electoral process. Where there is sufficient evidence to suggest that section 281G is being contravened during the capped expenditure period, section 196 of the current Electoral Act already allows the ECQ or a candidate in an election to make an application to the Supreme Court for an injunction in relation to a breach of the Electoral Act. This provision could be utilised to seek an order from the court to restrain further expenditure being undertaken by the offending electoral participant.

As a further deterrent, the bill already provides that a person who exceeds the electoral expenditure cap is liable for civil recovery by the state of an amount equal to twice the amount of the unlawful expenditure. To avoid third parties being used for the circumvention of donation and electoral expenditure caps, amendments are proposed to modify the definition of 'associated entity' so that it includes entities that operate for the dominant purpose of promoting or opposing one or more candidates of a registered political party and is extended to entities controlled by or operating wholly,

or to a significant extent, for the benefit of candidates as well as parties. The amendments will also clarify the application of part 11 to associated entities, including those captured by the expanded definition.

The amendments seek to regulate instances where political parties or candidates seek to artificially amplify their capacity for incurring electoral expenditure or receiving improper gifts and loans. The amendments will not infringe upon the rights of autonomous legal entities pursuing their own political agendas, such as registered industrial organisations—both employer and employee representatives—or industry peak bodies who may engage in electoral expenditure from time to time. Autonomous legal entities will not become associated entities of a party or candidate merely by virtue of consistent or vocal support, as has been previously settled in the High Court.

It should be noted that neither the expanded associated entity provisions nor the imposition of the donations cap are intended to prevent the flow of money from local party units, like local branches, to the electoral committees of local candidates. This practice will be unaffected by this bill, given that electoral committees are an extension of the branch structure.

The record keeping requirements for all election participants will be clarified with the record keeping requirements for third parties adjusted to reflect the removal of the donation cap. The government has listened to the submissions to the committee regarding the proposed signage changes, particularly the concerns that third parties were not permitted signs in the restricted area and that signs were required to be accompanied, having implications for those such as Independents and smaller parties. In response, amendments are proposed to relax the signage restrictions so that candidates and registered political parties can display up to six signs in each designated area, consisting of a combination of small signs—up to 900 millimetres by 600 millimetres—and large signs—up to 1,830 millimetres by 1,220 millimetres—at an ordinary polling booth. However, a candidate and party may only display up to a maximum of four large signs in each designated area. The quotas will be combined for registered political parties and their endorsed candidates, meaning that the signage restrictions apply to them taken together. An associated entity will be considered to be part of the party or candidate it is associated with for the purposes of the signage restrictions.

In addition, third parties may display up to two signs up to a particular size in each designated area of a pre-poll voting office and four signs in each designated area of a polling booth on polling day. Within the permitted four signs, a combination of small signs and large signs will be allowed, with a third party being permitted to display up to a maximum of two large signs in each designated area. Requirements for permitted signs to be accompanied by a person and not attached to a building, fence or other permanent structure will be removed.

In relation to the offence for setting up to display election signs, amendments are proposed so that the provision applies prior to 5 am rather than 6 am. A correcting amendment is also proposed to ensure that the offence relating to setting up does not apply to signage at residences and other lawfully occupied premises and does not apply in relation to a pre-poll voting office that is also to be used as an ordinary polling booth. Amendments will also provide that the signage restrictions will commence on 1 August, including for any by-elections for which the writs are issued after this date. To be clear, this means an end to plastic bunting that ends up in our tips. This will be a welcome change for everyone.

Additionally, I intend to introduce amendments to the Electoral Act 1992 to provide flexibility, if required, to facilitate the holding of the 2020 general election in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of the community caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Queensland has smashed the COVID-19 curve, however we cannot be complacent. We need to be able to adapt our election plans quickly should the need arise. This bill means that Queenslanders can rest assured that, no matter what the situation is come October, we will be able to proceed with an election in the safest manner possible. The proposed amendments include provisions that are similar to those measures contained in the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 and the Electoral (By-elections Before Next General Election) Regulation 2020 and include modifying the electoral visitor voting and pre-poll voting arrangements, arrangements for the distribution or display of election material, and the scrutineering process.

The proposed amendments contain a broad regulation-making power to allow regulations to be made which make provision for any matter that will allow or facilitate the election to be held in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency. This would include regulations modifying or varying any provisions in part 7 of the Electoral Act which would be needed to facilitate the increased use of postal voting for all electors, a specific class of electors, or for a particular electoral district. These measures are temporary and only

apply in relation to the 2020 general election. The amendments will commence on assent. The amendments will ensure the government and the Electoral Commission of Queensland can quickly respond to public health advice regarding any risks to the health and safety of the community in the lead up to and during the 2020 general election period.

This framework builds on the Palaszczuk government's Statement of Principles that I tabled in Parliament earlier today and reflects the broadly successful strategy implemented by our government that saw zero COVID cases arising from the conduct of the local government election. Our metric for success will be ensuring as many people as possible can vote in the safest manner possible. I know that, with Queenslanders united, we will be able to repeat this success.

This bill is historic and nation leading. Our ministerial integrity laws reflect the Palaszczuk government's commitment to leading by example. It will be interesting to see whether other Australian jurisdictions choose to adopt our reforms. Let's say I hope they do, and I certainly hope that the Commonwealth take note of what we are doing here today and this week. They seem determined to wind back electoral laws consistently and to undermine the integrity and transparency around elections to the point that provisions were deemed wholly invalid in the Spence case in the High Court. Last week the Morrison government introduced amendments to section 302CA to try it on again. Not only have they done that but also they are seeking to pass them this week. They do not have an election due for another two years, approximately, but they introduced it last week and they want to pass it next week. Why would that be? Would it be because there is a Queensland election coming up and they are hoping to avoid transparency through changes? I suspect so.

Our operational reforms to facilitate a COVID-safe election ensures that the democratic franchise is extended to all voters. When we talk about the democratic franchise, we should celebrate the introduction of expenditure and donations caps.

When I introduced this bill I discussed the declining levels of trust that members of the public have for our political institutions. Without the trust of community members, those of us in this place will never be able to effect the meaningful change we seek to make here. This bill is about restoring trust to our politics. Recent data from Essential Media suggests that the trust members of the public have for parliament and political parties has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that trust will be retained unless there is a change in behaviour in the way we finance our politics and the way we conduct ourselves during our election campaigns. Declining levels of trust for politics and politicians is not an issue of partisan politics. It is not an ALP issue and it is not a LNP issue; it is an existential issue that affects every person in this place and every person who comes after us. Trust is eroded where the perception exists that parties or members are in the pockets of big donors. It is eroded when stories of 'cash for access' are published in the media. That trust is eroded when electoral participants engage in the expenditure arms race, trying to crowd out the conversation so that it is only the loudest, most financially equipped voices that are heard.


This bill is not a silver bullet. It will not cure the issues that plague trust in our politics, but it is a significant step in the right direction. My hope is that it will lead to politics being a battle of ideas rather than a battle of bank balances. A former United States senator once said, 'The currency of politics should be ideas, not dollars. It is time for us to start putting that currency back into circulation.' I could not agree more.

I thank all of the stakeholders who have engaged with the government in the development of these important electoral reforms. There are many, many stakeholders out there who have been calling for these sorts of integrity reforms, with proper caps on expenditure and donations and an increase in public funding to ensure that voices are still heard, that political expression is still allowed, but it is done in a way that is balanced, that it provides—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Toowoomba North will cease his interjections.

Mrs D'ATH:—and ensures that people are not drowned out by those who have the most money. It is time that we removed the perception of the fact that doors are only opened to candidates and politicians on all sides when you have money. I welcome these reforms. I welcome listening to the views on the other side. We know they have already removed these laws once from this parliament when they were last in government. I am interested to see if they will go to the election saying they will reverse them once again, but I hope that these become long-term reforms and are adopted by jurisdictions across this country, because that is what we need to do to restore trust, deal with the issue of the perception of money and deal with the political arms race of those with the most money having the biggest voice. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.10 pm): The opposition will be opposing the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. Let me be clear: the Palaszczuk Labor government has now launched a full-frontal assault on the democratic process in Queensland.

As I was working my way through the Attorney-General's proposed amendments at midnight last night—229 amendments over 100 pages—I was trying to work out where I would begin my contribution today. I thought I would go back to the very beginning and the Attorney-General's and Premier's joint media release of 29 October last year headed 'Sweeping electoral reforms to make elections fairer and more transparent'. I could not help but notice the quote attributed to the Attorney-General. It was: 'We want all Queenslanders to have a say.'

Given the 229 amendments over 100 pages circulated last night I can assure the House that no Queenslanders have had their say. With the permanent gag on this House, not everybody on this side of the House will be able to have their say on these laws either. The Attorney-General talks about wanting Queenslanders to have their say, but yet we operate under a permanent gag in this House. The Attorney-General says, 'We want all Queenslanders to have their say,' yet for a 10-week period over Christmas and New Year when this bill was put out for consultation—in the depths of summer and over Christmas and New Year—Queenslanders did not have their say because it went way under the radar.

The Attorney-General also says that she wants to take money out of politics, but the Attorney-General took \$25,000 from the AWU for her campaign—taking big money out of politics. The Attorney-General talks about taking money out of politics but takes donations from staff of an organisation she is to regulate. When the Attorney-General introduces bills of this nature into this House and proclaims the moral high ground, we on this side of the House know it is without foundation. What we know from this Attorney-General and this government—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that interjection and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield—

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, for dignity of the House.

Mr JANETZKI: This Attorney-General's legacy of bills of this nature and of accepting donations from organisations she regulates is best framed by the 18 minutes notice this House was given to remove optional preferential voting. Time and time and time again in this House we have seen this government throw Queensland democracy under the proverbial bus.

What we saw last night with the 229 amendments over 100 pages is just the final nail in the coffin of this government's disdain for the democratic process in Queensland. It is deplorable. It has been interesting to hear the comments of members on this side of the House. Members will hear from many of them over the next 24 hours. The prevailing word is 'sad'. Is it not sad that this government will stop at nothing to gain political advantage? Is it not sad that this House is so severely curtailed that there is going to be no scrutiny of the 229 amendments over 100 pages?

There will be no public consultation. Stakeholders will be learning about the amendments now. I will be interested to hear whether the Attorney-General spoke with the Queensland Law Society about these amendments. The Queensland Law Society said about the bill introduced in November that there was no genuine or proper consultation.

It is deplorable that this government would once again take electoral laws and use them for their political advantage, whether it be the 18-minutes notice for the removal of optional preferential voting—that was not even a cabinet decision, as I recall; it did not go through any committee process or cabinet committee process—or the amendments circulated last night.

I will turn to the bill. It requires registered political parties, candidates and registered third parties to maintain dedicated state campaign accounts to comply with the donation and expenditure caps, which the Attorney-General has outlined. Public election entitlements are also increased—and I will come to them later—effective for the 2020 state general election. Public funding will almost double from

\$3.14 to \$6 per formal first preference vote for registered political parties and from \$1.57 to \$3 per formal first preference vote for candidates. The eligibility threshold for registered political parties and candidates will decrease from \$6 to \$4 for formal first preference votes.

The bill imposes caps on donations that donors may make and that defined recipients, including political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in election campaigning may receive. Specifically, an individual or organisation cannot donate more than \$10,000 in each parliamentary term. It is \$6,000 to candidates of the same party collectively, \$4,000 for political parties and \$4,000 to a maximum of six third parties over four years.

Electoral expenditure caps will apply to political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning. Expenditure includes designing, producing, printing, broadcasting or publishing an advertisement or other election material, direct distribution costs for an advertisement and carrying out opinion polls or research. Third parties will be caught where influencing voting in the election is the dominant purpose. The maximum amount that can be spent is \$58,000 by an endorsed candidate, \$87,000 by an independent candidate, \$92,000 by a party in any single electorate in which it endorses a candidate, \$87,000 by a third party in any single electorate and no more than \$1 million in aggregate.

As per the amendments circulated last night, the cap will apply during the final six months of the parliamentary term and for the 2020 ordinary general election. The expenditure caps will apply from 1 August 2020, although I would ask the Attorney-General to clarify the mechanism by which some contracts entered into by today's date, 17 June, will operate. I would appreciate some clarification on that particular clause.

I would like to turn for just a moment to some philosophical aspects about electoral reform. We have heard from the Attorney-General in this regard, and it is appropriate that we take some time to reflect on it. This area of law has rightly been the subject of considerable academic analysis over the last decade. Always central to this analysis is the balancing of competing interests—that is, the conflict between the democratic right to free and unfettered participation in political speech against the notion of an equitable opportunity for all citizens to participate in the electoral system. All participants in the public arena seek to influence political outcomes. This is further complicated by third-party participants.

This bill has failed to balance those concerns, with the Queensland Law Society warning the government that its contents would have a chilling effect on charities and not-for-profit organisations. I appreciate that the Attorney-General will be moving amendments in that regard. However, even the ECQ has admitted that they were not yet sure whether federal parties would constitute third parties and that they would need time to resolve this uncertainty, along with a number of other questions that remain outstanding.

All of this amplifies why sound electoral system regulation is necessary—proper process, fair evidence gathering and assessment of that evidence, fulsome consultation. All of this ought to be done to preserve the balance, integrity and fidelity of the democratic system and to maintain the lofty idealism of any functioning liberal democracy.

Admittedly there are no easy answers; however, the opposition strongly believes that the answers suggested by the government in this bill unfairly and unjustifiably skew the electoral system in its favour. It is an unforgivable effort from this Labor government but sadly predictable from a political party more interested in the accumulation and seizing of power and prestige than exercising good government for the people of Queensland.

It is an historical fact that the Australian Labor Party in the Australian political experience has affiliated to it trade unions. Such unions not only have the power to influence policy and control the endorsement of Labor candidates but also are functionally designed to, and do, engage in the political process directly in support of Labor candidates and, indeed, against candidates competing with Labor candidates. This is entirely in keeping with this form of affiliation.

In particular, by reason of that direct formal affiliation, unions have established political infrastructure for the purpose of conducting political campaigns for campaigning from everything from the election of its own internal officers through to those officers becoming delegates to Labor entities and to the endorsement and election of Labor candidates, not just to the Queensland parliament but to all Australian parliaments.

It follows that unions are both formally and functionally a part of the Australian Labor Party. In fact, it has often been said by Labor comrades in this place throughout the decades that the Australian Labor Party is the political arm of the union movement. The funding for that political campaigning by

unions is acquired through the imposition of levies on its members. These levies are often practically imposed on an employee whether or not she or he shares a political allegiance or supports the objectives of the Australian Labor Party. These levies may be imposed by reason of formalised workplace agreements—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as this historical treatise is, I do not believe he is referring specifically to the bill. I ask him to come back to the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: No. I am happy with the context in which the member is making his contribution, Minister.

Mr JANETZKI: These levies may be imposed by reason of formalised workplace agreements whereby employers are to agree to only employ or prefer union members for employment. Let us be clear: no other political party in Australia has such a structure. In particular, those other political parties in this parliament or active in Queensland politics including the Liberal National Party, the Greens, Katter's Australian Party or One Nation have no such structure.

It could be argued that, in its practical operation, proposed new part 11, division 9 of the bill, imposing caps on electoral expenditure on political parties and third parties, would have the following effects in marginal seats. The Labor candidate would be able to outspend the Liberal National Party, the Greens, One Nation and Katter's Australian Party, as the case may be. This is because the Liberal National Party, the Greens, One Nation and Katter's Australian Party, as the case may be, do not get third-party endorsements so would be left with a combined \$150,000 cap. The Labor candidate could realistically expect at least a couple of unions with formal affiliation to the Australian Labor Party to spend to their \$87,000 cap, meaning that the Labor cap would, for practical purposes, be a multiple of the Liberal National Party, the Greens, One Nation and Katter's Australian Party caps.

Consequently, rather than creating a level playing field for political discourse in Queensland politics and electing members to its parliament, the practical effect of part 11, division 9 is to assist the Australian Labor Party presently holding power in the Queensland parliament to resist or suppress opposition and attempts to displace it from holding government.

Serious questions will continue to be raised about the justification for the quantum of the caps and the relativities between the various caps proposed by the government. If the High Court decisions over the last few years in McCloy, Unions NSW and Spence teach this legislature anything, it is that the High Court will weigh up whether these questions have been addressed fairly and are justifiable in all the circumstances.

In this regard, I think it appropriate for the Attorney to consider a couple of questions. I appreciate that she gave some guidance before. The question has to be asked: did the government undertake any evidentiary analysis to determine their caps? As I foreshadowed, New South Wales unions made some comments in this regard. Although evidence is not necessarily required to prove the basis of government legislation, it was observed that, where there is a legislative burden on an implied freedom, there is some basis for that legislation. Secondly, what analysis has the government undertaken as to what in fact is necessary to enable third-party campaigns to communicate their messages to the community?

When considering these questions there are the political aspects, which I will be returning to shortly, but there are these deeper questions, these philosophical questions, that continue to need to be asked—that need to be considered ultimately by courts and by parliaments. My fear, again, is that this Labor government has plucked some figures out of the air and thought only of the relativities amongst other jurisdictions without deeper consideration of what is required. What is the evidentiary analysis that has been undertaken to justify the caps in this regard?

I would like to return briefly to the bill particularly with regard to signage. The bill imposes restrictions on signage and bunting. I know that the Attorney-General is quite pleased about the disappearance of bunting into the future. What has surprised me is the signage changes to the bill, because they are significantly different. We have gone from registered political parties having two signs at a polling booth to now registered political parties being able to have six but third parties being able to have four. Again, we will see a plethora of unions coming into each and every polling booth. Protesters and third parties such as GetUp!—everybody—will be coming along and putting up their signage completely in contravention of everything that the Attorney-General and the government had previously said on signage.

Mr Krause: So what's changed?

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. What has changed? My guess is that the unions have reached out to the Attorney-General and said, 'I think you have to change that position, Attorney.' What is not clear is what analysis and what consultation has been undertaken.

The Attorney-General has also decoupled the need for people to be present with any signage at a polling booth. Initially the idea was that people could not just drop off their corflutes or their A-frames and walk away, but now that has been changed. We will now have people dropping off corflutes and A-frames—up to four if you are a third party—and then just wandering off. There is no need for any person to be near that signage.

Again I ask why? What has dawned on the Attorney-General? What political advantage does the Labor Party now have by making this change? I would be very intrigued to hear what the Attorney-General has to say as to what has changed over the last couple of months.

I want to turn to the issue of why these laws have been brought in in the first place. The Attorney-General will talk endlessly about money and politics, the need to get big money out of politics and all of these high-minded ideals. It is appropriate that caps always be considered; we accept that. However, what has happened is that this is not necessarily about big money from third parties. This is about the Australian Labor Party's donations falling off a cliff.

When you take out trade union donations, as we saw before the federal election the Australian Labor Party was running out of donations. What do they have to do to get things back together? They need the taxpayer to pay for their political campaigns. Ultimately, that is what this bill is about. When they talk about the public funding of campaigns, that is what the Labor Party government is talking about. When they talk about the plumber from Pumicestone paying for a roadsider in Mansfield or the hardworking nurse, a taxpayer of Queensland, paying for a phone canvasser in South Brisbane, this is the kind of behaviour Queensland taxpayers are deeply sceptical about.

I am always intrigued by when bills are introduced into the House. In 2011 when the Bligh government was struggling and funding was drying up again for the Australian Labor Party they introduced a very similar bill. This bill had caps, and what it achieved was to top up the Australian Labor Party's coffers. I think it has been 20 years since the Shepherdson inquiry, and I think there was nothing prosecuted beyond the Shepherdson inquiry because it ran out of time. We saw the attorney-general at the time, Paul Lucas—

Mr Nicholls: Mike Kaiser?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. Mike Kaiser as well, yes. In 2011 we saw internal decay in the Labor Party. They were going broke in 2011. They had sent Queensland broke already and then they wanted the taxpayer to pay, so they changed the law then. Once you take union money out you will see an Australian Labor Party that is struggling. The way they filled the gap was by drawing on public funding, and that is what we see here again with this bill.

I would also note that I believe the Attorney-General's by-election was the last under the caps introduced by the attorney-general of the day, Paul Lucas. It is timely to recall that particular by-election in 2014, because what happened? The evidence is that the Australian Labor Party and the LNP spent about the same, but ultimately in that campaign the candidate there was outspent seven to one under the laws introduced by the former attorney-general, Paul Lucas, in 2014. The Attorney-General really has firsthand knowledge of how these laws operate in favour of the Labor Party and their affiliated unions, and they know it.

Mr Krause: That's the start they needed.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. That is the start they need when it comes time for the campaign.

I now want to turn briefly to a couple of comments the Attorney-General made this morning. I do think that when the Attorney-General's days in politics are over there is a career in stand-up comedy waiting for her, and it is appropriate that the member for Currumbin is here. If I heard correctly, this morning in her ministerial statement the Attorney-General said that the 28 March election was a great success. I do not think that is in any way, shape or form how Queenslanders viewed the local government elections on 28 March and the two by-elections because it was an absolute shambles.

The concern I have is that we are completely rewriting the Electoral Act right now and we are expecting the ECQ to go and get ready for it. I noticed in the explanatory notes to the amendments last night that the Attorney-General was talking about resourcing to ECQ because they are going to need a lot of resourcing to get ready for the election, no matter COVID-19 or otherwise. The Attorney-General said that resourcing for ECQ would be conducted in the normal budgetary process. There is only one problem: there is no budget this year. I am not exactly sure how the Attorney-General is planning on resourcing the ECQ for the preparations ahead in a COVID environment when there is no budget on the horizon, so I look forward to the Attorney-General explaining that for us.

One of the other legacies that we have to address here is the performance of the ECQ over two local government elections in 2016 and 2020. In 2016 their performance was that bad that the Premier said she would conduct a report and report back to the cabinet. That was the Soorley report, which gave us 74 recommendations. Most of those, funnily enough, were IT related. They talked about a lack of dry runs and a lack of preparation for the software that was utilised in the 2016 local government elections. Would you believe it, Mr Speaker, but in 2020 at the member for Currumbin's by-election and at the local government elections across Queensland it happened again. I know that the Attorney-General met with the ECQ on 12 of the last 13 days before the local government election and the by-elections on 28 March, so the question has to be asked: what were they talking about?

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I accept there was COVID-19 and it was very difficult. I get all of that, but did the ECQ give the Attorney-General assurances that the IT and technology were ready to go? After the local government elections and the by-elections on 28 March we again saw the Premier standing up and saying, if I recall, that they had one job and they did not do it. She said, 'I will be ordering a review of that as to why it happened', so again there are more reviews essentially reviewing the same problems.

Mr Krause: Where's the accountability?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection again. Where is the accountability? There were two election failures in a row.

Ms Simpson: The coronavirus was in Wuhan.

Mr JANETZKI: COVID-19 or otherwise. There were failures in the IT systems in back-to-back elections, and the Attorney-General has to explain what has gone on, because a lot of IT recommendations from the Soorley review were never implemented. A couple of them were implemented. There was talk of postal voting, however most of the IT upgrades—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I believe that the member has strayed significantly from the bill now.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I think you are coming very close, member for Toowoomba South, and I ask you to return to the bill with your remaining two minutes and 39 seconds.

Mr JANETZKI: If the Attorney-General thought that the local government election on 28 March and the by-elections on that day were a great success, then I have no confidence whatsoever that the state election on 31 October 2020 will be any better. The Attorney-General must talk to the ECQ, get in front of the ECQ, and make sure we are ready to go, because it is not even what the LNP would say. I note that the LNP did present to the committee that was considering these matters. I note that the member for Currumbin and the member for Southern Downs were there. I want to quickly go to the public committee hearing where Antony Green addressed the performance of the ECQ that evening.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are speaking to the bill, not the parliamentary committee report into the IT of the local government election.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am happy for the member to proceed.

Mr JANETZKI: Antony Green spoke to the performance of the ECQ, which the Attorney-General is the responsible minister for. Antony Green said—

The failure to deliver that on the night created even more confusion than what was going on because of the lack of scrutineering. Again, Antony Green said—


I gather that the results and reporting was the biggest failure of their new system.

In response to a question from the member for Southern Downs, what did Antony Green say? He said—

I would have to be thinking back 25 years to find the last time I did not get results on a regular basis on the night.

What is clear is that Queenslanders deserve to have confidence in their electoral system. The performance of ECQ must lift for the state government election in October. Our democracy depends on it. My hope is that they do not have to spend the next 3½ months wading through this entirely new bill. I hope that the Attorney-General gives better consultation to the ECQ than what she did to this side of the House, with 229 amendments over 100 pages. My hope is that the Queensland people have a fair fight between every political party in this state and that these laws, which this government have introduced to simply advantage themselves, do not prevent that. The thing that Queenslanders need more than anything else is confidence in their electoral system.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next speaker, I wish to advise the House that the member for Toowoomba South's contribution was running extremely close to not being relevant. Some latitude was given due to him being the shadow spokesperson. I will be paying very close attention to relevance because his contribution was bordering on being irrelevant at times. If members are not relevant to the bill, the practice has been to sit members down.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. I would like to start by thanking the Economic and Governance Committee for its consideration of the bill. While there is so much I would like to address in terms of the broader elements of this bill, and stay relevant to the bill, I will focus on the elements of the bill which affect my portfolio responsibilities, limiting my comments to chapter 5 of the bill. This includes the amendments relating to dishonest conduct of councillors and other local government matters.

This bill further progresses the Palaszczuk government's rolling reform agenda. This is the third tranche of legislation debated by the parliament in this term to address issues of integrity in local government. As I have said many times, the vast majority of our councillors are dedicated and honest individuals who deliver excellent services to their local communities. Our reform program has targeted conduct which does not meet these high standards.

As with all the changes progressed under the local government rolling reform agenda, they are guided by the four key principles of integrity, transparency, diversity and consistency with local government and state frameworks. While the Economics and Governance Committee made no recommendations in relation to chapter 5, I inform the House that the government will move amendments during consideration in detail to address certain issues, including some raised by stakeholders. I will address these as I outline key elements of chapter 5.

In relation to the local government system and decision-making, the bill amends the City of Brisbane Act and the Local Government Act to introduce new offences that apply if a councillor dishonestly contravenes certain obligations in relation to conflicts of interest or registers of interests. These offences align with the new offences in the bill applying to ministers, maintaining consistency with the state governance framework. As this government has previously made clear, where we can align requirements for state and local governments we will. A maximum penalty of 200 penalty units or two years imprisonment will apply, and the offences will be prescribed as 'serious integrity offences'. A councillor is automatically suspended if charged with a serious integrity offence. On conviction, a person automatically stops being a councillor and will be disqualified for seven years. Failure to comply with the relevant integrity provisions will also amount to misconduct.

The committee canvassed a range of stakeholder views about these provisions, including issues raised by the CCC and the Office of the Independent Assessor. The committee noted that local government representatives, in contrast, generally expressed support for the bill's approach of including a requirement for dishonest intent. I note the LGAQ's statement in their supplementary submission to the committee in January this year which says—

The LGAQ strongly supports the Government's position in this Bill as currently drafted and believes it strikes an appropriate balance between deterring and punishing serious and intentional wrongdoing while providing for an individual's right to natural justice such that they are enabled to function confidently and fulfill duties of an elected member, operating to the best of their knowledge and ability, with genuine intent to comply with the law.

In a media release on 21 January this year, the LGAQ further expanded on these comments, with CEO Greg Hallam saying—

... councils supported the introduction of the new offences to help ensure accountability and transparency.

...

... including the element of intent was critical as it would ensure innocent mistakes, errors of judgement or administrative oversights were not criminalised as a result of the reforms.

Elected representatives are entitled to natural justice and a presumption of innocence.

Removing the element of intent would see them essentially considered guilty until proven innocent.

We cannot have a situation where councillors are hauled before the courts for an administrative oversight, when there was no intention to act dishonestly in order to benefit themselves or others.

Subsequently, the committee made no recommendations for changes to these provisions. The bill also clarifies and strengthens how councillors' conflicts of interest are to be managed. These provisions establish new concepts of a 'prescribed conflict of interest' and a 'declarable conflict of

interest' and outline the steps to be followed for each. The new conflict of interest regime provides greater clarity to councillors elected at March's quadrennial council elections in relation to how conflicts of interest are dealt with.

I note the submissions from the Cairns, Fraser Coast, Isaac and Whitsunday regional councils and the Logan City Council, which support these clarifying and reasonable provisions. I have had numerous conversations with mayors across Queensland in support of these amendments and most recently with the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. The current regime has been found wanting, and through this legislation the Palaszczuk government is addressing the concerns we have received from those actually affected by the law, so I am glad councils will see the benefits of the new system.

The proposed new register of interests requirements and associated dishonesty offence will also apply to councillor advisers. The bill enables councillors of the Brisbane City Council and other local governments prescribed by regulation to appoint councillor advisers to assist in performing their responsibilities. It also requires me to make a councillor adviser code of conduct.

The committee noted that responses from stakeholders in respect of councillor advisers were mixed. Following stakeholder feedback, the government will move amendments to provide for the Local Government Remuneration Commission to make future recommendations to the minister about the local governments to be prescribed for the purpose of allowing the appointment of councillor advisers and the number of councillor advisers prescribed for each councillor.

The bill amends the process for filling a vacancy in the office of a mayor or councillor. As a result of stakeholder feedback, the government will move amendments to further streamline the process by providing for the same process to apply to all vacancies, both mayoral and councillor, in divided and undivided local governments other than the Brisbane City Council. The bill also limits the involvement of Brisbane City Council councillors in the appointment of council employees. Submitters largely supported these changes and also expressed support for the amendments in the bill concerning local government elections.

I remind the House that on 24 January 2020 the CCC tabled its report *Operation Yabber: an investigation into allegations relating to the Gold Coast City Council*. The Yabber report made two recommendations to ensure stricter governance and accountability in local government. I am pleased to electronically table the government's response which supports recommendation 1 and provides in-principle support for recommendation 2.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission Report—Operation Yabber: An investigation into allegations relating to the Gold Coast City Council, government response [\[917\]](#).

Section 170 of the Local Government Act provides that a mayor may give a direction to the CEO but that the direction must not be inconsistent with a resolution, or a document adopted by resolution, of the local government. Recommendation 1 of the Yabber report is that the department reviews the operation of section 170 and progresses amendments to ensure that section 170 directions cannot be used to undermine efforts of CEOs to carry out their responsibilities and ensure that sound governance policies and procedures are observed and that the employees of their local government authority behave ethically and in the best interests of the authority. To implement the government's response to recommendation 1, it is proposed to amend section 170 of the Local Government Act and section 170 of the City of Brisbane Act during consideration in detail of the bill.


Recommendation 2 of the Yabber report was for legislative amendments to impose further requirements relating to the guidelines about the provision of administrative support to councillors by local government employees and the code of conduct for councillor advisers. The government considers that recommendation 2 can be addressed through the proposed councillor adviser code of conduct and amendments to the code of conduct for councillors.

To provide additional protections to the members of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal, amendments to the bill will provide the same protections and immunity to tribunal members as those applying to Supreme Court judges and members of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Finally, the government will move amendments to provide for commencement of more significant reforms, including conflicts of interest and register of interest reforms and councillor advisors on 12 October 2020. The remaining provisions will commence on assent. A comprehensive implementation plan to support the passage of the bill has been developed, including a training package to be delivered to mayors, councillors and council staff prior to these new laws commencing, and a range of fact sheets and guidelines will also be available on the department website.

With this bill the Palaszczuk government continues our commitment to rebuilding community trust and confidence in the local government sector. Residents, ratepayers and businesses across the state look to their community leaders in times of crisis and in times of recovery. I want to reassure all

Queenslanders that the further reforms that we are progressing today will ensure they can have faith in their newly elected officials to focus on local people, local issues and the future wellbeing of their communities.

In relation to the further provisions outside of chapter 5 of the legislation, I think this is an historic step forward for democratic reform in this state. I reject the assertions that have been made by the shadow Attorney-General that this is somehow an attack on Queensland democracy. It is a further enhancement and development of Queensland democracy to have a reasonable and sensible process that manages and ensures that all actors and all citizens have a fair right to be heard and to speak. The regime established under the legislation for state elections does that. The regime established under this bill provides for a further enhancement of the modernising of Queensland and the modernising of Queensland politics. I commend the bill very strongly to the House. I absolutely reject the suggestion that this is an attack on Queensland democracy; it is an enhancement.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.52 pm): Guess what? Four months out from the Queensland state election we have legislation before the House that is basically poll driven for the Labor government to enhance their possibility of winning the next election. It is very disappointing that this legislation encompassed a notification at 9.09 last night, when some members were in bed getting their beauty sleep, of 229 amendments to the legislation. The committee of which I am a member, along with the member for Logan, spent a lot of time examining the bill when it was referred to it in late 2019. We said, 'We have to get this done urgently before the local government elections.' Fortunately, sanity prevailed and we took further interest and further direction, and now here we are today four months out from an election.

The bill amends legislation regarding local governments and the state government changes to the election. Mr MacSporran from the CCC was obviously the genesis of much of this legislation. I would advise that as part of the all-powerful Ethics Committee I will be very tempered in the comments I make on some of the matters that are in this particular bill that have been brought down upon members because of other behaviours that the CCC noted at that time. I will touch on that personally as that committee is involved, as you are aware, Mr Speaker, in other matters. Because of that, I will not pursue a matter that I would have really liked to have pursued in speaking to this particular legislation.

As I said, this piece of government legislation is very much about increasing the power of the union backed Labor candidates at the upcoming election in October. With somewhere in the vicinity of \$87,000 per trade union as a third party and with 26 unions, there is the capacity to throw forward a million dollars at the state election while limiting the business community, which normally supports the LNP, in their capacity to donate. Of course, the business community is all about jobs for Queensland whereas Labor government members are about jobs—care of the poll in October—for themselves. Unfortunately, they do not care about the mining industry, with New Hope and Adani being prime examples. The tourism industry on the Gold Coast is suffering because of the current border closure, but they really only care about polling. The only job they care about is their own. Unfortunately, this legislation is designed quite clearly to enhance their prospects and decrease the LNP's prospects at the upcoming election.

I talk again from experience. The great former Labor president Barry Jones conducted a complete review of public funding for the federal government. Afterwards he said that one of his greatest regrets was that all he did was lift the base and further moneys were added on top from the public. As honourable members will see in this bill, there is an increase from around \$3 per vote to \$6 per vote coming out of the public purse, from the taxpayers of Queensland, for the election of particular members and political parties. That is fine, but if we were to go and ask people in the street whether they want to see more taxpayers' money going towards getting candidates elected, they would quite clearly tell us what the answer is: no. It would be loud and clear: no. They would see that as politicians looking after themselves thanks to taxpayers' money coming into the election.

Apart from those sorts of issues, as I said in relation to the changes brought about for this upcoming election, including such things as the reduction in the amount of bunting and signage at elections, they are all matters that are in the interests of the party that sits on that side of the House—for the moment—in order to enhance its electoral prospects.

I return to the local government component, which is something I am very familiar with—did I ever tell you I was mayor of the Gold Coast? The Gold Coast was the subject—and we see some recommendations regarding this—of Operation Yabber. For those members who are not informed, Yabba was a loudmouthed heckler on the hill of the Sydney Cricket Ground. That is exactly what we have here: the hecklers of the Gold Coast city council. This is the third inquiry by the CCC into the Gold

Coast city council and they have come up with nothing—no corruption. It is not like Ipswich or other areas. They just love going down to the Gold Coast, presumably because of its so-called reputation as a wonderful place to do business.

Mr Power: It might have been the previous mayor!

Mr STEVENS: That was Ron Clarke. Do not be rude to Ron. That is elder abuse in elder abuse awareness week. Mr Speaker, control the member for Logan.

Mr SPEAKER: You have the call.


Mr STEVENS: They have conducted three investigations costing millions of taxpayers' dollars. They have gone on three 'let's go fishing' trips down at the Gold Coast city council and have found nothing on every journey. As the Minister for Local Government alluded to, what they did find were some staffing matters. That is all that came out of this 'corruption' matter. As the minister referred to, it was a staffing matter between a council adviser and the CEO. From day one there were many ructions down there. I am very familiar with that part of it.

There were councillors put under threat by the actions of the CCC and were publicly pointed at as having been involved in corruption when there was no corruption found. After an extensive multimillion dollar—I do not know the final cost, as we know Mr MacSporran keeps his \$65 million expenditure to himself. The fact of the matter is that there have been three fishing trips on the Gold Coast and it needs to stop. There has been no corruption down there. It has been a very well organised council. My years there were a long time ago. I applaud the people involved now, particularly the CEO, who has kept a close eye on matters in relation to council officers et cetera. The Gold Coast is absolutely clear.

The committee received a number of recommendations. In fact, Mr MacSporran appeared before our committee and basically said that he believes there should be a different rule for council advisers as there is for advisers to ministerial staff in that they should not necessarily be under the CEO direction because they have a different job to do in terms of looking after mayors and councillors. As the mayor said, it is not a corruption issue; it is a staffing issue. As Queensland taxpayers, we have paid millions of dollars for another investigation and it has been a waste of time.

I refer to the part of the bill relating to the state government and to the Greens complaining about donations. When they get a million dollar donation from one particular person it is okay, but everyone else is corrupt! I cannot believe that it is not right and proper for the business community to support a party that delivers on its philosophies in terms of no direct involvement. Mr MacSporran said that we needed an inquiry to find out the relevance in relation to a state. We support the local government recommendations of Mr MacSporran, but he said that he did not support the bill's proposal to limit prosecutions for noncompliance with disclosure of obligations such that only matters of dishonest intention need to be proved. We have not agreed with Mr MacSporran, but this legislation will be passed here today for their betterment.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.02 pm): This bill was one that we reviewed recently, but it feels like an age ago. So much has since changed in terms of the way that the COVID-19 disease has affected everything in politics, business and, indeed, elections. We note the success of the local government elections in terms of health. We noted that we were able to put arrangements in place in short time frames to be able to keep our citizens healthy. During a worldwide pandemic it is really critical that, in the face of these harsh global conditions, we continue to deliver for Queensland. First, we must continue to work together in this place to deliver the Palaszczuk government's unite and recover plan to create jobs through investment and through keeping Queensland safe to restore the work of Queenslanders. We must build on that success in hampering the spread of COVID-19 and be focused on the future, uniting to recover COVID-safe jobs. The Economics and Governance Committee, of which I am the chair along with the fine member for Mermaid Beach, will continue to play its part through not only the economic inquiry we are conducting but also listening to Queenslanders on issues that matter to them.

In this way, we continue to report on legislation including the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill and the Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is aimed at—and has the wide support of—strengthening our electoral and accountability systems. For us on this side—and I think for many perhaps even on the other side—these are not optional things to be ignored or dispensed with during a pandemic but an essential part of strengthening the bond that we have with the Queensland

government and people. We say during our health response that in the plan to unite and recover we need a trust in the advice and direction from the Queensland people. In other countries we have seen cynicism, disunity and distrust. This has come at a cost to other countries. In this way, this is an economic bill, creating a high-trust, accountable society where there is a connection between the Queensland government and its people. I saw the heartbreaking story of the UK expert group's advice to cut down, because initially they felt the UK people would not believe them. We have had the opposite—a high, mutual trust that we shared in terms of the medical advice of the Chief Health Officer.

Queenslanders trusted, cared and worked together. It is a triumph of the Queensland people who worked together to keep our most vulnerable safe. It is in this way that this accountability and electoral bill is a health bill and an economic bill. It is a down payment on the investment on building on the mutual Queensland trust. We can truly unite and strongly recover over the coming months.

As members of the Economics and Governance Committee, we know that good governance and fair elections underpin the essential economic success and recovery of our state. We held an inquiry process when the bill was referred to us on 28 November 2019. We submitted the report on 7 February. As I said, the world has certainly changed a lot since 7 February. We invited written submissions, identified stakeholders and, during that period, received over 68 submissions. I am disappointed that the shadow minister, the member for Toowoomba South, felt that there was not participation, because there was very strong participation from a variety of sources who provided very great feedback. I will speak about that further, because I want to note that the strength of this bill is reflected in some of the amendments that the Attorney-General has put forward in responding to some of that information that was put forward in the 68 submissions and also in the hearings we held.

It is really important that we have a level playing field for electoral campaigning to ensure that the person who puts forward their name has a reasonable chance and is not drowned out by a flood of dollars. This is what we are attempting to do with the bill. We know of a variety of changes, such as the changes to the funding of state elections so that we continue to have greater public funding and take away the need from people who should be pursuing better policies or ideas to try and fight in a funding war that does not benefit Queenslanders. In that way, the bill introduces caps on political donations, requires elected participants to maintain dedicated accounts, increases the public election funding of eligible parties and candidates—though the amendments address some of those issues because of COVID-19—and, especially, increases and expands policy development which has great benefit for Queenslanders.

We changed amendments relating to signage at elections. The people at the Logan tip will be grateful that I am not arriving with my Holden Crewman trailer filled with plastic bunting and other paraphernalia from various volunteers. Again, we have a clear number of signs that will make it clear who is running for elections but will not have the waste that sometimes we see, something definitely for the benefit of Queenslanders. I also note some feedback in those terms where people felt the need for a balance and that other voices needed to be heard. We noted all of that. We were not clear about the recommendations we made in the committee, but I note that the 68 amendments—which seem to be too much for the member for Toowoomba South to get his head around—addressed the information and the feedback we received from members of the public. That is an asset that should be commended.

An honourable member: Is that the consultation that didn't happen?

Mr POWER: That was our job as a committee. I note that all members of the committee were passionate about that. We also note the sections in relation to the dishonest conduct of ministers on which there was extensive debate. I really thank some opposing members of the committee who cut to the nub of some of the difficulties presented. I note that the Attorney-General said that this addresses the initial suggestions put forward.

The committee had a particular bill from the government to address. We heard all of the information and we did not have an alternative that we felt that we could support, but as a committee we supported the section as drafted by the Attorney-General. If there is at some future time alternatives, we will consider them, as we should do, because it is an important change and one that needs to be considered in legislation. I also note the extensive contribution from the local government minister about amendments relating to dishonest conduct of councillors and other matters. Turning to the amendments, as I said, the amendments are clearly aimed at addressing feedback from the community. I know that it is implied that the LNP will never listen to the community through the committee process. It is implying that taking suggestions and incorporating them is not what it is about at all—that is, it knows it all before it starts and it will not be interested in the committee process. That kind of arrogance is something that I think people should reflect on.

The first issue was signage on site reflecting on people. The second one was about delaying policy development payments in response to COVID—something that I think we all here agree with. The other issue is about recognising third parties and the burden of their declarations. Again, the government is listening to the committee in that it is responding to a recommendation that we made as a committee. The suggestion from the shadow minister is even when the committee makes a recommendation that that be ignored. That is not what this Attorney-General is about. This Attorney-General is about listening to the community and incorporating that.

I note that the member for Mermaid Beach, who is on the committee, agrees vociferously that the Attorney-General has listened really passionately. There were the signage issues, again responding to us, and then further amendments relating to COVID-19 and the safe conduct of elections which very much kept people safe. The last issue is the addition of amendments to do with Operation Yabber, and it is important that we do listen to our peak anticorruption body and respond to it. The member for Mermaid Beach said that Yabba was someone who yelled on the hill and the clear implication seems to be that when someone yells at us on the hill they are to be completely ignored, and that is what the LNP will be about—never taking discordant voices and different voices into our processes.

(Time expired)



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. From the outset I note my support for the Liberal National Party's position to oppose the bill as a whole but to voice our support for the local government integrity changes. As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I thank my colleagues who sit on that committee with me—even the member for Logan and of course the member for Mermaid Beach who, as we all know, was the first, last, only and therefore best mayor of Albert. I also note the committee members who have been promoted but the rest of us still remain and I thank the hardworking secretariat staff as well.

We released our report on this legislation in February. Although that seems a little redundant now with the staggering number of amendments we have before us, we essentially have an entirely new piece of legislation, so it is a great shame it was not released sooner and our committee could have given it some consideration. The Attorney-General only just provided her response to our committee at the beginning of her contribution to this debate. It does make me question when the Attorney-General and local government minister came up with these changes and why we could not have seen them sooner than the night before the bill came back before the House.

The committee made only two recommendations—that the bill be passed and that the amendments be considered to address the concerns of many smaller not-for-profit third-party organisations. These related to the regulatory burden of the donation and expenditure cap system that the bill introduces. The suggestion was that the threshold for third-party registration be increased so that these groups would not be caught up by the new laws. From memory, the example we heard several times in the public hearings was the Beenleigh Presbyterian church or some hypothetical church in Beenleigh that was running a forum for prospective candidates and could potentially be captured by these laws. I believe those concerns have been addressed by increasing the threshold from \$1,000 to \$6,000—that is, clause 31 relating to new part 11 in division 9.

There is also the clarification of the definition of 'electoral expenditure' in clause 9 with the insertion of new section 199. This now includes the meaning of 'campaign purpose' which is to promote or oppose a political party in relation to an election or promote or oppose the election of a candidate or otherwise influence voting at an election. It clarifies that expenditure is incurred for one of these purposes if material is produced to expressly promote or oppose political parties that advocate or do not advocate a particular policy or issue, political parties or candidates that have or do not have a particular position on a policy or issue or candidates who express a particular opinion, as well as expressly or impliedly comment about a political party, elected member or candidate in the election or in relation to an electoral district expresses a particular position on a policy, issue or opinion if the position is publicly associated with a political party or candidate and whether or not in expressing the position the party or candidate is mentioned. The amendments also allow for regulations to reduce the record-keeping requirements for third parties and to remove the need for third-party expenditure returns to be audited. That was one of the large concerns from these organisations that we heard from in the public hearings.

The opposition members of the committee put in a statement of reservation regarding the imbalance that caps on donations and electoral expenditure will have on political parties that have strong ties with trade unions. These laws give those parties, particularly Labor, a completely unfair

advantage. We felt that these changes were undemocratic, with the 26 cashed-up trade unions in this state still theoretically being able to spend up to \$87,000 in an individual electorate and \$1 million each overall. I reiterate that it was a shame to see that our committee was sidelined with these substantial changes to the bill. I do not understand why we could not have seen these amendments months ago and properly scrutinised them.

The big changes that this legislation seeks to enact relate to the dishonest conduct of ministers. These come from the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations made in September last year after assessing the former deputy premier's property purchase in the vicinity of the Cross River Rail project she had responsibility for. The CCC wanted to see a new criminal offence for occasions when a member of cabinet does not declare a conflict that does or may conflict with their ability to discharge their responsibilities and for a criminal offence when a member of cabinet fails to comply with the requirements of the Register of Members' Interests. I think we got this legislation originally within a couple of months of those recommendations. In the CCC's submission and in our public hearing we heard it say that it did not believe that proposed new section 48 implemented its recommendation, even going so far as to say that the new laws created lesser offences than what was currently provided.

I note that with regard to the amendments to signage at polling booths the bill we looked at was only going to allow two A-frames per candidate running in that electorate at each booth. Third parties were not going to be allowed to display signage but they now will be. These are quite significant changes for signage compared to what was proposed originally. Now there will be up to six signs allowed for candidates or parties, with up to four of those being large signs of around 1.8 metres by 1.2 metres, and third parties can have up to four signs, of which two can be that larger size. I believe that change was suggested by the Queensland Council of Unions at our committee hearings. It expressed an opinion that it may be unconstitutional to prevent third parties from displaying signage at polling booths, although I think the department did not agree with that. Again, by including third parties like this, it unfairly advantages the Labor Party and the unions.

I will finish my contribution by talking about the local government integrity changes. There are some fantastic local councillors in my part of the Gold Coast. I want to place on record my congratulations to Councillor Cameron Caldwell on being elected for a third time; Councillor Ryan Bayldon-Lumsden for putting in a huge effort and a significant amount of his own money to record a strong win in division 7; and Councillor Brooke Patterson for a hard fought campaign in division 6, where her presence on the ground and her focus on the issues that people cared about allowed her to take over from the long-serving Councillor Dawn Crichlow. Dawn of course represented our community with tenacity and passion for almost 30 years.


Council and state issues have a lot of overlap and in no greater way than the fact that this House passes legislation which establishes and regulates how councillors are able to deliver for their community, to perform the important roles that they have and, in the case of this legislation, how they conduct themselves. For once today I might actually be talking about councillor related issues with sufficient justification for those representatives. They often get annoyed when I raise some of those local issues, but this bill will introduce new dishonest conduct of councillor offences into the Local Government Act. These will apply if the councillor fails to comply with particular conflict of interest and register of interest requirements or provides false or misleading information with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit for the councillor or someone else or to dishonestly cause a detriment to somebody else. The penalties for this will be substantial: a 200 penalty unit, or \$26,690 fine, or two years imprisonment as well as having this classed as a serious integrity offence which would mean they are immediately suspended from office.

In terms of the bill before us, I note the amendments that deal with councillors' personal interests in council matters. Those are Nos 165 to 180 relating to clause 81. We had significant stakeholder feedback on these and concerns about those changes. I think the changes to formalise councillor advisers will also help because this is often a grey area. I note the amendments which clarify these roles further.

There are serious issues within local government and they do need to be resolved, but I think we need to exercise caution with whatever we do. I share the concerns put forward in the submission from our very own Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, who believes that penalising councillors for honest mistakes, particularly with threats of jail terms, will mean that people will run a mile from wanting to be a councillor. Local government is the most grounded form of community representation in this nation. It is so much more than just roads, rates and rubbish. While we need those representatives to conduct

themselves with the highest possible standards, we do not want to discourage good community people from putting their hand up to represent their areas. That applies across Queensland from large councils such as the Gold Coast to some of the smaller more regional councils in our state.

Although these laws have been brought before us under the guise of enhancing integrity and restoring faith in our system, what they actually do is undermine our democracy here in Queensland. There are some sections and reforms that I agree with, but overall they do not get the balance right for the non-Labor parties. Every member in this House would realise that politics has a perception issue, perhaps worse than it has ever been. We do need changes to give people faith that we are here to serve them and not any other interests, but these changes do not achieve that. They give the government an unfair advantage for the October election and they should be rejected by this House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. This bill contains significant changes to the financing of electoral campaigning, signage and integrity and accountability reforms in Queensland. This bill came before our Economics and Governance Committee. We received over 70 submissions. There was a rigorous public hearing where we heard from over 23 different stakeholder organisations on the day. We heard from representatives from the Centre for Public Integrity, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the chairperson of the CCC, the Integrity Commissioner and ECQ. I found it really interesting to hear from Ms O'Shea who was the interim administrator at Logan City Council. There were some very diverse voices and views across that day.

The committee recommended the bill and made a second recommendation to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to consider amending the bill to address the concerns that were raised in relation to the regulatory burden on small not-for-profit third-party organisations. This suggestion has been addressed in the amendments proposed for consideration in detail. It is important to remember that the purpose of our committee work is to interrogate the legislation and to make recommendations for its improvement. That is exactly what we did. We consulted, we listened and we have improved the bill and that is what we see before us today here in the House.

With regard to integrity and accountability, our government is absolutely committed to ensuring integrity at both state and local government level here in Queensland. We saw the recommendations that came out of the Belcarra report. In the entire term of the Palaszczuk government we have been committed to taking on board the recommendations that have come out of Belcarra and a range of other reports. We have seen the great work that is being done. In estimates last year we heard from the Integrity Commissioner and the chairperson of the CCC about the great work that they are doing in terms of improving where we sit today. We are absolutely continuing to build on the good work of the CCC. Our government, with the CCC, the Integrity Commissioner and the Office of the Independent Assessor, continues to improve integrity and public accountability to further build on what is really important and which the member for Bonney touched on. Politicians have a pretty low point of reference in some parts of our community. We have to continue to build confidence and faith in our elected representatives and the processes that we have.

The bill improves legislation to ensure conflicts of interest are declared and to reduce the risks of corruption. The bill contains two new offences applicable to cabinet ministers who behave dishonestly and with an intention to obtain a benefit for themselves or others or cause a detriment to others. These new offences will apply to ministers, reflecting their decision-making nature in cabinet and the higher obligations on them to uphold standards of integrity and to ensure that there is public confidence in government.

The bill amends the Integrity Act 2009 to create a criminal offence for a minister who, with intent to dishonestly gain a benefit for themselves or another person or cause detriment to another person, fails to disclose an interest. The bill also amends the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. The proposed new offences in the Integrity Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act seek to catch a deliberate and intentional dishonesty by ministers.

Integrity and accountability in our electoral process and our elected representatives is critical. When I was first elected I held a forum in my community on integrity and accountability. It is important to have a conversation with your community and get feedback about what they should expect from their elected representatives and to work hand in glove in partnership with them so that they have faith and belief in their elected representatives and in the system that creates the amazing democracy that we live in.

I am pleased that this bill also amends the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 and seeks to bring them into alignment. These amendments seek to improve transparency and integrity and provide consistency in the local


government system and local government elections. They also build on reforms that have already been implemented. These provisions will provide greater clarity to councillors—one only needs to look at my patch and see some of the issues that we have had out there—helping them to understand what a conflict of interest is and what must then occur once such a conflict is identified.

The bill proposes amendments to address concerns about the number of local governments losing quorum on key issues where a majority of councillors declare an interest. When the elected voices of a community are not in the room making a decision there are more detrimental outcomes. Queenslanders must have confidence in both our system and its representatives—it is a key feature of our democracy—and this bill builds on that.

In terms of the electoral expenditure caps, it is levelling the playing field. It is making it fair. It is making sure that we do not platform one particular voice over another. This is an important part of this legislation that makes sure that everybody who puts their hand up to run for government is doing it on a level playing field. In one of the contributions of those opposite I heard mention of unions and third parties. I am happy to talk about Cherish Life, which ran a campaign in the Redlands in the last election. Their dodgy how-to-vote cards that were make-believe were sitting under the LNP tent. In the LNP tent were the signs and the how-to-vote cards. Do those opposite want to talk about third-party campaigns? Golly gosh! Honestly!

In terms of the signage, I think everybody will be glad to see the back end of much of that plastic rolled bunting that ends up in our landfills taking up unnecessary space. It is important that we in this chamber consider the voter experience at the polling booth. This is a step in the right direction. I know that in our community nobody likes running the gauntlet of prepoll and election day signage. The signage restrictions within chapter 3 of the bill are important and a great step forward.

Those are the key aspects of the legislation that I wish to talk about. We have to continue to ensure that Queensland has a healthy and robust democracy and that our community has trust and faith and believes in the great work that is done within this chamber by both sides of the House. This bill is about making sure Queenslanders have faith in the system and in our people. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. I acknowledge the members of my former committee, from whom we have heard. This is part of a string of bills proposed by the Labor government to reform electoral processes at state and local government levels. It is yet another proposed electoral reform bill with heaps of amendments that are blatantly driven by ideological Labor Party pursuits. Many of these amendments do not come from independent reports to government or public input. The LNP supports only the proposed local government changes that were created from independent reports and public submissions.

We support the local government changes within the bill that align with the CCC's 2017 Belcarra report. That report outlined a new framework that aimed to reduce corruption risk within our local government election processes arising from the 2016 council elections. Since the release of the Belcarra report in 2017, this government has tried to introduce a series of electoral reforms. In addition, the government has included additional amendments that are viewed by many as rigging the system in its favour—amendments that align with Labor's self-interest and preservation going into the next state election and that have little to do with corruption reduction.

Since the original Belcarra recommendations released by the CCC, another council election was held this year. We are now almost halfway through 2020 and we are still speaking about council electoral reforms that should have been enacted a long time ago. Why does it continue to take this Palaszczuk Labor government so long to enact the recommendations from a 2017 report, which is a framework that was intended to secure the confidence of voters by the next council election cycle? Unfortunately, the local government amendments in this bill are too late.

To add layers of complexity to Labor's overdue process in reducing corruption in local government elections, we are presented with myriad last-minute amendments regarding state elections in this same bill. The government continues to tell Queenslanders that it has fully adopted the CCC's recommendations, but that is far from the truth. One council election has passed since these changes to reduce corruption should have taken place. The delay is not due to the current health crisis or the economic crisis. It should have been complete over a year ago. Perhaps the government's current complacency is an indication of a tired government and an old party that has been in power for too long. It is disappointing to watch how slow the government moves most of the time, especially when we see how fast it is capable of introducing last-minute amendments, such as we have witnessed last night and today.

This bill contains last-minute proposed amendments that have not been adequately reviewed. There has been no committee process or public consultation, and they are not from direct recommendations or independent reports to government such as those contained in the Belcarra or Soorley reports. Due to their last-minute nature, these amendments are not fair or transparent. The beneficiaries of the changes are supposed to be Queenslanders, not partisan parliamentarians.

From the start, electoral changes have been plagued by unnecessary delays, resulting in a lack of enactment or implementation in time for the next local or state election cycle. A place where more time should have been afforded was within the original time frame for public consultation, which is a public process of parliament that is intended to increase fairness and transparency to create better legislation that balances the needs of all stakeholders. However, when you are trying to cram in legislation by the end of the year, you are left with a consideration period that is too short and that is disrespectful to organisations and members of the public who want to have meaningful input. Fortunately, 73 submissions were made to the bill, although many expressed that they had inadequate time to prepare due to the consultation period extending over the Christmas holidays. Due to the complexity and significance of these proposed electoral reforms, that was unfair to the public. Many stakeholders and not-for-profit organisations expressed concerns about the burden the new laws would place on them in terms of meeting the mandatory disclosure requirements. Additionally, concerns were raised about the definition of 'electoral expenditure' and communication and the effect on discouraging third parties from engaging in advocacy work.

Moving to the Trad laws, the Crime and Corruption Commission itself criticised the proposed amendments, in particular the implication of limiting prosecutions for breaches of disclosure.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock for a moment, please. Member for Ninderry, you have referred to legislation within the bill by an incorrect name. Please refer to the correct name rather than by referring to a member of the House.

Mr PURDIE: The CCC itself criticised the proposed amendments, in particular the implication of limiting prosecutions for breaches of disclosure in matters where dishonest intention is able to be proved. At a recent media conference, CCC Chairman Alan MacSporran stated that the current proposed laws duplicate and provide a lesser penalty, so it is lowering the bar rather than raising it. It is a contradiction that a bill to reduce corruption would actually water down penalties for those who breach public trust. The public has a right to question the purpose of this legislation and, at the very least, ask why this government did not move faster to ensure identified corruption risks during the 2016 council elections were addressed in time for our most recent local government election.

The public also has a right to ask why this government would create a new integrity offence that overlaps existing Criminal Code offences, such as misconduct in public office and fraud offences, with a new watered-down penalty. The implication is significant as a previous indictable offence would become a misdemeanour under some circumstances. A reduction in penalty does not take a stance on reducing corruption for public office holders; it turns a serious crime into a slap on the wrist.

This bill has not adequately addressed the key integrity issues raised by the CCC or the concerns raised by the public. It is paramount that proper transparent and accountable legislation is in place so that our electoral processes can be further strengthened and not weakened. It is also important that legislation creates adequate controls and checkpoints to ensure public office holders and candidates who are committing fraud are caught, fairly investigated and charged within well-defined laws. The penalty for fraud should meet community expectations and a misdemeanour falls short of that.

During these difficult times, we have seen how important it is for the public to trust government advice. Corruption within government puts that very important relationship at risk. It is our duty, as elected officials, to protect public trust now and into the future.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.36 pm): I rise to support the legislation before the House. Public confidence in the political integrity of the system and accountability certainly took a hit during the years of 2012 to 2015 under then premier Campbell Newman. This government has been restoring that accountability and transparency since being elected in 2015. We were responsible for the restoration of \$1,000 thresholds. We remember that it was the Newman government that raised the threshold for the reporting of political donations to \$12,400, to their absolute shame. We rectified that in the first year of our first term. We brought in real-time political donations, which was opposed by the LNP. We banned property developer donations, which was again opposed and voted against by the LNP. This bill is about taking big money out of politics.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We can see that they are provoked. When you point out their record of opposing integrity, opposing transparency and opposing accountability—which they are doing again today—they do not like it. However, they are going to get a lot more of it.

This bill is about taking the big money out of politics. It is about ensuring that those with the most money to throw around cannot speak with the loudest voice. The people's voice should not be drowned out by the loudest or the richest voices in our community. That is not democracy. Introducing donation caps and expenditure caps will remove undue influence from politics and we will see a much more level playing field, which is what our democracy is about. These measures will ensure greater integrity in our democratic system. It is only the Labor Party that brings such reforms to this parliament and gets things done. The legislation will give Queenslanders more confidence that those making the decisions for this state are motivated by the interests of the many, not the narrow agendas of the few.

These changes will also make Queensland a leader when it comes to openness and transparency in our electoral system. They will stop the arms race on electoral expenditure. They will remove the incentive for cash for access. By applying expenditure caps to candidates, political parties and third parties for an election and by significantly reducing donation caps, these changes provide a level playing field for those who want to participate in our democratic system.

The LNP have been predictably outspoken about our government's moves towards greater accountability and transparency. They have clearly learnt nothing at all, nor have they changed their tune since they increased that threshold to \$12,400 which was corrected by this government, and proudly so. This was the same LNP that fought in the courts to keep secret \$100,000 in political donations and keep it off the official register, the party that nobbled the parliamentary CCC under Campbell Newman as premier and were arguing in the courts in only September of last year, less than a year ago, that the political threshold for reporting of donations should be \$13,500. It is just extraordinary. They do not change their tune. The LNP prefer to work in the shadows, not in the sunlight. That is who the LNP are. They are consistent on that—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you will direct your comments through the chair. If you do not, you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite found themselves in furious disagreement with the recommendation of the CCC that property developer donations be banned and they voted against those reforms. The former head of their party went all the way to the High Court to challenge the CCC endorsed ban. The member for Kawana's undemocratic demand that union donations be banned is in direct conflict with the advice of Mr MacSporran that there is no evidence to support such a ban.

In contrast to those opposite, where we have a difference of opinion with our independent statutory bodies, we set out our reasoning in a respectful, evidence based way. It is not unusual or improper for a government or for individual members to have a difference of opinion with independent statutory bodies on public policy measures. That is the difference between this side of the House and those opposite. That is why the member for Kawana should be the last MP to be lecturing this government, or anybody else for that matter, on issues of integrity.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proud history of integrity reform. Since 2015 our government has delivered reduced thresholds down to \$1,000. As I outlined earlier, we laid the groundwork for the real-time disclosure scheme to require disclosure within 24 hours in the last seven days of a campaign when there is the most level of interest in the political system. Those were groundbreaking reforms which enhance our democracy.

We restored the independence and we increased the funding for the Crime and Corruption Commission. We created greater transparency requiring that the true source of the donor be identified, not hiding behind intermediaries. We introduced a ban on donations from property developers. We also introduced reforms into local government to remove undue influence.

I will address some of the other measures in terms of the conduct of the actual election as well. What we saw earlier this year was an extraordinary situation where we were confronted with a global pandemic for the first time in a century which coincided with the local government elections. There was a level of understandable concern in our community about the juncture of those two things together. We and the Electoral Commission took health advice about the conduct of that election. The health advice was that it could continue but with some very strict and severe measures. They were severe: it was a limitation of certain democratic freedoms, but it was there to protect the health of Queenslanders.


I know, and I think every member in this place knows, there was understandable concern in the community as to whether people would be at a health risk if they voted. Given the confluence of events, that was understandable. But we know the measures were effective because when we looked at the incubation after the local government election period, we saw reductions in the number of positive cases in Queensland. It was effective. I thank the Chief Health Officer, those who conducted the elections and the Attorney-General who worked very hard together on those measures in an unprecedented situation with a lot of information to process and to make very important decisions very quickly. The truth is they were successful and we have to acknowledge that.

This bill allows for a range of provisions that allow for the state election with a range of possibilities depending on what happens on the health front. In a number of other places we are seeing second waves occur, and that is something that we are very conscious of as a state government. We have to prepare for any eventuality leading into the state election. That is what this bill does. I, like every member of this House, hope that we are in a continuing, very strong health position by the time we get to the state election, but we have to have other mechanisms at hand if we need them.

I certainly support the increased voting hours. Those provisions will take into account the health situation and allow for flexibility if circumstances change. We know with this pandemic that they can change quickly. South Korea, Singapore and Iran, which was one of the earliest countries affected, are all experiencing big outbreaks and second waves. This virus has incredible potency, so we have to be prepared. This bill is appropriate as it gives us the mechanisms that we need to ensure that, whatever happens—and let us all hope that we continue on the same path that we are now as one of the best performing states in the nation per capita on the health front—we are in a good position.

I certainly support those parts of the bill that are very important, but I do also support the accountability measures in terms of this electoral bill. This government has a proud record of reform in this regard, a consistent record from the year we were elected, and we will continue to maintain that. It is only this side of the House that is sincere and consistent about transparency and accountability. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Caloundra, I should advise the member for Coomera that you also need to refer to members by their correct title.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill before the House. Before I do so, the member for Miller waxed lyrical about the foibles of the LNP. May I remind the member of the Shepherdson inquiry which related to the rorting by the ALP, branch stacking, how many people reside in one home at a time—in fact, Paul Lucas was even in the sight of the inquiry at one stage. We do not have to go too far south to Victoria to see that the ALP is still at it. They are still at it. It is alright for the member for Miller to give it, but he cannot take it. The history of the ALP is riddled with integrity issues. Let's talk about kiddie fiddlers in the ALP. Let's talk about those issues as well. When you start pointing the finger, member, look back in the mirror yourself.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Miller, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr McARDLE: At the end of the day, this House passes many bills but, in my opinion, this type of bill is one of the most important because it deals with the electoral system. It deals with how we in this House confront the people every three years, and now four years, to be again picked by them to stand and sit in this House and pass the bills. That is why it is important.

The other point clearly is this: it is this chamber alone which dictates the rules under which those elections will be held. There is no upper chamber, there is no house of review, so critically there is a process that is put in place that should be followed to ensure that the bill that comes before the House has completed the steps so that people in this chamber have an equal understanding of what they are confronting when they stand in the second reading debate.

We know that come 1 November 2020 those who are back in this chamber will be here for four years. The provisions in this bill will have a significant impact upon who will be elected and how they will be elected, thus the process undergone before the bill got here is critical. That is why the committee system was put in place. That is why a team of ALP and LNP members sat down in 2010 and 2011, I think it was, and put together a proposal that all bills would go to a committee unless they were deemed urgent by the House.

The system was based on referral for scrutiny—that is, submissions to be called, witnesses to be called, testimony to be given and a report then prepared and tabled in the House. That process is important because it explains to those in this chamber and to the public what the bill is about. It gives

citizens and organisations the right to highlight their concerns with the bill. It therefore provides a platform for the second reading debate around what the bill is intended to achieve and where the pitfalls are. That is the theory.

Of course, there can be many amendments contained in bills. Some are minor or technical in nature, and we accept that. Some can be short but very important. When we get amendments that run to over 100 pages delivered the night before the second reading debate is to commence, the transparency and accountability ensured by the committee system goes out the door. It usurps the committee process. It usurps the standing orders. It usurps the intent of this parliament to ensure all members have a clear understanding of what they are debating in the House.

Nowhere is that more important than when this chamber debates a bill that deals with the electoral process. That is at the core of what this House is all about—the democratic process involving the people of Queensland and their right to understand and know both their rights and obligations. The process adopted by the ALP trashes this entirely. This is not the first occasion that they have dipped into this well. The 18 minutes notice of the amendment relating to the removal of the optional preferential voting system is a prime example of that.

This bill was referred to the committee on 28 November 2019 and the report was tabled on about 7 February. The member for Logan claimed in his contribution to this debate that the amendments resulted from the contributions and submissions of people to that committee. That was four months ago and to my knowledge there was not one word from the Attorney-General to the shadow Attorney-General as to the amendments coming forward nor the intent of those amendments. No-one is going to convince me that the Attorney-General woke up last week and decided she was going to put 220 amendments before the House. It is amazing that in that four-month period there was no obligation on the Attorney-General, given the nature of the amendments, the number of amendments and the extent of the amendments, to inform this House of her intention.

My concern is that this is the second time in two days that this government has taken this step. It has sidelined and run roughshod over the committee system—a process put in place so that we can properly debate the terms of bills before the House. In fact, the only obligation on any minister is to put a bill into the House at day one and at any time in the process load up the amendments and dump them in the House. There is no scrutiny of them. When we are talking about amendments that have a significant impact on a bill before the House, that is something this chamber needs to look at. That is inherently contrary to the system put in place back in 2011-12.

Government members will wax lyrical about the benefits of the amendments. It is a known fact that, at the end of the day, however they do it, Labor will move heaven and earth to retain government. They will trash the system that was put in place to provide the succour to all members and the public that legislation that goes through this chamber related to our electoral process goes through a process that is just and equitable to all members. This did not. This bill weights in favour of the ALP and the unions and in fact tilts equality and rights in favour of both the ALP and the unions and removes the balance required in the electoral process of this state.

We have a committee system to scrutinise bills—accepting that there are always going to be exceptions; the COVID-19 bill was absolutely an exception and an urgent bill agreed to by both sides of the House. When the government is making significant amendments to a bill and dumps them on members four months after the report was brought down and the night before the bill is debated, there is something wrong.

These amendments go to the core of the electoral system in this state and the people of Queensland have been denied the right to comment upon these amendments. That needs to be addressed. The obligation we have is to ensure that every person in this state has the right to make a comment, particularly when we set our own rules in relation to the electoral process going forward. We certainly support the provisions and amendments related to local government but not those in relation to the state government.



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (4.58 pm): I will move heaven and earth to ensure that we have transparency and fairness around our electoral process.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I do not understand why they are interjecting. We all strive for transparency and fairness in our electoral system. We have a proud track record of bringing forward important reforms when it comes to our electoral system.

An opposition member: In the middle of the night.

Mr BROWN: Not in the middle of night. We have a proud track record of bringing important reforms around our electoral system before this parliament and the committee system. There have been reforms, as the member for Miller just highlighted, around electoral spending caps. We saw under Campbell Newman the caps jacked up to—

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Caloundra.

Mr BROWN: Enjoy retirement. We have a genuine reform agenda when it comes to electoral donations. We brought in \$1,000 caps to ensure that we do not get huge, hidden donations to single candidates. We have ensured that we have real-time donation disclosure so we do not have the reporting delays that we have seen time and again in elections. For example, in the lead-up to the federal election before last Malcolm Turnbull made a massive \$2 million donation to the Labor—to the LNP; he has given a lot to the Labor Party as well—and it was reported six months later. These are important reforms.

We saw laid bare in the last federal election a big spending campaign by an individual to buy government. I refer to Clive Palmer and his efforts. He poured millions and millions of dollars—I think \$65 million—into that election campaign. What did it get him in terms of electoral success? Absolutely nothing. None of his candidates got up. What we saw was a massive spend on a negative campaign directed at Bill Shorten and the Labor Party. That is why we have to make electoral reform.

We only have to look at the heavyweights of the LNP who have been bought off by Clive Palmer—Dave Hutchinson on the payroll, Bruce McIver on the payroll, Malcolm Cole on the payroll, Larry Anthony on the payroll. He has bought them off to have influence—

A government member: Branch stacking.

Mr BROWN: It is a kind of branch stacking. I take that interjection. He is branch stacking by putting them on the payroll and making sure that he has influence over the LNP. I want to make sure that the member for Nanango not only stands up to Dave Hutchinson but also stands up to Bruce McIver, Malcolm Cole and Larry Anthony. Palmer's influence over the LNP is well entrenched.

Debate, on motion of Mr Brown, adjourned.

MOTION

Queensland Border Closure



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the following in relation to border closures:
 - (a) the Prime Minister and Chief Medical Officer have said it is safe to open interstate borders;
 - (b) published on 8 May, the Premier's road map says that interstate travel will be permitted from 10 July;
 - (c) on 18 May that the Premier stated, 'I would say that things would look more positive towards September' and she would give people advice at the end of May;
 - (d) last year, 8.1 million interstate visitors travelled to Queensland;
 - (e) interstate travellers directly spent over \$9.2 billion in Queensland in 2019;
 - (f) the Palaszczuk government has not done economic modelling on closing the borders which the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce President Martin Hall said, 'That is possibly the most ludicrous thing I have ever heard';
 - (g) Duffy Down Under Boat Hire owner Gordon Kerr, whom the Premier has met with, said last week the government was delusional to argue border closures had no impact on business;
 - (h) Dreamweavers event management Chief Operating Officer John Bond said it 'seems ridiculous other states appear to be getting on with business and Queensland isn't';
 - (i) Gold Coast restaurant owner Nuccia Fusco said 'that is not protecting Queenslanders at all by keeping them out of work, on the streets and desperate for money'; and
2. condemns the Premier for her mixed messages and thought bubbles on the reopening of the interstate border that has closed business and cost jobs across Queensland.

Quite seriously, we have flattened the curve. Now the Palaszczuk government needs to stop flattening the economy. It is really quite simple. The Premier of Queensland and the Deputy Premier of Queensland need to stop sending mixed messages. Stop the chaos and the confusion of the mixed

messages going out to businesses in relation to the border closure. The people of Queensland deserve to have the borders open again. Like I said, we have flattened the curve, so I say to the Premier: stop flattening the economy.


I want to talk a bit about the mixed messages. I think it was on 8 May that the Premier decided to announce that interstate travel would be allowed back into Queensland mid-July. That is what the Premier said. She went out and said, 'This is the proposal. If all goes well with the health system, we will reopen the borders mid-July.' When I visited Laura Gerber's area with her, I met Jim at Noodle Box who talked about the certainty that that announcement gave him around the employment of his staff. He had something to look forward to, like the many businesses up and down the coast that were aiming to get people across the borders for the June-July school holidays.

Then 10 days later the Premier went on morning television. We had noticed that the Premier had not been on morning television quite so much since making a few bungles, but the Premier was all empowered and she went on morning television. She forgot about the people of Queensland. She forgot about the economic impact on people and she forgot about the health and livelihoods of people across Queensland when she said, 'The borders should stay shut until September or even later.' That sent shock waves through the tourism industry across Queensland. The Premier's mixed messages need to be condemned because they are hurting people. They are taking away livelihoods and they have the potential, if they have not already, to take lives. It is an awful situation for the tourism industry across this great state of ours.

It was excellent to hear today that, due to the lack of economic modelling from the Palaszczuk government, the federal government will step in. Once again, due to no leadership, particularly no economic leadership, from the Palaszczuk government, the federal Treasurer had to step in and say, 'The Palaszczuk government won't do economic modelling on the borders staying closed, so we will have to.' The federal Treasurer today announced that the economic boom that will come to Queensland when the Premier eventually decides to open the borders again will be \$653 million a month.

The people of Queensland have done the right thing. They have followed the rules. Now it is time for the Premier of Queensland to start listening to them—the people whose livelihoods rely upon the border closure decision. When I was in Cairns with the deputy leader the other day there were tourism operators there who were so distressed because not only have they lost the July school holiday bookings but they are now threatened to lose the September bookings. Unfortunately, the winners of this situation are the tourism operators across the border because the people who were going to spend their money in Queensland have now booked holidays in New South Wales.

I love the old adage 'We make it great in the Sunshine State'. You will hear a lot more about that in the coming months. I would love to say, 'It is now time to open the gate to the Sunshine State.' We need to get those tourism dollars flowing back into Queensland. It is about time the people of Queensland had their say. It is about time the Premier of Queensland actually listened to the people of Queensland and stopped worrying about her own job.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and I do so because it is against the interests of Queenslanders. I guess I should not be surprised, but I am. This woman wants to be premier of our state, but she will not stand up for our state. She has proven again today that she cannot be trusted with the health of the people of Queensland. What she does not understand is that the border restrictions are about stopping the virus coming into Queensland from states where it is. It is all well and good to say that we have flattened the curve—and we have and we have done very well—but other states have not.

In the last 24 hours Victoria has recorded 21 new cases of the virus—and she wants them to come here to Queensland! That takes their active cases to 70. Here in Queensland we have just five. Since this pandemic reached our shores, New South Wales and Victoria have had hundreds of locally acquired cases where a contact could not be identified. In Queensland we have had just 42 in total. Queensland acted quickly and decisively. That is why we have been able to contain the virus and start to open up Queensland for Queenslanders, not for Victorians.

On 29 January I issued a public health emergency order. Queensland was the first state to do this. On 30 January the Premier convened our first Queensland Disaster Management Committee meeting. On 1 February we started screening passengers. On 6 February we legislated to extend that order—all of us here did. Knowing that cases would continue to increase, we boosted elective surgery. By 2 March we announced we would triple emergency department capacity and double our ICU capabilities—all ahead of those other states. We invested in gloves, masks, gowns and ventilators. We invested in more machines that could test for the virus. At that time we had just nine cases.

On 12 March Tom Hanks tested positive at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He joined six other positive cases. On 19 March the federal government closed Australia's borders and they remain closed. Here in Queensland we passed laws to give greater powers to health officials. On 20 March we moved to restrict access to our Indigenous communities. On 23 March we had 60 new cases on that day alone—the highest so far—taking our total to 319. At that time we decided we had to shut down non-essential services—pubs, clubs and restaurants.

On 24 March Queensland recorded a jump of 78 confirmed cases. That is also the day we announced a \$1.2 billion investment in our hospitals and part of a \$4 billion package to extend tax breaks for small to medium sized businesses. It was on that day that the Chief Health Officer issued a direction implementing a range of border restrictions that would take effect at midnight the following day. It is all of those initiatives that kept Queenslanders safe.

It was not until 25 March that the first Queenslanders died in a Queensland hospital as a result of the virus. Those were dark days. We had modelling that showed one in four Queenslanders would contract the virus and 30,000 would die. I recall briefing those opposite on that modelling. On 8 May we released our road map to easing restrictions in three stages, roughly the same three stages as the Morrison government proposed. We have now moved through stages 1 and 2.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Dr MILES: The Commonwealth road map said that leisure travel should recommence in July at stage 3.

Dr Rowan interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Moggill, I just called you to order. You continued to interject. I put you under a warning.

Dr MILES: That is when we proposed that the Chief Health Officer would lift Queensland's border restrictions pending a review at the end of the month, exactly in line with the Morrison government's plan. So far this month we have had just six new cases. The only reason we have avoided a catastrophe is because of all of these initiatives. The numbers make that plain. Those opposite come in here trying to make themselves relevant by criticising our actions—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Dr MILES:—but Queenslanders know they are wrong.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I remind all honourable members that we are to use correct parliamentary titles when we are referring to other members in this chamber.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise this afternoon to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The Palaszczuk Labor government has shown time and again that it is out of step with ordinary Queenslanders when it comes to the border. Since the Premier handed down her road map we have had nothing but thought bubbles and mixed messages around when the border will reopen. This is costing us jobs, this is causing businesses to close down and this is decimating the people of my electorate of Currumbin.

The road map clearly states that interstate travel can proceed on 10 July. Then in a thought bubble the Premier plucked September out of the air, and now she is saying that it depends on the health advice. Let's talk about the health advice for a minute. The facts of the health advice are that on 22 May the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Paul Kelly, said there was no medical reason for Australians to be stopped from travelling interstate and that the federal government never advised the border to be closed.

Mr Power interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan! You are on the speaking list. You will have your chance in a second.

Mrs GERBER: This week in this parliament the Premier said that the majority are telling her they want the border to stay shut. I am out in my community every day. I am talking with the locals and I am talking with business owners. It is my job to be a voice for my community, and what my community is telling me is that the borders need to open. If the Premier thinks the borders need to be shut then I have something to say about that. In my electorate, those who want the border open outnumber those who want it shut by a majority of over 10 to one. People in my community feel that the Palaszczuk Labor government is playing politics with their lives and their livelihoods.

Just last week in the High Court lawyers for the Palaszczuk Labor government got up and said that the border closure is not causing financial hardship to the businesses of Currumbin. Well, let me talk about some of the businesses in my electorate that are suffering severe financial hardship as a result of the closure. First we have Strand Fresh Fruit, a local fruit and veggie man in Coolangatta on the Strand. When I visited him during the by-election he was thriving. He is now closed and he is not reopening. Those are Queensland jobs lost; those are local jobs lost. I will move on to Max and Maree, the mum-and-dad operators of the management rights at the Ocean Plaza Resort in Coolangatta. Their bookings dropped by 80 per cent. Even with JobKeeper they were losing over \$50,000 a month. That is just not sustainable. Then there is Jim, whom the Leader of the Opposition talked about. Jim is the owner of a local Noodle Box franchise. He lost a significant amount of business when the border closed and he has not been able to get it back. His store is situated just metres from the New South Wales border, and many of his customers will not even order his delicious noodles via Uber Eats because they are afraid it cannot get across the border.

Then there is Amanda, the owner of Hair Colour Cafe. She is worried about her business when the borders reopen because as a hairdresser her clientele depends on repeat business. Her clients have had to find other hairdressers. That is business she has lost. That is business she now has to work twice as hard to regain. She is suffering. Then there is Dino from Xenia. He owns a restaurant in Coolangatta and one just across the border in New South Wales. He spoke to me about how restrictive Queensland's rules are in comparison to New South Wales and how confusing it was for him to get it right in both of his different restaurants and how Queensland's restrictions are hurting him financially.

Under the LNP, businesses like Jim's Noodle Box and Amanda's hair salon would not be suffering as they are under Labor, because the LNP had a road map that allowed people who live within 100 kilometres of the border to travel freely provided they complied with the health advice. This is because the LNP understands businesses on the southern end of the Gold Coast. It understands that businesses depend on the border trade. These are just a few examples of the many businesses in Currumbin that are suffering as a result of the border closure and the financial hardship that is being put on them as a result of the Palaszczuk Labor government's decisions.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.16 pm): It seems like the opposition is setting up something of a false equation. They somehow think that if you remove all restrictions then you can increase business with no danger, but we know that in 18 states of the United States the number of cases is going up again. We know that if we are not careful, if we are not judicious and cautious, we will see a second wave. The health minister this morning spoke about the dangers of this and how we must be ever vigilant. The Bolsonaros and the Trumps over there would open us up in a way that is so dangerous that ultimately they would damage the very businesses they pretend and claim to support. They say this could happen 'if' but would take all care and no responsibility.

The Leader of the Opposition taunted us and said in plaintive tones, 'Listen to Queenslanders.' There are no greater Queenslanders than those who read the *Jimboomba Times*. They had a poll. They asked readers of the *Jimboomba Times* if they wanted the border open. Sue said, 'No, no, no.' Andrew said, 'I am happy with the closed borders but allow Queenslanders to travel within the state.' We have done that. We have been able to do that because it is safe. Jean said, 'No, don't open borders until all states have zero cases. My husband and I are both type 1 diabetics'. Marj said, 'I think we should be able to move about Queensland first,' and we have been able to do that.

Debbie said, 'Keep the borders closed for now but open up travel within the state.' Shelley said, 'Keep it shut until the southern states are not getting any cases.' Jo said, '... Noooooo'—there is a bad word there which I will not repeat. Donna said, 'No.' Dianne said, 'No!!!' Glenny said, 'No!' Toni said, 'No.' Sandil said, 'Yes,' but I do know that Sandil is a branch member of the LNP. John said, 'No.' Deb said, 'No.' Tammy said, 'No.' Michelle said, 'No.' Anne said, 'No.' Jan said, 'Nope.' Linda said 'No.' Adrianna said, 'No.' Mick said, 'Yes.' There is finally a yes. I do not know Mick. Jayne said, 'Not until every state has no new cases for 28 days'. Jenny said, 'Keep the interstate borders closed'. Finally, Bernie says, 'Keep them shut!' JT says, 'Keep them shut but lift restriction in Queensland.' Wendy says, 'Big flat no'. I have another one which I cannot find but it says, 'No, let's secede now. We're better than the other states.'

I want to clearly state that I oppose secession. I think it is very important, but I want the opening to happen in a way that is safe. I want it to be in a way that backs business because we do not want to see a second wave. I want it to be in a way that backs Queenslanders.

One of the things I do not want to see is us bullied into changing our policy. We will not be bullied. We will not be bullied by those who have the interests of Victoria and New South Wales first and Queensland last. We will not be bullied by the Premier of New South Wales, we will not be bullied by

the Prime Minister, who is also representing New South Wales in this case, and we will not be bullied by that person who represents the southern states first and Queensland last—that is, the Leader of the Opposition. We know what she is about. It is really important that we do not get bullied by those on the other side who are New South Wales first and Queensland last. We need to keep our state safe.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr POWER: As I said, we know that there are 18 states in the United States where cases are increasing. We know that this infection does not just happen a single time and that if you are not careful—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just asked people to come to order and you have continued interjecting.

Mr POWER: We know that Queenslanders have done an extraordinarily great job. They have listened to advice. They have trusted. We know that in the future we are not immune. We saw that a single case at a party in Noosa spread to I think 35 cases. We saw the same with a wedding, and you guys know very much about the wedding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you will put your comments through the chair and you will address people by their correct parliamentary titles.

Mr POWER: The Leader of the Opposition knows about the wedding in New South Wales because there were so many LNP people there. That wedding created 28 cases. We know this can spread very quickly. We have to represent the interests of Queenslanders and keep Queenslanders safe.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.21 pm): I quote—

What should I write?

What can I say?

How can I tell you how much I miss you?

The weather here has been as nice as it can be

Although it doesn't really matter much to me

For all the fun I'll have while you're so far away

It might as well rain until September

When I look at the words of that great Carole King classic song, I now understand where that mind blip of the Premier's announcement must have come from, because it did not come from a road map to recovery. I could read the rest of the words but I am sure members can see that.

The reality is that there is no entertainment for those whose lives have been smashed since this Labor Premier threw out the road map to recovery announcement of a mid-July opening date, flip-flopped at a media conference and said that it could be September. Now she is raining on the Sunshine State's recovery. She has taken us from a situation where the objective was to flatten the curve of COVID to a situation of elimination, and she is deliberately playing on the fear of people who now think if there is a case interstate then their lives are being put at risk. I can tell this parliament that there are lives being put at risk. We now have the success of flattening the curve, of ramping up the capacity of our health systems across Australia and of introducing tracing systems and we do not have the horrific situation that has happened overseas. We must ensure that the borders are opened in a timely and clear way to help business. We must also have consistency in those COVID-safe plans.

We saw only a few weeks ago this government look the other way with their limp approach to 30,000 people marching the streets in Queensland. They said, 'Oh well. Just don't do it.' At the same time as businesses were being absolutely smashed by COVID, the government were flip-flopping in how they addressed it. We had liquor licensing people out with their rulers measuring the distance between tables and telling businesses they could face a \$6,000 fine if they allowed someone to go up to the bar and order themselves a drink. At the same time as 30,000 people were marching the streets, this government were penalising businesses that needed certainty and help when the rules for the COVID-safe plans only came out 24 hours before.

To address this issue of state borders, I want to quote my own 91-year-old mother. I love her. She is feisty and she is direct. She is a former nurse who nursed through polio outbreaks, and her own mother, my grandmother, nursed through the Spanish flu. My feisty 91-year-old mother said, 'For

goodness sake, you've got to open those borders before September. This is ridiculous.' This is about a government that are now playing on people's fear. She knows that she is in a vulnerable age bracket and the reality is that COVID-19 may be around for years; however, you cannot close the borders for years. There will be no economy left. This government are a roadblock to recovery. They have flip-flopped in regard to the certainty.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I know it is funny to the Labor members who have probably never had a private enterprise job, but we have been dealing with people who have been on the phone to us desperate—


Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, I just called you to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SIMPSON: We have heard that \$653 million a month is being lost to Queensland because of the border closures. That is those mum-and-dad operators who have been on the phone to us saying, 'That's our business. That's 20 years. That's my house. I don't have an investment program anymore because I've just lost it.' The reality is that you can get grants, loans and even JobKeeper but if you do not have customers you do not have a business. The time has come to have certainty around the border opening. Stick to the road map to recovery and stop leading people through fear the way this government has blatantly done.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: They are playing with people's lives. There has been a magnificent job done with the health system. We are not Italy and we are not the USA, even though I keep hearing people from across the chamber quoting their figures. Our health system has magnificently risen to the challenge, but now we must help those people who could potentially lose not only their businesses but also their lives because of the economic devastation that is facing them due to the government denying them the customers from across the border. They do not have the certainty. They need people to be able to book their holidays. They need to be able to run their businesses, whether they are in the hospitality industry or the aviation industry. They must have certainty. We must have a clear date for opening the borders. There must be no more of this disdain for the economic impact on people's lives.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.26 pm): I have to say that the earth did not move under my feet with that one. We have seen how the government policy can help cushion the impacts of COVID-19 and how some government policies can deepen those consequences. We just have to ask 'Ruby Dutton' his opinion of cruise ships in Australia and that impact.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr STEWART: Absolutely. I take that interjection from the member for Logan. In Australia the quick response of governments at all levels has contained the number of cases and the number of deaths from this virus. I must also join in the conga line of people congratulating Queenslanders for the way they have taken this on board. It has been so difficult to pull back from that automatic handshake, but people are very cognisant of that. It is only because of those changes in behaviour that we have been able to contain this virus that has been so deadly right across the world.

I will mention the United States. By contrast, the sluggish, piecemeal and conflicting approach to COVID-19 in the United States has seen it account for more than two million cases of COVID-19 and 117,000 deaths. The reason I am mentioning the United States is that I have a long-term friend over there whom I have been corresponding with for over 30 years. Dorian lives in Queens in New York and currently owns a restaurant in New York. She has had to shut it for four months and does not know whether she is actually going to open it because she is still finding that neighbours are sick, that businesses like hers are closed and that there are no tourists around the place. In fact, she said she has never seen the city that never sleeps like a ghost town. That is the impact. This is the warning sign. If we do not take on board these warning signs, then we are also heading down that same track.

There is no question that COVID-19 will subtract from economic output across the globe. The question is by how much. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast that, even if contained, COVID-19 represents a five per cent, or \$95 billion, hit to the Australian economy in 2020. This is the largest annual collapse in growth since the Second World War, but the OECD also forecast that a second wave of COVID-19 would represent an additional \$25 billion hit to the Australian economy. That is \$120 billion less output in 2020 than last year. The Prime Minister himself also trumpeted on 2GB the potential for an extra \$25 billion hit to Australia if a second wave happens. There

is the warning. Even our own Prime Minister is warning that a second wave will potentially have a \$25 billion hit. If small businesses cannot contain it now, they will be absolutely to the wall if a second hit comes.


The OECD sees both the containment scenario and the second wave scenario as equally likely; that is, we cannot be too careful or too hasty in reopening our borders. When I spoke to Lucy, one of my small business owners, she said, 'Don't open the borders.' She set up her business in the CBD, which is only about 400 metres from the stadium. She said that in the week the stadium opened, when we had visitors coming to our city, she had the best trading she had experienced in the last 10 years. However, she says she does not want those borders open yet. The way we are handling it, she says, is the right way.

Mr Stevens: Does she get JobKeeper?

Mr STEWART: In Queensland a second wave of COVID-19 would wipe an estimated extra \$4.8 billion off our economy in 2020. I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Lucy does not receive JobKeeper. She runs the business by herself and she had to close her doors for three or four weeks. She does not get any benefits from the federal government. She says 'Do not open the borders yet.'

This is the same amount as the Queensland parliament passed in special appropriations in April to limit the fallout of COVID-19 to date. The Prime Minister knows the danger of reopening the state borders. That is why he is not reopening national borders, and the Prime Minister is quoting OECD figures of a \$25 billion hit to the Australian economy from a second wave. The federal Treasurer might want Queensland to reopen our borders prematurely, but any of his forecasted benefits would be completely wiped out if a second wave struck.

On reopening our borders, like so much else, the LNP is hopelessly divided. We will decide when our borders will reopen and we will protect Queenslanders every step of the way.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.31 pm): All we heard from the member for Townsville just then was 'if, if, if'. Before I came into the chamber I was talking on the phone to Sonia in Port Douglas. She is not wondering 'if'. When she wanders around Port Douglas she tells me there is nobody to be seen. There is no 'if' about it; Port Douglas has ground to a halt because the state borders are closed. At this time of the year they would be expecting a lot of people to come from interstate and have a holiday in Port Douglas. Obviously she is calling a member from South-East Queensland because she cannot get any results from the Labor members for Cook and Barron River. She is getting no feedback whatsoever from them.

People know there is a problem when the Gold Coast chamber of commerce writes to the mayor of the Gold Coast—about an hour ago—and says—

The current state of the Gold Coast business community is terminal. After a prolonged downturn which has suffocated our economy, the border opening while still uncertain will miss the school holiday window of opportunity for many businesses.

Business survival is now almost too far out of reach for many ...

I electronically table that document.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the President, Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce, Mr Martin Hall, to the Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council, Cr Tom Tate, titled 'City of Gold Coast response to COVID-19 crisis' [\[918\]](#).

Last week I had a billboard erected on Bermuda Street in my electorate. It states, 'Planes = jobs. Open the borders'. I did that because I had numerous calls from friends of mine who work at the Gold Coast Airport. For the information of members, I worked at that airport for 10 years and I worked for an airline for 20 years; I know how airlines work. When we start thinking about getting airlines flying, I can tell honourable members that they need to have baggage handlers. They need to organise pilots and engineers. They need refuellers to put some fuel in the aeroplanes. They need air traffic controllers, security guards in the airport, people doing check-in—there is a whole lot of things they need to do, so I thought I would see how the airlines felt about this.

I had a look at Virgin flights on 13 July which, to my surprise, is a couple of days after the date listed on the road map that was put out—10 July. Virgin had listed 13 flights a day flying into the Gold Coast. How do they know? Maybe a little Whistler friend whispered in their ear. After all, they have quite a few Whistler friends! I thought that was suspicious enough, and the *Gold Coast Bulletin* ran an article about that, which I will electronically table as well.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 11 June 2020, titled 'Sydney, Victoria flights into Gold Coast soar despite border closure' [\[919\]](#).

I looked yesterday and there were still 13 flights into the Gold Coast on Virgin.


Mr Stevens: Wait for July.

Mr HART: I say to the member for Mermaid Beach that I looked today and there are now only three. I wonder if the phone has been ringing hot again to those Whistler friends informing them what is going on. We know the Minister for Tourism has been talking to the airlines. What has she been telling them? That is what is upsetting the people on the Gold Coast: there is absolutely no clarity here at all. We just heard from the health minister. I would not want to put words in his mouth but I am sure he said, 'We decided that the Chief Health Officer would open the borders on 10 July subject to a review at the end of the month.' The government is deciding when to tell the Chief Health Officer to open the borders. Apparently, that is the case.

We know at the federal level there has been absolutely no case put forward for the borders to be closed, but, never mind, we will close them anyway. I will table those two documents with the Virgin flight details.

Tabled paper: Documents showing flight details from Sydney to the Gold Coast [\[920\]](#).

What people want is clarity. They just want clarity. They do not want the flip-flopping that we have been seeing from the Premier and her ministers over the last few days where the Premier comes out and says, 'Maybe 10 July, maybe sometime in September, maybe never.' What are the rules that the Premier has put in place to open our borders? What are they? Give the people of the Gold Coast some clarity. That is all they are asking for: some clarity so they can get back to work. Just tell us the rules. Tell us what they are and give us a date.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. In doing so I say that it is no surprise to me that the member for Burleigh is looking at flights so eagerly. If I recall correctly, this was the member who abandoned the parliament and trotted off to Canada. It is no wonder he is an advocate for opening up the borders when he abandoned this place—he was nowhere to be found; he did not even tell his own party—and trotted off to Canada. He went MIA; he could not be found. He was swilling maple syrup in the Northern Hemisphere. When he starts talking about a billboard around planes, people and jobs, we really do not have to think too hard about what the motivation behind that is.

One would think the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite would be trying to distance themselves from former senator Clive Palmer, but instead they have moved this motion and, in doing so, they are doing their bit to back in Mr Palmer's case. It has been over 140 days since COVID-19 reached Queensland. The total number of cases in Queensland is 1,066. This compares to the US, which now has over two million cases and over 100,000 deaths. Queensland's result is no coincidence. It is not luck—

Ms Simpson: They keep relying on the American numbers. There is a thing called an ocean between us and them. We don't have flights coming in from overseas, do we?

Ms BOYD: I take the interjections from the member for Maroochydore. The reason we are reflecting on the numbers in the US is that we just as easily could have had such a diabolical situation here in Queensland if it were not managed correctly.

Mr Hunt: But we don't.

Ms BOYD: If those opposite were at the helm I have no doubt whatsoever that we would be looking at just as diabolical a situation as our brothers and sisters are facing over in the United States. The result is not coincidence and it is not luck; it is thanks to the hard work of Queenslanders—our doctors, nurses, clinicians and public health workers as well as every Queenslanders who has stayed home and followed directions. Queensland's border closure—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you are on a warning. Member for Burleigh, because you kept speaking while I was attempting to speak to the House, you can also go on a warning.

Ms BOYD: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wonder if I start singing or quoting lyrics if she would leave me alone. Queensland's border closure has significantly—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members will refer to each other by their correct parliamentary titles or I will sit the speaker down.

Ms BOYD: Queensland's border closure has significantly contributed to our state's low case numbers. Our borders remain closed because we cannot be complacent. Let us not forget that the initial modelling showed Queensland's death toll due to COVID-19 could have been 30 times greater than the total number of cases that we have seen. As the Deputy Premier said this morning, Beijing is currently experiencing a second wave. They have gone more than 50 days without a case and now have a severe outbreak of more than 100. They have shut down schools—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you can leave the chamber for one hour, please. You were asked to cease interjecting and you continued to do so.

Whereupon the honourable member for Burleigh withdrew from the chamber at 5.40 pm.

Ms BOYD: They have shut down their schools, and after all of the good work Queenslanders have done—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you can join the member for Burleigh.

Whereupon the honourable member for Maroochydore withdrew from the chamber at 5.40 pm.

Ms BOYD: After all the good work that Queensland has done, we do not want to see the COVID-19 community transmission that Victoria and New South Wales have experienced happening here. Despite what those opposite say, we are not out of the woods. This week New South Wales had 22 new cases; four have been locally acquired cases with an unknown source.

Mr Hunt: Four.

Ms BOYD: Is four okay? Is four deaths okay, member for Nicklin?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms BOYD: In the past 24 hours Victoria has—

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you are on a warning. Member for Pine Rivers, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms BOYD: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In the last 24 hours, Victoria has had 21 new cases. Fifteen were from overseas and six were locally acquired—three known source and three unknown source. In terms of that unknown source, we need to avoid it at all costs. I know that many Queenslanders also want to keep the borders closed. I know this because, when I am out and about in my community, locals have told me so. They have also said to me, 'Do not be bullied by the opposition and their persistent cries.' The only people who do not understand that are the Leader of the Opposition and her woefully misguided colleagues. Why does the Leader of the Opposition remain determined to place the health of Queenslanders at risk? Why is the Leader of the Opposition so determined to undo all of the good work that Queenslanders have done in keeping this virus at bay? Why has the Leader of the Opposition so badly misread this serious situation? If members refer to the LNP road map to recovery—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Please do not wave around props. If you are going to use it, table it or read from it. Those are your options.

Ms BOYD: I will table it, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery' [921].

Members will see that the opening of the borders is proposed at the same time as our road map to recovery.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have order before I call the next speaker.



Mr BATT (Bundaberg—LNP) (5.42 pm): The last few months have been tough. Things have been complicated and overwhelming and the situation for everyone has taken a lot of getting used to. As a state, we have collectively banded together, followed directions and listened carefully to guidelines—and we continue to do so. That is how we are able to control the spread of COVID-19 and that is how we got to the great position we are in today, with only a handful of active cases across the state.

Although the spread of COVID-19 is under control, our economy certainly is not. Keeping the state's borders closed is not helping. Both the Prime Minister and the nation's Chief Medical Officer have said it is safe to open interstate borders, but for an unknown and unreleased reason the Premier disagrees. Just yesterday the Premier said the borders would remain closed while there is an active transmission, but the road map still says the borders will open on 10 July. On 18 May, just 10 days after the road map was released with a 10 July border opening, the Premier said things would look more positive towards September!

The mixed messages of the Premier are one thing, but causing our economy to grind to a complete halt is another. The Palaszczuk government has admitted on numerous occasions that it has not done any economic modelling on closing our borders. Queensland is by far the best state in the country. We have so much to offer, especially in the way of tourism. That is why last year 8.1 million Australians from interstate paid us a visit. That is why last year those same travellers spent more than \$9.2 billion in Queensland, and that is why we need the borders fully reopened to everyone.

Just last week, it was wonderful to have the shadow tourism minister and member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, in town to show him some of the great businesses and products we have on offer. The member for Burnett, Stephen Bennett, and I introduced him to many of our local tourism operators and our tourism board. From everyone we met we heard loud and clear that the borders need to reopen for businesses to survive. They cannot keep solvent let alone make a profit solely on Queensland travellers. We cannot wait until there are no new COVID-19 cases for a certain number of days, because we will never get there. Until there is a vaccine for this virus, cases will continue to arise in Queensland, in Australia and around the world. There is no doubt about that. As long as each and every case identified is dealt with as it occurs and Queensland Health continues to do the efficient contact tracing it has already been doing, things can and should go back to the new normal and the interstate borders should reopen.

The new COVID-19 case identified in my patch with a Victorian backpacker in Bundaberg recently is a great example of this and the fact that the COVIDSafe app and the Queensland Health contact tracing are working. Several hundred people were tested within a few days, including all associates, workmates and possible acquaintances, with all coming back as negative to COVID-19.

On any given day of the year, we have around 3,000 overseas and interstate backpackers calling Bundaberg home. They are there to pick Australia's best fruit and vegies in Queensland's salad bowl and, now we have heard, they cannot go to a fruit and vegie shop on the Gold Coast because they have had to close. We need them to continue to be able to access our fields and orchards for our region to continue to function. To let this amazing produce rot in the fields would be a travesty if these workers cannot get to their workplaces. Residents are desperate to get their lives back on track, to go back to work, to finally be able to book a holiday again and to visit interstate family and friends. Every day the borders remain closed, more and more businesses are going to the wall.

My office has contacted thousands of elderly residents since the pandemic started, checking on their welfare and ensuring they have someone to look after them. I know that some of the more senior members of our community are nervous about border openings—and rightly so. They are the most at risk from the health perspective. However, with the very efficient contact tracing and COVIDSafe app I mentioned earlier, Queensland can continue to manage any positive tests on a case-by-case basis and keep Queenslanders safe. If the Premier continues with her mixed messages and thought bubbles on the reopening of the interstate borders and we do not give Queenslanders and Australians a clear direction on when the borders will be reopened, Queensland businesses will continue to close and it could take us decades to recover.



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.47 pm): They call this debate 'the six o'clock scream'—

An honourable member: It's five o'clock actually.

Mr BAILEY: Alright. There you go.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: Some 446,000 deaths—that is what we have worldwide from this virus. Anybody who wants to underplay the threat that represents is being highly irresponsible. Some 446,000 deaths is nearly half the population of Brisbane—dead. This is a very serious matter. This state has been the best performing state in the nation and Australia has been one of the best performing nations in the world—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite yell and scream across the chamber, but what they are in this debate is petty, petulant, nit-picking, pedestrian and absolutely partisan on this—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are on a warning.

Mr BAILEY: Not once in the last two months when it became clear that Queensland has smashed the curve and been one of the best performing states has the opposition said—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: The leadership of the Premier and the health minister has been outstanding. Not once has that been acknowledged by any member of the opposition—not once. They can yell—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you will need to be in a seat if you want to engage in the debate. Members for Gregory and Theodore, I am placing you both on a warning; you have continued to interject when I have asked you not to.

Mr BAILEY: Not once have those opposite had the generosity or accuracy to acknowledge the leadership of the Premier and the health minister in what has been the greatest health crisis this state has faced in 100 years—not once. When it comes to performance, the leadership has been outstanding and we will not risk the lives of Queenslanders by listening to those opposite with their petulant motions and their short-sightedness.

The Premier has always said that this is a dynamic situation, and it has been. It has been constantly evolving and we have been very up-front in saying that this will change and move as we negotiate our way through it. If this was a citizenship education assignment, it would be an abject fail from the opposition. For it to point out that she said this then and they said this then is just so pathetically petty when we are dealing with a global pandemic and the threat to Queenslanders. It is hard to understand how myopic this motion is. It is absolutely tiny.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you can leave the chamber for an hour. You have been warned.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 5.51 pm.

Mr BAILEY: A second wave is what we need to avoid. A second wave will do the greatest economic damage to this state. That is what has happened in Beijing in that it has had to restrict the city again after a very strong performance. The risk is there for us. The risk is there for everybody. Is it just Queensland? If one listened to the opposition, one would think that it was just Queensland holding out.


Let us look at the other states and territories. South Australia with a Liberal Premier and Tasmania with a Liberal Premier—smarter Liberals than those on the opposite side in Queensland, that is for sure—Western Australia and the Northern Territory with Liberal and Labor premiers are all united with Queensland. We do not want to deal with New South Wales and Victoria inadvertently spreading the virus in our state. That is what leadership is. Those opposite should pull on the Blues jersey or the Victorian jersey and come out and be honest about it, because they are not barracking for Queensland and they are not thinking about Queenslanders' health.

Other states are in lock step with Queensland that until community transmission gets under control in Victoria and New South Wales we do not want that inadvertently coming to Queensland and shutting us down again. That is the worst economic outcome we could come up with. That is the irresponsible policy of those opposite. There is no leadership from those on the other side. It is short-term thinking. They are happy to put profit before people, and that is a shameful situation. They are condemning a Premier who has delivered the best health outcome of any state in this country. That is what is in this motion. It is absolutely shameful.

The member for Burleigh says that there is no-one in Port Douglas. There is virtually nobody travelling worldwide at the moment because there is a global pandemic. The Canadian border is shut too, so the member for Burleigh cannot be going on his overseas trips and skipping parliament for a week because there are restrictions all around the world as there is a health pandemic. This is a

pathetic, petulant, petty motion by a myopic opposition that is not going anywhere, that is being controlled by Clive Palmer, and whose members are brawling amongst themselves instead of dealing with the things that matter to Queenslanders—that is, their health and their jobs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, member for Bundaberg, you can go on a warning as well. Your interjections were constant and very loud and were not designed to add anything to the debate.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.53 pm): Yesterday we heard from the Premier of Queensland that Queenslanders do not want the border opened. I am here to say that Gold Coasters are Queenslanders too—and so are the people of the Capricorn Coast, Far North Queensland, the Whitsundays, the Sunshine Coast and the outback. All of those people are involved in business and tourism.

When we look at the speaking list of those opposite for this motion, we see that it includes the members for Logan, Murrumba, Townsville, Pine Rivers and Miller. None of those areas that I mentioned are represented by any of those members who have spoken tonight. We have not had the tourism minister speaking tonight. We have not had the Assistant Minister for Tourism speak. The member for Cooper and the member for Gaven are not speaking in this debate even though a lot of this debate is about the cost to businesses, not health. That is not mentioned in this motion. This motion is about the economic costs that all members on this side have pointed out we are now seeing as a consequence of the great work that has been done by health workers and by those opposite in their ministerial roles. I am prepared to acknowledge that, but there comes a time when there has to be a balance. We have heard that in the USA 119,000 have died, Germany 8,900, Japan 927, Australia 102 and Queensland just six. It is obvious that the virus has a different effect in different jurisdictions partly because of it—

Government members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: There are already studies showing that the virus mutates in different forms in different places—and I am sure that that is being considered by our medical officers. The important issue is that the numbers here do not equate to the type of shutdown that those opposite are advocating and are continuing, as they have been doing for the last four or five months. When jobs are on the line, business needs certainty, consistency and clarity. We have had no certainty when it comes to announcing the border reopening. As we have heard, the Premier said it could be 10 July and then, with something that was going through her mind, she said it could be September. When it comes to clarity, or the lack of it, from the Premier, yesterday we were told that community transmission had to be under control. As we have already heard, there have been six cases in Victoria just recently and three in New South Wales. A couple of weeks ago—


Mr Power interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: No, I am talking about community transmission, not the total number of cases. A couple of weeks ago the Premier said that she would not even consider opening the borders until there were two clear incubation periods of 14 days each, so that means at least 28 days from yesterday, going by what the Premier said a couple of weeks ago, before she would even consider opening the border. Given that was 16 June, that means that not until 17 July will it even be considered. Yesterday the Premier also said that she would not even consider it until there is no active transmission. So what is it? That is where we need the clarity.

Finally, we need the consistency about delivering the stages of the road map because there has been no consistency. On the day before, the Premier announced that from 1 June restaurants could suddenly have more people than they had originally planned to. Do those opposite seriously think that businesses are able to organise their ordering, their staff and so on that quickly when they are running a business? No, they do not understand that because they have never run a business. They have never filled out the business activity statement. The only thing they have ever organised is rorting in terms of branch membership. That is all that they are good at, but they have never organised a business.

People of the Gold Coast are frustrated by the government getting in the way of business reopening when it did nothing about 30,000 people gathering in a protest. The Premier gave a few suggestions that people should not go. There were no arrests and no penalties for anyone who attended—and we heard from the member for Maroochydore, our spokesperson for small business, the frustration about businesses being charged by Liquor Licensing. Normally we can never find its officers on the Gold Coast and suddenly they are there getting into business about whether they are doing the right thing.

What about the Premier and the government arguing that this is not causing financial pain? They should come and have a look at Broadbeach. We have already heard from the member for Currumbin about what is happening there. The Leader of the Opposition was on the Gold Coast three weeks ago listening to people in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach talking about the pain that it is causing. People are trying to pivot. They are trying to do other jobs. They are trying to do takeaway. There has been no modelling done about the costs. It is not good enough. We need an LNP government.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.58 pm): This evening I rise to oppose this motion. Once again tonight the member for Nanango demonstrates through this motion that she does not live in Queensland; the member for Nanango lives in la la land. The Leader of the Opposition wants to know about the cost of the border opening. That is what those opposite go on about. They want to know about the cost of the border opening.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I did move to Woodridge, but I did not have to move 2,000 kilometres, like the former member for Mundingburra did, to go to the Gold Coast to get a safe seat. At least I came from the right side of town.

The member for Nanango and members opposite want to know the cost of closing the borders. Let us talk about the cost of COVID-19. Let us talk about the cost of a second wave.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Theodore, I have been very patient. You are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Theodore withdrew from the chamber at 5.59 pm.

Mr DICK: Let us talk about the second wave, like the one that closed every school in Beijing after 50 days without a case, or the one threatening to break out in New Zealand less than a week after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared the country virus free. The reality is that the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast that, even if we can contain it, COVID-19 already represents a five per cent, or \$95 billion, hit to the Australian economy in 2020. This is the biggest collapse in growth in our country since the 1940s. The OECD also forecast that a second wave of COVID-19 would represent an additional \$25 billion hit to the Australian economy. That means the cost to our economy of a second wave in Queensland would be \$4.8 billion. The Leader of the Opposition wants to expose us to this risk.

This reckless, ill-conceived motion is just another symptom of the member for Nanango's rising panic at the attack on her leadership. There they were—Dave Hutchinson, Bruce McIver, Larry Anthony and Malcolm Cole, all in the Broadwater Trojan Horse, wheeled up to the party room, pulled along by Campbell Newman. There was the member for Mineralogy letting down the door. Lights, camera, missing in action completely, the member for Broadwater. No wonder the member for Surfers Paradise is smiling. It was a complete and utter fizzer. Of course, the member for Nanango panics.

We have a clear and methodical plan to reopen. The member for Surfers Paradise talks about consistency. We are the only party in this state that has been consistent about opening the borders. Do not take my word for it. There are others who have had a clear and methodical plan—

Phase 3 by early-July

Reopen:

- Zoos and wildlife centres
- Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools)
- Interstate travel for recreation
- Open house inspections

The LNP! I table that for the benefit of all honourable members.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery' [\[922\]](#).

That was the plan that their leader tweeted on 6 July. The Leader of the Opposition put it out there: open by early July, because of the panic, because of the fear, because she knows the backbench has read the polling. They know the disaster that is forthcoming: 10 years in opposition is coming their way. We will deliver for Queensland. We will stop the second wave. We will continue with strong and effective leadership on COVID-19—not the craven approach through this motion today, a pathetic attempt to protect her leadership and that of the hapless deputy, the member for Everton.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, I am placing you on a warning.

Mr DICK: We will continue consistently to follow the road map. As the Premier has made clear, we will keep Queenslanders safe with calm, reasoned, measured leadership at a time of unprecedented crisis when those members opposite are in chaos. What a contrast to the risky, rushed, shaky leadership of the LNP. We will not be distracted by those opposite. We will continue to deliver for Queensland. Queensland should not have to pay for the increasing desperation of the Leader of the Opposition. We will keep Queensland safe. All members of the House should oppose this motion.

Division: Question put—That the motion 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, 34:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 45:

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

Pairs: Pegg, Wilson; Saunders, Batt.

Resolved in the negative.

ELECTORAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (ACCOUNTABILITY, INTEGRITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1333, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (6.09 pm), continuing: Before adjourning the debate, I was turning to the reforms in regard to signage. I first saw bunting in the Gaven by-election in 2006. I can recall setting up the booth with Senator Anthony Chisolm. We were paired off at the time. When I saw the bunting I thought, 'Won't this make life easy? Instead of banging all the signs in, it is all laid out there on this plastic and we can fold it out and the job is done.'

In 2006 we rolled out relatively small amounts, but in the years to come there was more of it and it was more colourful and it has ended up to where it is today, which is pasting schools for hundreds and hundreds of metres to equalise each side's message out. It did need to be checked. It is an important reform that the Attorney-General has brought in. As the member for Logan said, it was torn down at the end of the day and put into the bin. That bunting led to booths being set up earlier and earlier.

During the last federal election at the booths in Bowman, we saw confrontations between school staff and LNP supporters who were setting up straight after three o'clock. Teachers and administration staff were put into the position of having to tear down LNP bunting at the booths because LNP supporters did not wait for the proper time to put it up. That puts workers in a situation that they do not want to be in. It is important to be able to get back to some normality by setting up on the morning of the election. That is how it was when I first joined the Australian Labor Party. We turned up at six o'clock in the morning and we were all given equal sites.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: It was a gentlemen's agreement. We would arrive and have a cup of tea. We would say, 'There's your side. We'll put up a couple of corflutes and you put up yours.' However, it has got out of control. I will be the first to admit that I was a part of that culture of putting up more and more bunting.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I thought that I had to keep up with the LNP when it came to bunting, to ensure that we had our fair share at the booths in the bayside area. This is an important and measured reform. We will go back to setting up in the morning and placing signage in appropriate areas, which will lead to less wastage at the end of the day.

I want to touch on the reforms around ministerial standards. It is a shame that I cannot talk about my referral to the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition's referral to the Ethics Committee for failing to register an interest, because I need to respect the standing orders of this House. These will be important reforms, especially for the Leader of the Opposition, because we need to ensure the integrity of this place. We need to ensure that leaders of the opposition keep their register of interests up to date. I look forward to these important reforms, especially when it comes to the Leader of the Opposition. I commend the bills to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. Once again, on the eve of a Queensland state election, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is forcibly shifting the state electoral goalposts and rigging our democracy in their own favour. We can be in no doubt that this is for Labor's own electoral benefit. Sadly, in Queensland we have seen this all before.

All Queenslanders, including residents of the electorate of Moggill, well remember the events of April 2016 when the Palaszczuk state Labor government decided to introduce an amendment to abandon optional preferential voting and reintroduce compulsory preferential voting for Queensland. That was done by Labor with just 18 minutes notice and absolutely no consultation at the time. There was no reason for the Palaszczuk state Labor government to scrap optional preferential voting other than for the Labor Party in Queensland to secure the preferences and votes of the Greens. We need to realise that that was not consistent with the Fitzgerald principles. It would be interesting to know what a former Labor premier, the late Wayne Goss, would have thought about that at that time and about what is happening today. That is exactly what happened: Labor was angling for the votes and preferences of the Greens at that time.

Today the Labor Party occupies the state government benches because they were elected off the back of Greens preferences. That was the intent at the time they changed the system from optional preferential voting to compulsory preferential voting. In 2018, respected ABC political analyst Antony Green observed—

Labor's re-introduction of full preferential voting was driven by concern over Green preferences exhausting. Labor lost the Northgate Ward at the 2016 Brisbane City Council elections through Green preferences exhausting and no doubt the party did not want a repeat performance at the next state election.

Come the 2020 state election, in just over 130 days, the situation will be no different as Labor seeks the preference vote of every Greens supporter in Queensland, aided by a system of voting that is to be rigged in Labor's favour. It is a true sign of a desperate and despicable state Labor government that consistently seeks to amend our electoral laws each and every time they approach an election, for fear of losing their stranglehold on the state of Queensland.

Not content with abolishing Queensland's well-established system of optional preferential voting, the Palaszczuk state Labor government is now seeking to further force through a raft of extraordinary changes to our electoral system. As I have said, this is not consistent with Fitzgerald principles. This includes significantly limiting donations to candidates and political parties, as well as the maximum amount that can be spent on elections. Specifically, under chapter 2 of this bill, the maximum amount that can be spent is: \$58,000 by an endorsed candidate, \$87,000 by an independent candidate, \$92,000 by a party in any single electorate in which it endorses a candidate, and \$87,000 by a third party in any single electorate and no more than \$1 million in the aggregate.

Such a politically convenient amendment is further proof of the Palaszczuk state Labor government's trashing of and launching a full assault on our democracy. Queenslanders know that Labor is beholden to the unions and this is nothing more than the Palaszczuk state Labor government doing the bidding of the unions. Such changes arbitrarily limit donations from individuals and corporations and yet, at the same time, provide for an incredible advantage to Queensland Labor and Queensland unions. In fact, under this legislation, Queensland's 26 trade unions will effectively be able to spend more than \$2.2 million per electorate. That is an extraordinarily unbalanced electoral advantage that strikes at the heart of democracy.

This is nothing less than a hostile takeover of our democracy. The hand up to the unions does not end there. Through chapter 3 of this bill, restrictions on signage will be imposed in the lead-up to and on election day. Whilst noting that the maximum number of signs that may be displayed by or for

a candidate, registered political party or third party for pre-poll voting is two small signs in each designated area, it is a different story altogether when looking at an ordinary polling booth. Specifically, the maximum number of election signs at an ordinary polling booth for a candidate or party will be six signs, comprised of large signs—to a maximum number of four—and small signs. A third party is permitted to display a maximum of four signs, comprised of large signs—to a maximum number of two—and small signs.

At ordinary polling booths in electorates all across Queensland, including the electorate of Moggill, we can expect to see the democratically unfair situation where political candidates and parties, especially those under the banner of the Liberal National Party, will be grossly outnumbered by unions and other Labor third parties in the signage that will be able to be displayed on booths. The Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government has no shame when trying to rig this to their advantage.

Further changes under this legislation pertain to new integrity offences so as to create a criminal offence for a minister who knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit for themselves, or another person, or cause detriment to another person. A new offence will also be created for where a minister intentionally fails to comply with the obligations on members of parliament to register their interests with the Clerk of the Parliament with dishonest intent to obtain a benefit for themselves, or another person, or cause detriment to another.

I heard the member for Capalaba in his contribution earlier making some comments in relation to the Leader of the Opposition, but the Labor Party here in Queensland certainly cannot talk about matters of integrity and accountability related to others when they should be looking at their own house. I would encourage the member for Capalaba to look to his own side of parliament in relation to the myriad of integrity and accountability offences that have taken place under the Palaszczuk Labor government over the last five years.

We all know why such offences have had to be created and yet, true to form, the Palaszczuk state Labor government deliberately chose to ignore the clearly articulated intent of the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations on this matter. The Palaszczuk state Labor government is simply not fit to legislate on matters pertaining to accountability and integrity. All Queenslanders have seen scandal after scandal with respect to matters of accountability and integrity by various Palaszczuk state Labor government ministers over the last five years.

Indeed, the principles of accountability and integrity are the very antithesis of the so-called principles of the Labor Party. It has to be said that integrity failure is in the Labor Party's DNA. We have seen only this week what is happening with respect to the Victorian division of the Labor Party and the serious matters of corruption, and that three ministers have had to resign, as well as the sordid history of scandals and corruption within the New South Wales Labor Party. On accountability, integrity and electoral matters, the Queensland Labor Party is hardly any different to their so called neo-Marxist comrades south of the border.

Because of the actions of members, including the previously elected representatives of the Queensland Labor Party, our state had to endure the embarrassment of the Shepherdson inquiry. The member for Caloundra referred to the Shepherdson inquiry which was commissioned to investigate serious allegations of electoral fraud and branch stacking within the Queensland Labor Party. Who can forget that at the time that led to the resignation of the then deputy premier, Jim Elder, and also the former member for Woodridge, Mike Kaiser, who has now returned as an adviser to the Labor government? It was also because of the actions of the then member for Sandgate that a senior Queensland Labor Party minister was found guilty of corruptly receiving secret commissions during his time in office and was sentenced to prison at that time. Who could forget those matters at the time?

In the last two terms of the Queensland Parliament alone, we have seen serious allegations against a number of serving and former members of the Queensland state Labor government being investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission. In fact, such serious matters have not been confined to just the state Labor government, as we have seen through the corrupt actions of Labor aligned members to the former Ipswich City Council administration which led to it having to be dissolved. Thankfully, the residents of Ipswich City now have elected a great mayor in Teresa Harding who is doing a great job out there in Ipswich and is wasting no time in cleaning up the mess left by the previous Labor aligned mayor and a number of councillors.

On matters pertaining to electoral accountability and integrity, it exists in this legislation entirely in name only. As if to further underscore Labor's complete disdain for any sort of integrity and accountability, it was not until approximately nine o'clock last night that the state Labor government circulated some 100 pages containing 229 amendments to this bill. That is an absolute farce. This bill should be seen for what it is. It is the Labor Party here in Queensland trying to rig the next state election.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. Accountability and integrity are absolutely essential in all that we do. They are at the very heart of our democracy, and Queenslanders must have confidence in each and every one of us as elected representatives. Without accountability, without integrity and without the unreserved confidence of Queenslanders, we have nothing, so today the Palaszczuk government is moving to strengthen what is already robust legislation, and we are committing to maintaining and strengthening the accountability and integrity of state and local governments in Queensland.

Turning to the matter of electoral reforms, this is all about ensuring the integrity of our election process, delivering historic new levels of transparency and trust, which are two values we believe in and two values all Queenslanders believe in.

The Electoral Reform and Accountability Act 2011, which was introduced by the Bligh government, imposed electoral expenditure caps and donations for state elections, but unfortunately that act was repealed by the then incoming Newman government.

The bill currently before the House amends the Electoral Act 1992 and provides for electoral expenditure caps for registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning; caps on the giving to and acceptance of political donations to registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties in campaigning; and requirements for registered political parties, candidates and third parties to maintain dedicated state campaign accounts.

It increases the dollar amounts for first preference votes for public funding for political parties and candidates, and decreases the threshold for eligibility of election funding from six per cent to four per cent of formal first preference votes. It also contains measures necessary to support the new funding and disclosure arrangements including registration requirements for third parties and clarification of accountabilities of agents and electoral participants, and contains measures around new electoral signage restrictions, similar to those contained in other state jurisdictions. These reforms will help ensure an open, accountable, transparent and level playing field when it comes to the political and democratic process in Queensland.

I turn to the matters in the bill that relate to local government. It is important to say that the vast majority of local councillors do the right thing and meet the high standards expected by the community. In those instances where this does not occur, this bill continues the government's rolling program of reforms to improve accountability, transparency and integrity in the local government system, and local government elections, building on previous reforms in the local government area by implementing stages 1 and 2 of the Belcarra reforms in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

This bill provides to amend the system for dealing with councillor registers of interests and conflicts of interests to ensure consistency with the proposed amendments to deal with registers of interest and conflicts of interest at a state level. It aligns the processes for filling councillor vacancies between the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act, and provides for the runner-up to fill a casual vacancy from a first-past-the-post voting election. It allows for councillors to direct local council designated employees who provide administrative support to elected representatives within chief executive officer approved guidelines which prohibit provision of political assistance to councillors, and establishes a framework for local governments, including the Brisbane City Council, to contract staff to provide administrative and policy support to councillors and limit Brisbane City councillors' involvement in the appointment of senior contract employees to council.

The councillors' register of interest and conflicts of interest amendments are in response to feedback from stakeholders indicating that there can be confusion as to what amounts to a conflict of interest and also concerns about the number of matters having to be delegated to chief executive officers to decide, due to a majority of councillors declaring a conflict of interest. These conflicts of interest are largely arising due to the acceptance of donations or gifts by some councillors.


To address these matters, the bill addresses two new concepts—prescribed conflicts of interest and declarable conflicts of interest. A prescribed conflict of interest is defined by reference to particular scenarios such as the acceptance of a donation of \$2,000 or more in a prescribed period or the consideration of a matter before council where a councillor is the applicant or where a councillor has a prescribed conflict of interest and they cannot continue to participate in discussions or decision-making regarding that matter. All other conflicts of interest would be a declarable conflict of interest. Once a councillor has declared such a conflict, other councillors will decide whether they can continue to participate in decision-making on that matter, which is in accordance with the Belcarra stage 1 reforms.

The bill also seeks to address concerns raised about the number of councils losing quorum by making some technical amendments which will permit a minority of councillors to consider the nature of conflicts of interest held by a majority of councillors and determine if they can participate in decision-making.

Queensland councils told us they want clearer and more concise legislation in the areas of elections, governance and conduct. That is what we are delivering. Small not-for-profit third-party organisations also aired their concerns and we listened to them by delivering new thresholds for third-party registrations.

The Economics and Governance Committee received over 70 submissions, as has been previously stated, in response to this legislation. We listened to the issues raised during that committee process. There are a raft of amendments currently before the House which also deal with responding to the current coronavirus pandemic. I, like the member for Currumbin and every participant in the local government elections, has firsthand experience of what it is like to campaign through a global health pandemic. The amendments contained in this bill set out a sensible range of options to make sure that, should we need to, we will be able to adapt appropriately and ensure the safety of Queenslanders during the election should the pandemic continue unabated.

Speaking of elections, the opposition continues to talk about October and claims that this legislation is about the upcoming state election. That could not be further from the truth. Unlike the opposition—unstable, unpredictable and unable to get along—the Palaszczuk government is not focused on October. We will continue to work for all Queenslanders, delivering results today which will benefit our generations of tomorrow. This legislation is about further strengthening Queensland's democracy. It is essential as we continue to unite and recover. Communities across Queensland told us they expect increased accountability and integrity from their elected representatives. That is what we are delivering. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.32 pm): I rise to speak on the long-awaited Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. This bill largely reflects long-held Greens policy and, to that extent, I am in full support. The Greens have called for donations reform, including donation and spending caps, since the very inception of the party. It was only months prior to the introduction of this bill that I wrote to the Premier and the Attorney-General urging them to introduce this reform and indicating my intention to do just that if they failed to act.

The bill sets out some vital and long-overdue reforms. Limits on political donations and election spending will go some way towards limiting the huge influence that donors and lobbyists have had on our democracy. Right now, corporate influence is getting in the way of progress on some of the biggest issues affecting Queenslanders' lives, from fair wages and affordable housing to tackling climate change.

It is no secret that the LNP and Labor take millions of dollars in donations from corporations, host secretive fundraising functions they call business forums and organise cushy lobbyist jobs for ex-politicians with no transparency or accountability. Big corporations donate for a reason. In return for their money, the big banks, gambling corporations and mining giants have received billions of dollars worth of favourable policy decisions from LNP and Labor governments alike. While the major parties continue to accept this money, they will never be completely focused on what is good for our communities. It is lawful corruption and it does need to end.

There are some good steps towards that in this bill, but the Greens also want to see the end of all corporate donations and no cash-for-access meetings with government ministers and to close the revolving door between major party politics and the lobbying industry. I broadly support this reform, but I have to say it is really poor form on the part of the government to introduce such extensive amendments at this late stage—229 amendments over 100 pages makes a farce of the committee system. I would urge the government to stop this practice so that we as legislators and interested stakeholders have enough time to properly understand, consider and scrutinise legislation, other than in the most urgent circumstances.

While I generally support the bill, I will be moving an amendment that I believe will better level the playing field and further enhance integrity in the political process. My amendment would reduce the spending cap for third parties from \$1 million to \$200,000 to ensure that this bill does not increase the relative power and electoral influence of corporations, industry associations and high net worth individuals who have so much income or assets that their electoral expenditure is not constrained. These are the people whose interests are already over-represented in our political system. They are already advantaged with much less constrained funds. By comparison, other organisations or

individuals who are reliant on donations received under the new donation caps are at a significant disadvantage. It is incredibly unlikely that they will be able to raise funds of this magnitude for campaigning purposes.

As the Human Rights Law Centre pointed out in its submission, election spending by third parties in Queensland is not currently tracked so we do not know for certain who the biggest spenders are. At the federal level, it is clear that industry associations like the Minerals Council of Australia and the Business Council of Australia are among the biggest spenders. Given the activity of these groups already in Queensland politics, it is no stretch to imagine them playing a significant role in future Queensland elections, especially if they are no longer able to donate large sums directly to political parties.

While community groups and charities rely on donations, industry associations and corporations receive substantial membership fees, subscriptions and levies. Corporations have commercial revenue streams. Even unions receive membership fees from workers that add up quickly. In this sense, this bill will disproportionately restrict the ability of charities to do election related advocacy, far less than it will impact corporations and industry associations. Reducing the spending cap to \$200,000 ensures that the disproportionate influence that big companies already have is kept in check in relation to spending. It does so without undermining the ability of any third party to effectively participate in election campaigning.

The community and non-government sector, where I worked before being elected to this place, have been clear about the risks posed in this bill in its original form. Advocacy is a critical part of their job. In many cases, it is impossible for them to focus on discrete issues on a case-by-case basis without engaging in the broader structural context in which these issues arise. The devastating attacks on the community sector's advocacy and independence during the LNP government led by Campbell Newman are not far behind us. Charities and NGOs have been clear: the bill in its original form threatened to stifle this advocacy. There are many examples of where it is unclear whether common expenditure of these groups meets the definition of electoral expenditure, like distributing scorecards of the parties' policy positions, paying for advertising on election issues or even distributing newsletters to members about local political issues.

The Gladstone Conservation Council submitted how this bill would have prevented them from organising a small, nonpartisan election candidates' forum. Where the law is uncertain, given the limited budgets these groups have to work with, they simply could not afford to risk a fine for breaching the new law. The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre outlined the vital role that community organisations play in elevating the voices of community members who are not otherwise able to have their views heard by decision-makers. Some of the ways these organisations currently do this did not have a clear status under the law as originally posed.

The Human Rights Law Centre was blunt in its submission—the bill would have shut down election advocacy by community groups and charities. They recommended that the definition of 'electoral expenditure' be limited for small community groups and charities. The government has introduced late amendments to address this, which I understand will be welcomed by the sector as being better than the originally drafted provisions. I would have preferred to adopt a more limited definition of 'electoral expenditure' for third parties that are charities registered under the ACNC Act or groups with an annual taxable income of less than \$50,000. With these changes, a relevant third party would only incur electoral expenditure for the broadcast, publication or distribution of advertising or other election material that refers to both the name of a political party or candidate and how to vote at an election.

As the Human Rights Law Centre pointed out, charities are, according to the Charities Act 2013, the federal act, required to work in the public interest and are prevented from having a purpose of promoting or opposing candidates and political parties—that is, charities are both legally required to ensure that all their activities serve their charitable purpose and legally prevented from engaging in partisan work or acting as a conduit for political donations. I welcome the government's ongoing engagement with the CCC. I appreciate where they have landed in terms of the integrity reforms.

In closing, I would say this: For too long, the big end of town has had the run of this state. The fossil fuel lobby, the gambling lobby, the big banks and others get huge returns on these shady investments. The fossil fuel lobby is calculated to gain \$2,000 in subsidies for every \$1 that they donate. We have seen the effects of this lobbying firsthand in Queensland, with Labor waving through new coal and gas projects and countless other government favours for major donors.

Confidence in politics is at an all-time low, and that is not surprising. News of politicians doing fundraising activities on the public dollar barely ripples because people's faith in politicians is completely trashed. Scandal after scandal has shown that politicians from the big parties are representing the big end of town, not the community.

The reforms in this bill, as I have said already, are long overdue, and I support this reform. With my amendment, and with a better definition of 'electoral expenditure' for third parties, this bill could truly enhance integrity in Queensland's political system, but it is an enormous step forward from where we are at the moment. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (6.41 pm): I would like to speak in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. The bill contains a series of significant amendments relating to funding and expenditure for state elections, signage for state elections, conduct of ministers, conduct of councillors and other local government matters.

The Economics and Governance Committee in its report No. 37, which was tabled in the Assembly on 7 February 2020, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed. The amendments contained in the bill seek to improve the actual and perceived integrity and public accountability of state elections and to ensure public confidence in state electoral and political processes.

The amendments contained in the bill focused on four factors that had been identified as key to mitigate the risk, perceived or real, that a single person or entity could have an improper or undue influence on political parties, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning. The significant amendments, as I have already outlined, related to funding and expenditure for state elections, signage at state elections, conduct of ministers, conduct of councillors and other local government matters.

The Economics and Governance Committee noted in their report that 'a wide array of stakeholders were consulted' on the amendments relating to funding and expenditure for state elections, ranging from registered political parties, peak bodies and professional associations to various groups likely to be classified as 'third parties' in an election. The committee received 73 separate submissions from the community and heard from 25 interested parties and the two departments with interest in this legislation. The inquiry definitely heard from a number of stakeholders about the issues addressed in this bill. I will speak briefly on the four areas of amendments proposed under this bill.

The amendments for funding and expenditure for state elections seek to level the playing field for electoral campaigning. This will ensure that an individual person or an entity has a reasonable opportunity to communicate with voters to influence voting in an election without being 'drowned out' by the communications of others. The amendments relate to funding and expenditure by way of introducing donation caps. Donation caps limit gifts that can be received from and given by a single donor during the relevant donations cap period for the relevant type of recipient. This has the effect of restricting funding sources for electoral expenditure.

It is also proposed to introduce amendments relating to signage at state elections. Specifically, the bill proposes to reduce the number of signs displayed by a particular party, candidate or third party engaged in campaigning in the area surrounding entrances to pre-poll voting offices and ordinary polling booths, or the grounds in which they are located. This will ensure that areas around polling booths are more neutral for voters and prevent damage to structures at venues used as polling booths caused by affixing election material.

The number and nature of signs that can be used by election participants during voting hours within 100 metres of polling booths will be limited, with restrictions specified on the size and placement of those signs. The Electoral Commission of Queensland stated to the committee that these amendments may facilitate a more positive experience for voters in helping to ensure that 'they are not impeded during the voting process', as well as benefiting 'suppliers by minimising potential damage to venues'. The committee noted concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the proposed signage limitations. Representation has been made to consider the number and nature of signs that could be allowed to be displayed while still achieving this goal.

The bill contains amendments that aim to improve the integrity and accountability of ministers by amending the Integrity Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act to create a new offence under each act. These new offences give effect to the government's commitment to implementing recommendations proposed by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The new criminal offence in the Integrity Act would apply for a minister who knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit for themselves, or another person, or to cause detriment to another person. The new offence in the Parliament of Queensland Act would apply where a minister fails to comply with the obligations of members of parliament to register their interests with the Registrar. The offence only applies to ministers and reflects the decision-making nature of cabinet, the higher obligation on ministers to uphold the standards of integrity and ensure there is public confidence in government.

The bill introduces a new dishonest conduct of councillor offences into the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act that apply if a councillor fails to comply with particular conflict of interest or register of interests requirements with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit. These offences align with the proposed new dishonest conduct offences in the Integrity Act and Parliament of Queensland Act which would apply to members of cabinet.

Contravention of the 'relevant integrity provisions', for which the dishonest conduct offences apply, would also amount to misconduct under conduct provisions in the Local Government Act and could result in disciplinary action being taken against the councillor.

The amendments contained in the bill applicable to the Local Government Act and the City of Brisbane Act further provide for a number of amendments introducing further reforms to improve transparency, integrity and consistency as a whole in the local government system and its decision-making.

Full consideration was given by the committee to the principles under the Legislative Standards Act and whether the bill has sufficient regard to the fundamental legislative principles articulated in the Legislative Standards Act. The committee was satisfied that provisions were justified and appropriate in the circumstances. I support the committee's recommendation that the bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (6.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. I start my contribution as I will continue, and that is not quite as happy as members opposite with what is being presented here this evening. This is an attack on our ability to operate in a true democracy in Queensland.

It is a missed opportunity for real reforms. What an insult when we see legislation that benefits one party over another. In this case, it is clear manipulation by those opposite for their own benefit. It is shameful. That is why we must oppose the more perverse parts of the bill. We have missed an opportunity to reverse some of the more contentious changes made by those opposite in trashing the recommendations of the Fitzgerald inquiry.

We should have restored public confidence in the electoral system by reintroducing a voting system recommended by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, which was established upon recommendation of the Fitzgerald inquiry. We should have given voters more options to express their political opinions, while preserving the voting choice available under full preferential voting. It is less likely to lead the voter to invalidate his or her vote through a numbering error because of its simplistic nature. We should acknowledge that banning one group of our community from contributing to the political process while strengthening the position of another that favours, funds and influences everyone on that side of the House is why this is a terribly dark day in Queensland politics.

With my local regional council supporting the proposed local government changes in the bill, I note that we will not oppose the local government changes, which are an improvement on the current integrity framework and originated from the CCC's Operation Belcarra report; however, we must stop attacks and overreach in the governance and influence of our local governments. There are major concerns about the processes being implemented by this government. Twice this week we have bypassed the proper scrutiny of the House. I am talking about significant changes made to the bill that water down what was proposed. It is unfathomable that we would exclude the committee processes.

There has been much said about how the ALP has sought to tilt the electoral system in its favour through the last-minute introduction of full preferential voting before the last election. It now seeks further advantages in the guise of support for democracy and fairness. This shabby bill does little more than restrict both accountability and integrity in the name of cheap political advantage. The bill encompasses various reforms, including changes to electoral campaigning, funding and expenditure for state elections and new integrity measures to apply to state and local government.

We know that under the current donation disclosure laws that apply in Queensland all electors have the opportunity to make their own judgement as to whether any donors—either individuals, corporations or trade unions—are in a position to exercise this sort of influence. We now have the heavy, dirty hand of partisan politics at play. There were several submissions made on this proposal, and one submitter rightly commented that the government appears to believe that all influence must be limited; however, the influence of the majority of the electorate is at the heart of our political system.

The government has provided no explanation as to how it has been able to distinguish between improper influences and legitimate influences. As well as failing to provide evidence of the problems which this legislation is supposed to overcome, the government has championed a solution which is completely contrary to its express purpose. In the first page of the explanatory notes to the bill the government claims that chapter 2 of the legislation states that the bill aims to—

- secure the actual and perceived integrity of the State electoral and political processes by reducing the risk that a single person or entity can have an improper, corrupting or undue influence on political parties, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning;
- level the playing field for electoral campaigning and ensure that an individual person or entity has a reasonable opportunity to communicate to influence voting in an election without being “drowned out” by the communication of others;

However, the reality of these amendments is that the power of particular persons or entities to exercise influence will be strengthened at the expense of others while the playing field will be tilted in favour of those who enjoy a privileged relationship with the current government.

The imposition of spending caps will work to the disadvantage of the opposition and to the advantage of the ALP. That is clear. It is also clear that when you throw in the unvetted opportunities for the 26 affiliated unions that control this government, you see clearly this is nothing more than a government flexing its arrogant majority. The third-party expenditure cap of \$87,000 that applies to trade unions will see 26 trade unions expending up to \$87,000 in each electorate. This could amount to over \$2.2 million of union influence per electorate. I know that the majority of Queenslanders find it offensive, but they are not surprised that a Labor government would introduce public funding and campaign accounts.


This reform requires registered political parties, candidates and registered third parties to maintain dedicated state campaign accounts to comply with the donation and expenditure caps. As we have seen time and time again, the government defers their responsibilities into the never-never. We see that the significant amendments defer action, in some cases to 2022-23. It is bad legislation and it does not do anything for the political process. In relation to trying to influence political donation caps and electoral expenditure we have more changes. The bill imposes caps that donors may make and defined recipients—political parties and their associated entities, candidates involved in electoral campaigning—may receive.

We missed an opportunity to deal with political signage. I supported restrictions on signage that was proposed earlier. We know that in the lead-up to elections and pre-poll it was a mess, but rolling back whatever we have done with these amendments is really disappointing. We had an opportunity to make real progress in that area. These third parties, which are now going to be allowed to proliferate, populate and pollute polling booths, have no real role in the election process except to disrupt and offer influence. Two corflutes only per endorsed candidate, which was originally proposed, was what we should endorse. Let's get rid of that stupid amendment and some real leadership on what the voters of Queensland, who put us here, really want.

The integrity offences that were proposed and recommended by the CCC certainly reflected just how bad this Labor government is. It is hard to reflect on anything that talks about integrity when time and time again we had Labor's integrity crisis presenting challenges for the weak Premier. The Integrity Act 2009 was amended to create a criminal offence when a minister knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit to themselves or another person or cause detriment to another person. What a shame the bill has been watered down to a tokenistic attempt to cover up countless Labor integrity scandals where no-one has been held to account. We recall the CCC slammed Labor's laws because they do not go far enough. We have moved amendments to roll them back even further. We must encourage transparency to reduce the risk of corruption.

Labor continues to mislead the public by claiming that it has adopted the CCC's recommendations, but this is completely untrue and a front to make out to the people of Queensland that the Labor government is interested in reducing the risk of corruption. These laws just let the previous deputy premier off. Labor clearly does not recognise the significance of failing to declare a conflict of interest if they categorise the offence as a misdemeanour rather than an indictable offence.

It is clear that we have seen a watering down of the bill with the huge number of amendments that were presented late last night. It is disappointing that there are so many missed opportunities in this bill. We could have done so much more in Queensland to enhance the political process, but as we have seen time and time again cheap political advantage is being taken at the expense of others, ignoring those people who put so much into reform agendas like Fitzgerald and the other inquiries we have had. Today we have another bill that clearly articulates in favour of the ALP and those who influence the ALP. Trying to nobble their opponents is a cheap political stunt and it should be condemned for what it is. I oppose the bill.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.56 pm): I rise to share my contribution to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. Queenslanders must be able to have confidence in our electoral system as a key feature of our democracy. At the heart of our democracy in the western world is the right to continually challenge those who hold or seek to hold absolute power in our society, whether these be banks, media empires, politicians, large corporations or those with unlimited access to money, because it is this imbalance of power that leads to world poverty, poor health, suppressed educational outcomes, reduces life expectancy and ultimately to the widening gap between the rich and poor in the western world and globally.

One's life experience and opportunities should not be the result of the postcode in which one was born or the abhorrent misuse of power in our communities—an abhorrent misuse of power that Queenslanders know all too well. Long before the election of the Bligh government Labor governments sought to challenge the abhorrent practices of consecutive Bjelke-Petersen governments. For 19 years from 1968 to 1987 under Bjelke-Petersen's leadership Queensland was not democratic. In fact, Queensland bordered on an authoritarian state. Allegations of organised crime and police corruption in Queensland were first aired on *Four Corners* in May 1987. The Bjelke-Petersen government manipulated and exploited the state's electoral constituency's boundaries so as to favour one party with an over-representation of rural electorates at the expense of urban ones. The state's unicameral parliament meant that the checks and balances a second house would have provided were absent.

This era of government was brought to a dramatic and inglorious end 19 years later with the Fitzgerald inquiry into police corruption. While the Fitzgerald reforms commenced 30 years ago, the project of ensuring the integrity of our democracy is an ongoing task. Electoral reform is a task—

Opposition members interjected.


Ms MCMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, they do not like it. Electoral reform is a task that the Palaszczuk government remains committed to. It was the Bligh government in 2009 that began discussions to elevate Queensland's political donation restrictions and reporting requirements to best practice, introducing the Electoral Reform and Accountability Act in 2011 which imposed electoral expenditure caps and donation caps for state elections of \$1,000. Not surprisingly, this act was subsequently repealed by the incoming Newman government. Newman's 2014 changes to donation laws enabled donors to give large amounts—up to \$12,400—in secret as well as exploiting the gap between what is legally a donation and a fee for a good or a service.

However, on 17 April 2019 the High Court published orders in the matter of *Spence v State of Queensland* [2019] HCA 15, declaring the Commonwealth provisions that would have limited the scope for the state to legislate for changes to electoral campaigning financing framework invalid and upholding the validity of Queensland's prohibition on property developer donations. This was further evidence that the Palaszczuk government's electoral reforms are reforms reflective of good governing. The electoral bill amends the Electoral Act 1992 to provide for electoral expenditure caps for registered political parties and their associated entities.

Debate, on motion of Ms McMillan, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Kawana Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.00 pm): There is considerable confusion and distress throughout my community regarding the government's inconsistent approach to the coronavirus restrictions. I give a shout-out to the Kawana Chamber of Commerce and the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce for supporting businesses through this most difficult time. I stand with local business owners who watched in distress while 30,000 protesters gathered in Brisbane, against COVID-19 laws, with no consequences, yet their businesses are being threatened by government officials if they have more than 20 in for a coffee, a meal or a drink. There are so many examples of double standards.

My constituents own Fraser Island Adventure Tours and they have four-wheel drive tour buses which are registered in Queensland as a public passenger service. They are subject to the same insurances, strict guidelines, safety inspections, transport audits, et cetera, as TransLink or Greyhound, for example. It is ridiculous that Fraser Island Adventure Tours are being forced to abide by the one-person-per-four-square-metre rule in their buses yet the same rules do not apply to any public transport type. In their 24-seater bus, it means they can have a maximum of five people including the driver. It is simply impossible for them to resume their business. They are happy to abide by social distancing and half fill their buses, but four paying customers on a 24-seat bus touring Fraser is just ridiculous and killing this business and other tour operators. Also, it seems the Premier is above her own laws judging by her visit to Australia Zoo where she was snapped on a golf buggy ironically taking a tour with no regard to the one-person-per-four-square-metre rule.

We have this equally ridiculous scenario where companies like Kawana Waters Travel have had to cancel rail tours because this government has advised Queensland Rail they cannot offer a sleeper service on any of the trains travelling around the state due to social distancing requirements. It does not make any sense that a single person in a single cabin or a couple in a twin cabin are unable to sleep on the train. How are the visitors meant to travel throughout Queensland and to our outback towns without a sleeper service? The tourism minister should fix the mess.

Today I was pleased to support our teachers, police, cleaners and doctors in this House by voting against Labor's pay freeze. I support our frontline workers. I also tabled amendments to legislate that politicians had a pay freeze for 12 months. Labor denied me that opportunity to move those amendments. They put politicians before people.

As shadow minister for education, I can say that we have the most absurd scenario where, despite students being allowed back into the classrooms, this government is still preventing boarding students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 from returning, leaving them at home to their disadvantage. Why? Why is it that year 11 and 12 students can return to boarding schools but somehow it is not safe for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10? How can it be safe for 3,000 students to play together in a playground or 30,000 people to attend a protest but not safe for boarding students to return? The education minister should fix the mess. I call on the government to end the confusion, stop the double standards and allow our businesses to open back up. People need their jobs back.

Cairns Electorate, Coronavirus



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (7.03 pm): I have always been proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government but never more so than now as a result of the way we have handled this train wreck called COVID-19. The Palaszczuk government acknowledged very early, particularly in my city, that we needed assistance and came out with a very generous \$3.67 million fee relief package for operators at the Cairns marina. This meant that operators would get 100 per cent rebates for marina and Green Island jetty fees as well as the port's retail, food and beverage commercial leasehold tenants and that the schedule of charges for the marina was frozen until January 2023.


We then extended these measures to give property tenants rent relief for six months starting on 1 April. Commercial tourism and reef operator rebates that were previously announced were then extended until 30 September. Importantly, the rebates scheme was extended to freight and industrial businesses operating out of the Cairns port. We also implemented a package worth \$660,000 to assist the commercial fishery industry in our area. These decisions were a timely and common-sense response to what the industries up there wanted.

Just last week we announced a \$5 million regional airport package which I know Norris Carter, the CEO of the Cairns Airport, is very keen to get a slice of. This funding will help the airport attract intrastate flights to the far north which will create huge flow-on benefits for our city, providing a real boost for local businesses at a time when they need it most. Yesterday, there was a further announcement that \$10 million was being made available to airports to start planning and marketing to attract interstate flights and to negotiate new routes, obviously when the borders reopen. Air travel is a key component to enabling our tourism industry and the significant economic benefits it brings, and the government will commit \$15 million to airline route support. For a quick snapshot of how the COVID-19 lockdown has affected the Cairns Airport, we need look no further than the passenger movement numbers. In April last year, about 403,000 passengers moved through Cairns Airport. In April this year, we had 11,000—a decrease of 97.2 per cent.

Last week the government also announced a \$4 million support package for icon tourism businesses in Cairns so they can continue to pay their workers through the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is part of a \$50 million package announced last month and will support some of the region's

biggest employers. The Palaszczuk government's No. 1 priority is to safeguard jobs during these tough times. One in five workers in the city of Cairns are employed in the tourism industry and many of them work at these attractions. This funding will help to give workers certainty. We will continue to work with the industry as we move forward. We have a long way to go but it is a hell of a start.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Redlands Coast

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.06 pm): The Redlands coast cannot afford Labor's tax-your-way-to-recovery approach. The hallmark of Labor's recovery plan is tax—new and higher taxes, fees, levies and charges, and also sneaky secret taxes and taxes hidden in excessive water prices. We should have a proper economic plan based on a proper budget and one scrutinised by this parliament, but Labor has no budget—just a plan to tax. The only thing certain about life under Labor governments is there would be more taxes. Again, I call on the government to release a budget and jobs recovery plan for the Redlands coast region including North Stradbroke Island.

Labor's 'Trad-broke' island scheme shows us what to expect across Queensland if Labor is in charge of the recovery into 2021. Over \$20 million was supposedly spent on Straddie but nothing has been built in four years. Labor's policy had decimated the jobs, the tourism operators and the small businesses before COVID-19 did any of its own damage. Instead of tourism investment in May promoting Straddie for a midyear recovery from around Queensland and interstate, Labor firstly kept Straddie and the borders closed. Secondly, they tripled the Straddie four-wheel drive beach access fees. Funnily enough, the tax tripling did not attract more people. Thirdly, caught out secretly planning a new fishing tax on recreational fishermen in Moreton Bay, Labor operatives told whoppers to cover for former treasurer Trad, but we know the secret tax is still in the planning. Fourthly, the latest kite Labor operatives tried to fly is to cut the number of four-wheel drive tourists to Straddie beaches. A poll in the *Redland City Bulletin* showed a majority of those surveyed oppose cutting four-wheel drive tourist numbers on Straddie beaches, but where do the local Labor MPs stand? Where do the members for Capalaba, Redlands and Springwood stand on growing tourism by cutting tourist numbers? Imagine that idea rolled out across the state.

Labor's economic mismanagement means in almost six years we have had nothing significant built by Labor in the Redlands coast. We need to start building things again—investing in Redland Hospital with car parking and an ICU, in Redlands roads and in the Stradbroke recovery. In four years, nothing has been built on Stradbroke Island. The Leslie Harrison Dam has no gates which means half a dam of drinking water goes out to sea—not to mention the 6.3 per cent water price hike that Redlands coast Labor MPs supported.


Four months out from an election, watch out for the symbolic sod turnings designed to give the illusion of action and building after years of neglect. We know you cannot tax your way to growth and you cannot put Labor in charge of the recovery. Only a vote for LNP candidates and a Frecklington LNP government can get Queensland back—

(Time expired)

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): I will call the House to order. I am about to call one of your members to their feet.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.09 pm): Queenslanders have been working incredibly hard to help stop the spread of coronavirus. Our government asked them to step up and right across the state they have certainly risen to the challenge. Now we as Queenslanders face the next challenge. The global pandemic has impacted economies around the world. Australia is not immune, and Queensland is not immune, either. As we continue to manage the health impacts, the Palaszczuk government has started delivering a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

Yesterday the Premier announced almost half a billion dollars to do some very important things: in the main to support vulnerable Queenslanders but also to support tradies to keep working and to rebuild our economy. The construction industry is such a critical one for our community. In the community I represent over 3,035 people work in construction. That is why it is so vitally important that we provide a pipeline of work to keep all those local tradies in work, and that is exactly what we are doing.

I point to the \$11 million upgrade to renew Springwood State High School, a great project being led by QBuild. There is also the \$5 million upgrade to Mount Cotton State School to deliver state-of-the-art spaces for our preppies. The slabs are down and the frames will be going up soon. There is the new hall at Rochedale South State School, a project that is ahead of time and on budget—not something you hear in construction all of the time—and the \$10 million upgrade to Underwood Park, an election commitment I am proud to have delivered. There is the half a million dollar upgrade to the Daisy Hill Koala Centre—and I want to acknowledge the Minister for Environment and Science for that—and of course, the significant \$749 million upgrade to the M1 from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill supporting 700 jobs. It all adds up to record investment in our community and, most importantly, to jobs.

Last week we had some more great news for the residents of Rochedale South. I speak to this issue because I am proud to have been able to bring people in our community together. After years of campaigning and the unfortunate recent injury of a local student, Brisbane city and Logan city councils have committed to upgrade the intersection of Rochedale and Priestdale roads. This is welcomed. It is a much needed project that will not only deliver essential road safety upgrades but create jobs at the same time. I want to acknowledge and thank all members of the committee. I want to acknowledge and thank the Rochedale State High School P&C. I especially want to thank local councillor Lisa Bradley who has been tireless on this issue. I want to acknowledge the member for Rankin, Jim Chalmers, and my colleague the member for Mansfield for their efforts. Combined, we were able to bring the federal government and Brisbane City Council to the table to get this project going.

As we continue to fight the pandemic, the Palaszczuk government will continue to back the tradies and create jobs because Queensland's plan for recovery—

(Time expired)

Child Protection



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): In my maiden speech I said—

We all think that victims should be our priority over criminals. We all think that where children are not being afforded love and protection from their own families they should be protected by the state, but we need to think harder, do better at developing and implementing policies that achieve those undisputed ideals.

Today I am immensely proud to be part of a Deb Frecklington-led LNP team who has announced a top-to-bottom overhaul of the broken child protection system. The highest priority of any government should be the safety and security of its citizens, particularly protecting our most vulnerable: our children. There is no doubt in this space that this government has been an epic fail.

Queenslanders are sick of hearing tragic stories week after week about poor, innocent, vulnerable young kids who have fallen through the cracks of this broken child protection system. I previously worked on the front line in the child protection system, and I was working on that front line four years ago when Mason Jett Lee was tragically murdered at Caboolture. It is horrific to read that report. When 21 people in a department are found to be operating outside of the policies and procedures of that department, that is not human error; that is systemic failure.

When the LNP was in government back in 2012 we commissioned the Carmody report which produced a report titled *Taking responsibility: a road map for Queensland child protection*. I want to know who is taking responsibility. Where does the buck stop with this broken system?

I appreciate the minister is in the House. I was going to spend time talking about our policy to improve the situation, but I am more than happy to highlight that the fact that up to 18 children have died suspiciously or were allegedly murdered under this government's watch in the last five years has shown the absolute failure of this broken system. There is no more important job in any government. If a government cannot protect our kids, if it cannot protect the most vulnerable in our society, what can it do?

Getting back on point, that is why I was proud today to be part of a Deb Frecklington-led LNP that has announced a policy that will implement a top-to-bottom overhaul of the child protection system and bring it into line with other law enforcement agencies. There needs to be a chain of command. There needs to be a law enforcement structure where people can be held accountable and the most vulnerable people in our society can be protected.

Algester Electorate, Queensland Day Awards; Pallara State School



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.15 pm): Every year, as part of Queensland Day celebrations, I thank and honour the incredible individuals and organisations who make the Algester electorate the

best place in the state to live by awarding my annual Algester Queensland Day awards. Over the past few years the Algester Parkinson Lions Club has coordinated Queensland Day celebrations in the Algester electorate where my Queensland Day awards have been presented. Of course, as a result of COVID-19, this much anticipated event was not able to take place this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Algester Parkinson Lions Club for their hard work and acknowledge their leadership in keeping everyone safe.

COVID did not stop us from celebrating the amazing people in our community and awarding Queensland Day awards to the many deserving individuals and organisations who have made such a difference across the Algester electorate. During restrictions, our schools went above and beyond to support students and their parents through these unprecedented times. That is why I was happy to award all schools in the Algester electorate with Queenslander of the Year awards: from Acacia Ridge State School and Algester State School to Calamvale Community College, Pallara State School, Wisdom College and Watson Road State School as well as the Murri School and our great Catholic schools, St Bernadine's, Our Lady of Fatima and St Stephen's. The teaching staff, principals and support staff including our amazing cleaners have been true heroes during this time and deserve recognition.

Community groups, including Belong in Acacia Ridge, Lighthouse Care in Hillcrest, Wat Thai Buddharam in Forestdale, to name just a few, were also recipients of Queensland Day awards for their outstanding support of those who were hit hard by COVID restrictions. There was also recognition for the outstanding sporting clubs in the Algester electorate including the Super Kings Cricket Club based in Heathwood and the Calamvale Leopards among others. There was also recognition for our incredibly generous clubs such as the Algester Sports Club, Greenbank RSL at Hillcrest and Souths Acacia Ridge who collectively do so much to support our community. These recipients joined dozens of other remarkable individuals and organisations that were also awarded Queensland Day Awards for their outstanding contribution to the Algester electorate.

In the time remaining, I want to make special mention of Pallara State School and their weekly 'wear pink on Wednesday' initiative. Today, I join school leaders, teachers and support staff at Pallara State School by wearing pink on Wednesday to lend my support to their goal of promoting positive staff morale and school culture.

Mr Molhoek: That's hot pink.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you very much. It is hot pink. Sometimes it is these little things that can act as a reminder of all the goodness and positivity that exists in the community. As we unite to recover from COVID it also serves as a reminder that we are always stronger together. Being a Queenslander means sticking by your mates in tough times, and the Queenslanders that call the Algester electorate home do exactly that.

Coronavirus, Economic Response; Mount Morgan Mine



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (7.18 pm): In the past three months whole industries have stalled, people have lost their jobs and the state has been plunged into further debt. In those months I have outlined a kickstart Queensland strategy that maps out a path back to prosperity, and I will touch on some of the points listed in the kickstart Queensland website that I have launched.

The recovery government must get out of the way and let Queensland shine like it used to. Environmental safeguards are important, but the default position needs to change from asking, 'How do we stop this?' to asking, 'How do we make this happen?' The government needs to stop paying external consultants to do the government's job and apply some accountability and transparency to the NGOs that suck up more taxpayers' dollars than the Parliamentary Library is able to count.


A recovery government will quit wasting millions of dollars on photo opportunities like the 2032 Olympics bid and redirect support to the industry and local manufacturing to boost the economy now and to keep jobs in Queensland. Both the Labor Party and the LNP need to withdraw the billion-plus dollars they are throwing at the dodgy reef science to point the finger at farmers and actually back those farmers to produce better outcomes for the reef, for farming communities and for the state economy. If the next government does not repeal the vegetation laws—because we know this one will not—the entire agriculture sector will be decimated as farmers simply walk away.

Queensland will flourish when its government focuses on their interests instead of funding and pandering to political correctness, China, the United Nations, UNESCO and other unelected global influencers. Allowing foreign entities, especially the Chinese Communist Party, to buy land, water and agribusiness without expanding and creating industries is not foreign investment; it is a foreign

purchase. We would do well to ban foreign purchases. Until Queensland has a government committed to building dams and infrastructure to deliver affordable and reliable water and energy, industry and prosperity, we will continue to spiral out of control. Our economy cannot move forward if our biggest industries are going backwards.

I finish by highlighting a specific action the government could take to boost the economy and save the environment. The Mount Morgan mine, which is very close to my heart, in my electorate was instrumental in Australia's financial foundation. The current government has invested millions into an evaporation method of cleaning up the environmental problem left by the early mine but, unfortunately, this has not reduced the poison from oozing out of the mine; it is just concentrating it, and it will be released in the next big weather event. If the government were truly committed to the environment, it would stump up half of the \$500 million outlined by the Central Queensland University to assist the new Heritage Minerals site and to rehabilitate and create jobs in Mount Morgan.


Ipswich State High School

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (7.21 pm): In June 2019 I was delighted to join education minister Grace Grace and Principal Simon Riley for the official opening of the new \$10 million performing arts centre at Ipswich State High School. The two-storey building features a performance stage, two drama learning areas, two dance studios, two music rooms, two multimedia areas, multiple classrooms, an ensemble studio, a ticket office and a cafe. It has also given the school a great vocational training facility to train students in certificate-level qualifications in creative industries that include music, screen and media. The performing arts centre was funded through the Palaszczuk government's 2020 Ready Program, and the building program has continued through 2020. Prefabricated classrooms have been transferred from Laidley State High School, including three science laboratories and five general learning spaces. Also, a \$1.1 million contract has been awarded to Ausco Modular for this work which was completed in February 2020.

The Young Families Connect facilities at the school have currently been expanded to create additional space. A \$450,000 contract was awarded to Fleetwood Australia. The work includes refurbishment of the existing building and transfer of a prefabricated building from the old Pallara state school site. Practical completion is set for the end of 2020. Preliminary work has also begun on a new \$7.17 million multistorey learning centre which will comprise 12 general learning spaces. Condev Construction was awarded the contract in March 2020, with a completion date set for late October 2020.

Ipswich State High School has also obtained a \$650,000 Active Community sport and recreation grant for a synthetic soccer pitch, the first in the Ipswich area. The school is in the process of negotiating a memorandum of understanding. The final design is yet to be finalised, but it is proposed that work will commence in 2021. The investment in the building program at Ipswich State High School forms part of a record \$1.464 billion investment in state school infrastructure by the Palaszczuk government. When I was first elected to parliament in 2015, I went to the staff and said, 'What do you need?' They said, 'Mr Madden, we need more facilities.' Since 2015, student numbers at the school have grown from 1,500 students to almost 2,000 students in 2020—an increase of over 30 per cent of students at this school. I am really pleased to see this sort of investment in Ipswich State High School. Tonight, I proudly wear the Ipswich State High School tie. It is a great school with great students and great staff.

Warrego Electorate, Schools

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (7.24 pm): I have recently had the pleasure of visiting many of the students in the Warrego electorate schools that have a number of requests for the state government. The first one is better internet. Many students in my electorate will not be able to view this speech online through the parliament website as their internet does not have the capacity. Schools like Morven conducted lessons during COVID by teleconference due to the poor internet in that community. At Wallumbilla State School I was able to speak to the students through Microsoft Teams. I was impressed by the number of students in year 12 at Charleville State High School who intend to pursue university studies and especially those doing apprenticeships. They will be our future lawyers, engineers, hairdressers and mechanics.

I give a shout-out to the Charleville St Mary's year 6 students who questioned me for over an hour on issues like vegetation management and the former deputy premier of this state. In Quilpie, the students asked for a tuckshop, whereas at St Finbarr's students asked about sealing the cross-strip at the Quilpie Airport. I have to say that my students are on the ball when it comes to infrastructure issues—they don't miss a beat!

In Thargomindah, the students recently lost a teacher and invited me back to be their teacher. They were a little bit disappointed when I said that I was their member of parliament—


Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Alright; self-inflicted.

Ms LEAHY: In Cunnamulla, the Sacred Heart students wanted a water bubbler at their skate park and some more jumps in that park. At Cunnamulla State School, I pay tribute to long-serving principal Karen Campbell, who will be retiring at the end of the year. I thank her for the many years of service that she has given to education. In Augathella, the students asked for a water park with soft fall in their park. They also were pretty excited about more jumps in their skate park. Again, the Morven students wanted a waterslide for their swimming pool on their education grounds. The drought has certainly focused the students on water activities.

The future of the Warrego electorate is in good hands. I am immensely proud of the calibre of these students at their young age. I thank their parents, teachers and support staff for facilitating their education. I look forward to advocating on behalf of these students from Charleville, Quilpie, Cunnamulla, Thargomindah, Augathella, Morven and Wallumbilla and all students across the Warrego electorate who do such a tremendous job in their communities and contribute greatly to their communities. We certainly are in good hands across that region because of the calibre of those students.

Sandgate Electorate, Small Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.27 pm): Small businesses are the lifeblood of a community such as my Sandgate electorate. Without the support of people who live in our part of the north side, dozens of small businesses would be in real trouble. As it is, facing difficult global economic conditions, many continue to have an uncertain future. Tonight, I thank local residents for their support of our local businesses over the past few months. During the pandemic—and particularly when restrictions began to ease—I sought to find out how our businesses were coping, how they were rising to the challenge of the times and what they were doing to keep themselves and their staff in work.

Family owned cafes in Sandgate including Warm Discussions, Satori Organics and Soda Shoppe introduced a COVID-19 takeaway menu and are now slowly opening up to more customers. Satori Organics maintained a regular market stall so we could continue to access fresh produce from Sunshine Coast farmers. All our cafes and restaurants have taken similar steps to survive. I have also ducked into Bean N Loaf at Fitzgibbon, Darun Thai at Taigum, the Shelley Inn at Shorncliffe and Bracken Ridge's Three Wise Monkeys and Round Table Coffee, and they have all made adjustments. As the road map reopens dining options, I found I spent time with Bryan of the famously good Ilforno Pizzeria in Fourth Avenue, Sandgate, to check out the way he was implementing the COVID-safe industry plan.

All business owners and managers were so grateful for the support they had received and are receiving from the Sandgate community. As I was further discussing last week with Sandgate Chamber of Commerce president Bill Gollan, we have a great culture of local shopping but the pandemic has seen this practice enhanced. They were also grateful for the Palaszczuk government's swift action in flattening the curve and for the generous grants and rebates being provided to help Queensland unite and recover. I visited Sam, the owner of Her Style Hair in Bracken Ridge, who, like so many others in that sector, was excited to see her customers, especially elderly customers, cautiously return. 'What about other retailers?' I hear you ask, Mr Deputy Speaker. Danielle from Something About Audrey has been pleased with the Palaszczuk government's help but also told me about how she has adapted her business to more online sales to make up for her reduced foot traffic. Similarly, Chris and Annalisse at Sweet Georgia have pivoted strongly to their online sales.

We also are famous for our great local watering holes. While I took advantage of the Full Moon Hotel's drive-through takeaway service which saved the day, especially with some very hungry and large, hollow-legged children at home, it was very informative to have a Zoom meeting with owners of local venues like the Post Office Hotel, Mr Henderson and one of the largest employers in my electorate, the Bracken Ridge Tavern. I cannot mention every small business and medium business in my electorate. Instead, I want to take my remaining time to say thank you—thank you as we unite and recover, thank you to all the small businesses who kept locals in jobs, thank you to those who have tried, thank you to those who have adapted and thank you to all the residents of Sandgate and all visitors who have helped keep these businesses going.

(Time expired)

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, 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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting