



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 18 June 2020

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THURSDAY, 18 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

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. On Tuesday, 16 June, the member for Everton made the following statements in this House: first, 'Queensland is still the only state without a budget' and, second, that before the coronavirus this state had 'the highest debt level in the country'. Not only are both of these statements patently false; as the shadow spokesperson for Treasury and finance—


Opposition members: Ha, ha!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, it has been the practice, and certainly in my time presiding, that we will hear matters of privilege without debate or interjection. I ask that you hear the Treasurer's matter of privilege.

Mr DICK: Not only are both of these statements patently false; the shadow spokesperson for Treasury and finance, the member for Everton, knew both of these statements to be false when he made them. I will be writing to you further on this matter.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 15 May 2020 the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 22 April 2020. The matter relates to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition during the matters of public interest debate. The Leader of the Opposition said—

It makes no sense to spend \$100 million on lowering ... Paradise Dam ... when independent experts say it can be fixed for just \$25 million.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). I have considered the matter and, while the statement does appear to contain factually incorrect material, this appears to be due to misinterpretation or mistake rather than any intent to deliberately mislead the House. Accordingly, I find that the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation for her statement. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 15 May 2020, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 22 April 2020.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition during Matters of Public Interest.

The Leader of the Opposition said, 'It makes no sense to spend \$100 million on lowering Paradise Dam when independent experts say it can be fixed for just \$25 million'.

In his letter to me, the Minister contended that this statement was misleading because no works suggested, that can rely upon existing information to fix the dam, including those suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, can better ensure the safety of Bundaberg within the same timeframe.

The Minister alleged that the Leader of the Opposition had misquoted a report by independent expert Dr Paul Rizzo when making these statements.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition advised me she was quoting Dr Rizzo, as the Minister alleged, and that the statement was factually correct.

I have reviewed the correspondence from both members, along with Dr Rizzo's report, and other reports related to Paradise Dam.

A portion of Dr Rizzo's report indicates that the cost of the anchoring recommended for Paradise Dam could be \$15.75 million USD (approximately \$25 million AUD). However, as the Minister points out, when reading the report as a whole, and referencing other relevant materials, it appears this cost would only be a portion of the remediation costs.

Consequently, while the statement does contain factually incorrect material, I believe this to be the result of misinterpretation or mistake, as opposed to an intention by the Leader of the Opposition to deliberately mislead the House.


On the information before me, I consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation as to the basis for her statement under Standing Order 269(4).

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters regarding the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP [\[954\]](#).

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 27 April 2020 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the now Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning deliberately misled the House on 22 April 2020. The matter relates to two statements made by the minister during question time. The first statement made by the minister was—

She came out and said, 'I'm not going to back Queensland workers. I'm going to back my very good friend Gladys Berejiklian.'

The second statement was—

Worse than that, the Leader of the Opposition dared Virgin to leave Queensland.

A withdrawal was sought and obtained at the time. In her letter to me, the Leader of the Opposition contended that this statement was misleading because she did not say the words that the minister attributed to her as a quote. I sought further information from the minister about the allegation made against him in accordance again with standing order 269(5). The minister advised me that both statements were his interpretations of what the Leader of the Opposition said in her press conference. The minister stated that members present would know that the Leader of the Opposition did not actually say the words, 'I'm not going to back Queensland workers.' He further contended it was his interpretation that the words the Leader of the Opposition used could be reasonably interpreted to mean that she was 'daring' Virgin to leave Queensland.

I think that it is important to stress to all members that it is unwise to alter or distort the statements of other members. Sometimes such alterations and distortions go well beyond puffery or exaggeration; they are simply misleading. However, the minister has since made an unqualified apology for his statements by correspondence. Given the minister's apology, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters regarding the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the then Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Cameron Dick [\[951\]](#).

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Burnett and the Treasurer will cease your interjections across the chamber.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport (Hon. de Brenni)—

[923](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport (Hon. De Brenni), to an ePetition (3290-20) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 926 petitioners, requesting the House to commission and install a statue of Matt Bowen at the new North Queensland Stadium

Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace)—

[924](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3267-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 343 petitioners, requesting the House to reverse the decision identifying the parcel of land at 17 Kings Road, Russell Island as being surplus to the Department of Education's present and/or future needs and to prohibit the use of this land for any purpose other than the formal education of secondary school aged students

[925](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3294-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 306 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Picnic Creek State School

[926](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3295-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 177 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Norfolk Village State School

[927](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3296-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 428 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Pimpama State Secondary College

[928](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3297-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 185 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Pimpama State Primary College

[929](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3298-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 183 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Coomera Springs State School

[930](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3299-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 152 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Ormeau State School

[931](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3314-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 80 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the air conditioning in the remaining teaching areas of the Ormeau Woods State High School

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

[932](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3341-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3303-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 156 and 313 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reinstate medical service to that of a doctor or at least a nurse practitioner at the Cecil Plains Medical Clinic

[933](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3315-20) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter from 6,108 petitioners, requesting the House to ask the Government to quarantine the areas generally known as North Queensland and Far Western Queensland, with the exception of essential services only

[934](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3316-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 6,719 petitioners, requesting the House to rescind the Health Directive relating to licensed armourers and licensed dealers and amend dealer trading to enable sale to a person able to produce a Queensland firearms licence bearing the condition codes AC, RE, OC and a letter from a rural land owner requesting they conduct feral pest destruction on that land

[935](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3319-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 558 petitioners, requesting the House to quarantine South-East Queensland for the purposes of easing restrictions on businesses and social interactions in lower risk regions

[936](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3327-20) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew from 3,692 petitioners, requesting the House to rescind the health directive and reinstate regular trading to firearms dealers and armourers and allow licensed firearms owners' full access to buy and sell

Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk)—

[937](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3317-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 846 petitioners, requesting the House to resume sittings of not less than Parliament's customary annual sittings patterns and that virtual sittings be broadcast or live-streamed

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

[938](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3235-19) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 6,080 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that all planned changes of Queensland state forests into national parks be cancelled and that management of state forests be shifted to a new agency

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner)—

[939](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3233-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 416 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a review into the impacts of irresponsible feeding of birds on humans, birds and the environment and to amend the Biosecurity Act 2014 to include responsible bird feeding

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer)—

[940](#) Response from the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (3334-20) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 470 petitioners, requesting the House to work with Integrated Family and Youth Services to find a more appropriate location to house at-risk youth away from the northern beaches and closer to support services in Townsville

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[941](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3259-19) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 98 petitioners, requesting the House to cause the discontinuation of LED technology for all Transport and Main Roads' requirements and to use incandescent or halogen technology for traffic signals and flashing school signs; warm white sodium bulbs for all street lighting; and another form of technology for variable speed signs

[942](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3340-20) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (3262-19) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 282 and 1,161 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to temporarily lower the speed limit for the section of the Bruce Highway at Black River to 80 km/h and fast track an improved design and construction to improve road safety

[943](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3339-20) presented by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister and an ePetition (3272-20) sponsored by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Lister, from 252 and 313 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to cause the speed limit on the New England Highway through the village of Ballandean to be reduced from 80 km/h to 60 km/h

[944](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3305-20) sponsored by the member for Oodgeroo, Dr Robinson, from 167 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise delivery of the overdue Eastern Transitway project

[945](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3325-20) sponsored by the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, from 224 petitioners, requesting the House to make available the option for licenced motor dealers in Queensland to pay/renew vehicle registration for three months

[946](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3328-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 619 petitioners, requesting the House to redesign the intersection of Gladstone Road and TJ Doyle Memorial Drive, Dutton Park to make the site safe for people walking and cycling

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath)—

[947](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3261-19) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 7,732 petitioners, requesting the House to make significant legislative changes to introduce tougher penalties for offenders, including juveniles

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan)—

[948](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3302-20) sponsored by the member for Clayfield, Mr Nicholls, from 325 petitioners, requesting the House to increase resources for police in Hendra and to review the Youth Justice Act 1992 to provide stricter bail laws for youth offenders and appropriate deterrence for offenders

[949](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3326-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,030 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider reclassifying firearm suppressors to Category A

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Hill (Mr Knuth)—

[950](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the Gunnawarra Road bus service

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Aged-Care Facilities



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for so many Queenslanders. Each of us has had to make sacrifices and to make choices we never imagined we would have to face making. Those sacrifices have been critical to

keep our most vulnerable safe and I know they have been particularly difficult for our older Queenslanders and their families. For the past three months under our strict COVID-19 restrictions there have been necessary but challenging restrictions placed on nursing homes and other aged-care facilities because elderly people are among the most vulnerable to this disease. It was vital that we put in place strict measures to protect them.

Today I have some good news for all of our older Queenslanders, their children and grandkids and extended families. I am so pleased to announce today that we can lift some of those restrictions in aged-care settings. Now that we are in a safer position, we can afford to ease some of these restrictions to allow residents to receive visits from more of their loved ones. From today, Queenslanders in aged care will be able to have two visitors at a time, including children, for as often and as long as they like. We can also permit aged-care residents to leave their homes for exercise, health appointments and family gatherings of up to 20 people.

I am particularly happy that children are now allowed to visit their grandparents. I know how important this is for families across our state. From a personal perspective, I understand how difficult and how heartbreaking these times have been. My nanna has had very limited contact with her immediate family and extended family during most of this year during the COVID pandemic. Like many other Queensland families, my sister has had the duty of putting together a family roster to put in place the times at which our family can go and visit her. This has been very hard and stressful on my grandmother and I know it has been very stressful on a lot of other elderly people who are in aged-care homes.

The eased rules also permit service providers to visit aged-care homes, including legal advisers, therapists and very, very importantly hairdressers. In fact, up until COVID I had never seen my 95-year-old grandmother—Nanna—with a single grey hair until this pandemic. I know she is looking forward to the hairdresser appointment. Aged-care residents can also leave their facilities for a visit if they are with their family or a group of close friends. I want to tell members how happy everyone is going to be about this. These have been extraordinarily tough times for people. However, some rules will still remain in place. Only visitors who have had their flu vaccine will be allowed and the health advice for visitors at aged-care facilities remains unchanged. When visiting you must adhere to social distancing and you must practise good hygiene. If you are unwell or have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient in the past 14 days, please continue to stay away from elderly people.

This is great news for families and great news for all grandparents who have faced a lonely, challenging time but who have been extremely patient during this difficult period in our history. As my nanna said to me last Saturday, 'When can I leave the nursing home, visit friends or go shopping?' Now that opportunity is there for her, as it is for countless other people across Queensland.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Election Commitments



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): Today I table an update of the progress made on implementing our election commitments. Since the 2017 election, 418 of our 498 commitments have been delivered. That is an enviable record of 84 per cent. Our government continues to deliver—never has this been more on display than during this global pandemic. When it started I said we were facing the biggest test of our lifetime—we still are—but our success so far is based on our key strengths. We had a plan to protect the health of Queenslanders and we acted quickly. Thanks to every single Queenslanders we are in a much safer and stronger position than almost anywhere else in the world.

Our health response means our economic response can be equally decisive. It is going to be a long, hard road back. Our election commitments put in place the framework for success. Like manufacturing, we believe more should be made in Queensland by Queenslanders. That is why we established manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton and why our Made in Queensland grants are helping manufacturers across the state. By bringing Rheinmetall to Queensland we brought high-paid, high-tech jobs to Ipswich.


We are giving our children the education they need and deserve. We opened eight new schools this year: at Foxwell; Yarrabilba; a new high school and primary school at Ripley near Ipswich; Fortitude Valley State Secondary College, the first new inner-city school in 50 years; Mango Hill State Secondary College; a new special school at Caboolture; and a new high school at Calliope near Gladstone. We are improving existing education and training infrastructure: a new multipurpose sports centre for Smithfield State High School; 14 new classrooms for Milton State School; and a \$10 million funding commitment to the Redlands TAFE campus—just to name a few.

Our primary focus is always on jobs: more nurses, more doctors, more police, more teachers and more teacher aides. I am pleased to table these reports today that demonstrate the success of my government in delivering on our promises—improving the lives of Queenslanders and, in turn, helping our state to recover.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Progress report on 2015 government election commitments, June 2020 [952].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Progress report on 2017 government election commitments, June 2020 [953].


Exports, International Freight Assistance Mechanism

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): I have spoken a lot in this House about how important exports are to Queensland's economy. Exports support one in five Queensland jobs. Protecting these jobs depends on continued access to supply chains and markets. On Tuesday I announced the second stage of our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. As part of this plan, my government has committed \$5 million to reinvigorate our agricultural trade relationships through greater support for our exporters to become ecommerce ready and deliver virtual trade facilitation in key export markets. This support will allow exporters to keep trading as the Queensland economy emerges from the impacts of COVID-19.

I have some good news for our exporters that I can share with the House today about the latest flights to carry Queensland's world-class agricultural produce to international markets. This Friday the very first Singapore Airlines flight will depart Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport bound for Singapore carrying Queensland produce. This is the latest flight to depart Queensland under the federal International Freight Assistance Mechanism. I welcome the federal government's assistance for our exporters which is aimed at restoring air freight supply chains disrupted by the global pandemic. These subsidised flights are getting Queensland agricultural produce back on dining tables and into supermarkets and restaurants in key global markets as demand for our exports returns on the back of COVID-19 restrictions easing.

This is the second IFAM flight from Wellcamp airport with the first being a Cathay Pacific flight laden with Darling Downs produce headed to Hong Kong just last Sunday. Final details of what will be on this next flight are still being negotiated, but it is expected to include high-value produce from across South-East Queensland including our world-class beef, fruit and vegetables.

Queensland Day, Queensland Greats; Queen's Birthday Honours

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): This month I have again been reminded of how great our state and its people are. On Saturday, 6 June, we celebrated Queensland Day. This day marks our separation from New South Wales, firstly as an independent separate colony and later as a separate independent state. Queensland Day has always been about what brings us together as Queenslanders.


This year Queensland Day was all about saying thank you to the people in our lives who have made these last few months a little easier. It was a day to say thank you to our frontline workers: our doctors, nurses, ambulance officers, teachers, transport and construction workers, shop assistants and Care Army volunteers. Kids across the state made colourful signs and banners. Members of the Nundah Lions Club shared lamingtons at their local park. QPAC hosted some of our most talented performers in Brisbane for a spectacular live streamed concert through its True North Queensland Day concert. Others simply toasted the state with a Queensland-brewed beer, spending the day with family and friends. Thank you, Queensland, for your support and for sharing your messages of gratitude and hope. United we will recover.

As always, a personal highlight of Queensland Day was getting to announce the latest recipients of our Queensland Greats Awards. Unfortunately we were not able to bring everyone together, but we hope to have a formal ceremony in a couple of months time as restrictions ease. Since 2001 the Queensland Greats Awards has recognised the achievements and extraordinary contributions of Queensland individuals and organisations. This year we added nine names to our growing list of Queensland Greats and it was particularly pleasing to see so many from our regions: Bruce Morcombe OAM and Denise Morcombe OAM from the Sunshine Coast; Associate Professor James Morton AM; Betty Taylor; Nancy Bates OAM from Maryborough; Angus Lane OAM—many people know Angus as being the ringmaster for many years—from Toowoomba; Father Mick Lowcock from Mount Isa; the late Richard 'Darby' McCarthy OAM; and PCYC Queensland. All of our Greats share a common trait: outstanding service to their communities and longstanding commitment to Queensland. As a lasting tribute, each new Great will be honoured with a commemorative plaque at Brisbane's Roma Street Parklands.

Just days after we announced our newest Queensland Greats, another 149 Queenslanders were honoured as part of the annual Queen's Birthday Honours. From academia to public service, philanthropy, business, medicine and the arts, this year's recipients included some of the most inspiring people who call our state home, people like Emeritus Professor Perry Bartlett AO, who founded the world-class Queensland Brain Institute, and former north-west grazier Pat Fennell OAM, a champion for women's health in regional Queensland. Perry and Pat also share the honour of having both been recognised as Queensland Greats in previous years.

On behalf of the Queensland government and members of this House, I congratulate our honours recipients, our latest Queensland Greats and every Queenslanders who took the opportunity to celebrate and say thank you with us on Queensland Day.

Coronavirus, Health Update; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Health Services


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): I am pleased to report to the House that today is another day of zero new coronavirus cases in Queensland. Zero days are always great days. Today the number of patients in an intensive care unit in Queensland hospitals has also changed to zero. After almost three months in ICU with COVID-19 related pneumonia, an 81-year-old man was yesterday moved out of intensive care and into another ward at Gold Coast University Hospital. I can only imagine how incredibly difficult a journey these months would have been for the man and his family. I thank staff at the Gold Coast University Hospital for their hard work and dedication. I am told they celebrated with a small morning tea yesterday.

As the Premier announced, we can now ease restrictions on aged-care facilities, giving our older Queenslanders the chance to see their grandkids. I know that will mean a lot to many families across the state. Today I can also announce that last night the AHPPC updated its advice for boarding schools and school based residential colleges. Schools are still required to plan and manage the risk posed by COVID-19 to ensure their students are safe; however, if it is safe to do so, all students can return for term 3.

We have also been working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to safely ease restrictions in remote communities. It has been a significant focus of this government to improve access to health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Last year we appointed our very first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chief Health Officer. Haylene Grogan has been doing an incredible job working directly with our Indigenous communities and ensuring they are getting the health services they need, especially now with COVID-19. We have been able to prevent its spread into our Indigenous communities where we know it would do the worst damage and we have largely kept it out of our rural areas as well. To date we have had just nine Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander confirmed COVID-19 cases in Queensland—the majority in South-East Queensland—and no known cases in remote or discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities. We have invested more than \$21 million to support the health and wellbeing of First Nation Queenslanders. This funding is bolstering the frontline health workforce to help people remain connected and continue their health care during this time and enable an enhanced surge workforce capacity to respond to community outbreaks.

I am pleased to inform the House that, as of last Friday, travel restrictions for Queensland's remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities were eased further, making it easier for residents to travel around their districts. People who have been outside of those communities during lockdown can start to return. I thank those communities, including the local leaders and community advocates, who worked closely with us to transition from federal emergency biosecurity restrictions to flexible state based arrangements under the Queensland Chief Health Officer's public health directions.

Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): Queensland entered the COVID-19 crisis in a strong economic position. Our economy was growing faster than the national average. Our retail sales growth led the nation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Members opposite should not be so rude. We had produced five consecutive surplus budgets and we had created over 250,000 jobs, and Queensland was not alone. Of course, all of that is now under siege from a hidden yet vicious enemy: COVID-19. Across Australia governments are grappling with the serious fiscal and economic impact of COVID-19. Just this week the Liberal Treasurer

of New South Wales announced that he expected their economy to contract by 10 per cent. The New South Wales government has also said they will suffer a revenue drop of more than \$20 billion over the five years to June 2024.

Queensland is not immune from those same challenges. We will experience a similar degree of economic contraction, with revenue impacts of a similar proportion. Against a once-in-a-generation crisis, we face a series of choices. Do we incur debt or do we endure a depression? Do we allow deficits or do we tolerate social despair? Do we seek lasting prosperity or short-sighted austerity? We cannot cut our way to recovery. If we want to rebuild our economy, we have to choose jobs, infrastructure and growth. That is why all governments will have to use debt to fuel the recovery, to ensure our economy gets back on track. It is why our government has a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. It is also why the Morrison government must continue to fund the JobKeeper allowance beyond 27 September.

We will submit our plan to scrutiny as part of our COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review in September. Everyone in Queensland will be able to see the critical fiscal and economic information that they are entitled to see before the election. In doing so, Queenslanders will get that information before many others in Australia. That is because no government in Australia has issued a budget this year. No government in Australia will deliver a budget until at least 6 October when the federal Treasurer delivers the federal budget, setting the parameters for states and territories.

Queensland will deliver a comprehensive budget update, our COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review. It means Queenslanders will get a full fiscal and economic update before any other jurisdiction even issues a budget. I make no criticism of those other jurisdictions. It is one thing for a local government entity such as the Brisbane City Council to issue a budget, but national and state governments have broad macro-economic responsibilities. Unlike local government, it is our job to act faster and more strongly to support the economy and our budgets rely on forecasts on a range of complex economic factors. As the Prime Minister said, when his government cancelled the federal budget—

The idea that you can actually put together any sort of forecasts around the economy at this time is simply not sensible.

I urge all honourable members to reflect on those words. There is no point attacking each other about something that, in the words of the Prime Minister, 'is simply not sensible'. Now is the time for all Queenslanders to come together and help to deliver our plan for economic recovery.

Eagle Street Pier, Redevelopment



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.53 am): On this side of the House, we understand that to unite and recover we must back major construction projects to support jobs. In addition to our own record \$51.8 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years, our government also works closely with the private sector to facilitate investment in our future.

Today I can confirm that the Dexus group has lodged development plans with the Brisbane City Council to deliver a \$2.1 billion redevelopment that will transform the Eagle Street Pier and Waterfront Place precinct. Through the department of state development, our government has worked very closely with Dexus and entered into an agreement to make extra state land available in exchange for the delivery of their multibillion investment in our city. This project has the potential to create more than 1,000 construction jobs and will transform the tired old Eagle Street precinct into one of the most attractive places in the country to visit and to do business.

When this development starts to come online in 2026, Brisbane will be an entirely new city, with Cross River Rail up and running and the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf shopping and dining precinct fully operational on the other side of town. We are doing the hard work now to ensure that Brisbane is the envy of cities such as Sydney and Melbourne. We understand that businesses are struggling now. As the Premier has said over and over again this week in the House, we have a plan to work with business and Queenslanders to unite and recover. We will continue to partner with the private sector to deliver billions of dollars worth of new infrastructure that will change the shape of our state.

Coronavirus, Agriculture Industry



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.55 am): The announcements made by the Premier this week demonstrate clearly the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queensland's farmers and the broader agricultural sector.

We were the first state to declare that agriculture would be an essential industry to get the state through the COVID-19 crisis. This week we have again provided significant support as we identify the agricultural sector as one that will help lead Queensland back to its traditional position of strength.

The global coronavirus pandemic has impacted economies around the world. We know that Australia is not immune and neither is Queensland. That is why we are continuing to manage the health impacts and have started to deliver a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. The announcement of \$12.5 million in additional support has been welcomed by industry stakeholders. Like the Premier, I am thrilled at how closely we have worked with those groups to deliver outcomes for their industry and for Queensland as a whole.

The Palaszczuk government has long been a big supporter of our farmers through research and development, drought support and, of course, our highly successful Rural Economic Development Grants, creating jobs right across the state. The first round of RED Grants created more than 600 jobs through projects that will help agricultural industry businesses to grow. Over the past several weeks, we announced the successful recipients of the second round and a further 600 direct and indirect jobs have been created. Those grants contribute up to \$250,000 in matched funding to agricultural businesses to help them expand and create new jobs. Today I am thrilled to announce that the third round of our Rural Economic Development Grants is now open for expressions of interest, bringing the total investment to \$10 million, which will be distributed throughout regional Queensland.

Last week I had the absolute privilege of visiting some of the RED Grants recipients in the Southern Downs. Kialla Pure Foods is a great Queensland success story that has been able to deliver eight new jobs. That is another success story to come out of COVID-19. The business has increased its job numbers by 300 per cent as a result of the increased interest in cooking among people working from home. My daughter Sally lost her job as a flight attendant because of COVID-19. She now says to me, 'Dad, what do you want for dinner tonight?'

The Carey Bros abattoir at Yangan is a proud family owned business that has been operating since 1944. It has been able to offer up to 16 jobs because of our RED grant. Just outside of Stanthorpe, Spring Creek Seedlings has a massive expansion underway, with a new covered growing area. Peter Burnell told me that without the RED grant that job-creating expansion project probably would not have got off the ground, but will now deliver 20 jobs. At Inglewood Organic, Adam and Katrina are installing a new irrigated cropping area to ensure guaranteed organic feed for the chickens they raise, delivering 13 direct and indirect jobs.

We are delivering a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. Those jobs will be critical to building an even brighter future for Queensland's regions. We have always stood shoulder to shoulder with Queensland farmers and we always will.

Coronavirus, Creative Industries



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the arts and cultural sector globally, including across Queensland. The Palaszczuk government moved early, releasing more than \$20 million worth of relief measures beginning several months ago to help stabilise the sector. Now the Palaszczuk government is continuing to support the sector, with the Premier announcing a further \$22.5 million recovery package this week as an important part of the Palaszczuk government's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.


The arts and cultural sector is responsible for the jobs of more than 90,000 Queenslanders. Many of them were the first hit by social distancing restrictions and will be the last to recover as restrictions ease. The package we have announced includes \$11.3 million to help Queensland's arts organisations and venues offset losses incurred as a consequence of COVID-19. The arts and cultural sector will play an important role in Queensland's wider economic recovery, including through our state's cultural tourism offering. This week's package includes \$4.2 million to support a pipeline of performing arts and live music to support our cultural and tourism recovery.

In recognition of the fact that the sector also plays a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, the government is also investing \$2.9 million in partnerships with local councils, venues, artists and organisations to support employment opportunities for local artists and arts workers and vibrant arts experiences for communities statewide. The package also includes \$4.1 million to support audience access, including for alternative and outdoor venues, digital delivery and online First Nation arts and crafts sales platform and grants for small to medium arts organisations to help fund infrastructure projects.

This package brings the total value of the Palaszczuk government's targeted support for the arts and cultural sector since COVID-19 to more than \$42.5 million. It is important to recognise the resilience of so many people in the sector through these incredibly challenging times. The sector's considered approach to consultation with the government and their discussions with the Premier and me in recent weeks have been constructive, and demonstrates what can be done when we work together.

It is a tradition that a single bulb, a ghost light, is left burning whenever a theatre goes dark. In so many theatres around Queensland right now there are single bulbs burning, providing hope for our storytellers, artists and arts workers who will return when the lights come back on. Our government will stand by the arts and cultural sector as it emerges from the present challenges, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive.

Regional Queensland, Jobs; Valeria Mine

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (10.02 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating long-term, secure jobs for regional Queenslanders. It has always been a focus for our government and it continues to be a critical part of our plan to unite and recover as we rebound from the global coronavirus pandemic. That is why last week I was pleased to stand with the member for Rockhampton, Barry O'Rourke, and the member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga, to announce that a new \$1.5 billion coal mining project in Central Queensland's Bowen Basin is a step closer to being realised.

The new Valeria coalmine was declared a coordinated project last week by Queensland's independent Coordinator-General. The mine will produce a mix of both metallurgical coal, used for iron and steel production, and thermal coal. Not only will this new coalmine create up to 1,400 jobs during its construction phase but also it will require a workforce of up to 950 full-time workers to operate it across the planned 35-year life span of the mine. This is great news for the Central Queensland region.

As part of the Coordinator-General's declaration, the proponent is now required to prepare a comprehensive environmental impact statement for the project. The Coordinator-General will undertake a rigorous assessment of all environmental, social and economic impacts, including extensive community consultation during the process. Queensland has comprehensive protections for the environment in the nation and, like all projects, this project must stack up environmentally before gaining any approvals. The proponent has already advised that any thermal coal produced by the new mine will be subject to the company's cap on thermal coal output, to support global transition to a low carbon economy.


Queensland's Bowen Basin region produces the best metallurgical coal on the planet. While COVID-19 is putting pressure on economies right around the world, this project shows that major companies are still keen to invest in Queensland and to back Queensland jobs. Major projects like this also provide Queensland businesses with the confidence that there are good opportunities to grow their own ventures into the future. Through my department we are working with industry stakeholders to support economic recovery right across the state.

I want to thank the Office of the Coordinator-General for its rigorous handling of the project's approvals process so far. I look forward to further updating the House on how this government is growing the Queensland economy through infrastructure and resource projects, particularly in regional Queensland.

Mr Bennett interjected.

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

Child Protection

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.05 am): Yesterday the Premier asked me to work with the Leader of the Opposition to ensure our child safety system is the best it can possibly be. This is an opportunity I welcome, and yesterday afternoon I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition to extend an invitation to work together on our continuing objective of protecting Queensland's vulnerable children. I was very pleased to receive a response from the Leader of the Opposition's office this morning and I am looking forward to meeting with the members for Burnett and Mudgeeraba this afternoon.

I want to make it clear, as we begin that bipartisan work, so Queenslanders have no concern over this, that police already are an integral part of our team. We already do mandatory and random drug testing and, in fact, we processed 8,000 drug tests in this year alone. If a parent is not willing or able to care for their child, we remove them, and we make no apology for that.

I want to thank the police and the many other government and non-government agencies and their teams and members of the public who work with us to keep our kids safe. It is the police in particular with whom we have possibly one of the closest relationships. They are mandatory reporters. We work with them in our SCAN teams, with their referrals to our support services, in a co-responder model with our after-hours teams if they are called during the night to remove a child at risk and attending high-risk situations. We share information on criminal matters.


In the report she handed down on the death of Mason Jett Lee, the Deputy Coroner acknowledged the complexity of demand facing child safety systems across the world. Substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence are now a common issue facing our child safety workers; however, ice is perhaps the most confronting. An average of 37 per cent of all children taken into care have one or both parents addicted to ice. That is an increase of 30 per cent over the last two years. Most of those children are under five years of age. In some regions the rate of ice addiction is as high as 50 per cent. When Tim Carmody handed down his recommendations into child safety reform, ice was not even in the picture. Almost as soon as we realised the enormity of the problem in November 2016, we introduced mandatory drug testing and, as I said, we processed 8,000 tests this year alone.

Yesterday the Premier tabled the government's response to the Deputy Coroner's report, accepting all recommendations. Queensland was the first government in Australia to articulate permanency in its legislation with a suite of permanency options including adoption and the five child placement principles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. That legislation took effect in October 2018.

I can inform the House that 62.5 per cent of our children in care are now on long-term orders. For obvious reasons, adoption is a very sensitive matter among First Nation peoples whose children make up almost half of child safety cases, and our response to the Coroner reflects this. We have had many discussions with stakeholders over the last days about how we progress our response to the Coroner's report and I look forward to working with them and with the opposition to ensure that every child has a forever family.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the child safety workers of my department who—and I say this with the greatest respect to all of our public servants—they have possibly the hardest job in government. They are faced with the depths of depravity every single day. They work their hearts out and they care deeply. I am sure all of us wonder whether we ourselves could do their jobs.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government invests in creating Queensland jobs. With the COVID-19 pandemic, our unite and recover plan for Queensland jobs has never been more important. Thanks to Queensland's strong response to the pandemic, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver our record \$23 billion pipeline of road and transport projects, crucial to stimulating our economic recovery. In particular, regional rail projects throughout the state are on track, helping to carry the freight industry and jobs through COVID-19.


I am pleased to update the House that the first phase of our \$100 million rail line upgrade between Rockhampton and Townsville is now complete. Queensland Rail has commissioned the first of eight passing loop upgrades, allowing longer trains to run, boosting productivity for industry and supporting 300 regional jobs. These jobs will continue to flow as all eight passing loops are upgraded. This multimillion dollar investment will help lower freight costs for our primary producers and exporters, driving the beef capital's \$4.8 billion economy and Townsville's \$11.7 billion economy.

These works will soon be joined by a \$10 million commitment for the central west and Clermont lines. Over three years, crews will replace five bridges and carry out vital maintenance on 35 others, creating a steady stream of regional rail jobs for our central western communities. It builds on close to \$45 million already delivered on the two lines by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

It is not just these projects that are driving a rail jobs boom across Queensland. Between Townsville and Cairns, 150 jobs for steel fabricators, precast manufacturers, quarry suppliers and labourers are being created due to a \$46 million investment to build new steel bridges. In the Toowoomba region, a \$37 million rail upgrade near Spring Bluff is strengthening slopes and putting 130 jobs on the cards to add to the tremendous Toowoomba bypass built by the government. On the Sunshine Coast, the \$550 million rail duplication project will see 330 jobs created and new opportunities for local suppliers and industry.

Last week, the Premier said Queensland is 'good to go', encouraging Queenslanders to explore the very best of their own backyard. To support this, Queensland Rail has started resuming our iconic travel trains and is offering up to 60 per cent off the price of tickets. Therefore, these school holidays are the perfect time in the mild winter months to head out to Longreach to check out the Qantas Founders Museum or the Stockman's Hall of Fame, or explore the tropics on the iconic Kuranda Scenic Railway in Far North Queensland. It is another way that we can all unite and recover for Queensland jobs because that is what the Palaszczuk government does—we put Queenslanders first.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government is implementing our recovery plan for Queensland's future. We have announced an additional half a billion dollars in stimulus this week, including a \$267 million stimulus package for the construction industry. Our state's construction industry remains a pillar of the Queensland economy, supporting the jobs of 240,000 Queenslanders. QBuild is playing an important role in supporting and driving the state's economic recovery.


On behalf of my ministerial colleagues, QBuild currently has 1,212 capital work projects on the go. Right now, across the state, from Coolangatta to the cape, Queensland tradies are being employed to work on \$1.2 billion worth of projects. Some 201 of these projects, worth \$498 million, are in the construction stage and supporting approximately 1,643 jobs. These projects, together with the other 1,011 currently in the design and development phase, will support a grand total of 3,980 jobs.

These are jobs for Queensland tradies, subbies, engineers, surveyors and manufacturers along the building supply chain. We know that family purse strings have become tighter. Tradies are having to support their families, as other household members have lost hours at work or lost their job altogether. In response, QBuild has fast-tracked payment of more than 154,000 invoices, totalling more than \$318 million, since 2 April this year. This is keeping Queensland subbies and tradies afloat.

It is supporting tradies like plumber Don Shortis, who runs Our Plumber in Brown Plains. Don has been working with the Queensland government for more than 20 years. As the Palaszczuk government paid Don's invoices in two days, he has been able to employ another full-time plumber. He has also been able to guarantee his 14 tradespeople and four office staff that they will keep working. Don says having his invoices paid quickly is not just a massive relief but also helping keep his business sustainable.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting subbies and tradies like Don with security of employment, through a pipeline of construction work. It is QBuild that is helping deliver this pipeline—a QBuild-led recovery, rebuilding Queensland and Queensland's economic future. Rebuilding QBuild was a landmark decision by the Palaszczuk government, and one that sets us apart from the LNP.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 14 July 2020.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Members, question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

Queensland Border Closure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question is to the Premier. Prime Minister Scott Morrison has repeated his calls this morning for the Palaszczuk government to open the borders and has said that Queensland keeping its borders shut or not confirming opening dates is holding back jobs. Will the Premier explain why she is holding back jobs by keeping Queensland's borders closed?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I have said publicly, the Chief Health Officer will be making her decision at the end of the month. Our timetable has 10 July as the date when interstate travel can be allowed, dependent on that review. Let me say very clearly

again—and this is a fact—that we have concerns about a second wave. The honourable Treasurer mentioned to the parliament yesterday that that could be a hit to the Queensland economy of in excess of \$4.8 billion.

Queensland recorded zero new cases overnight. In Victoria yesterday there were 21 new cases recorded. Today there are 18 new COVID cases—six are from hotel quarantine, one is a childcare worker, one is a toddler, another is a protester from the rally that was held in Victoria and one is linked to the Croydon Family Practice outbreak. That has just been reported.

Mr Dick: That's community transmission.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are cases of community transmission in Victoria.

Queenslanders have done an absolutely phenomenal job. As Queenslanders have done a phenomenal job we have been able to open up Queensland for Queenslanders. We have eased our restrictions. This weekend we will see fans in stadiums. Up to 2,000 fans will be allowed into stadiums this weekend because Queenslanders have done such a great job.

We all need to work together. We all need to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. We know how jobs have been impacted across Queensland. That is why my government announced nearly \$500 million in second-stage stimulus. It will get people back into work. It will power charge the construction industry in this state with grants for people living in regional Queensland to buy a new home. This First Home Owners' Grant to kickstart the construction industry is welcomed by Master Builders.

We have listened to the agricultural sector and we are making sure we have the capacity to expand our exports. As I said this morning, a flight will be leaving Wellcamp airport on Friday to take great Queensland produce over to Singapore.

Queenslanders want us focused on them. They want us focused on their jobs. They want us focused on powering up the Queensland economy, but it is going to be a long, hard road to recovery. We need to get it right. That is what my government is doing and will continue to do.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

State Penalties Enforcement Registry

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Premier. Did the Premier ever discuss with the former treasurer and member for South Brisbane, who herself is under active investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission, the mismanagement of Treasury's SPER program and allegations of official corruption by senior departmental officials?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no.

Screen Industry

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the screen industry is faring from the global COVID-19 pandemic and how the Palaszczuk government is working with them to restore and support local jobs in the industry?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for that question. As we open up Queensland for Queenslanders and because of our strong health response and the fact that Queenslanders have done a fantastic job, there is some great news for the screen industry across Queensland. I am very pleased to announce that following on from the great work that we have done with our Far North Queensland Screen Production Strategic Plan, we will now see more jobs in Cairns and productions in Cairns. I can advise that the rom-com feature film *This Little Love of Mine* by Brisbane based Steve Jaggi Company—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—will start filming in Cairns as part of our Far North Queensland Screen Production Strategic Plan, designed to grow the industry in the region. The production will create 25 local jobs and inject more than \$1.5 million into the economy.

I can also report that resuming filming this month is the second season of *The Bureau of Magical Things* on the Gold Coast, employing more than 200 cast and crew and injecting more than \$8.5 million into the Queensland economy. I can further advise the House that *Harrow* season 3 is also poised to kickstart filming in Queensland again in the next few months as the sector begins to ramp up. This is great news.

In fact, Queensland is probably one of the first places in the world to be able to open up for filming by the screen industry. This is a fantastic testament to the companies working with my government and with the Chief Health Officer in terms of getting in place their COVID-safe plans so productions can resume.

Ms Jones: Footy and films.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection—footy and films, and industry. I can also advise the House that we are working closely with Baz Luhrmann to recommence filming of the new *Elvis*. I have already had a meeting with Mr Luhrmann. I can say that it is hundreds of jobs—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is hundreds of jobs, Leader of the Opposition—and jobs on the Gold Coast. I know that the member for Gaven is very excited by that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is not being provocative with her statement. I ask that you hear the response to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The screen industry is a multibillion dollar industry in this state and one that the Queensland government backs 100 per cent. If it means jobs and long-term secure jobs, we will back those jobs. I welcome the announcements of all of those productions happening.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is great news for Cairns because finally Cairns can get a little piece of the action up in their neck of the woods.

(Time expired)

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

State Penalties Enforcement Registry

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. When was the Treasurer first made aware that his own Treasury department was involved in a major corruption investigation relating to the mismanagement of the \$1.3 billion SPER program?

Mr DICK: I thank the honourable member for his question. The proposition put forward by the member for Everton is incorrect. Perhaps I can put some facts on the parliamentary record. I am advised that in mid-May Queensland Treasury became aware of concerns regarding the administration of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry, a business unit within the Office of State Revenue. I am further advised that an internal investigation was commenced. I understand that Queensland Treasury has since referred the matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission, and a CCC assessment is now underway. Can I make this clear: I expect the highest standards of probity and conduct from officers of the Treasury, and they understand that. I welcome the referral of this matter to the CCC by the Treasury to ensure that the matters can be properly and fully investigated.

Coronavirus, Health Response

Ms SCANLON: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier advise the House of the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to tackle the COVID-19 health threat? Is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Gaven for her question and for her interest in this government's efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland has been incredibly successful at beating the coronavirus here in our state. In fact, it has been more than two weeks since we went to stage 2 easing of restrictions—17 days in fact. In that time we have seen just eight new cases of the virus—all of them believe to have been acquired overseas or interstate. It is that success that will allow us and our Chief Health Officer to consider moving to stage 3 easing. At stage 2 we have been able to open more businesses and get more people back to work. Stage 3 will allow us to continue that, to see more businesses get back to operating more like normal.

The global economy is facing unprecedented headwinds caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Just about nowhere else in the world though is as well positioned to recover as Queensland is, thanks to our health response. Our health response has allowed us to bring forward stimulating investment, as

the Treasurer and the Premier outlined earlier this week—the second stage of our job creation package. On this side of the House we get up every day focused on the jobs and the health of Queenslanders, focused on uniting Queenslanders and on economic recovery, while those opposite have spent their week focused on their own jobs. The Leader of the Opposition faced down the faceless men of the LNP.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Dr MILES: The Leader of the Opposition stared them down. The member for Broadwater spent the week counting his numbers. It turns out that it did not take him that long. Campbell Newman insisted that there were not just faceless men; there were faceless women too. Senator Amanda Stoker fessed up. She was one of the faceless women. She called the Leader of the Opposition weak, accused her of playing the gender card and called on her to be stronger and to perform better. This is a senator nominated to the Senate by the Leader of the Opposition. On this side we are focused on uniting Queenslanders; on that side they cannot even unite themselves.

Rockhampton, Aged-Care Facility

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. The LNP called for an independent inquiry into the state government-run aged-care facility at Rockhampton after a nurse tested positive for coronavirus. The Palaszczuk government let the health department investigate itself. Will the Premier tell the House when this investigation will be completed and commit to immediately releasing the report publicly?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that it is an external health investigation. I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for the question. My understanding is that that aged-care facility has been completely cleared. That is fantastic news and testament to the fact that a lot of people came forward and got tested at that time which I am incredibly grateful for. Thankfully, we did not see any further outbreaks. This is a great health outcome for the people of the region.

Coronavirus, Fiscal and Economic Review

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer please update the House on the preparation of the COVID-19 fiscal and economic review? Is the Treasurer aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. Our government is committed to delivering a full set of financial statements and forecasts in September ahead of this year's election before any state has delivered a budget. We are carefully putting that material together which will bring together all of the recovery initiatives we have announced this week plus many more. Those initiatives will include the fiscal and economic stimulus packages that we have already announced. In stage 1 there was \$400 million for roads, \$200 million for council works and \$100 million for small business. In stage 2, which we announced this week, there was more funding to support our cornerstone industries of agriculture, mining and tourism—those industries that are struggling—and funding for our regions, and that is very important.

It will include other initiatives this government will announce to keep the Queensland economy going, and that is the responsibility of our government at this time. I am asked about other approaches. While we are focused on supporting the jobs of Queenslanders, the opposition is focused on their own jobs, particularly on the job of the leader.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK: What we have seen this week is a demonstration of weakness. The Leader of the Opposition is at war with the president of her own party but she cannot get rid of him. She cannot remove him. This is a political organisation tearing itself apart because the organisational wing and the political wing cannot work together. If you cannot run yourself, you cannot run Queensland. That is obvious to everyone in our state. One thing the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer have said is, 'We do have a plan, but we're not going to release that to Queenslanders until after the election.'

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you were under a warning. You can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. I can see you are already packing.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 10.30 am.

Mr DICK: We will put our plan up for examination through the fiscal and economic review and the appearance by the Premier and me before the Economics and Governance Committee, but they have a plan they will not release. They say, 'We're going to steal Christmas from public servants and then we'll announce it in January.' I am calling on the Leader of the Opposition to stop showing weakness about your economic plan, stop showing weakness about supporting Queensland jobs, stop showing weakness about supporting Queensland industry and reveal your plan before the election.

Mr SPEAKER: Put your comments through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, that is the responsibility of the Leader of the Opposition. It is the responsibility of an opposition party that seeks to be the alternative government. You said one thing to public servants and then turned on a dime yesterday and said, 'We're not going to support the wage freeze.'

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will put his comments through the chair.

Mr DICK: Public servants know what you mean when you say things like, 'Public servants have nothing to fear from an LNP government.' We all remember what happened. As soon as you got into government you sacked 14,000 people and put a permanent freeze on their jobs. What is your plan? You should reveal it now.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, I ask that you put your comments through the chair, as I expect with all responses during this morning's question time.

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Staffing

Mr BENNETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. It has been 24 hours since the Minister for Child Safety was asked whether any of the 21 child safety officers involved in the Mason Jett Lee case have been promoted since that time. Since the minister could not answer the question, can the Premier confirm that six of them have resigned but two have been re-engaged; two were promoted; four were transferred at the same level; three are acting in higher duties; and two were acting at the time but have returned to their substantive position?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burnett for the question. The minister gave an update yesterday about what happened to those staff members. I can confirm that the Public Service Commissioner is looking at the Deputy Coroner's report. Therefore, I am not commenting at this stage. Let me say to the opposition that I now have a letter from the Public Service Commissioner and Dave Stewart, my director-general, about the naming of public servants here under parliamentary privilege. This will be forwarded to you, Mr Speaker. It states—

We strongly believe the naming of public servants under parliamentary privilege undermines the confidence and trust essential to the ability of the Public Service to serve the government of the day. This is supported by the Public Service Act 2008 and has as its purpose the establishment of a high-performing apolitical Public Service.

I will forward that to you, Mr Speaker, for your consideration. Whilst I am on my feet, there is some breaking news on 4BC and not from the Leader of the Opposition. Some federal intervention has occurred. The Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton, has told Ray Hadley that Queensland LNP president Dave Hutchinson intends to resign from Clive Palmer's employment but will stay as LNP president. It is good to see federal intervention happening.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The question was about child safety and the systemic failures of child safety. I ask that the Premier be brought back to relevance on the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, Mr Speaker.

Coronavirus, Tourism Industry

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy to help—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, the question has to be heard in silence and I am having difficulty hearing the question. Member for Cook, please start your question again.

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy to help the Queensland tourism industry unite and recover following COVID-19?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that she has been advocating on behalf of the tourism industry in her community, which is such an integral part of employment in Far North Queensland. That is why I am very proud that as part of stage 2 of our economic recovery plan we have injected \$15 million to secure even more flights here in Queensland, and we have an absolute beauty. This is one that has been talked about for years and finally it has come to fruition. There will be direct flights between the Sunshine Coast Airport and Cairns three times a week with Alliance Airlines. This has come to fruition because of the great work and partnership we have not only with the Sunshine Coast and Cairns airports but also local councils.

This will be a huge boon for those two economies. In fact, we expect that not only will it generate millions of dollars for local businesses but it will support around 13,500 jobs. It really is a coup. I was very pleased to represent the Premier last week at the official opening of the Sunshine Coast Airport. This is something that has been invested in over a number of years. It has now opened and the sky is the limit. With that \$15 million we have already been meeting with airports, airlines and regional tourism organisations to talk about how we can work with them to get more flights into Queensland.

While we are talking about flights they are talking about fights. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. I am very proud to have a woman as the Leader of the Opposition. We will always support women on this side of the House. We will support women on all sides of the House. What we have seen is that the infighting that is happening in the LNP is just swirling under the surface. Online in chats this week some LNP branch members are saying—

Mrs Frecklington: We've already dropped it to the paper.

Ms JONES: I know. That is just how they work. Some LNP branch members are saying that the members deserve a voice, that headquarters has lost the plot, that it is time to re-establish the Liberal Party and that they want to split. We all know what the real party is, don't we? The 'Liberal National Palmer Party' is the opposition in Queensland right now.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Ms JONES: The 'LNPP' runs the show. We know they are putting Palmer in the LNP over there. He might resign his day job, but all the others are still on the payroll of Palmer.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Ms JONES: The 'LNPP', that's who you are. Some are in the Liberal Party and some are in the National Party. Some people do not know if they are in the Liberal Party, the National Party or Palmer's party. They cannot work it out. They are split and they are divided. While I do support the Leader of the Opposition and congratulate her for staring down—

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms JONES:—those faceless men and women of the 'LNPP', I would say that she had better just keep watching because they are coming for her. They know it. They do not want her there. We know that Palmer has entrenched his men into the 'LNPP' and they are coming for her, so watch this space. Let's hope you are here for the next question time.

Energy Companies, Class Action

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. The LNP and ACCC chairman Rod Simms have called out price gouging by CS Energy and Stanwell, something the Palaszczuk government has continued to deny. Given media reports today of a class action against CS Energy and Stanwell for anticompetitive bidding practices that drove up electricity prices, does the Premier continue to deny that Labor is using electricity as a hidden tax?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. Under the LNP, which he was part of when in government, electricity prices in Queensland went up over 40 per cent.

Mr Dick: That is right, 43 per cent.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They promised to cut \$120 from power bills. Do you remember that? There was a commitment.

Mr Dick: The contract with Queensland.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The contract with Queensland, that is right. While the member for Nanango was sitting around the CBRC table power prices went up. Well, in Queensland we have it all.

I have more breaking news. Peter Dutton says that Dave Hutchinson also intends to resign from the position of LNP president and has to do it sooner rather than later. It is not the Leader of the Opposition standing up to the LNP president but Peter Dutton. The Minister for Home Affairs has to step in and sort out the state LNP's mess.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was about CS Energy and price gouging and class actions. With respect, I ask the Premier be brought back to being relevant to the question asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the question was about a specific policy area. If you have other statements you would like to make, you may wish to make those in a ministerial statement after question time.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That does sound very tempting. Getting back to the issue at hand, we have the lowest prices on the eastern seaboard, we have reliable supply and we have a planned transition to renewable energy—50 per cent of renewable energy by 2030 and the cheapest power prices on the eastern seaboard. We have put downward pressure on wholesale prices because of the actions that this government has taken, especially through our directives.

We know what the LNP's plan is when it comes to assets in this state. We know what the LNP wanted to do at the last election; they wanted to sell our power assets. We will never forget that ETU campaign about how they wanted to sell it off to the highest bidder. Make no mistake, the LNP will have the exact same plan at this election. They do not care about workers, they do not care about power and they have only one thing in their DNA—and that is to sell assets. We will make sure that Queenslanders are reminded of that each and every day.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, resume your seat for a moment. Member for Burleigh, I have noticed you continually holding up pieces of paper and interjecting. You are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Burleigh withdrew from the chamber at 10.41 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Burdekin, you are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you have 24 seconds remaining. Do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

State Schools, Air Conditioning

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister please update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's school air-conditioning program and how it has helped Queensland workers unite and recover through the COVID-19 pandemic?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know how proud she was to announce the good news earlier this year that the Palaszczuk government would air-condition every classroom, every library and every staffroom across Queensland, including in her electorate of Redlands. I have more good news for the House.

We know that it is pretty hot at the moment in the LNP headquarters; it is boiling hot. Clive Palmer has decided that the bully man to get rid of the Leader of the Opposition did not do the job so he sacked him and now he is sacking himself, but the good news is that we have air-conditioned around 330 schools so far since the announcement by the Premier and me. That is more than 3,400 classrooms, libraries and staffrooms air-conditioned in around 330 schools. That is an amazing achievement.

Even though the heat may still be on, with the Leader of the Opposition wondering how hot it is going to get and whether the temperature is going to go up, the Leader of the Opposition will be proud to know that the 23 schools in the seat of Nanango are fully air-conditioned—so 23 of them will be nice and cool. The heat will not be in there. We have 21 schools in Callide, 20 schools in Condamine, 19 schools in Gympie, 17 schools in Lockyer and 16 schools in the Scenic Rim, and all of Bundaberg has been air-conditioned. What an absolutely enormous effort.

We are now getting on with additional contracts in the schools that we will be air-conditioning over the next couple of years. During COVID-19 this means jobs for local contractors and jobs for local small and medium sized air-conditioning businesses. These are Queensland jobs. Combined with our solar panel program, that is \$477 million supporting about 1,500 local jobs right throughout Queensland. We are updating air-conditioning units at the moment, such as at Ingham State High School.

All around Queensland we are doing a fantastic job in not only air-conditioning schools but also helping schools to cope with the additional costs of electricity. Around 250 schools have now been completed and have over 180,000 solar panels on their roofs. That is an amazing job so far. Congratulations to the QBuild workers, my department and those local contractors who are doing the jobs. We deliver; the LNP just talk about it.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services

Mr MILLAR: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health. Can the minister advise whether he, his office or his department briefed the member for Keppel about the state government aged-care worker in North Rockhampton prior to any information being publicly disclosed?

Dr MILES: I understand that on the day that advice was made public that local representatives were advised. With regards to the timing of it, I am not aware of that. I was travelling at the time. I would emphasise to the member though—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question as asked. I ask that you hear his response.

Dr MILES: As the member for Gregory would be aware, I always endeavour to ensure that local MPs on both sides of the House are advised of COVID-19 related matters in their electorate. In fact I contacted the member for Gregory personally on the day that there was news related to the Blackwater case. I would urge the member for Gregory to note that I called him before the press conference because I trusted him with that information and that advice. I will continue to—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, comments will come through the chair. The speaker on their feet has the call.

Dr MILES: Throughout this pandemic, I have endeavoured to ensure that the public and indeed those opposite are fully and consistently briefed and that representatives at a local, state and even federal government level are advised of matters affecting their community. If the LNP want to come in here and criticise me for that, then I can stop doing that. If that is what you want me to do, I can stop doing that but I would prefer to continue to be able to keep all local representatives advised of matters affecting their community because I hope that allows them to keep the politics out of it and to represent their communities honestly and without politicising the virus, people's health care or the health response. I will leave it to you. If you do not want me to—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair please.

Dr MILES: Mr Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition or the member for Gregory do not want me to keep local MPs informed, then I will stop.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Dr MILES: I understood that the member for Gregory appreciated my informing him of matters affecting his community, as have other members of the LNP. I just urge those opposite to have a bit of caution about this kind of critique and to think carefully about what the ramifications of their course of action today might be.

Coronavirus, Training

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House about training that is available for Queenslanders to respond to the COVID pandemic and who will benefit from this?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. She is a huge advocate for making sure that Queenslanders and our small businesses right now get the opportunity to upskill and access online training for free during COVID-19. It will be critical in our economic recovery.

The Palaszczuk government has a plan for Queensland jobs to unite and recover, and our \$500 million workers assistance package is doing just that. Through the Jobs Finder portal, Queenslanders looking for work can also access free training through TAFE. We have had 17,000 enrolments in free online courses through TAFE—everything from digital literacy and data security to health assistance and individual support. We are absolutely focused on making sure that Queenslanders and our small businesses can use this time to upskill because we know that will be critical in our economic recovery.

Today I am proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government will also roll out free infection control training across Queensland. This will allow businesses in the retail, food and beverage industries to upskill workers and manage risks associated with COVID-19 and provide comfort to consumers and customers that workplaces, cafes and restaurants are safe.

In addition, we recently announced another Australian first. We have partnered with GO1, a local Queensland business, to provide hundreds of courses for free for small businesses through our Small Business Skills Hub and for Queenslanders. It is like Netflix for training: there are hundreds of courses people can do at home. The range of courses are so diverse that there are even some courses that the LNP could benefit from. I have selected a few that I think the Leader of the Opposition might be able to benefit from.

To start with, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could do the tackling poor performance course. Then she could graduate and try the essential skills of leadership. There are not any courses on developing courage, so the member for Broadwater might have to try self-leadership skills. It is all a bit of a mess on that side of the House. Of course, we have some training courses for the backroom bullyboys as well. Maybe Dave Hutchinson and Campbell Newman could try our free bullying and harassment online courses.

It is a complete mess on that side of the House but on this side of the House we are united for Queensland jobs. Providing free online training through TAFE and other providers will be absolutely vital in making sure our small businesses and Queenslanders—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN:—are ready for the economic recovery because on this side of the House we are united to create jobs for Queensland.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Mount Morgan Mine

Mr ANDREW: My question is for the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The Mount Morgan mine in the Mirani electorate has been paramount to Queensland's financial foundation, but the current evaporation method the government has invested millions of dollars into has not reduced the poison oozing from the mine but, rather, has successfully concentrated the waste, which is at risk of release during the next flood event. Will the minister please advise if the government will stump up half of the \$500 million outlined by CQUniversity to assist Heritage Minerals to rehabilitate this site, create jobs and kickstart the Mount Morgan mine?

Dr LYNHAM: What a heritage the resources industry has provided to this state. It has created big towns like Mount Morgan and Charters Towers. I think everyone has had a connection with those towns when they were big resource hubs, and Mount Morgan is still a thriving community. My great-uncle, who was a tunneller in World War I, came from Mount Morgan. My grandfather was the shire clerk at Mount Morgan. I have relatives in Charters Towers. Many people in this House can research their legacy back to those huge mining centres, so Mount Morgan is very important for a state Labor government.

I can inform the member that Heritage Minerals, which you have recognised, has been issued an indicative approval notification deed to go onsite to undertake a range of activities such as the ones you are suggesting—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Minister.

Dr LYNHAM: Sorry, Mr Speaker—such as the ones the member was suggesting to further understand and evaluate the resource activity there. I was very disappointed that earlier on in my tenure Carbine Resources failed to enhance and refresh this valuable resource at Mount Morgan. They missed by that much because, with our new financial assurance legislation, rehabilitation has taken on a new format, a new vision, within Queensland.

We work with industry to get that social legacy, that licence, that mines can be and will be successfully rehabilitated in this state. As part of that, we will allow companies or people who are interested back to our legacy sites. We have 15 such sites in Queensland and one of those sites is Mount Morgan. Hopefully, Heritage Minerals can get back to Mount Morgan, re-establish that mineral deposit and reinvigorate the town of Mount Morgan. That is what we want to see. We are encouraging that right throughout the state.

We are working with Rockhampton Regional Council to open up the dinosaur footprints in the fireclay caverns. That is going very well indeed. We hope that Rockhampton Regional Council will be very successful in opening that as a tourist venture in Mount Morgan. I see great things for the community of Mount Morgan, especially under a state Labor government. Mount Morgan has delivered a lot to this state over many years. I support the community of Mount Morgan in making sure that once again it becomes a thriving, viable and vibrant community, one of many communities in our state that has a significant legacy due to our resource industry.

Regional Queensland, Racing Industry

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister update the House on the latest funding package for country racing clubs, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. I note his enthusiasm for country racing and the racing industry more broadly, particularly with the terrific Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club in the heart of his electorate.

I am pleased to inform the House that we are announcing the next round of country racing infrastructure, a further \$2.6 million boost, for 32 race clubs in rural and regional Queensland. This is part of the Palaszczuk government's \$70.4 million country racing package, which keeps racing alive in the bush. There is no doubt that race clubs play a vital role in our smaller towns and communities. They are a place of gathering, of celebration and of fun. I know the industry has been extremely grateful that it has been able to continue throughout the pandemic. I also know industry participants are chomping at the bit to get patrons back through the gates, and a COVID-safe business plan is being finalised to allow punters back on the track.

During this time racing has been held safely across the state supporting participant incomes and jobs. Speaking of jobs, this round of funding will support or create about a hundred jobs. Projects funded as part of this round include \$375,000 for a new stewards tower and jockey room and swab stall upgrades at the Mount Isa Race Club, \$175,000 for the first stage of an irrigation upgrade at the Towers Jockey Club and \$65,000 for a tower replacement at the Nanango Race Club. Speaking of Nanango, I would be playing it safe by not putting a bet on the No. 1 starter Deb 'I'm Not Going Anywhere' Frecklington. It is too hard to see—

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

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. The smart money will be on Clive 'Human Rights Campaigner' Palmer with the 'Backroom Boys' coming a very close second. I do digress. This round of the country racing package sees 50 projects being approved for clubs across the state. Country racing, as I say, is a very important part of economic recovery. With the major plans announced in the past few weeks, I think we can see that playing an important role in the uniting and recovery that we will see in this state. The reality is that country racing might be small, but it is very mighty in terms of its impact, the way it brings community together and the way in which it will encourage that emergence and response. It is a great example, a great analogy, for the way in which Queensland will unite and recover.

Coronavirus, Restrictions

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier explain why 30,000 protesters were not stopped from breaking the coronavirus rules in Brisbane but now only 2,000 spectators can go to Townsville's brand-new stadium, disadvantaging local businesses and costing jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Saturday marks two weeks since the protest. Of course, we are monitoring if there are any health outbreaks from the protests. As we now have seen, three people who attended the protest in Melbourne have tested positive. Of course it is very concerning, and we anxiously await

what happens on Saturday. In relation to the decisions that we have made about the trial for allowing up to 2,000 people into stadiums this weekend, it is because Queensland has done such a great job. That is why it is a trial that will commence this weekend. I understand that the different codes are very supportive of this measure and that it is not dissimilar to what has happened in South Australia.

Whilst I am on my feet, I wanted to add that Queensland has had the highest growth in job ads for Seek on the eastern seaboard. Our growth in job ads, at 48.4 per cent, is far ahead of New South Wales. The top industry for growth in job ads in Queensland was hospitality, at 189 per cent. I mention that because when we open up football stadiums for patrons, I do hope that people will also go and support their local hospitality businesses, be it cafes or restaurants. It is great to see that 189 per cent increase in hospitality and tourism, a direct sign of the fact that we are easing restrictions in Queensland.

Kendra Banks, the managing director of Seek, also said that we are encouraged to see industries which were the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic rebounding at a good pace, with hospitality and tourism up 138 per cent month on month, with Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria performing very well. That is great to see and is an encouragement that, as we ease restrictions, people are getting back to work—but I make no apologies for saying that people need to get back to work safely. That is what Queenslanders expect of us and that is exactly what we will do. It is measured and responsible. Every single day we wait to see the results of the testing that comes in overnight. The testing continues to happen across Queensland, and I thank Queenslanders for coming forward and getting tested. As I said the other day in the House—and I will say it again—I am very thankful each and every day that I live in Queensland, Australia, where everybody is focused on the health response and where we now are focused on the economic response.

Coronavirus, Manufacturing Industry

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland manufacturers through the COVID-19 pandemic, and is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. Of course, Queensland's economic recovery strategy is focused on keeping Queenslanders in a job and on getting them back to work, especially the 240,000 Queenslanders who work in construction and its associated manufacturing supply chain. For instance, take the Household Resilience Program stage 2, now worth over \$40 million over two years. Last year it delivered 1,746 household upgrades. In great news, 95 per cent of the works were carried out by local tradies; but it is more than just tradies, with the Household Resilience Program creating \$67.7 million in economic activity through the supply chain, including in manufactured building supplies.

Last week I travelled to Bundaberg to see for myself and I met with local roofers Steve and Peter from Elite Roofing. Their local business has flourished thanks to the additional customers they secured through the Household Resilience Program. The program can mean an extra three to six months work for a business like Steve's Elite Roofing. Steve has been able to employ Peter full-time due to the increase in workload, and he is hoping to be able to take on more staff through the \$20 million boost to the program. Steve buys his roof sheeting from local manufacturer Metroll Steel. I visited manager Wayne Martin, who employs 14 locals in his Bundaberg factory. Metroll has helped supply the steel for some of the 87 homes to get cyclone-proofing upgrades in Bundaberg. It is Australian-made steel, locally pressed in Bundaberg. Wayne told me that the continuation of the Household Resilience Program is important for the supply chain to the Bundaberg local community.

Labor's plan for COVID-19 recovery is a plan for the future. It is an economic plan to support the construction industry and the manufacturing supply chains—a further \$267 million invested this week. All week we have heard the LNP criticising our plan. I say to those in the LNP that at least we have a plan for manufacturing and construction in Queensland. It is no wonder that Master Builders came to parliament this week to welcome our plan. I have looked at the LNP's economic plan. How does the LNP have an economic plan that excludes the 240,000 workers in the construction industry? How does it have a plan that ignores a \$46 billion industry? Construction does not even rate a mention in this document. In some 39 pages there is not a mention of construction—nothing in here on construction for the retail sector.

We know they have a plan to cut public sector jobs if they are elected, but what else will they cut? Will they cut the Household Resilience Program? Will they go ahead and cut millions in the accessibility assistance program that supports Queenslanders to stay in their home? We know that there will be handouts for the backroom boys and a cutting of jobs for Queensland tradies.

(Time expired)

New Acland Coalmine

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier immediately approve stage 3 of the Acland coalmine and stop the legal delaying tactics being employed as an excuse to block this major job-creating project for regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As we know, these matters are in the court at the moment. The member is very well aware of that.

Mrs Frecklington: The Premier has a law degree.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes—and it is in the court; that is right. I think the Leader of the Opposition might have a law degree as well. It is in the court. The court processes need to take their course.

Gold Coast, Road Infrastructure

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the progress of delivering major Gold Coast road upgrades, including the Coomera Connector?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Macalister, who believes in jobs and infrastructure and in improving the M1. We are seeing \$2.3 billion of funding going into the M1 under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We see the first section complete at the Gateway merge. In coming days, the section from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes will also be completed. That is two upgrades, but there is more. There are two much larger upgrades starting: from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill and of course from Tugun to Varsity Lakes. That is \$1.75 billion worth of investment with 1,600 jobs flowing from that. We believe in jobs; we believe in investing in the M1. There has never been more investment going into the M1 than now under this government. It is at an historic level, and we are committed to it. Contrast that with the record of those opposite, where not one single new dollar went into the M1 in three years. When the opposition leader was Campbell Newman's protege, they ignored the M1. We lost three years, but we are now having to make up as the Palaszczuk government is committed to it.

The other project that we have progressed very strongly has been the Coomera Connector, which was blocked by those opposite for three years when in government. They stopped it going into the city plan and they stopped it going into the regional plans. We have all three sections gazetted over the first three or four years. We have consulted the public. We now have the business case going. It is—again—Labor governments that invest in roads and in infrastructure. Those opposite cannot even agree on what the Coomera Connector will be. The member for Mermaid Beach thinks it should be a toll road. The member for Theodore says it should be an 80 kilometres-per-hour road, and yet the Deputy Leader of the Opposition thinks it should be a 100 kilometres-per-hour motorway. They cannot agree even on what a roadway looks like, let alone their leadership.

I note today that the president of the state LNP will be resigning from Clive Palmer employ, but who was that announced by? It was not announced by the Leader of the Opposition; it was announced by one of the backroom bullyboys—or maybe he is a little more front room—who is still one of the bullyboys of the LNP.

We know who runs the LNP, and it is not the member for Nanango. It is the backroom boys who control it. We know that because they have their same plan. We know they will promise the world and then they will get in there and they will cut and they will sack and they will sell. It will be another Campbell Newman government 2.0. We all know the ruse. Remember when they told public servants that everyone would be safe and then they sacked them? They said that our energy assets would be safe and then they tried to privatise them with Strong Choices. They will do the same with the M1 and they will do the same with the Coomera Connector. They will cut, they will sack and they will sell.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next speaker, member for Theodore, member for Glass House and member for Ninderry, you are all warned under the standing orders. A reminder to the Leader of the Opposition: members' correct titles will be used in the House.

Crime

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table a copy of a Queensland Police Service crime map showing a 420 per cent increase in criminal offences in the Toowong area between March and May of this year, and I ask: what is the Premier doing to protect both businesses and local residents?

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Police Service website titled 'Queensland Police Service—Online Crime Map' [955].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not seen that map. I am happy to have a look at it and get back to the member. I just do not have it on me.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Because we cannot table it I cannot see it, so I am happy to get back to the member about it.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can I ask that you will be doing that under the standing orders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will get back—

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, but are you taking that on notice under the standing orders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Can I just get back to him?

Mr SPEAKER: No, you will need—

Mrs Frecklington: No.

Mr SPEAKER: I am just asking the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Fine.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Police Resources

Mr POWER: My question is for the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister update the House on how the police academies are helping us to unite and recover for Queensland jobs?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question and acknowledge his strong advocacy for our police and also the additional police resources which are located in his local electorate of Logan—the new police facility at Yarrabilba as well as some additional growth numbers and a suite of first-year constables that have been delivered.

Mr Batt interjected.

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection. In respect of the question that was just asked of the Premier—I acknowledge the standing orders and perhaps might be able to short-circuit some of the administrative tasks that the Premier may need to attend to—the member asked the Premier what the government is doing. Those opposite have not been listening very much to all of the ministerial statements I make and all of the responses to questions that I give.

This government is delivering a record police budget. The police budget has never been bigger. We have a record number of police—over 12,000. We continue to deliver new recruits through our academies located in Brisbane and Townsville. Who could forget that the previous government was trying to sell off the academy in Townsville? That is shameful behaviour and shows its total disregard for not only regional Queensland but also our police. In respect of the question that the Premier took on notice, this government is doing a lot to support our police and respond to community safety concerns with record police numbers and a record police budget. Our academies have been keeping very busy over the last few years. In fact, it was only a month ago that our two academies graduated over 140 new police. Those police—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr RYAN: Yes, I know. The member for Cooper listens to my answers. Those opposite might be able to take a leaf out of her book, but of course we know that they cannot even get recommendation 1 right from the Borbidge-Sheldon review, so listening is going to be a difficult task for them as well.

Those recruits who graduated through the academies have been deployed right across the state—some into South-East Queensland to the Brisbane Central area with eight recruits, some recruits to Nudgee and recruits going to Hendra, some to Rockhampton, some to Cairns, some to Ferny Grove,

some to Townsville—in fact, to every corner of our state. We are very proud of our commitment to the front line. We have been supporting the front line with not only extra resources and extra police numbers but also the laws that they need to help keep our communities safe. This is a government which is very proud of its commitment to the front line. We have funded more equipment. We have funded the body worn cameras that those opposite told our police to purchase themselves. We have funded the QLITEs which assist our police in solving crimes. We have funded new accoutrements like holsters and torches that support the good work that they do and we ensure that every one of our recruits comes out—

(Time expired)

Community Sport

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Sport. Will the minister finally listen to the concerns of sport and recreational clubs across Queensland and immediately adopt a one-person-per-four-square-metre rule to provide a commonsense approach that allows kids to return to community sports?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will have two minutes to respond.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am just seeking clarification, but I wrote down that question time would cease at 11.14 today. Was that incorrect?

Mr SPEAKER: I wrote down 11.16, so if I am incorrect I apologise to the House. Minister, are you prepared to answer the question?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. It is disappointing that the member is seeking to criticise the very capable industry plans that have been put together by the sports sector itself. At the time when gathering restrictions limited access to community sport for hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk government moved swiftly to set up a return-to-play advisory group made up of representatives of sport, recreation, small business, athletes, you name it. It has come together and has worked closely with state sporting bodies to identify ways in which they could ensure that sport could resume training at stage 2 effectively and safely. Quite frankly, 99 per cent of clubs are back up and running and training is happening right across the state. If I can give the House an example—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Theodore, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Theodore withdrew from the chamber at 11.16 am.


Mr de BRENNI: State level sporting organisations have been supported to work with the 7,000 sporting clubs across the state to ensure that they can implement their COVID-safe plans. In fact, we invested \$10.8 million into those state sporting organisations so that they could support a return to play and I understand that in most cases it is going quite successfully. Quite frankly, things have had to change in every sector of the Australian community and globally, and the same goes for sport. There are strategies in place in sporting clubs and recreational organisations to allow them to resume sport, and I know that they are working through those. For example, a Rugby League club can split the field into three and have three groups of 20. They can have small gatherings of support. The Palaszczuk government is supporting the return-to-play advisory groups to continue revising those safety—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES AC, DEPUTY GOVERNOR, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

Date: 16 June 2020

Tabled paper: Message, dated 16 June 2020, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [\[956\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.17 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [\[957\]](#).

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [\[958\]](#).

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[959\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. This bill will amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018 to fulfil this government's commitment to establish a Rehabilitation Commissioner and enable the residual risk reforms for the resources sector. Through these legislative amendments, the government continues to deliver on our plan to unite and recover by improving rehabilitation outcomes and financial assurance provisioning in the resources sector to create jobs that will support regional communities and protect the environment. This bill also includes other minor technical amendments to the Environmental Protection Act and the Water Act 2000 that enhance the operation of existing regulatory processes. This includes amendments to support the implementation of the new Great Barrier Reef protection regulations.

The first component of this bill fulfils our government's commitment to investigate options to appoint a Rehabilitation Commissioner for Queensland, a commitment that was made during debate on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018. Today we are delivering on our commitment. This bill allows for the appointment of an independent Rehabilitation Commissioner by the Governor in Council and provides for the functions of that position. These functions are separate but complementary to the existing regulatory role of the Department of Environment and Science.

The Rehabilitation Commissioner will be tasked with working collaboratively with the community, industry, environmental groups, researchers and the Department of Environment and Science on rehabilitation and management practices and their outcomes. Specifically, the Rehabilitation Commissioner will be asked to provide advice, reports and guidance to the government and industry on best practice rehabilitation and management of non-use management areas.

As part of this function of producing guidance materials and reports, the commissioner will be able to request information from an entity. Entities can protect the information they provide through such a request by entering into a confidentiality agreement with the commissioner. The commissioner will also be expected to raise and improve awareness of rehabilitation matters and chair relevant workshops and forums.

Additionally, the commissioner will be responsible for monitoring and reporting to the minister on rehabilitation performance and trends across Queensland. Supporting and enabling improved rehabilitation through clearer guidance on what 'best practice' rehabilitation is will create new regional

jobs and industries that care for and repair land that has been impacted by resource sector activity. To be clear, mine rehabilitation is a job-creating industry and, as such, has the full support of this government.

To ensure transparency and accountability, documents produced by the Rehabilitation Commissioner will be publicly available. Additionally, an annual report will be tabled in this parliament that includes details on the commissioner's performance of its functions. It should be noted that the Rehabilitation Commissioner has no decision-making powers regarding environmental authorities or progressive rehabilitation and closure plans.

The second part of this bill provides for amendments to the residual risk framework. The government is ensuring that any remaining risks on resource sites after a project is completed are appropriately identified, costed and managed. Residual risks are any risks remaining at the time of the surrender of the environmental authority. Even after a site has been satisfactorily rehabilitated and the environmental authority surrendered, there may be circumstances where ongoing management or remedial action is required. In some cases, because of the disturbance and rehabilitation that has been undertaken, it is possible that an area or structure on the former resource site may fail, requiring action to address or prevent potential or actual environmental harm. To protect the community we need a comprehensive framework in place, one that ensures all the information needed to identify and assess residual risks to protect people and land is collected.

Further, we do not want taxpayers to have to foot the bill for costs that arise after a site is surrendered as a result of the previous resource activity. To enable this, the bill introduces a requirement for a post-surrender management report. The changes will require resource companies to submit a post-surrender management report when they apply to surrender their environmental authority. This report will clarify and improve the existing residual risk requirements in the Environmental Protection Act. The report will include a risk assessment of the land. Where residual risks requiring management are identified, the report will also include information on what ongoing management and remedial actions may be needed to manage the risks. Under the bill, where any residual risks require a risk management plan, it will need to be recorded on the relevant land title. This will help current and prospective landholders be aware of any particular management needs for the land and ensure no surprises.

This bill will also amend the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act to establish a residual risks fund. While the Environmental Protection Act allows for the collection of residual risk payments, there is currently no formal process to manage the funds received. The feedback from stakeholders was very clear: they want to see the residual risk payments managed by the same entity that manages the financial provisioning scheme. We have listened and this bill will see all residual risk payments being transferred into a residual risks fund and managed by the scheme manager. This will ensure appropriate financial management of residual risk payments.

This bill sets up a leading practice framework for residual risk management, but the success of the measures will ultimately depend on finalising the guideline and implementation. To support the implementation process, I am pleased to announce that the department will establish an industry implementation working group to ensure the guideline, procedures and processes deliver on the potential this framework provides. Input from industry will be critical as we progress to implementation of these important reforms and I am confident that the companies and peak bodies will make a valuable contribution to that process.

The third component of this bill involves several minor and technical amendments to the Environmental Protection Act. These amendments remove unnecessary provisions, address omissions and clarify and improve regulatory processes. This includes clarifying existing provisions for the improved implementation of the Great Barrier Reef protection regulations. In particular, these amendments put beyond doubt that the application requirements for new commercial cropping and horticulture activities in reef catchments are limited to reef water quality matters. The bill also provides the ability to submit a progressive rehabilitation and closure plan later in the environmental authority application process if an environmental impact statement process is to be completed. This amendment is in direct response to industry feedback and will provide a more efficient assessment process for many stakeholders.

The bill provides that relevant applications for de-amalgamation of an environmental authority will need to be accompanied by an application for a new estimated rehabilitation cost decision. This amendment also supports our rehabilitation reforms by ensuring a de-amalgamated authority is assigned the correct estimated rehabilitation cost. There are also a range of other minor amendments

in the bill. Overall, this third part of the bill provides for some necessary updates to the Environmental Protection Act, helping the government and stakeholders meet the broader intent of the legislation without imposing any significant additional burdens.

I am introducing this bill to parliament to continue this government's commitment to the protection of our natural environment across a range of matters. The Rehabilitation Commissioner will be a valuable addition that further improves Queensland's nation-leading rehabilitation framework and will create new job opportunities. Clearer and enhanced requirements for resource activities at surrender will deliver significant environmental benefits and build community trust in resource companies fulfilling their environmental obligations. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (11.28 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (WORKER SCREENING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.28 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006, the Evidence Act 1977, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the other legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2020 [\[960\]](#).

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [\[961\]](#).

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[962\]](#).

As the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors I have great pleasure in and the privilege of introducing this bill to support Queensland's next step in the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. On 28 March 2019 I introduced the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019 into this parliament. This legislation reflected the changing role and responsibilities of the Queensland government by implementing amendments to support the operation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission in Queensland from 1 July 2019.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework provides a nationally consistent approach to help empower and support NDIS participants to exercise choice and control while ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place, and establishes expectations for providers and their staff to deliver high-quality supports. Under the framework, the NDIS Commission is responsible for the oversight of registered NDIS providers, including oversight of the national policy in relation to worker screening. Queensland and other jurisdictions, however, remain responsible for administering a worker screening system.

On 3 May 2018, the Premier signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Nationally Consistent Worker Screening for the NDIS. This agreement sets out the national policy to support nationally consistent NDIS worker screening. Implementation of this IGA will ensure a consistent level of safeguards across jurisdictions and support portability of clearances and exclusions.

The broad objective of NDIS worker screening is to establish a scheme to screen NDIS workers to assess whether a person who works or seeks to work with a person with a disability poses an unacceptable risk of harm to that individual. The bill meets Queensland's commitment under the NDIS to implement nationally consistent worker screening and continues current state screening for disability services outside the NDIS. It will significantly strengthen and streamline disability screening processes in Queensland.

This bill will enhance safeguards for people with disability, including a strengthened identity checking process, a stronger framework for disqualifying people convicted of concerning offences, and a stronger decision-making framework that focuses on risk and considers a broader range of information. In addition, it will achieve national criminal history monitoring for the first time ever and expand screening requirements so more people need to be screened to work with people with a disability. I will provide more detail on each of these reforms, which will together mean that safeguards for people with disability in Queensland will be stronger.

In addition to increasing safeguards, the bill will also streamline the disability worker screening process and make the application processes quicker and easier for people. Clearances and exclusions will be portable across roles and employers within the NDIS, as well as across all states and territories. Information sharing will also be enhanced, both across the Queensland government and with relevant Commonwealth entities such as the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

I will turn for a moment to the time frames for the commencement of this new nationally consistent scheme. It was intended that NDIS worker screening under the IGA would commence on 1 July 2020. However, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this time frame has had to be reconsidered. It would not be sensible to implement such a significant reform in the context of a global health pandemic. This approach ensures that service providers can remain focused on critical service delivery in these challenging times.

The bill will commence by proclamation to enable flexibility to commence the new worker screening arrangements and to allow the final date to be negotiated and confirmed with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions. Until commencement, the strong screening processes under the current yellow card system will continue. This means that NDIS service providers can continue to apply for a yellow card, a blue card or a yellow card exemption.

I will now turn to the details of the bill. The bill will amend the Disability Services Act 2006 to replace the existing yellow card framework with a new framework for both NDIS worker screening and state disability worker screening from commencement. I am proud to say that Queensland has had, and will continue to have, one of the strongest quality and safeguards systems for people with disability in Australia. This includes a robust worker screening system for people working or volunteering with people with disability.

The bill supports a number of key changes to our existing disability screening system to ensure effective implementation of the NDIS check in Queensland. Firstly, the bill will support a streamlined application process. Individuals will now be able to apply for a clearance, with employers confirming they are proposing to engage the individual. This application will be made through a new online application process that leverages the identity checking processes of the Department of Transport and Main Roads and prints people's existing photographs on their clearance card. This means most people will be able to complete their application from home. This will support the introduction of a no card, no start policy for applicants who require screening. This approach will achieve consistency with the reforms occurring in the blue card system and will ensure a person has been checked before they can work with people with disability in risk assessed roles.

Consistent with an agreed national framework, there will now be a broader range of offences that will automatically disqualify people from being able to be issued a clearance. The bill will also introduce a new test to be applied when determining whether or not a clearance should be issued. If the person has assessable information, the chief executive will be required to determine whether the person poses an unacceptable risk of harm to a person with disability. This approach focuses on the risks to people with disability and ensures that a person who is identified to pose an unacceptable risk is issued with an exclusion, preventing them from working with a person with disability. Pending charges for disqualifying offences and convictions or pending charges for serious offences will result in a presumed exclusion, unless exceptional circumstances exist. In addition, a broader range of information will be considered as part of a risk assessment, including information from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

Importantly, for the first time, NDIS clearance holders will also be subject to ongoing national monitoring of criminal history. This means that, if a clearance holder has a change in their criminal history in any state or territory, this information will lead to a reassessment of their eligibility to hold a clearance and work with people with disability. This important safeguard will mean that NDIS clearances can remain in effect for an extended validity period of five years, rather than the current three-year validity period.

In addition to a stronger system, a broader range of people will be required to have an NDIS screening check. Screening will be mandatory for workers and volunteers of registered NDIS providers in risk assessed roles, including registered health practitioners and people providing services to children with disability. People with disability who engage unregistered providers will be able to choose whether or not they want their workers to be screened. This reflects the tiered approach to regulation under the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework and recognises the right of people with disability to exercise choice and control. Importantly, all providers, whether registered or not, are required to comply with the obligations of the NDIS Code of Conduct. Queensland will maintain existing safeguards and continue state criminal offences for breaching worker screening requirements to ensure compliance with worker screening requirements can be enforced.

The bill also makes important changes to how our disability screening system in Queensland will operate in conjunction with our working with children check. In Queensland, all people working with children with disability will require a blue card and NDIS clearance. This will ensure the highest level of safeguards for children. However, there will be a new joint online application process to ensure that people who need both clearances can make a single application for both checks.

The bill authorises the chief executive, working with children, to extend or shorten the expiry of a blue card for the purposes of facilitating alignment of the periods for which a disability clearance and blue card are granted to a person. In this regard, the amendments recognise that the term of a blue card may be greater or less than the three years, and up to five years, to align with the duration of a person's NDIS clearance.

In addition, information sharing will be enhanced across the two systems. This will reduce duplication of screening and ensure that information can be shared to enhance decision-making. To ensure the blue card system operates effectively and efficiently alongside the new disability worker screening system, the bill makes a number of key amendments to the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 to ensure the strongest possible safeguards are maintained in relation to persons working with children with disability.

I will now briefly address the key amendments to the working with children act made by the bill. First, the bill creates new categories of child related employment and child related business under the working with children act to clarify when a person performing disability related work with children is required to have a blue card.

To ensure the highest possible safeguards are maintained, the bill makes clear that a person who works or proposes to work in an NDIS risk assessed role with children with disability must hold a blue card, regardless of whether the person is employed by or operates as a registered NDIS provider or an unregistered NDIS provider. This recognises the inherent vulnerability of children. In addition, the bill ensures that persons who provide disability services to children with disability outside the jurisdiction of the NDIS must continue to hold a blue card. The bill also makes consequential changes to the blue card decision-making framework in the working with children act as a result of the revised information-sharing regime proposed by the bill.

The changes to the working with children act ensure that the chief executive of working with children has a clear legislative basis to consider information provided by the chief executive of disability services when undertaking a blue card eligibility assessment. In addition to introducing a new NDIS worker screening check, the bill will continue existing state disability worker screening for services that continue to be funded or provided by the department. This includes, for example, accommodation support and respite services and continuity of support services. This will ensure continuity of safeguards while also leveraging policy positions under the NDIS worker screening check to the extent possible.

This bill introduces significant reform to strengthen safeguards for people with disability in Queensland and is an important part of implementing the NDIS. The Queensland government is committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the new worker screening framework. Accordingly, my department will work closely with disability sector stakeholders, peak organisations, service providers and, most importantly, with people with disability to ensure we communicate the changes under the bill

clearly and implement them effectively. This includes the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement strategy similar to what is currently being developed for the purposes of the blue card system. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.41 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Jobs

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (11.42 am): I rise to make a ministerial statement. COVID-19 has thrown the global economy into turmoil. This week the world confirmed its eight millionth case of COVID-19. Around the world, more than 440,000 people have died from the virus. Sadly, this includes 102 Australians and six Queenslanders. The human toll of these figures is devastating. While hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost to COVID-19, hundreds of millions of livelihoods are in peril. In the United States where 117,000 people have died, 21 million people have joined the unemployment queue.

Moments ago I received the latest information about the impact COVID-19 has had on Australian jobs. In April, a record 594,000 Australians lost employment. Almost 130,000 Queenslanders joined the jobless. In May, as we have discovered today, an additional 227,700 Australians and 28,100 Queenslanders lost their jobs. This means, after revisions, that over the past two months 167,900 Queenslanders have lost their jobs. While it has been said that employment goes up via the stairs, it goes down via the lift. So it has been across Australia.

Over the past five years, the Palaszczuk Labor government helped to create 250,000 Queensland jobs. Over just two months, COVID-19 has seen 167,900 jobs lost in our state. Behind these statistics lies a Queenslanders and their family who are struggling at this time. Our strong health response means that they might not be ill with COVID-19, but they are struggling nonetheless. They might be struggling to pay the bills, to buy the groceries or to buy their children's birthday presents. Going on holidays is not an option for them. The Labor government stands with and will support those Queenslanders.

This economic crisis will not be resolved in weeks, nor months. It will take years for the Queensland economy to fully recover. It will certainly not be resolved by 27 September when the federal government wants to cut off JobKeeper.

We are encouraged by the information today from Seek that, in May, Queensland had the highest growth in job advertisements on the eastern seaboard. Queensland's 48 per cent growth in job ads was far ahead of New South Wales at 31 per cent. Job ads in hospitality and tourism increased by 189 per cent from April to May in Queensland, but we are far from a full recovery as 167,900 Queenslanders can attest.

We must retain our resolute focus on delivering Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, our plan for the economic recovery of our state. These unemployment numbers also mean that the federal government must extend JobKeeper payments until the economy fully recovers. Although we have avoided the worst of COVID-19 so far, the Queensland economy remains very seriously ill. We must all work together to help it recover as quickly and as comprehensively as possible. More than five million Queenslanders depend on it.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from 17 June (see p. 1355), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I just remind, for the benefit of members, those who are on a warning. We have the members for Burleigh, Kawana, Everton, Mudgeeraba, Nicklin, Burdekin, Buderim, Broadwater, Glass House, Ninderry and Theodore, with members for Burleigh, Everton and Theodore having been already asked to leave the chamber for a period of time.

Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (11.46 am), continuing: I begin by saying that my thoughts are with each and every Queenslanders who has lost their job in the last few months. I cannot imagine what it would be like, having had full employment from when I left school. I cannot imagine what that instability and insecurity would feel like, particularly for a family with children.

The electoral bill amends the Electoral Act 1992 to provide for electoral expenditure caps for registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning, and caps on the giving to, and acceptance of, political donations to a registered political party and their associated entities, candidates and third parties involved in electoral campaigning. These changes will in turn reduce the scope for undue influence through private donations. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to the maintenance of integrity, both at the state and local government level in Queensland.

Our democracy is precious. We cannot take it for granted. Instead, we need to progress reforms that strengthen our democracy and nurture access and availability for all to participate in it. The Palaszczuk government electoral reforms will create a more equitable playing field. In short, those with the most money do not have the loudest voice. The reforms will also ensure that every member of our community has the opportunity to have their say equally. These reforms will enhance the actual and perceived integrity and public accountability for state elections, and support public confidence in the state electoral processes and in our public institutions. Only the Palaszczuk government is truly committed to strengthening democracy in our great state.

Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.49 am): I rise to speak in the debate on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. There has been plenty of debate about the issues in this particular bill. In my contribution, I want to focus on the parts of the bill that relate to the new offences to apply to 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 or where a minister intentionally fails to update their statement of interests.

It is very important to understand the journey that has led to the government having to introduce this legislation into the House. This originated as a result of the behaviour of the former deputy premier and treasurer, the member for South Brisbane.

Mr Krause: De facto Premier.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from my colleague, the member from Scenic Rim—the de facto Premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Members in this chamber will be referred to by their appropriate parliamentary title. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. It became obvious that the former treasurer and deputy premier, the member for South Brisbane, failed to disclose in her pecuniary interest register the purchase of a property at Dutton Park. When that came to light, the former deputy premier claimed that the reason it was not declared was that her husband had bought the property without her being notified.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I will seek some advice. Sorry to interrupt you. Member for Everton, I remind you of the Speaker's ruling in relation to this matter. You are certainly able to talk about the genesis of the legislation, but I caution you about exploring the detail of the matter that is before the Ethics Committee. It is a tricky line to tread; I appreciate that. I bring that to your attention.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for the guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am very conscious of the Speaker's ruling that you have outlined. There was a nondeclaration of this property purchase. It was then declared after questioning around this. These are all things that the former deputy premier has admitted on the public record herself. She said that she was not aware of the purchase at the time it took place and that that was because her husband had made that purchase.

What then came out is that this property is in the vicinity of a project that the former deputy premier was responsible for—that being the construction of Cross River Rail. This property was going to potentially benefit from any uplift in value given its location. That led to some speculation about why that declaration was not made. In a radio interview the former deputy premier was asked about whether it seemed a bit unusual that she did not know about a purchase made by her husband. She stated, 'In fact, on reflection my husband sent me a text message to advise me of that purchase.' This again seemed to be an unusual explanation.

There was then speculation about some of the deliberations around the location of the stations for Cross River Rail—that is, whether the station should be at Dutton Park, where it was eventually decided it should be, or whether it should be at the PA Hospital where there would be more people using it. There was speculation about the property and the proximity of the property to the project. Given this speculation, the LNP referred the issue to the CCC.

Then the former deputy premier, the member for South Brisbane, referred the matter herself to the CCC. During an estimates hearing the member for South Brisbane admitted and voluntarily offered up the fact that she had rung the personal mobile of the CCC chair on a Sunday to advise him that she would be fully cooperating with the CCC.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member for Everton, I have reminded you of the Speaker's ruling. It is my view that you are delving too deeply into the facts behind the matters that are before the Ethics Committee.

Mr Krause: Protection racket.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, would you mind resuming your seat. Member for Scenic Rim, I assume it was you who said 'protection racket' from the protection of standing behind a member who was on their feet. I will place you on a warning. Member for Everton, it is my ruling that you are delving too far into the substance of those matters. I would ask you to come back to the genesis of the matter as it pertains to the bill.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. In relation to your ruling and the comments made by the member for Scenic Rim, I point out that I did not actually hear those comments, but now that they have been put into the record I find them unparliamentary and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, the Leader of the House has asked that your comments be withdrawn. I would ask you to withdraw those comments.

Mr KRAUSE: I withdraw.

Mr MANDER: The nub of the argument that I am outlining is that the reason this legislation has been introduced into the House is a CCC investigation and recommendations about the behaviour of the former deputy premier and treasurer, the member for South Brisbane. The other reason this is before the House is that the Premier refused to uphold the standards contained in the Ministerial Code of Conduct. There was no reason this legislation should ever come into the House because there are other available avenues for disciplinary action to be taken by the Premier against the member for South Brisbane. They are contained in the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

The Premier refused to act. The reason she refused to act is that she lacked authority in her own party room. Any other premier or leader of any substance would have taken action using the Ministerial Code of Conduct, but this Premier did not do that. Because the Premier did not do that, the CCC felt that it had to make recommendations. The CCC cleared the member for South Brisbane of any official corruption. However, the CCC chair said that the behaviour of the member for South Brisbane should be regarded as unacceptable and there should be a penalty associated with that.

That is why we are here today talking about this particular provision. The Premier of this state lacked the authority to take action against her former deputy premier. Because of that, here we are today having to legislate for integrity and morality. That is what we are doing here. There are long-held practices of this parliament that the Premier could have used but which she did not use because she lacked authority.

Even with this situation that I have outlined, this government has still refused to enact what the CCC recommended. The CCC slammed Labor's laws because they do not go far enough to encourage transparency and reduce corruption risk. The chair of the CCC when interviewed said, 'It duplicates them and provides a lesser penalty, so it lowers the bar rather than raises it in one sense.' Even when the CCC made recommendations and the government made a song and dance about accepting all of the recommendations, they refused to accept the CCC's recommendation with regard to this particular clause in the bill.

This government over the last five years has been racked with integrity issues, whether it is the member for Millar with regard to mangocube—

Mr Nicholls: The former member for Bundaberg.


Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield—the former member for Bundaberg.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for reminding me. There are so many. It is hard to remember them all. There was also the now Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and his behaviour with regard to the dodgy poll about the name of the Lady Cilento hospital. There are other matters before the Ethics Committee at the moment which I cannot mention and I will not mention.

This government is racked with integrity scandals. Do not think with the resignation of the former deputy premier that these integrity scandals will go away. They will not go away. We will remind the people of Queensland that this is a government that cannot be trusted. They cannot run themselves, and the Premier has zero authority over her party room.

(Time expired)

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. Before addressing the issues that have given rise to the accountability and integrity matters contained within this bill—and, yes, they have been canvassed on many occasions inside this House, as we have just heard, and outside this House—I want to place on record my very strong support for the electoral reform measures which seek to stop the campaign funding and expenditure arms race. These are important measures for our democracy. These are measures that will be resisted and opposed by those opposite in this House and they are measures that even on occasion those opposite have taken all the way to the High Court to defeat. I have no doubt that, if those opposite win the election in October this year, these laws will go and developer donations will be back.

However, my main contribution will go to my matters that have given rise to the accountability and integrity amendments and, in doing so, I will be telling my own story. Mr Deputy Speaker, I confirm with you that I have sought the advice of the Clerk in relation to my contribution today to ensure its consistency with Mr Speaker's ruling. I fundamentally believe in being accountable. I owe this explanation to the people of my community, to the people of South Brisbane, who entrusted me with the important role of representing them and their interests in this House.

Central to my story, as we know, is a house, a house in Woolloongabba—a suburb in which my parents once ran a small business, a suburb to which I brought my first baby home some 16 years ago. Before detailing some key personal facts, I want to place on record my sincere apology to my husband, Damien. As we all know, a political life is not just for the individual putting themselves forward. It is a life that heavily bears down on the families and particularly the partners of elected representatives. Damien has been unjustifiably demonised through this whole episode, and for that and to him I simply say sorry.

I am so proud of my husband. He was raised in a single income household in Toowoomba. His father migrated after the Second World War from the Netherlands. The success that he has achieved in his life has only been possible through his own hard work and sheer determination. When I was home with two small children and no job, my husband took a huge risk and started up his own business—a business that he built up over almost 15 years with his partner, a business that started with only three people and grew to employ more than 50 Queenslanders.

As small business families know all too well, the success of a business is built on many long hours, a lot of hard work and occasional failures before hard-earned growth. Early last year Damien divested some of his interests in his business and he invested the proceeds in a house. This was the same decision that so many Australians make with an eye to their own retirement. In preparation for disclosing the change in my husband's business on my pecuniary interests register I sought advice from the Clerk of the Parliament and the Registrar of Members' Interests. I sought his advice early and I sought his advice often.

The advice to me was to disclose upon the finalisation of the change, which legally occurred when the initial public offering was executed. Within days and before the deadline for updating my register, I verbally advised the Clerk in this chamber that the IPO had been finalised and that we were seeking advice from our accountant as to the accurate representation of this change on the register, and at the same time I advised the Clerk that I also had to declare a property purchased by my husband after the sale.

It has been misconstrued in the media that my husband neglected to tell me about the house which is why I failed to disclose it. Let me make this really clear: Damien divested his interests, he took the money and he made an investment decision. I was not part of that decision, but of course he told me after he had purchased the house that he had purchased it, so any failure to disclose formally within the time frame was not his fault. It was my fault, and I have apologised repeatedly for that. Damien bears no responsibility for this failure. It is completely mine, and I apologise to him for any pain that this has caused him.

Additionally, I provided detailed information to update my register to the Clerk but, as I stated at the Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing on 23 July last year, I omitted to accompany it with a signed form 3. At no stage—at no stage—did I hide or omit the purchase of this house, as confirmed by the Clerk in his evidence before the Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing on 23 July last year when he said—

It is normally not my practice to talk about conversations that I have with members in my role as registrar unless I am released to that extent by the member and/or I am talking to the Ethics Committee. However, what I can say is that the Deputy Premier has made public statements to the effect that she came and sought my advice about various transactions and advice was given. At some subsequent point there were draft declarations made which were checked by me and returned to the member. All of that I can confirm as being correct.

Further, as we all know, late declarations are common in this place. As the Clerk said again at last year's estimates hearing when asked about the frequency of late declarations, he could not hazard a guess at how often it occurred. He said—

I would make the point, however, that whilst members are obligated to make declarations within 30 days, as you yourself stated, members tend to be human, they tend to be very busy people and my experience certainly has been that, with no malfeasance intended, members oftentimes take longer than that to actually update their register. One of the reasons that at this time of year—in June and July every year—we have more transactions than we do throughout the year is that we send out a reminder about the register prior to the publication of the report.


That is, quite often there are matters that members have not put on their register and the Clerk seeks to remind them and they update accordingly.

To put this in context, I was six weeks late in formally finalising the declaration of this property but had provided information verbally and in written form to the Clerk, but I had not signed form 3. This was a six-week lag. Again, I apologise to the House but, as the CCC found, there was not only no corruption but also no evidence of dishonesty. There was absolutely no evidence of dishonesty because I did not act in a dishonest way.

I will further go on to say that this house was never a secret. In fact, after the boarding house fire in West End in May last year a number of residents were made homeless. This property was made available to a whole family to live in rent-free until they could find enough means to get back on their feet and find another property for themselves. This was never a secret, and for those opposite to paint this in the way they have I think goes to what their real motivation is, and that is mudslinging.

I would call on those opposite to read the CCC's report. If they are that fiercely wedded to the CCC's desire for strict liability then they should think about the implications for their own members, because last sitting week the Ethics Committee provided a report to this House which detailed that the member for Broadwater should have disclosed two pecuniary interests which he did not. If those opposite want to put the CCC's recommendations through, it would mean that the member for Broadwater would be facing criminal charges. That is the direct result of those suggestions.

I think the Attorney-General has presented to this House a fair balance in relation to these issues. There must be intention, there must be deceit and there must be dishonesty. Again I say to this House that the CCC did an exhaustive assessment over seven weeks. Significant information was provided to them. Their conclusion was that there was not only no dishonesty and no corruption but there was no evidence of either.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): The LNP cannot support this bill. This bill makes a mockery of the CCC's attempt to restore integrity to the Queensland government. For almost a year now Queenslanders have seen one integrity scandal after another from

the Palaszczuk government. The public's confidence in the integrity of the Palaszczuk Labor government has quite simply been destroyed. To address this, the CCC presented reforms to restore public confidence in good government, but Labor has tossed the CCC's plan in the bin.

This bill does not strengthen our anti-corruption laws. This bill will do nothing to restore integrity to this Palaszczuk government. In fact, the Palaszczuk Labor government's response will only undermine public confidence even further, and rightfully so. Let me be clear that the scandals of the last 11 months, followed by this weak and watered-down bill, have proved one thing beyond a doubt: that Queenslanders cannot trust the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queenslanders cannot trust Labor, full stop.

Just look at how Labor is trying to rig the electoral system with this bill. Last term we sat in this House and Labor went about scrapping Queensland's optional preferential voting system with just 18 minutes notice. There was no public consultation and 18 minutes notice. Then it banned property developer donations for state campaigns even though the CCC never recommended it. Why? Because Labor benefits from that at the polls. Labor does not care about fair elections; they are only interested in rigging the system. Now, just five months before the next election, they are at it again. At 9.06 pm the night before this bill was to be debated in the House we were sent 229 amendments with 100 pages. There was no public consultation, and that is Labor rigging the system to suit themselves. They have done it before—let's all remember 2011—and they are doing it again. Let me explain what these changes mean for the people out there who are listening to parliament today.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is interesting that the Attorney-General does not think people are listening. Let me tell her this: people do not regard the Palaszczuk government very highly at all, so I appreciate that. What these changes mean—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is seeking to verbal me in what I interjected with, and I take great offence and I ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Nanango, the Leader of the House has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. What these changes will mean is that Labor and the unions can spend \$2.3 million on a single seat. What does that mean for another political party such as the Liberal National Party? We could only spend \$150,000 per seat. Labor is openly and blatantly rigging the electoral system here in Queensland.

This week we have seen the Victorian Labor government's contempt for democracy and here we have it in Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government can do no better. I advise Queenslanders to ignore the Palaszczuk Labor government's rhetoric. Queenslanders should judge the Palaszczuk Labor government by its actions. Let us go back to the beginning of this integrity scandal. The former deputy premier's record as treasurer was a shocker. She gave Queensland the worst unemployment rate in Australia, delivered the lowest business confidence in the nation and—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Leader of the Opposition is now reflecting on the member for South Brisbane's character, which has nothing to do with this bill or the matters that lead to the—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. Order! Members, it may be timely to remind all members of the House of Mr Speaker's ruling earlier this week. I will read it again. It states—

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.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, this goes to the heart of the bill, which was around integrity. I am simply outlining what has gone on with the Palaszczuk Labor government's integrity scandals, but I will move on.

What Queenslanders will remember about the member for South Brisbane is the purchase of the Woolloongabba investment property. That is the member for South Brisbane's political legacy. I have never had a problem with people making a profit, but I do have a problem with people who break the laws we are all meant to follow. The former deputy premier clearly broke rule after rule after rule. The conduct looked wrong because it was wrong. No politician should be allowed to make a personal profit as a result of the decisions they make as ministers—not one. Not even the former treasurer of Queensland.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do believe that the Leader of the Opposition is now making assertions that have no basis or founding whatsoever and I ask that they be ruled out of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I advise that you need to be moderate in your language, temper your debate and make no personal attacks.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am not making personal attacks; I am simply stating the facts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, I have made my ruling. That could be seen as a reflection on the chair. I am just giving you the warning that it may be a reflection on the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I apologise. I do not wish to reflect on the chair. I move on from the integrity scandals and the failure of leadership from the Premier over the former deputy premier's conduct in this matter.

Let me move to Ipswich City Council. As I have said, the LNP cannot support this bill. However, there are some changes within the bill that I do welcome. The LNP does not oppose the local government changes which are an improvement on the existing integrity framework. These changes stem from Operation Belcarra and the scandals that have engulfed the former Labor Ipswich City Council. The proud people of Ipswich have seen their city dragged through the mud by corrupt Labor politicians. Ipswich has long been a Labor heartland, but the people of Ipswich are now questioning their loyalties, and rightly so. Congratulations to the new mayor, Teresa Harding, who is cleaning up the system.

I have many friends and family who live in Ipswich. The people of Ipswich have seen too many Labor politicians who only work for themselves instead of the local people. They have seen too many Labor politicians rip them off. Thankfully, the Ipswich City Council is now under that new leadership—non-Labor leadership. Even in Bundamba, voters are turning away from the Labor Party—a party that has failed that city for so long.


Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not relevant to the bill and the establishment of caps for particular integrity offences.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I will give you a bit of latitude here and allow you to continue, as long as you bring it back to the long title of the bill and weave your debate back through that please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am talking about local government and I am talking about elections. The fact of the matter is that the Labor Party's vote went down about 12 per cent in the recent by-election in Bundamba. That is a shocking example of the legacy of what has been going on under Labor administration. I am sure the Ipswich City Council is now on the right path. I thank the CCC for its work in exposing and ending the corruption in local government. Unfortunately, the CCC's attempt to introduce reforms to the state government is now being thwarted by Labor. The CCC specifically recommended that the law be changed to penalise members of parliament who fail to register their interests, regardless of intent. The CCC knows that it is very difficult to prove intent in these matters, and that is precisely why it made the recommendation that it did.

The Premier and her ministers have had the nerve to claim that they are implementing the will of the Crime and Corruption Commission, but that is not the case. Do not take my word for it. Just listen to what the chairman of the CCC had to say about the Palaszczuk Labor government's reforms. He said that this bill duplicates existing laws and provides a lesser penalty so it lowers the bar rather than raises it.

This is a disgraceful and blatant subversion of what the CCC called for, and every Labor member of parliament in this House knows it. They know that the former deputy premier should have been punished for her conduct. They know that this bill will not make a blind bit of difference the next time a Labor minister breaks the ministerial code. This bill makes a mockery of the CCC's attempt to restore integrity to the Queensland government. I will not vote for this bill and nor should anyone else in this House. This cynical attempt to stymie the CCC should be called out by all parties. It should be called out by everyone who cares about the integrity of our political system. The LNP wants to take this state forward. We want to strengthen Queensland's anti-corruption laws, but the Palaszczuk Labor government wants to roll them back. Voters can only draw one conclusion from this. They simply cannot trust Labor.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. Quite rightly, the focus of our Palaszczuk government is on supporting our communities to recover from COVID-19 through the

release of our comprehensive economic recovery plan, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. At the same time, it is during these moments of crisis, these moments of upheaval and change, that we need to protect our very system of government so that it remains inclusive, accountable and democratic. More than ever, Queenslanders must be able to have confidence in our electoral system as a key feature of our democracy.

The bill before us contains some fundamental reforms that enhance integrity and public accountability for our state electoral processes. I wish to congratulate the Attorney-General, the department and her team for the incredible amount of work that has been undertaken on this legislation. I know this is something the Attorney-General feels very strongly about. In fact she made a very good point in her introductory speech on this bill which bears repeating. She said—

The actual and perceived integrity of this system is significantly enhanced by no single person or entity being able to improperly influence those involved in electoral campaigning for state elections whether they be political parties, MPs, candidates or others engaged in campaigning to influence voting.

There is a growing move across many jurisdictions in Australia to more closely regulate election financing and to address growing concerns about the escalating campaign arms race and the potential undue influence of private funds in the electoral system. In fact there are caps on political donations in New South Wales and Victoria, whilst New South Wales, South Australia, the ACT and the Northern Territory have all implemented caps on electoral expenditure.

The legislation before us today includes: capping political donations; capping electoral expenditure; requiring political parties, candidates and third parties to maintain dedicated state campaign accounts, which will support the integrity of and compliance with the donations and expenditure caps; and increased public funding to decrease reliance on public donations. With the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has rightly deferred the donation caps and election funding to 2022.

The member for Toowoomba North and the LNP simply cannot deal with reasonable donation caps. I was reminded of an opinion piece written in the *Courier-Mail* back in 2014. Speaking about the Newman government's electoral laws at the time, the article said—

After coming to power on a promise of improving accountability, the Government has wiped out every improvement they've achieved with these indulgent changes. The identity of most donors will be hidden. A veil has been drawn down over cheques being exchanged in the private rooms of plush restaurants. It's a retrograde step ...

Whilst the member for Burnett was very quick to talk about the supposed \$2.2 million of union funds yesterday, I note he did not bother to mention the \$83.6 million that Clive Palmer spent in the last federal election that we know helped get their mate, Scott Morrison, elected.

Our government has also listened to the implications of what the new funding and expenditure requirements will be for small third parties, including charities and not-for-profit organisations, and has made necessary adjustments to the bill. As the Queensland Human Rights Commission submitted, charitable organisations and other groups that rely on donations would be disproportionately impacted as they have limited resources to finance any electoral expenditure. This is in contrast to organisations that have funding streams, such as profit-making entities or organisations with membership dues, and that have greater flexibility in how they organise their finances. A similar recommendation was made by the parliamentary committee in its report born from a number of the submissions received.

The Queensland Council of Social Service summed up the bill's aims in their submission to the parliamentary committee. As they said—

Electoral transparency, raising the level of political discussion and supporting a variety of voices to be heard are critical steps in restoring faith in democracy and increasing civic participation in elections and in communities.

Another area of reform which this bill relates to is election signage and it is a welcome reform based on the discussions with those in my community. When you talk about an arms race, it can truly be seen on polling booths—whether at pre-poll or on election day—and I am not quite sure how it aids democracy. The amendments to the bill—which would see a display of up to six signs in each designated area, which can be a combination of small and large signs—will see a much more sane approach to election signage. As I indicated, it will be welcomed by the community.


Our government is also taking additional precautions in relation to COVID-19 in the upcoming state election in October. It will allow the government to support the work of the Electoral Commission of Queensland in terms of electoral visitor arrangements, postal vote requirements, arrangements for the distribution of and display of election material and the scrutineering process. Our government will support voters to ensure they have every capacity to exercise their democratic right to vote when the time comes. This is something we need to protect. During the recent local government elections, it was

really concerning to see many of those opposite actively run a campaign to frighten voters and discourage them from attending pre-poll and polling booths to vote. This is despite assurances from the ECQ that plans were in place and it was perfectly safe for voters to attend a polling booth.

Of course, as we saw, there were no mass outbreaks of COVID-19 from pre-poll voting or from the local government election day. What the LNP did, including the mayor of Brisbane may I add, was dangerous and dishonest, and it showed how quickly and willing the LNP were to stomp on our community's democratic right to vote. We all still remember the introduction of voter ID at the 2015 elections and, as the Human Rights Law Centre said at the time, the votes of tens of thousands of vulnerable people were threatened.

Finally, I am pleased to see that this bill includes provisions of the government response to the Operation Yabber report. This was a CCC report into the Gold Coast city council and specifically some of the activities of the Gold Coast mayor, a number of which have now been referred to the Office of the Independent Assessor. Once again, we heard from the member for Mermaid Beach, Mayor Tate's No. 1 cheerleader in this House—he just needs the pompoms—that there is nothing to see here. Actually there was something to see if he had read the report. There was very concerning evidence of activity which has now led to provisions in the bill whereby a mayor of a local government is prohibited from giving directions to the CEO about employment matters for local government employees or discipline of councillor advisers that may cause the CEO to breach their responsibilities under the Local Government Act or another law.

The Palaszczuk government has a strong record of enhancing electoral integrity, transparency and accountability in Queensland. This bill aims to further strengthen public confidence in both our electoral system and our local government system as key democratic institutions. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. In keeping with my shadow responsibilities, in the first instance I will address the matters contained in the bill that have direct relevance to local government, and some of the changes to local government are an improvement on the current legislative profile.

Before doing so, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the many mayors and councillors who were successful at the recent local government elections. These people played a key role in local communities during this challenging time. Just like me, I am sure they would have preferred to see this legislation, particular to local government, and those relevant provisions being debated back in March. Therefore, they would have been in place at the commencement of the new local government term, not some three months later. We are here debating legislation that should have been debated early in March when it comes to local government matters. Indeed, some of this legislation was incorporated in the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was debated in October last year. One would ask: why has it taken so long for this legislation to reach this point?

For a start, let's refer back to the explanatory notes in the Belcarra stage 2 bill. Firstly, in Belcarra there was Labor's vote-rorting approach to the compulsory preferential voting in local government, which caused a major stir throughout Queensland councils, so much so that Labor had to fall on its sword to ditch the CPV proposals. Secondly, there were amendments in the Belcarra No. 2 bill to remove the conflict of interest registers and interest provisions—they are some of the provisions we are seeing come back now. This was to enable further work which had to be undertaken following the recommendations made by the CCC on 6 September in relation to how these matters could be more properly addressed at the state level. We all know where these recommendations flowed from. They were a result of the CCC's examination of the former deputy premier and the CCC's calls for improvements to the cabinet processes and legislative reform. Clearly, at that time it was simply too much of a hot potato for this government to deal with. They did not want to debate anything with the words 'corruption' or 'deputy premier'.

There is one further point worth highlighting here about this Labor government and it is that the integrity problem was not one in the local government sector. Indeed, the integrity problem was brought about by this Labor government's own member. Therefore, the government is trying to address problems of their own making. Had the government wanted to assist the local government sector, this legislation would have been debated in October last year with a commencement date aligned with the 2020 local government term. The legislation could have been debated in the March sitting, the one where we pulled up stumps and went home; we did not sit for the full sitting week. There could have still been time to align with the 2020 local government term.

What is disappointing is that the new mayors and councillors are already doing their training on integrity measures under the current legislative profile, which they have been applying themselves very diligently. This long, drawn-out process has negative consequences for local government. Once this legislation changes, they will have to go back for further retraining as these changes are extensive in the way councils will be required to operate going forward.

The need for councils to have certainty and confidence in the legislation has never been more important. The constant changes, particularly in relation to the conflicts of interest provision, often result in unnecessary complaints to the Office of the Independent Assessor. Councils at this time need to devote every precious moment of their time to help their communities. Now more than ever leadership is needed on the ground to help drive local economies back to prosperity due to the challenges they have seen with bushfires and floods, the tourism downturn and now the coronavirus economic crisis. When it comes to local government disappointingly, but not surprisingly, the track record of this government has been one step forward and two steps back.

I now move to the establishment of the councillor advisory role. Given the increasing complexity that councils are facing, the appointment of advisers to eligible councils to assist the mayors and councillors with media activities, event management, policy development and providing a further level of clarity and consistency has been prescribed in this legislation. However, the establishment of the councillor adviser role does raise some concerns. The changes may be well intended, but without proper consultation there is a potential for unintended consequences. There are industrial relations implications for both council and the incumbents which need to be properly reviewed.

At the Brisbane City Council there has been a longstanding practice of employing political staff of the Lord Mayor, committee chairs and the Leader of the Opposition. That goes back decades and covers administrations of different political persuasions. In their submission, the Brisbane City Council advised that they absolutely do not accept the proposal that the minister, through regulation, can dictate the number of advisers each councillor may appoint and the function they can perform. It should be sufficient that the allocation of advisers must now pass through the full council and the remuneration totals published each year. Councillors will then rightly be judged by the electorate on their decisions.

Here we have a situation where the Labor government is dictating the number of advisers within the LNP Brisbane City Council. Brisbane City Council state in their submission that such an action could only represent serious and unprecedented partisan political interference. The question needs to be put to the minister: what is the rationale for dictating the number of advisers? The number of advisers was not contained in the recommendations from the Operation Yabber report of the CCC, so what is the real motivation for wanting to dictate this aspect of the LNP council administration?

I will now move to the change in how vacancies in elected office are to be dealt with. The explanatory notes to the amendments state that the reforms are to clarify and strengthen the filling of a vacancy in the office of a councillor. They are the amendments that we got at nine o'clock at night. Filling the vacancy of a mayoral position during the first 12 months after a quadrennial election with a runner-up is a significant departure from the existing legislation, which states that the position must be filled by way of a by-election. What if the departing mayor won with 80 per cent of the vote and the next two candidates had 11 per cent and nine per cent? How could appointing a runner-up be a reflection of the electorate's wishes in those circumstances? They would be appointing somebody who won 11 per cent of the vote.

Mr Krause: Outrageous.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim; it is absolutely outrageous.


What if the departing mayor was part of a group—and there was a group in my local council. Would it not be fairer to allow the group to nominate a replacement? These are questions that should be answered by the government. This is why these amendments need to be scrutinised by the committee system and stakeholders. We had only about 24 hours to absorb some 229 amendments and 100 pages. The full implication of these amendments has not been realised by the stakeholders or by the public. This is just another rorting of the voting system by the Labor government and it is particularly undemocratic when it relates to the way that mayors can be elected.

In the time remaining, I will touch on the recent local government elections. First, there was a postal vote fail. Many people did not get to register their postal vote applications because the system crashed. Secondly, people did not get their phone vote, so we had a phone vote fail. Thirdly, on the all-important night of the election, we had an election results fail. Here we have a government that requires candidates to do real-time electoral donations reporting about integrity but they do not deliver

real-time election results. We do not know if the ECQ will fine the 700,000 voters who did not vote due to COVID-19 concerns. If the March local government and state by-election is anything to go by, Queensland's online vote count publication will be another embarrassing failure. How does the Attorney-General expect the ECQ to prepare for the potential postal vote while at the same time struggle to fix the mess that was caused back in March?

In relation to the rest of the bill, Labor is shameless in its manipulating of the electoral system to its advantage. The Palaszczuk Labor government will stop at nothing to try and rig the electoral system and maximise its own interests, even if democracy is the casualty in the process. In so many amendments I can see the union and GetUp! fingerprints. The Labor Party should be ashamed of its sneaky tactics and its self-interest which it favours over any democratic principle; in fact, this government has a history of trashing our democracy. A fair-minded individual would recognise that moving amendments to this extent—100 pages long—with little notice is quite simply wrong. This is history repeating itself. Sadly, democracy went out the door with Labor long before it moved the amendments to remove optional preferential voting with 18 minutes notice.

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.41 pm): I am pleased to support the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. In the Attorney-General's speech introducing this bill to parliament, she said that the project of ensuring the integrity of our democracy is an ongoing task. It is a task the Palaszczuk government is up to. This is a bill that is about restoring trust in our political system and democracy. This is extremely important at a time when trust in politicians and political institutions is at an all-time low. In the 2019 Australian Election Survey, 25 per cent of surveyed Australians said that people in government could not be trusted. That is the lowest figure the survey has recorded over a 50-year period. A further 56 per cent said that the government was mainly run by a few big interests only looking out for themselves and the top end of town.

There is a perception among the public that politicians only work for their donors and not for the people they are meant to represent. The donation and expenditure caps implemented by this bill take the money out of politics and stop the electoral arms race where, too often, we see candidates who have the most amount of money influence the outcome of an election. Part of the reason voters have been driven to populist candidates lately is that they believe that governments are run solely to look after the large donors and lobbyists. It has left many voters feeling disenfranchised, disengaged, and feeling as though democracy does not work for them. While we cannot solve all of the causes of this declining trust in democracy, the amendments introduced in this bill—amendments that ensure integrity, accountability, diversity and transparency in our politics—will go some way toward restoring people's trust in democracy and encouraging greater civic participation.

Caps on donations and expenditures help secure the integrity of our state elections and reduce the risk that a single person or entity can have an improper, undue or corrupting influence on political parties or candidates. It levels the playing field when it comes to campaigning and encourages a diversity of candidates and public discourse. This bill means that, as an endorsed candidate in the upcoming state election, I am limited to spending a maximum of \$58,000 on my campaign. It also means that any one individual or entity is only able to donate to my campaign a maximum of \$6,000. No longer will candidates with the fattest wallets be allowed to use their wealth to unfairly drown out their opponents, and no longer will donors from the top end of town have undue influence over candidates and parties.

This bill will also increase public funding available to eligible political parties and candidates to ensure proper public discussion and campaigning. I am also pleased to see that this bill strengthens accountability and integrity by introducing criminal offences relating to ministers who fail to disclose conflicts of interest with the intention of obtaining a benefit or causing detriment. A large part of voters' declining trust in democracy comes from a perception that politicians are in government for themselves.

While I have been involved in politics for decades, the vast majority of elected representatives are serious about the job of governing and representing their constituents. But I am not naive to the fact that there are some out there who are drawn to politics for the opportunity that it presents them to perhaps abuse their power for their own benefit. I know this from observing firsthand the abuse of power and corruption that went on for years, as we found, in the Ipswich City Council. Significant legislative changes by our government, a Labor government, have been brought in since the Ipswich City Council's dismissal in 2018 to stem the risk of further corruption and abuse of power in Queensland local governments. Through this bill, we are strengthening local government accountability and integrity by introducing offences for dishonest conduct by councillors and councillor advisers.

Lastly, this bill will introduce new amendments around signage at state elections. As much as I personally love election campaigns, we do know that voters are getting fed up with having to run the gauntlet of excessive signage at polling booths on election day; it has gotten a bit out of control. Again, it comes down to money. The candidate or party who can throw around the most amount of money can drown out their opponents by swamping the polling booth in a sea of signage and bunting.

Some voters also see the signage as damaging to the environment, particularly all the plastic bunting. At the end of the day, it is a large amount of waste, and there is a problem for us all when trying to promote sustainable environmental values as a government. Because of the amendments in this bill, our polling booths will be a more politically neutral space, allowing all candidates equal opportunity to communicate to the public. At the next state election, candidates and registered third parties will be limited in the number of signs they can put up at polling booths. It will now be considered an offence to display unpermitted signage within 100 metres of a polling booth's entry or to set up signage at a polling booth the night before election day.

Throughout this debate we have heard some pretty damning comments from members about the Electoral Commission of Queensland.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for McConnel.

Ms HOWARD: We have heard some pretty damning comments from members about the Electoral Commission of Queensland. I want to go against the grain a bit when it comes to their performance during the March local government election.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera!


Ms HOWARD: While I acknowledge that there were some hiccups, not the least being the agonisingly slow publication of results, I do think it is fitting to remind people that a good proportion of the problems—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms HOWARD:—were a result of the declining efficiency of Australia Post. Despite loud voices to the contrary, there was no spike in COVID-19 infections as a result of the ECQ decision to go ahead with voting on 28 March. This was largely due to the excellent advice of our Chief Health Officer but also to the fastidious work of ECQ staff right across Queensland. I want to place on the parliamentary record my thanks to ECQ for their work during what was likely to have been one of the most challenging elections in the history of Queensland.

Encouraging a diversity of voices in our electoral system is better for our democracy and, what is more, the cap on candidate spending will see advertising pared back so that in the weeks leading up to the election day our media will not be saturated by those who have the most money to throw on political ads. Democracy must work for everyone in our society—not just for the wealthy and politically connected. I fully support these reforms because they will help restore integrity in our political institutions and rebuild people's trust in democracy. It is important we do this, because there are no other good alternatives to democracy. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. The Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee for examination on 28 November 2019. The committee was required to report to the House on the bill by 7 February 2020. The committee received 82 submissions on the bill.

Not surprisingly, the recommendation of the committee is that the bill be passed, as has been the case with every committee report in this term of government. This is because the committee chair has the casting ballot, giving the government four votes and the opposition three. If my mathematics is correct, that means the government has one more vote every time, thus recommending that any bill be passed. It is bad enough that the committee process is continually being abused in this fashion. However, in this instance it is even worse—if that is possible.

This bill is now subject to 229 amendments—229 amendments. That must be close to a record, even for this government. Many sections of this bill bear little, if any, resemblance to the bill that underwent the committee process. The truth is this Palaszczuk government has absolutely no regard

for the committee system. I thought the purpose of the committee system was to provide a robust forum in which to examine a bill in great detail to ensure that once it reached the House it could withstand the scrutiny of the parliament. This is apparently not so. The entire committee process fails when every bill is rubber-stamped that the bill be recommended to pass, even if there are obvious flaws in the proposed legislation.

On Tuesday we saw the addition of a fundamental and contentious amendment to a bill that had been through the committee process. This substantive addition rendered the committee report inaccurate, so in essence the House was actually debating a bill that had not undergone the correct committee process.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member was talking about a bill that was debated on Tuesday and he is not talking about the bill before the House. I am happy to be corrected, but he did say a bill that was being debated on Tuesday. It is not relevant.

Mr WEIR: Accountability and integrity.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you. Within the long title of the bill, member for Condamine.

Mr WEIR: In my opinion the committee process that oversaw the bill that came into this House did not examine the bill that we are now debating. Unfortunately that has become an all too common process. It would come as no surprise that this bill is designed to give a significant advantage to the Labor Party in an election campaign, and the 229 amendments support this even further. The members of parliament who were here during the last term would never forget the introduction of a full preferential voting amendment with 18 minutes notice, as I recall. Abuse of the parliamentary process and a complete disregard of the correct legislative procedures have become a regular occurrence under this Palaszczuk Labor government. These processes are regarded highly by those of us on this side of the House.

A number of stakeholders expressed concerns about the length and timing of the committee consultation process, highlighting the challenges of digesting and responding to the significant and complex legislative reforms contained in the bill during a period that coincided with the traditional Christmas and new year holiday break. These stakeholders' concerns did not particularly worry the government apparently; only concerns from its union bosses are worth paying attention to.

The bill contains a series of significant amendments relating to funding and expenditure for state elections, signage at state elections, dishonest conduct of ministers and dishonest conduct of councillors and other local government matters. To achieve these objectives, the bill proposes to introduce caps on political donations and electoral expenditure, requires election participants to maintain dedicated campaign accounts showing the integrity and compliance of the donations and expenditure caps, increases public election funding for eligible political parties and candidates, increases and expands access to policy development payments, and implements related administrative and disclosure requirements and other clarifying provisions.

To achieve these aims, the bill proposes to set limits on the number and nature of signs that can be used by election participants during voting hours within 100 metres of a pre-poll they are allocated and the period of time during which permitted signs may be set up for display in these areas. I note that there has been an amendment to the number of signs at a polling booth by political parties and of course third parties. Needless to say, the Labor Party will ensure there is adequate space for the likes of GetUp! and its union funded third parties. Naturally, if you are a business or a resource company or a private donor or—heaven forbid—a property developer, then there will be no space allocated—the very businesses that we will rely on to pay off the massive state debt, create employment and keep the economy ticking over.

An integral objective of the bill relates to the dishonest conduct of ministers and to improve the integrity and accountability of ministers by creating new offences in the Integrity Act 2009. More specifically, the bill proposes to establish two new criminal offences for instances in which a minister fails to disclose a conflict of interest or to comply with conflict of interest requirements with some dishonest intent. These are strange words to find in a piece of legislation coming from this Palaszczuk government—'integrity' and 'accountability'. If this government had some integrity and accountability, it would be presenting a budget to the people of Queensland. Instead, it is the only state in Australia not to present a budget and, coincidentally, the only state having an election in the year 2020.

It is not just the trashing of the parliamentary process and the committee system that those opposite are so adept at; it is also a complete disregard for ministerial accountability and transparency. There is a very long list of this unparliamentary behaviour. At this time we have to be very cautious

about speaking about one of the most notable of these. Due to the seriousness of the allegations, there is an investigation currently underway by the CCC. I am quite sure that all in this House and the whole of Queensland are aware of this particular case.

I heard the member for Miller speak of integrity matters. This is Mr 'Mangocube' himself. We remember this minister—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Condamine, you need to refer to all members by their correct titles please.


Mr WEIR: We remember the member for Miller for using a private email to advocate for his union mates. Very foolish, I think the CCC described him as. Then the Minister for Health rose to add his voice to the integrity debate. This is the minister who rigged an online poll to justify changing the name of the Lady Cilento hospital. The Premier herself has had to come into this House to issue an apology after removing crossbench staff. If ever there was a political party that needed to abide by a higher standard, it is those opposite. These Labor members cannot abide by the current guidelines, so I have very little expectation that they will abide by the new standards. This bill is nothing more than a blatant attempt by the government to seek an advantage for itself at the next election. There is only one way that democracy can be restored in the state of Queensland, and that is to vote for Deb Frecklington and the LNP team. We will restore integrity, accountability and transparent consultation in this state.

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.57 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The new ABS figures that have come out today in relation to unemployment are very sobering. The figures reveal that more than 174,000 Queenslanders lost their job in the last three months, which is a tragic figure. We realise that those numbers equate to individuals, which equates to families. There is a lot of pain in our community.

We blame the Labor government for many things. I cannot blame them for the coronavirus, of course, because that is something that was totally out of their control. We know that something as impactful as the coronavirus would have this type of effect on unemployment. What we can blame the government for is the fact that this state was in the most vulnerable position economically before the coronavirus struck. Members have heard me say here many times that over the last 12 months Queensland has had on average the highest unemployment rate, on average the highest number of bankruptcies in the country and the lowest level of business confidence. We were behind the eight ball from the very start so we were always going to feel the impact of this more than other states.

We can also blame the Labor government for not taking the action that is necessary to stop the bleeding. The most obvious action would be to open up the borders. We are losing 173 jobs a day in this state because the borders are closed. Modelling by the Australian Tourism Industry Council shows that the state is losing \$174 million a week in economic activity. There is a way that we can stop the bleed that is happening at the moment, something that costs the government nothing, and that is to open the borders and for the Premier to show some leadership. We have smashed the curve. We understand that we do not have a vaccine which means we are going to have some infections in the future, but they are now traceable. We can isolate people or communities if that is necessary. We have done what has been asked of us. We are asking for some leadership in this area and for somebody to come out and state that, rather than scaring the living daylights out of Queenslanders when at the moment there are four or five active cases of coronavirus in this state, we should open the borders and that will stimulate employment.

Pine Rivers, Road Infrastructure

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.03 pm): Eatons Crossing Road is a key traffic route for many people in my community of Pine Rivers. Over the years several traffic upgrades have been undertaken, but our roads are in need of serious safety upgrades, in particular the traffic blackspot at the intersection with Lilley Road. Local residents have been raising this road with me repetitively over the years. A full upgrade to Eatons Crossing Road is needed and an end to the blackspot of the Lilley Road intersection, which is why three weeks ago I started a petition. Already in that time it has over 451 signatures. On Tuesday I provided that petition to the member for Miller, the Minister for Main Roads.

As the department is completing a study on Eatons Crossing Road, I asked my community to share with me their views around road safety in this space. Of particular interest was the feedback that they shared with me. Robert from Wamuran said to me—

'My Wife Alyx Hardacre was killed in a motorcycle accident on 14th March 2018 on Eatons crossing rd. So I believe an upgrade is needed.

Brooke from Warner begged—

Please make this stretch of road safer by installing traffic lights.

Julle from Cashmere said—

I drive through this junction many times a day. It is a death trap.

Justin from Samford said—

After several close calls I was also eventually involved in a serious accident at the Lilley Road intersection. Luckily survived.

Nicole from Armstrong Creek said—

In 2003, my car was hit at this spot. It gives me the shivers every time I drive past this intersection as it is still just as dangerous.

Emily from Warner said—

It's the worst intersection ever.

Lisa from Yugar said—

I'm driving through it daily. Even though lights are annoying something has to be done. My best friend and her partner nearly lost their lives in this exact spot!!!! Needs to be done!

Ella from Cedar Creek said—

The junction sucks, I've seen so many near misses there, I always see glass on the road from a recent crash (once even a tyre rim). Could people just drive better? Yes but they're not so??? Please fix.

Lastly, Cath from Cashmere says—


Let's treat this as a matter of urgency.

I could not agree more. This is a dangerous road in our community and I am imploring the Minister for Main Roads, the member for Miller, to make this road safer for my community. Thank you to everybody who has signed on to the petition to send that really strong message to the minister that we need improvements in this space. The fixes to date have not worked. We need a major safety upgrade along the stretch of Eatons Crossing Road but particularly that Lilley Road intersection. Again thank you to my community members who have been involved in this study. I am a strong voice in this area.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Pine Rivers, even though it was a quote it was unparliamentary.

Ms BOYD: I withdraw.

Ignite Ideas Fund

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise today to highlight the latest grants program failure by this fiscally incompetent government and the Minister for Innovation. First I will give a bit of history. We have had the \$6 million Hot DesQ program axed. It was supposed to bring the best and brightest into the state from interstate and overseas. At estimates last year I asked the director-general if the recipients were still in Queensland. The director-general said—

There are a number that have stayed on. Of course, others have returned to where they were previously, having discharged their responsibilities contractually with the state.

They came, they took our money and they left. It has been axed. Then there is the \$2.6 million small business innovation fund, also axed. It involved 22 grants, half to overseas and interstate companies—grants that were given to companies that no longer even exist. On 16 June last year the minister said—

Look, I actually think this program could have been run better. I think there is a better use of the money in a different project.

I agree. It has been axed. It is gone. The Venturer Program, costing \$124,000, took start-up companies on a trip to de-stress themselves—which possibly had something to do with the grant process they had been through to get their start-ups up and running to start with. We all remember the ill-fated Myriad program and the jumbo full of entrepreneurs who flew into the country. That has been axed. It is gone. We presently have a business development fund grant under investigation by the CCC.


The latest victim of this government's incompetence appears to be the Ignite Ideas Fund. I table electronically a screenshot of the minister's Advance Queensland website that indicates the Ignite Ideas Fund is under review—we all know what that means—and round 6 funding has been delayed, after businesses spent months of their own time preparing grant applications at great expense.

Tabled paper: Extract from advance.qld.gov.au website titled 'Ignite Ideas Fund' [963].

They have heard nothing. I have had numerous calls from businesses saying, 'What is going on?' It seems like the Ignite Ideas Fund has flamed out under Minister Jones, just like all her other programs. Is this fund being reprioritised? Is that what is happening here? Has it been axed or has the government simply given up on supporting Queensland businesses?

We know from the Small Business Adaptation Grants that the government announced a few weeks ago that they do not look at priorities when giving out grants. It is 'first in, best dressed' with this government. Most of their grants programs do not work. This government is fiscally incompetent and really needs to be turfed out on 31 October.

Community Development Grants Programme

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.09 pm): The Commonwealth government's Community Development Grants Programme commenced in December 2013 and was slated to finish on 30 June 2020. However, in October 2019 a small notice appeared on the GrantConnect website, extending the program until 30 June 2026, which is still some six years and, most tellingly, another two federal election cycles away, but it is the grant guidelines that make for the most interesting reading. The website states—


The Australian Government selects projects to be invited to submit a Request for Information form.

There has been a staggering \$2.5 billion put into the CDG coffers since the CDG program began, with \$286 million flooding out in 2019 alone. It is important to remember that this is a program where only the coalition government's hand-picked projects are invited, approved and funded. Independent analysis, done by people with far greater forensic financial expertise and analysis capabilities than me, has shown that in 2019 the 68 Labor seats—which are 45 per cent of the total 151 federal seats—averaged \$836,000 in CDGs. That is around 20 per cent of the overall funding barrel. This is in comparison with coalition and, here in Queensland, LNP held seats.

In 2019, 44 Liberal seats received total amounts of \$2.086 million. The 23 LNP seats in Queensland received, on average, \$2.473 million each. The 10 National Party held seats across the rest of the nation scored an average of \$6.712 million each. It should be noted that, by comparison, some 22 Labor held seats have never received a cent under this program. It is not even cynical of me to say that those Labor seats that did score well from the piggybank were of particular interest to or focus of the coalition government.

This is a blatant misuse of taxpayers' money. How is this a fair and just process to have taxpayers' money targeted towards LNP or coalition seats at the expense of needy and deserving community organisations? Clearly this is just another way to manipulate voters. I am heartened to see that on Monday this week the Australian Senate agreed to a Senate order for the production of documents, ordering the federal Minister for Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities to table documents relating to the CDG program. It will be interesting to see what that reveals.

Child Protection, LNP Policy

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.12 pm): The child safety system that was meant to look after Mason Jett Lee has failed too many times, so yesterday we said, and we say again today, that enough is enough. The LNP will overhaul the broken child safety system from top to bottom. The LNP's child protection force will include a 24-hour rapid response team and a new squad of police investigators to clear the many backlogs.

The LNP will introduce compulsory drug testing with no second chances. On a second positive test, the child will be considered for removal. Labor has not implemented what they promised. The Child Safety practice manual focuses on consent from parents. We say it should be about the kids. Our plan is for compulsory drug testing with no second chances. We make no apologies for this hardline approach. Our kids must come first. Under the LNP overhaul, parents on intervention with parental agreements will need to enter into drug rehabilitation services on their first positive test of certain illicit substances.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjections from the other side. If you keep failing, stop doing the same things over and over again. That is why the LNP has put up this policy. Hopefully, the government will take it on board. This is a genuine offer for bipartisanship.

Ms Enoch interjected.


Mr BENNETT: They should stop interjecting and work with us to make sure that the kids in this great state are given the services they deserve. We should not apologise for our tough stance. Kids should be protected at all costs. Leaving vulnerable children in dangerous homes where they are abused can be a death sentence. The system will be transparent and more accountable.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I am happy to deal with the interjections from across the chamber. We are talking about kids dying under their watch and they keep putting up this nonsense. The LNP put on 86 new frontline services in Child Safety, so they must stop peddling this nonsense. We are arguing about what is happening with kids today. This is why the Labor Party is out of control. It has lost control of the child safety system. We have to make it a 24/7 service. The Labor Party wants a nine-to-five service, but we cannot allow that. Our child protection force will be a real winner for that reason. We have to make sure that we look at long-term care models and increased carer numbers.

We must look at the adoption issues put forward by the Carmody review many years ago. Adoption for poor kids like Mason Jett Lee needs to be considered. If we had done things differently, maybe there would have been different outcomes. We will increase the use of adoption, with priority for kids aged under three years, through permanency order targets and KPIs under a new triage model. We will extend payments to foster carers until their children are aged 21. That is something that those opposite who keep interjecting failed to do. We will make sure that the officers of the child safety department get the respect, the training and the services they need. Clearly, some experience a cycle of disadvantage from childhood through to adulthood and that needs to be addressed. It is vitally important that, moving forward, we look after the children in this great state.

Rural Economic Development Grants


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (2.15 pm): Last week I was fortunate to visit regions along the southern Queensland border and see firsthand the Palaszczuk government's work in job creation through the Rural Economic Development Grants scheme. I was thrilled to meet farmers who are focussing on opportunities that will impact their future, which is very bright. It was wonderful to see the grants in action, building on the infrastructure that will create regional jobs, as we unite and recover from the effects of the pandemic that we are in.

Last week during my travels from Toowoomba to Warwick, through the border communities from Stanthorpe to Goondiwindi, over and over again I was given a consistent message: keep the borders closed. Over and over again along the southern border I was told, 'We do not want to see a second wave of COVID-19 in Queensland.' Those opposite claim to know what the average Queenslanders in the pub is saying about border restrictions, but I can tell the House what they are saying in the Nindigully Pub. Those opposite should listen to what people throughout Queensland are saying, not just those who live along the eastern coast.

The Nindigully Pub is one of the fortunate 6,000 businesses supported through this government's \$1 billion COVID-19 job support scheme. They are very grateful for the Palaszczuk government's support. They are also very grateful that the borders remain closed. Why? Because from day one the Palaszczuk government has listened to the advice of our Chief Health Officer and put the health of Queenslanders first. On Tuesday of this week I was having a conversation about border closures with Mike Guerin, the CEO of AgForce. Recently he travelled through northern Queensland and people were telling him to keep the borders closed, because they want to keep Queenslanders safe.

It is painfully obvious that those opposite have stopped listening to Queenslanders and they have definitely stopped listening to AgForce. They should ensure that they have their ear to the ground in the regions or they will lose their National Party seats, most likely to Clive Palmer. We know what the LNP colours stand for. The blue and yellow stand for the 'Liberal National Palmer Party'. We know that their agenda is to build the *Titanic II*. They will be roaming the oceans, changing the deckchairs and wondering where to go. They will be aimlessly travelling the oceans with no clear direction or policy and certainly without listening to Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government has listened to the Chief Health Officer's advice on the border and it has passed the pub test across Queensland.

Maroochydore Electorate, Economy

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.18 pm): I have news for the previous speaker. If the Labor minister thinks the border closures pass the pub test, because of this inept government the loss of jobs—

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Ferny Grove, you know better than to be making comments out of your chair.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! It does not need comments, members on my left.

Ms SIMPSON: The audacity of Labor's Treasurer, Cameron Dick, asking for extensions to JobKeeper while his government is keeping the borders closed against top medical advice. That is like asking for a bandaid to fix a cut throat. It is his government, this Labor state government, that is causing an absolute bleed in the economy, cutting the throat of businesses and jobs. It is now costing 173 Queensland jobs every day due to Labor's continued border closure. They are destroying 173 jobs every day. They are destroying about 5,000 jobs a month. It is estimated that that will cost about \$653 million a month.

But the real cost is in human lives now, as I am talking to most distressed business owners who are facing the loss of their homes. They are saying to me that JobKeeper will not save them; they need customers. We need good grants and subsidies, but they will not stem the blood flow from having no customers. There has to be a clear time frame for opening those borders. The government should stick to the July recovery date that was originally announced.


With regard to those grants, it has been an absolute flip-flop and disaster. The government has thrown out some grants without clarity and without ensuring that they go to the areas most in need. Now I am getting feedback from a lot of small businesses about what happened with the last round of grants. They still have not heard whether they have failed to receive those grants. With the new round that has been announced they are saying, 'Well, is the same thing going to happen again?' We must ensure that people are not treated with disdain. Many businesses that applied for the grants have not heard the result. They are saying, 'What's happened?' I am saying, 'With regard to what happened last time, they disappeared in three days. The system was overloaded.' There are some people who have had multiple bites of different programs while many small businesses have been deemed ineligible for various reasons, one being they may be a new start-up. There are people who have spent substantial money opening businesses and do not have 12 months of cash flow to show. They are desperate. One Caloundra businessman I spoke to just this week said that he is not eligible for these grants.

I am calling on the government to give a fair go to those who have viable opportunities and give them access to these grants. Do not treat them with disdain, as with the last round of grants, and let people know in a timely way, because they still have not heard from the last round.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Maroochydore, in the opening you referred to the Treasurer by his incorrect title.

Ms SIMPSON: The Treasurer.

Riverlife Baptist Church; State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise to speak about the truly amazing efforts of Mount Ommaney businesses, community groups and churches alike as we recover from COVID-19. What a shame I only have three minutes. Let's start with Riverlife church which has been absolutely outstanding in supporting international students trapped in Australia during the COVID crisis. Under the leadership of Pastor Robyn, they have provided financial, emotional and pastoral care to an incredibly vulnerable group in our community. It makes me sick to say that some people have sought to take advantage of our international students at this terrible time.

Pastor Robyn told me of one vulnerable young woman who could no longer afford to pay her rent. She had lost her hospitality job due to COVID-19—a common situation. Instead of being understanding and trying to help, her landlord pressured her for sexual favours in lieu of financial payment. This is wrong for so many reasons and it makes me sick to my stomach. Thank goodness a friend put her in touch with Riverlife. She was able to get help, both financial and emotional, as well as being put in touch with the authorities. I commend Riverlife for their wonderful work. They have heard so many horrific stories at this time.

COVID exposes the worst in people at a time of crisis and it is easy to despair, but equally it shows the best, and there are many examples like Riverlife church throughout my community. Last night I sat in on the Centenary State High School P&C meeting to thank longstanding president, Dave Harris, in his retirement from the role as president, for his service to the P&C and in particular his longstanding advocacy for air conditioning in our local state schools.

After I was elected Dave was first through my door, but not the last, to advocate for the government to finish air-conditioning classrooms in our state schools. As I have said before, the western suburbs of Brisbane and Mount Ommaney are hot. Summer frequently reaches 40 degrees for the kids in class. I made it my mission to convince the Minister for Education of the importance of this work. Christmas came early when the Premier and the Minister for Education announced last year that every remaining classroom in Mount Ommaney would be air-conditioned. Today I can confirm it is done. I thank Dave and the other awesome P&Cs in my electorate for all the wonderful work they undertook to get this critical work—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PUGH: I am trying to thank my P&Cs. Can you show a little respect!


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Mount Ommaney, I am more than capable of conducting this chamber. I do not need your assistance.

Ms PUGH: Thank you for your guidance. I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank Dave and the other awesome P&Cs in my electorate for the wonderful work they undertook to get this critical work going. Thanks to your hard work we were able to finish the job, but you deserve so much credit. Thank you.

I finish with a story that illustrates the importance of air conditioning. One week after the announcement, I was attending the Corinda State School primary graduation. Their hall is hot, and so was their guest list! Last year they invited Dr Chris Brown to be their guest speaker.

(Time expired)

Whitsundays, Tourism Industry

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The tourism industry in the Whitsundays has been decimated by COVID-19. We have learned today that over 174,000 Queenslanders have lost their jobs in the past three months, and the Whitsundays have been hit harder than most. No tourists mean no business for a lot of the locals. Whitsundays tourism operators have received scant support from those opposite, and that is a disgrace. The Labor government has given two rounds of taxpayer funded assistance to tourism operators in Cairns. The Whitsundays region is just as reliant on tourism as Cairns and the Gold Coast. It begs the question: why has it been treated like a second-class tourism destination?


When you look at the businesses in Cairns that have received taxpayer funded assistance from those opposite, one in particular stands out—Quicksilver Connections Ltd. Quicksilver is a business the Labor member for Cairns knows very well. The member for Cairns worked for Quicksilver for more than 15 years. He was the Group Director of Sales and Marketing. Queensland taxpayers have been sold a lemon with this funding deal. Quicksilver is owned by Shinichiro Watari, who lives in Hong Kong. He is a Japanese billionaire with varied investments. He owns Quicksilver through his investment firm Cornes & Co.

Queensland taxpayers' money should be supporting Queensland businesses, not foreign billionaires. It is plainly wrong. Foreign owned firms in Cairns are getting taxpayer support while businesses in the Whitsundays have been abandoned—businesses like Coral Sea Marina and the charter boat operators who source up to 90 per cent of their income from international tourists. When it comes to this government it really is a case of, 'Charter boat? What charter boat?' Businesses are closing and jobs are being lost in the Whitsundays right now. The main street of Airlie Beach looks like a ghost town.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Whitsundays when they found out that those opposite are propping up a business owned by a billionaire the member for Cairns used to work for. It stinks to high heaven and it is no wonder businesses in the Whitsundays are blowing up. The Palaszczuk Labor government needs to explain why it has helped this business but is refusing to help the Whitsundays.

Politics should play no part in determining where relief funding ends up. Businesses in the Whitsundays deserve a level playing field. They pay the same taxes as businesses in Cairns and should get the same support. The Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to grasp just how important these tourism jobs are to the Whitsundays. The LNP will stand up for every single job in Queensland, whether it is in Cairns or Airlie Beach.

Macalister Electorate, Small Business

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.28 pm): In the electorate of Macalister we support small. Our small businesses, particularly in the hub that is Beenleigh—the once trading post between Brisbane and the Gold Coast—are the backbone of our community. They are our first employers, our training providers and our school and sporting team sponsors.

It was quite eerie to be in the middle of Beenleigh at the height of the pandemic—no cars, no pedestrians and few doors open on Main Street. While our tradies and construction teams continued relatively unscathed, our hospitality sector was adversely affected and our beauty service industry bore the brunt in the early days. Through the grim smiles over coffee with business owners in the mornings I saw determination, flexibility and agility.


As a community, the call went out to support our small businesses. I established an online forum for local businesses to communicate how they were continuing to operate under the changing conditions and let people know that they were still open for business. Hundreds of locals are now on this forum, keeping up to date and supporting small.

I was personally doing my best to support our local hospitality businesses—shouting coffee for our local police station at Luv a Coffee, a morning tea for our teachers at Kastury's and lunch orders at Far East, the golf club, Sweet as Brew, 7 Seas, Mac from Way Back, Georges Grill, the Local Fisho and many more. I am quite glad the May 50K was on otherwise I would be up for a new wardrobe. Unfortunately, my hairdresser has still not reopened, much to the distress of many in the local area.

Some of our businesses have taken the opportunity to apply for small business grants. So far, three of our local small businesses have received grants of up to \$10,000 under the small business grant program. It is great to see them taking up that opportunity. In the last hour we finished a forum with the Minister for Small Business. We got to talk with our local businesses, and they had the opportunity to ask questions about the next round of grants opening on 1 July and the kinds of things they can use the small business grant for.

A number of businesses are waiting on the QRIDA application process. They are 100 per cent on board with a number of the initiatives that our government has provided to assist small businesses during this time. I would like to not only thank our small businesses for showing the flexibility and agility to continue to operate during this time but also our community for going out of its way to support our small businesses—to eat out more often. I give a shout-out to Roceel's for the crazy shake for my son.

Coronavirus, Junior Sport

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.31 pm): These are the results from the Helensvale Hornets Junior Rugby League Football Club's survey of their current players' intention to return after the crippling COVID-safe rules. The questions were as follows. 'Will you still return under the drop-and-go rules which means you can't supervise your child train or watch them play?'—47 per cent said no. 'If your child is in under-6s to under-10s, will you be returning given you can't supervise or watch your child play?'—65 per cent said no. 'Are you willing to volunteer several hours a week every week to assist and ensure the club can comply to the COVID-safe requirements?'—65 per cent said no. 'If there are no finals for the competition teams for under-13s and under-18s, just first past the post, would you still return?'—48 per cent said no. 'Are you looking to bring your child back for 2020?'—35 per cent said no. 'If training starts back in July and the competition doesn't start back until 1 August and runs until mid-October, will you still return?'—35 per cent said no. 'If you have more than one child playing and they have to train on separate nights to cater for training restrictions, would you still return?'—43 per cent said no.

It is not just the Hornets that are paying the price for Labor's failure to understand community sport. Gold Coast Magic is down about 10 per cent to 15 per cent of players. Helensvale Hornets president, Wayne Court, said the Labor government was providing false hope by telling the media and the House that community sport was back because their rules are unrealistic for grassroots clubs. Here is the reality of what Labor has inflicted on these clubs whilst membership and support are down. Adem Poric of Gold Coast Magic said—

Origin doesn't stop sending bills, we still need to pay our own bills, and someone has to be left holding the hot potato.

These community sporting clubs will not allow parents and families to be the ones holding the hot potato, and we will not stand by and allow clubs to be left with the burden of this Labor government's failings. Wayne acknowledged that the government has grants available, but when their bills totalled \$35,000, a couple of thousand dollars is a drop in the ocean. Wayne said it is a major insult. Adem rightly said community sport 'is not about producing the next Messi, it's about developing life skills'. He said—


I put my kids into football to show them that the world is a bigger place than just school, it's about socialising with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and schools.

Gold Coast Magic embodies what community sport is. They have sponsored kids from families that are doing it tough right now, and, let's face it, there are a lot of families in that position at the moment. Adem Poric has even had to explain to kids that they cannot use the toilets. In what world is that realistic, especially for kids as young as six?

The Palaszczuk Labor government and Minister de Brenni this morning trumpeted on about how they have brought back community sport, but if they spoke with local clubs they would know that they have done the exact opposite. They have demolished it with these impractical rules which goes to show they have no idea.

My three kids, now adults, all participated in community sport. The clubs survive off sponsorship, volunteers at the canteen and fees. The Palaszczuk Labor government has starved these clubs of their income. They are denying future generations of Queenslanders the opportunity to be a part of the community.

LNP Opposition

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.34 pm): This week we have seen the hypocrisy and chaos of the LNP on display for all of Queensland to see. Last night and today they have been calling for interstate borders to open now. Their own plan and road map—which I will table—calls for borders to open mid-July.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery' [964].

Clearly they did not hear about the 21 cases in Victoria two days ago or the 18 confirmed cases yesterday. Victoria has community transmission. The LNP would place all Queenslanders at serious risk with their short-term thinking. Do they really care about the health of Queenslanders? I remind those on the other side of the chamber that this is a global pandemic. Borders are closed across the world for very good reason.


This week has been another display of a desperate LNP searching for relevance, stuck in the weeds and pretending to care about people. In Queensland we would not have had the outstanding health response to COVID-19 if our Labor government had not restored the thousands of health jobs that the LNP shamefully cut during their time in government. Some 4,400 health workers were sacked under the LNP. We restored those jobs. That is what a Labor government does. The LNP does this because they are ideologically hardwired to cut, sack and sell.

This week we have seen the actions of the member for Broadwater—perhaps better known as the shark from Broadwater. He travelled up the Queensland coast with the *Jaws* theme music pumping away—da-dum da-dum da-dum—off to take a bite at the LNP leadership, throwing out the burley to get some followers, not the member for Burleigh, but he failed to sink his teeth into getting the numbers. No doubt the backroom bullyboys of the LNP-Palmer alliance threw the cast net wide in an attempt to get the artful dodger, the shark of Broadwater, that coveted leadership role.

The member has a history of taking out fellow MPs with his insatiable desire to be leader. This time he failed to get a hook-up. We all remember the former member for Broadwater, Verity Barton—another victim of this member who was taken from the Broadwater. This time all the member did was manage to drag all the rubbish of the LNP up onto the shore, leaving it there, flapping around in the hot sand, gasping for air.

I warn the opposition leader to not feel safe. She has held off the challenger once, but we all know he will not give up. I have little doubt the numbers are still being counted. How can the LNP in this state be taken seriously when they have their own paid staff working for Clive Palmer? It took Peter Dutton, the federal minister, to announce today that the LNP state president has resigned his employ of the real man seemingly running the LNP, Clive Palmer. Other people remain on the Clive Palmer payroll. How can the LNP ever govern Queensland when they cannot govern themselves?

Boarding Schools

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.38 pm): I turn to something that is very important for rural and remote people when it comes to education. This morning at 10 am a virtual protest rally, hosted by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, was held on Zoom to highlight the plight of Queensland's boarding students. Parents are begging the Palaszczuk Labor government to allow boarding schools to return to normal for term 3. Not for the first time, I, along with the member for Warrego and other Western Queensland members, add my voice to that plea. I am placing on the record that the current arrangements are unworkable. Worst of all is the severe and detrimental impact on Queensland's many boarding students and their families—emotionally and financially.

The problem is the arbitrary ruling by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee that boarding schools can only accommodate 25 per cent of their students. The AHPPC is a committee of the chief health officers of all the states and territories, chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. In other words, Queensland is fully represented on that panel, and Queensland is a state where boarding is a key delivery mechanism for education.


When the 25 per cent rule was proposed, Queensland should have immediately challenged the scientific basis of such a random and arbitrary rule. Unlike the 1.5-metre social distancing rule or the four-square-metre rule for indoor gatherings, this 25 per cent residency rule seems to have no scientific basis. Queensland's representative should also have asked the AHPPC what would happen to the 75 per cent of boarding students who have been forcibly excluded from school. That did not happen and my representations to the Queensland education minister were brushed off.

I can tell members what happened to the 25 per cent. They returned from COVID-19 free areas of the state to be subjected to the strictest isolation 24/7. They were put in lockdown. Then, during the day, they were working side by side with day students who were free to mingle with the community, go to markets, go on marches, use public transport and hug their parents and siblings. Many of the 75 per cent who have been forcibly excluded are still struggling with remote learning and have been apparently forgotten.

Yesterday the AHPPC issued a new rule lifting the 25 per cent residency, but schools are now required to submit new COVID-19 management plans to Queensland Health. This will make no difference unless the Minister for Education puts her shoulder to the wheel and gives some direction and clarification. We are going to be living with COVID-19 for some time, and the minister has responsibility for the education and welfare of all Queensland's students during that time.

This has been an emotional and hard time for rural and remote families who have had mum come to Brisbane and rent a house to try to get some of the kids to school while the other kids are still at home. We need to fix this. This is putting an emotional strain on many rural and remote families across Queensland.

Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.41 pm): There is a shed in the heart of Zillmere which used to supply office furniture for government workers right across the state and employed dozens of locals. Then the LNP shut it down and sold off the business. The shed has sat vacant ever since. It is close to the QFleet workforce in Zillmere which used to employ 49 locals before the LNP shut it down too. These closures ripped the guts out of local jobs in Zillmere and hurt the community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Aspley, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MELLISH: I withdraw. These closures hurt the local community in Zillmere no end. I am very proud to have helped secure the transformation of this old shed into a brand-new indoor sports centre which is under construction right now. The Northside Indoor Sports Centre will be the new home of the Northside Wizards Basketball. It will also be a hub for many other sports, with five courts and seating for over 300 spectators.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana and member for Sandgate, stop your quarrelling across the chamber, thanks.

Mr MELLISH: We also helped fund the relocation of the Jabiru Community College right next door which opened earlier this year, providing a flexible learning environment for students in years 10 to 12. Jabiru only had to relocate because Brisbane City Council and the LNP candidate for Aspley kicked

them out of their previous home in Bracken Ridge. They made no provision for them in a renovation of the Bracken Ridge Library, which notably included a renovation of the Bracken Ridge ward office. As always, we are cleaning up after the LNP.


These two facilities 100 metres from the Zillmere train station will help revitalise a great suburb and ensure generations of Zillmere locals can learn and stay active without having to leave the local area. Nearby we have a new indoor sports hall and arts facilities at Aspley State High commencing soon. We have new \$6.5 million sporting facilities in Carseldine which the member for Sandgate and I were very pleased to open in January. Connecting these will be a new footbridge so that school kids do not have to cross a dangerous pipe to get to school behind Aspley State High School. I also note that the council opposed this process and did not contribute a single cent to it.

We have also delivered a revamped Geebung Bowls Club and, before COVID-19 hit, I was proud to turn on the new lights at the Aspley Hornets club. In this term I am proud to have made the Aspley electorate arguably the new home of sport on the north side. The global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. There are no two ways about it. We are doing what we can locally to deliver jobs through great local projects.

Locally, many Aspley small businesses are doing it tough but they are persevering and adapting to the circumstances particularly well. Our plan is already creating jobs and kickstarting Queensland by bringing forward investment and futureproofing infrastructure, buying locally in Queensland and supporting Queensland industries and businesses.

While I have time, I would like to add my voice to the absolute chorus of people opposed to Brisbane City Council's mad decision to axe kerbside collections for two years. This is an essential service. People rely on this as a yearly service—people who cannot go the dump, people who do not have a vehicle to take things to the dump. This is \$13 million in what is a \$3 billion budget. It is absolutely outrageous that they have got rid of this. I expect them to backflip, but I will not hold my breath.

Rockhampton, Aged-Care Facility; Queensland Border Closure

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.44 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government's treatment of a nurse who tested positive to coronavirus while at the same time working at a state government run aged-care home in North Rockhampton has been nothing short of appalling. This nurse has been vilified from pillar to post and the Deputy Premier—or, as he should be known, the 'king of cover-ups'—needs to come clean about what information was being backgrounded to the media or what he, his office and his department were briefing to the member for Keppel.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. I think that is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BATES: I withdraw. It seems like the member for Keppel was broadcasting information and backgrounding media about this case. She should apologise for the way she has spoken about the nurse—someone who lives in her own community in Rockhampton. I know that the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland has written to the Crime and Corruption Commission about the member for Keppel and the treatment of this nurse, and I have done the same.

It beggars belief that Labor wraps their arms around the nursing community whenever they can, but when it suits their own political purposes they throw nurses under the bus, and no case is clearer of that than what happened to this poor aged-care nurse who is in fact a Queensland government employee. As the *Australian* reported on 29 May—

... the NPAQ would refer Keppel Labor MP Brittany Lauga to the Privacy Commissioner and Crime and Corruption Commission after she disclosed to local media information that the nurse had given to Queensland Health. When asked about the complaint, Ms Lauga said: "I better not say any more."

The minister needs to investigate how private information about this nurse was seemingly disclosed to the member for Keppel. Anything less will be yet another Labor cover-up.


While I am on my feet, I also want to speak about the border. As the *Australian* newspaper revealed today, the economic cost of keeping interstate borders closed is costing 173 Queensland jobs everyday—the highest in the nation. Nowhere is feeling that more than on the Gold Coast—a key tourism destination and a border community. Yet the only Labor member on the Gold Coast—the member for Gaven—has been missing in action. Further to that, it would be hard to believe that the member is actually the Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development. Her silence has been deafening.

When Gold Coasters were calling for economic leadership, the member for Gaven has been hiding from the media. She has been silenced by her Brisbane masters instead of standing up for her local community. History will remember that, when action was called for, the member for Gaven was conspicuous in her absence.

We will be reminding residents in the Gaven electorate that it is clear that the member for Gaven does not care about local jobs on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is a tourism town and it is time the member for Gaven got on board with that. The only way to build a stronger economy and create more local jobs in Gaven is to vote for the LNP candidate Kirsten Jackson on 31 October this year.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Bundamba, I remind members that they need to refer to members by their correct titles when referencing the member for Keppel.

Bundamba Electorate, Schools; Ripley Valley State Secondary College

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.47 pm): As we unite and recover and look to the future, the Palaszczuk government is continuing to back our kids by providing world-class education through record frontline teaching staff and new state-of-the-art schools with air conditioning and solar energy.

Recently I had the immense pleasure to meet the team at one of Queensland's newest secondary schools—our \$70 million Ripley Valley State Secondary College—and what a beauty it is. Led by Principal Brendan Krueger and the team at the college, they are focused on delivering quality learning outcomes for our children.


While the college itself is undoubtedly an impressive physical specimen, complete with state-of-the-art technology and fantastic sports facilities, its beating heart is its sense of culture and community which, even more than the bricks and mortar, underscores the importance of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to education. This wonderful school is an example of how government can, and should, provide the opportunity for the brightest of futures for our younger generations.

Our plan for a strong future also invests in the environmental and economic sustainability of our schools. Our \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program is lowering both power bills and emissions at more than 800 schools across the state. As part of our economic response to coronavirus, we have fast-tracked installations of solar panels at an additional 80 schools.

In the Bundamba community this means that our schools in Bellbird Park, Goodna, Redbank Plains, Bundamba, Collingwood Park and Riverview benefit from the installation of solar panels to bring down power bills and our local tradies will get work from their installation and maintenance. Whilst an ever-increasing number of our state schools are becoming solar smart, they are also becoming cool thanks to our \$477 million program to air-condition all state school classrooms, libraries and staffrooms. Air conditioners powered by solar panels will not only create more comfortable learning and teaching environments in our schools but they will deliver jobs right now when we need them the most.

We have world-class schools in Bundamba, and I am proud to be part of a government that is helping them grow in line with our community with more staff and the best facilities. We are focused on the future, and that means continuing to deliver the best education, both in and out of the classroom, to develop future generations of Queenslanders who will continue to lead our great state forward.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.50 pm): If the members of this parliament do not think the corruption and rotting that is happening in the Victorian Labor Party is not happening and has not happened in the Queensland Labor Party you would be kidding yourself. Who can ever forget convicted fraudster Mike Kaiser? He received a new government contract to examine the Palaszczuk government's response to the COVID-19 recovery. Let's not forget the member for South Brisbane, who is gone from the cabinet because of an active corruption investigation. Mike Kaiser is still around though, with the Premier throwing him a lifeline with a highly paid consulting gig. Kaiser is the second Shepherdson figure to return to the Queensland government. Admitted electoral fraudster David Barbagallo was, until recently, the Premier's chief of staff. Where is David Barbagallo now? He resigned in disgrace and is also under investigation for corruption.

Speaking of the Premier showing no leadership, I just read in the *Courier-Mail* that—wait for it—at seven o'clock tonight there will be a tell-all interview on Sky News with the member for South Brisbane. It is going to be a show! The member for South Brisbane will explain herself to 'Gleeso' on Sky News tonight. I am looking forward to that one! The member for South Brisbane's speech in parliament today shows that she has not changed. The arrogance is still there.

Let's look at Labor's other integrity fails. The Premier is the only leader of a government found guilty of contempt in Australian history. The member for Waterford accepted luxury accommodation while skiing in Whistler. She also admitted to washing data when the child safety minister. The Premier's current of chief of staff was given a \$300,000 taxpayer funded golden handshake for quitting his job as Under Treasurer and Minister Mark Bailey had secret communications with union bosses about cabinet matters. Let's never forget mangocube! Let's not forget that the 'rorter from Redcliffe' accepted a lavish fundraiser thrown by a major casino operator that she directly regulated. The Minister for Police misled parents, whom he introduced to perform for the press, in relation to the no-body no-parole laws.

Labor has no integrity, whether it in Victoria or Queensland. The only party that will get Queensland working is the LNP. In conclusion, I have to say that I was in my office before and I saw Minister O'Rourke on the TV introducing a bill earlier today. I thought, 'My goodness gracious, I thought she had retired at the last election.' Here she still is, a minister of the Crown! Let's get Queensland working again. Let's change the government. Let's vote the LNP in for a much better Queensland on 31 October.

Redlands Electorate, Works for Queensland

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.53 pm): Our Palaszczuk government has front footed the challenges of COVID-19 and the global pandemic across communities. Our COVID-safe road map has guided us safely through the health challenges and the economic recovery is in full swing, supporting local businesses, delivering new infrastructure and creating jobs. Works for Queensland is a fantastic program, and I have been lobbying with my community and the mayor for two years to access funding for our island communities.

I was initially delighted to see that Redland City Council was included in the \$200 million funding round with an allocation of \$2.8 million secured, but that is where my delight ended. I am outraged. Not a brass razoo of the \$2.8 million has been allocated to my Redland City Council islands. That is right: zip, zero, nada, nothing. I will table electronically the 8 January letter from the mayor to Minister Hinchliffe about the Works for Queensland project and other documents.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to the exclusion of the Redland City Local Government Area from state government regional grants [\[965\]](#).

The letter states—

As discussed previously with you, Redland City Council faces many unique challenges that are not unlike those faced in Regional Queensland. Our Southern Moreton Bay Islands are amongst some of the most disadvantaged in the country ...

The 20 February 2020 letter from the mayor to me states—

I know you have been strongly advocating in this space ... I am writing to ask you to sponsor a Parliamentary petition calling on the State to recognise our Redlands Coast Island communities as regional under State Government funding mechanisms. In particular our SMBI communities ...


The petition closed 30 April and was tabled in the House 21 May asking for inclusion of our islands in that Works for Queensland project. I sponsored that petition in the parliament because I know how important access to Works for Queensland is. On 20 May the mayor wrote to the Premier to thank and congratulate the government for extending the Works for Queensland program to Redlands. On 3 June I wrote to the mayor requesting information on what projects Redlands was putting forward for. I did not receive a response until yesterday, and I know why I did not receive that until yesterday. On 9 June the mayor did a backflip from congratulating to criticising the funding. It was quoted in the *Redland City Bulletin*. It is disgraceful, particularly when I know where the money was actually allocated.

My opposition candidate, who with the mayor, also criticised the funding, has not backed our Redlands community. I say to him that instead of cutting cakes for Facebook perhaps he might want to stand up for the electorate he is seeking to represent.

On 12 June the council submitted their two projects: the Cleveland pool upgrade for \$800,000; and the Mount Cotton eastern escarpment project for \$2.1 million. There is not one island project and here is why I have further concerns. The escarpment project was endorsed by council in January 2019 for \$859,000. All of a sudden it has increased in value to \$2.1 million, but it has not come back before the council for discussion in the past 18 months. This project has more than doubled in price, but there has been no apparent discussion with councillors about this substantial increase and no discussion on projects nominated for Works for Queensland. It is absolutely outrageous!

This situation is beyond belief. It does not pass the pub test for so many reasons. I will always stand up for my community, particularly my island community, and I will continue to speak with the minister and others on this matter.

Traeger Electorate, Manufacturing Industry

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.56 pm): Deeds, not words, are what people are after—whether we are talking about a copper smelter or a copper refinery in Townsville, whether we are talking about ethanol and biofuels, or whether we are talking about stimulating manufacturing in this state. I received the news this week that the United Dalby Biorefinery has shut down after the state government made a big song and dance about assisting them. The assistance was, 'We'll put you in touch with some people who will buy some of your hand sanitiser.' This ethanol plant, where you have soaring grain prices and low fuel prices, was unviable and it shut down. But we can open up! We can make hand sanitiser from that. What a great idea!


I helped them out by putting them in touch with people. The state government said, 'We'll help you,' but it was words, not actions. You need to buy a big heap off them so they are viable. Instead, we got floods of it from China. It is a pretty good gig for China: they give us coronavirus and now they are selling hand sanitiser which the state government is buying, but we cannot buy our own to keep the Dalby biorefinery going. It is actions and not words that are needed.

They have shut down now, so 50 jobs have been directly affected, 100 jobs indirectly, plus the impetus for biofuels, plus the impetus for ethanol. Where is the drive for biofuels and ethanol that should be there? Where is the commitment to the mandate we made in the last parliament? It is not there. It requires action, not just words. The government will be judged on outcomes, not just making an announcement at the start that you are throwing cash at it.

Which takes me to the copper refinery and the copper smelter. This is very serious, and people need to take notice of the impact this will have not just on the North Queensland economy, especially Townsville, but Queensland. There is a supply chain or a value chain from Mount Isa to Townsville that is very sensitive and needs the copper smelter going. If you do not have the copper smelter, you do not have the sulphur for the phosphate mine that employs 600 to 800 people. If you do not have the phosphate mine you do not have the copper refinery, which is some 300 or 400 jobs in Townsville. So you have 300 direct jobs in Mount Isa, another 300 direct jobs in Townsville and another 600 to 800 at the phosphate mine that are all under threat, and then everything else becomes unviable if you do not have the critical mass of rail participants and electricity customers out there. It is all on wobbly wheels and we need action, not words. We need Glencore to sign up to the CopperString project. We need commitment and forcefulness from the government to force Glencore to open their copper smelter. We need to make sure that people out there have an investment environment that is not killing them with the world's highest industrial prices.

These things need to be done. It is vitally important not just for North-West or North Queensland but for the Queensland economy. We cannot afford to let the biorefinery at Dalby or any more manufacturing to close in Queensland.

Capalaba Electorate, Local Government

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.59 pm): The COVID economic crisis has hit Queensland hard, and the Capalaba electorate has not escaped that. It is important to see Works for Queensland given to the Redland City Council for the first time. It is fantastic to see \$2.88 million going towards that. I also congratulate the local government minister for a further round of \$2 million, up to \$4 million to \$5 million with a competitive process.

It was disappointing to see that the Redland City Council has not contributed to supporting our community—no rate freezes, no water freezes, only \$300,000 of unspent budget going towards clubs and small businesses, although I have not heard of a single project receiving that. The clubs are crying out. They are saying to me, 'Thanks for the \$2,000 for the COVID-safe plan. We're going to have to use it to pay rates and water, which we haven't been able to use because our club has been closed.'

It was really disappointing to see this week what projects the Redland City Council put in, and I note the comments from the member for Redlands. There was \$2.1 million to the eastern escarpment project. Where is the eastern escarpment project? It is in the backyard of the Redland mayor. Her back fence links onto this eastern escarpment project and it will have a direct material, financial benefit for the mayor's property and business. She has a glamping business and a wedding business on that property, and she will benefit greatly from that. I had four councillors ring me up to complain. There was no consultation. There was one notification of an email from council offices, but no formal discussion and no voting on it. All four councillors had no idea how the \$875,000 project they voted on a year ago had increased to \$2.1 million. That is nearly a threefold increase but they had no idea of the scope of works. There was no discussion at all.

I will be writing to the OIA because I have deep concerns about how this decision came about and I know there are other projects in my local area. The Capalaba Warriors Rugby League Football Club does not have lights at the moment. There are lighting projects across this city which the council could put in for that would benefit the community clubs by giving them reliable sources of light and helping them to save money on their electricity. They could change from those big old bulbs that suck a heap of electricity out to the new LEDs. This would save the clubs to make sure we can recover into the future. I have deep concerns about a project that materially benefits the mayor's backyard. We should not be looking after her backyard. We should be looking after the whole of Redlands. We need to make sure it is fair and equitable for the entire Redlands.

HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee Report No. 31, 56th Parliament—*Inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects* tabled on 27 November 2019.

The men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service play a critical role in the state's world-class public health system. They provide lifesaving emergency first aid care and patient retrieval services to the people of Queensland around the clock every day. This point is no more poignant than right now in the face of responding to the global pandemic coronavirus.

It is a service that I am very proud to have served with. I spent 25 years as a critical care paramedic and now remain in the service as an honorary officer at Kirwan station. It is great to see the work done by the health committee in carrying out the roles and functions of portfolio committees to scrutinise public works. Our committee examined the procurement processes of the Queensland Ambulance Service's construction of two new stations, being Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance stations.

As the member for Thuringowa, I am working on supporting the QAS in the northern regions as they go through the process of constructing a new ambulance station at Kirwan, a station which I was able to lobby for and, ironically, it was one of my last roles as the acting OIC leading up to the 2015 state election. Given my background, I believe I can speak with a degree of authority on the knowledge and integral role our QAS paramedics have within the community. During our inquiry, we saw the examination of those two stations being constructed. With the one in Wynnum, we saw the way the QAS worked with the community and the role that the local ambulance committee had in delivering modern facilities that were purpose-built for increased staffing as demands for services increase in our growing ageing populations, wherever we may live in Queensland.


As we know, the QAS operates that statewide service with Queensland Health and is accountable for the delivery of pre-hospital response services. The QAS delivers those services in 296 response locations throughout 15 LASNs and is closely aligned with the Queensland Hospital and Health Services. Last year the QAS responded to over one million calls for service. The 4,500 staff deserve the best modern facilities, and that is what they received through the building of Wynnum and Mermaid Waters stations.

During our inquiry the committee considered whether the stations were fit for purpose and whether the government's investment for those stations—which totalled just over \$7.3 million—represents value for money. We also considered the community, economic and environmental impacts and the procurement process for the works. I am very pleased to report that those two ambulance stations were well managed by the QAS on all fronts. These are excellent stations, they represent good value for money, they serve their local communities and they will continue to do so well into the future.

I fully appreciate the hard work our staff put into ensuring their stations serve their communities to a high standard day after day. I saw nothing but positive outcomes throughout this inquiry, including the procurement process involved in building these stations. Of special note, I want to thank Michael Day, the OIC of Wynnum Ambulance Station. He was so welcoming and is very proud of his station and staff. He holds dear his close working relationship with his local ambulance committee, who had a major input into making this new station more a home than a workplace. When you finish a bad job you

return to your station, and the warmth and surrounding that emanated from this OIC and his station would make any paramedic proud to work out of that Wynnum QAS station and serve their community so well.

I also know how proud the local member, Joan Pease, is of this station. She sits on our committee. I only hope the Kirwan station follows this model in a similar vein once finished. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those individuals who made written submissions. I wholeheartedly thank the staff of the Queensland Ambulance Service, my fellow committee members and the secretariat for assisting with this inquiry.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report before the House. I agree with the member for Thuringowa, the chair of the committee. Our paramedics are frontline first responders and need to be praised for the great work they do every day of the year. They are called out in all sorts of weather to all sorts of circumstances. Some of the sights they see are horrific to say the least. What they have to put up with would shock most of us in this chamber because we do not see that on a regular basis, if at all.

It is important that the premises from which they operate are in a manner that is fit for purpose. They need to be provided with what they need so they can provide to the community going forward. I agree with the chair of the committee that the two stations under review today do exactly that. They do provide a fit-for-purpose premises and also provide for the needs of the community to a point.

As we know, this inquiry was undertaken pursuant to section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act. I want to turn in particular to the phrase 'the impact of the works on the community, economy and environment'. I think it is important that, although the House is acknowledging the work that was undertaken to construct the premises, we are also aware that the impact on the community is not just then and there but it is long term. What will be the long-term impact of these particular stations being built in relation to the delivery of services? The chair himself raised the question of the link between Queensland Health and the Queensland Ambulance Service. If the service is to provide a quality outcome for the community, then they must work with Queensland Health in a manner that allows the paramedics to do exactly that.

We know that paramedics in the Queensland Ambulance Service are linked directly with the hospital and health services. That is why we need to understand what the community benefit is, will be and has been for those people who live in the areas serviced by the new stations. It is not pleasant. I went back to January of this year—pre COVID-19—and looked at the off-stretcher time stats for Metro South from Queensland Health. I was looking at how the community benefited from the link between paramedics and the health department in the following hospitals: Logan, PA, QEII and Redland. I am sad to say that 40 per cent of patients taken to Logan Hospital were on a stretcher for more than 30 minutes. At the PA—

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is straying. He is talking about patient off-stretcher times. That is not relevant to the building of the two ambulance stations.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): I will take some advice.

Mr McARDLE: Can I also make a comment with regard to the point of order raised?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can respond to the point of order.

Mr McARDLE: On page 2 the terms of reference refer to section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act. It says, in part, that the committee must consider the impact of works on the community. In addition, at page 10 of the report it states—


The project constituted essential emergency services infrastructure required to meet service delivery needs in the public interest.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have responded to the point of order. I will ask you to continue.

Mr McARDLE: At QEII Hospital, 24 per cent of people were on a stretcher in excess of 30 minutes; and at Redland, 26 per cent were on a stretcher in excess of 30 minutes. With regard to Mermaid Waters, at the Gold Coast University Hospital, again in January, 35 per cent were in excess of 30 minutes; at Robina Hospital, 30 per cent were in excess of 30 minutes.

If a premises is to be fit for purpose then it must be measured against what it can deliver, and this government is not delivering a paramedic service, no matter how good the facility is, to provide for the community that these two stations serve. It is as simple as that. You can have the shiniest bauble in the House, but the outcome must be measured against the outcome as seen by the community, and the statistics put forward by Queensland Health for January 2020 indicate they are not doing that.

Let's not kid ourselves. The ribbon may have been cut at Mermaid Waters by an erstwhile person, but at the end of the day it is the long-term efficiency and outcome that we are looking at. Indeed, in the 2019-20 Queensland Health SDS, the QAS referred to the percentage of patients transferred within 30 minutes. The target was 90 per cent but the outcome was 77 per cent. The outcome here may be a shiny bauble, but the real outcome is how it delivers a service going forward.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.13 pm): It is always a pleasure to watch the final curtain coming down for the member for Caloundra, who is going about his business of trying to deliver his swan song. It is lovely to see him. I thank him so much for that contribution.

Mr McArdle: Voluntarily.

Ms PEASE: Congratulations on that. I congratulate him on his great service to his Caloundra community.

Mr Lister: He's not finished yet!

Ms PEASE: Hasn't he? I thank him very much for that. What a fitting swan song for us today!

Interestingly enough, today we are here to talk about report No. 31 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, not to hear the final swan song of the member for Caloundra. The report is actually on an inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects. I am really delighted to stand up and talk in particular about the wonderful project of the Wynnum Ambulance Station. That ambulance station has been contributing to my community since September 2018, and what a privilege it has been to work with Mick Day, as my colleague has already spoken about. One of the functions—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. Member for Southern Downs, there is no need to lean across the chamber and have a very loud conversation. Please take it outside.

Ms PEASE: Thank you very much for your protection. I guess they were not happy with my comments earlier.

Mr Lister: What did you say?

Ms PEASE: Let me go forward. Our committee undertook an inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station replacement projects. These ambulance stations were undertaken to provide services and areas for equipment, drug, medical gases and patient care stores; rest amenities; training; offices; study and multifunctional spaces for staff; laundry facilities; support; and parking and charging of operational vehicles.

The committee undertook an inquiry to determine the suitability of these works for the intended purpose, the need for the works, whether value for money was achieved and what the initial and recurrent costs of the works were. It was also to determine whether there was any impact of the works on the community, economy and environment; what procurement methods were used; and the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works. It was also to report on the performance of Queensland Health as the constructing authority for the works and on the works' consultants and contractors with particular regard to the time taken to finish the works as well as the cost and the quality of the works.

The committee concluded, as per report No. 31, that both the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects were suitable for purpose in terms of the location, size, functionality, and technical and environmental performance; that they were necessary and advisable; and that the costs of the works were reasonable, with the capital works for the Wynnum station costing \$2,972,862 and Mermaid Waters, \$4,335,267.


Mr Stevens: Money well spent.

Ms PEASE: Absolutely. The committee concluded it was satisfied that the value for money was achieved by these works. Not only did these moneys fulfil the requirement; they also employed local people, producing great quality work. The committee also concluded that the work will have a positive impact on the community. I can say firsthand that the Wynnum Ambulance Station has had a positive impact on our community. It has also had a minimal impact on the environment, the procurement methods were acceptable, the balance of private and public sector involvement in the works was reasonable, and the performance of constructing authority consultants and contractors was of a high standard.

The committee inspected both stations on 4 December and also called for submissions and held a public hearing. May I take this moment to say paramedics do an outstanding job each and every shift, every day. My daughter's father-in-law is a paramedic in Maleny. He has recently been relocated and

is working on the COVID response team. For those in the House who do not know, the chair of the committee is also a former paramedic. I know that is a surprise! I know most people were not aware of that! These two men are both part of a wonderful family, and this special family is passionate, dedicated and professional. They provide world-class care where and when it is needed, which has been evidenced during the current pandemic. These new stations support these paramedics to do their job in a professional and caring manner by providing outstanding accommodation for paramedics and vehicles.

May I take a moment to also acknowledge the great work of Mick Day and his family. Mick is the OIC of Wynnum Ambulance Station, and his whole team does an outstanding job as does the LAC, who have also supported our local ambulance officers over the years. If honourable members have a moment they should pop down to Wynnum to the ambulance museum; it is a great visit. When it reopens, I look forward to seeing them there.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to make some comments about our Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 31 titled *Inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects*. I want to start by thanking Rob Hansen and the secretariat. They have had a hell of a couple of years—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is unparliamentary language.

Mr HUNT: My apologies, Madam Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance. I withdraw. They have had a very busy couple of years with various inquiries, and their work on this particular one is appreciated. I also want to join my colleagues from the committee in thanking our paramedics for the work they do.

Indeed, while mentioning previous careers, during my 30-year service as a police officer on a regular basis I had a lot to do with ambulance officers working in the emergency services. We had what would be described as a great camaraderie between the emergency services in terms of the jobs we do until we get to parliament, member for Thuringowa.

As noted in the report and by the member for Caloundra, our committees considered a wide range of functions under chapter 5 of the PoQA. In relation to the portfolio area, section 94 provides that the committee may consider a number of things—and public works is one of them—or any major works as the committee decides. It sets out that criteria of the examination of public works and that these criteria provide the basis for the terms of reference for this public works inquiry. Amongst others, the criteria we scrutinised involved the stated purpose of the works, the suitability of the works for the purpose, the need for and advisability of the works, the initial and recurrent costs of the works, value for money achieved or likely to be achieved by the works—as the member for Caloundra outlined—the impacts of the work on the community, economy and environment, procurement methods et cetera.

I concentrate my contribution on the need for or advisability of works and the cost of the works. Indeed, with a finite budget the government needs to make decisions on priorities and where spending is most needed. When it comes to the health of Queenslanders, this is very important to get right. Our health and emergency services workers need adequate and modern facilities to do their important work. We have seen many failures of this government in relation to health spending and facilities. A particular example of this relates to the Nambour Hospital in my electorate area of Nicklin, a project promised by the member for Woodridge—the then health minister, now Treasurer—to be completed by 2018. In 2020, works have only just commenced. That is an example of one of the failures.

I concede that some projects, such as the ambulance stations for Wynnum and Mermaid Waters that were looked at by our committee, do go according to plan, as did this one. The minister does drop the ball regularly on other important health projects, IT system blow-outs—and the half-million dollar name change at the Lady Cilento hospital comes to mind—

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. He is straying well off the report, talking about other matters.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Thank you very much, member for Thuringowa.

Mr HUNT: On the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is the member responding to the point of order, or does the member have his own point of order?

Mr HUNT: If I could respond to that, section 94 and the terms of reference include the need for and advisability of works, the value for money achieved and all the things around the health budget and health spending. I am discussing what the health minister has wasted money on instead of building ambulance stations.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly, if that was the point you were making, the point has been made. I ask you to return to the report. That would be wonderful.

Mr HUNT: Thank you for your guidance. These failures, as I mentioned, impact on an already stretched health system and on our ability to provide services and facilities such as these new ambulance stations. These failures affect our ability to provide adequate health services to the people of Queensland, as seen and as mentioned in the examples provided by the member for Caloundra. I here refer to increased ambulance ramping and hospital surgery waiting lists, even pre COVID, which now have blown right out. The minister is spruiking continually about increases in doctors and nurses not helping this situation. It is the management that matters—not just the facilities. The management of resources, particularly by this health minister, has left a lot to be desired. Despite this, I wish the workers in the new facilities at Mermaid Waters and Wynnum all the best and thank them for their continued service to our community.

Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 31 titled *Inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects*. Each and every day, the Queensland Ambulance Service provides life-saving emergency patient response transfer services for the people of Queensland through 296 response locations within 15 local ambulance service networks. QAS staff deliver 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The great work of the QAS staff can never be understated. They go above and beyond each and every day. The standard of our ambulance service stations are vital frontline infrastructure for supporting staff and the health system.

As a committee, we were tasked to inquire into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance stations construction projects and to report on a number of areas that included, in part, the suitability of the construction works to meet the immediate needs and future needs as populations continue to grow, whether the new stations were fit for purpose, value for money—considering the ongoing cost to maintain the new stations—and how well located they were in the community.

In December 2018, we inspected the two new ambulance stations. The new stations provided work areas that supported parking and charging of operational vehicles, including a wash-down area, suitable storage areas for equipment, drug and medical gases, and patient care stores. The multifunctional areas included staff rest areas, general amenities, training offices, study and laundry facilities. The stations inspected were designed to be effective workplaces for vehicles and operational staff and to be flexible to allow QAS to respond to future changes to work requirements. It should be noted that basically the Wynnum site had the same staff involved from start to finish. Through this process, this station had what I feel was a more homely feel and a very practical layout.

We also invited submissions—and four were received—and conducted a public hearing. The committee concluded these new stations were fit for purpose in terms of location, size, functionality and technical and environmental performance. We also concluded that the costs of the work were reasonable, were satisfied that they were delivered in a timely manner and were well located and value for money. I thank our secretariat and the team for their work in producing this report. Finally, I again thank the QAS staff for the great job they do each and every day. I commend the report to the House.

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.27 pm): In speaking to the report, I certainly would like to thank the committee for its kind invitation to the local member to attend the inspection of the new facility at the Mermaid Waters ambulance building. The building is an excellent replacement of what was called the Coral Gardens ambulance station. As a matter of fact, in my mayoralty days at the Albert shire—

An honourable member: You were the mayor once?

Mr STEVENS: I was the mayor once. I think I did some sort of opening at Coral Gardens as opposed to what happened after this refurbishment in terms of there being no ribbon-cutting ceremony to which I was invited for a \$4 million wonderful edifice for the community of Mermaid Beach and Mermaid Waters. Unfortunately, they forgot to put me on the invitation list. However, in fact I did open the Q Super Centre, a very successful shopping centre right next door to the ambulance station. The service has done an excellent job in replacing the old Coral Gardens site because it is ideally located. I was pleased to enjoy the tour with members of the ambulance fraternity down there; in fact, I believe the wife of a staff member who has just moved in is a principal at one of my schools.

This is a wonderful facility in Mermaid Waters, which has a large, growing population, and they have done an excellent job in spending that \$4.3 million, as I recall, on that facility, which was much needed because the old Coral Gardens ambulance station was a bit out of the ark, as the professional on the other side would have recognised. The firm that did the architecture, Burling Brown—Ronnie

Burling is a great old mate of mine and Darrell Brown—did an excellent job. It is not an easy site, being an entry into the Q Super Centre shopping centre, which I opened, as I just mentioned, when I was mayor. The refurbishment of the facility on that particular site was a difficult job for the architects in terms of egress and ingress for the emergency services, but it has turned out to be an excellent facility in Mermaid Waters.

The good folk from the service rang and asked whether I had any alternative suggestions for the naming of the facility. Whilst the name of 'Ray Stevens' sprang immediately to mind, my recommendation was for the Mermaid Waters Ambulance Station. I think Coral Gardens was in recognition of the original real estate sales in the area—Coral Gardens has a pretty, nice real estate sound—but Mermaid Waters is the suburb that everybody recognises. We now have this magnificent facility there now for, as the chairman of the committee has just alluded to, many years to come.

I congratulate all of the members of the committee on their report into this expenditure of moneys which was well expended in this area, as it is the only station in this report that I can talk to as I have not been to or seen the other station. I greatly appreciated the tour of this facility and I appreciated greatly an invitation whereas it had not been forthcoming previously. I look forward to many years of service of that new building. This was \$4.3 million of taxpayers' money well spent in Mermaid Waters. I look forward to the next \$4.3 million being spent in the Mermaid Beach electorate soon.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.32 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee Report No. 31, 56th Parliament—*Inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre* tabled on 28 November 2019.

Before I outline the committee's considerations and findings in this inquiry, I first want to thank the members of the committee, representatives from the Department of Housing and Public Works, Tennis Queensland, Stadiums Queensland and the Parliamentary Service staff. I also want to share a little bit of history about this site for those who are unfamiliar with it. In the late 1940s Brisbane's then power supply was reaching capacity. This particular site, now the proud home of Queensland tennis, was acquired by council and the Tennyson Power Station commissioned. The coal-fired power station operated from the fifties to the eighties. In fact, I have a unique connection to this site because I used to work there in a past life as an electrician of 25 years—and I still have my licence, too, by the way.

In the sixties responsibilities for power generation and supply were transferred to the state government and, after the amalgamation of the electricity authorities in 1985, the newly created Queensland Electricity Commission recommended the closure of the Tennyson Power Station. This is where my involvement came into play, as we had to disconnect Tennyson from the network once it was decommissioned which was a very interesting job as it still fed a large part of Brisbane from the switchyard there. Challenges around asbestos management delayed demolition on site until the mid-2000s.


In the meantime, members might be interested to know that the old power station featured in the 2002 movie *Scooby-Doo*, the local filming of which was certainly a coup for Queensland. The history of the power station will not be lost as there are a lot of historical displays of items from the station around the site and the new substation overlooks the site. I can certainly attest to how well our dirty old power station site has been repurposed to service our sporting community and local residents.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Brisbane International at the Queensland Tennis Centre this year—and in the past I have been there with the member for Chatsworth, who is also a tennis lover—although sadly I did miss out on seeing Ash Barty play this year. It was easy to see why this international event generates almost \$10 million in direct economic benefits to Queensland. The atmosphere was electric—pardon the dad joke—and the venue world class. I thank Tennis Queensland for its submission to our inquiry, describing the building of the Queensland Tennis Centre as 'a stimulant for the revitalisation of our sport'. The turnout and enthusiasm for competitions hosted at the centre is certainly evidence of this, as is the upsurge in player numbers across Brisbane and Queensland that we have witnessed in the 10 years of the centre's existence.

Determining the demand or necessity for these works in Brisbane for tennis facilities of international standard was a key line of inquiry for the committee, as was the question of whether works were and are suitable for the purpose. The committee was tasked to examine the financial aspects of the works including the cost and quality, whether they achieved value for money, recurrent revenue versus recurrent costs, and the present and prospective public value of the works having due regard for impacts on the community, economy and environment. In addition, the scope of our inquiry encompassed procurement methods for the project, the performance of the constructing authority, and whether the balance of public and private sector involvement was right.

An overlying theme in considering the suitability of the works was the 2011 floods, which resulted in damage on site—and we remember all too clearly the devastation and destruction these flood events caused right across Central and Southern Queensland and the tragic loss of lives. The committee considered the evidence given to and the findings of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry with regard to the Tennyson site. While the committee is satisfied that the Queensland Tennis Centre works were and are suitable for purpose, our report notes that learnings from the 2011 floods have resulted in further mitigation strategies that will contribute to a reduced risk of flood impact in the future.

In conclusion, I will sum up by outlining the committee's conclusions. In this inquiry we found that the tennis centre was delivered on time and on budget; completed to specifications with only minor modifications; necessary, advisable and suitable for purpose; reasonable value for money, including in its recurrent costs and revenue; and subject to a suitable procurement process with a satisfactory balance of public and private sector involvement. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we found that this work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment. In light of our findings, I want to pay tribute to the then Beattie Labor government for its contribution to Queensland sport. I commend this report to the parliament.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.37 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise this afternoon to make my contribution in relation to the inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre. So far this afternoon we have heard some fantastic backstories from previous speakers. I cannot beat being a former mayor, I cannot beat being a paramedic of 30 years and I certainly cannot beat being a sparky of 25 years, but around about 30 years ago I was the winner of the 1979 Carindale Tennis Open. I do take a lot of pride in saying that before the House.

Before I get into some commentary specifically about the report, I want to take this opportunity to thank committee members but single one out in particular because he will be retiring at the next election—that is, my colleague Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay. With Ted being one of the members of this committee, I want to acknowledge his contribution in not just this report but the various reports that have come before this one.

Having a business background, I wanted to have a good read of this report, so to begin with I read the scope of the inquiry. I think it is worthwhile just going through exactly what the scoping of this particular report was all about. With regard to the scope of the inquiry, the purpose of the works were apparent in relation to the suitability of the works to be fit for purpose, the necessity for and the advisability of the works, value for money achieved or likely to be achieved by the works, the revenue produced by and recurrent costs of the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works, the present and prospective public value of the works, the procurement methods for the works, the balance of public and private sector involvement, and the performance of the constructing authority for the works and the consultants and contractors for the works.


As the chair of the committee has gone through, but it is worthwhile going through again, the committee did conclude that the work was indeed suitable for its purpose and the work was, in fact, necessary and advisable and, indeed, reasonable value for money. The committee found that the procurement method for the work was, indeed, suitable and the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work was, indeed, satisfactory.

Being a long-term resident of Brisbane, and also declaring on my interest register that I have also been given the pleasure of attending the Brisbane International on and off over the last few years—and we certainly look forward to when competition and play will be able to resume, hopefully in the not-too-distant future in this uncertain world that we live in—I know, and anyone who has graced that particular tennis centre will know, that it is right up there with the best for its size. I believe I read it has a circa 5,500 capacity. A bit like Suncorp Stadium, there is not a bad seat in the stadium to watch the tennis live. It really is magnificent.

Interestingly, I went on to read in the report that there were lessons learned from the 2011 floods. It is a credit and a tribute to all those concerned. I did read that the contractor, Mirvac, was given a rap in terms of making sure this was delivered on time and on the adjusted budget. In this day and age of


delivering infrastructure like stadia that is, indeed, great. This was an interesting report to go through. Being a tennis fan I found it interesting. I thank the committee members for the work they did. Here is to ensuring that tennis in this great state continues to blossom.

I also put in a quick plug for the different officials who liaise with the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis. Many of us partake in a game on the Speaker's Green once a year. I particularly call out government liaison officer Elia Hill, who many on both sides of the chamber would know, and the other great men and women of Tennis Queensland who make sure that tennis is front and centre in the minds of politicians on both sides of the chamber. It is a great game and I am very pleased to make a small contribution to the committee report.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.41 pm): This inquiry started in late 2018 and we reported on it in November last year. It is fairly straightforward: a self-referred inquiry and report so I will not bang on too long about it and I will not compete with the chair and his knowledge of the electricity network and history of the site, including *Scooby-Doo*—that was good to know—or the member for Chatsworth and his tennis background. Thank to you the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, committee members and secretariat as always for their great work on this inquiry, and in particular the Queensland Tennis Centre for showing us around their fantastic facilities and for being very helpful with every step of the inquiry process and also to Stadiums Queensland and Tennis Queensland.

The tennis centre is a fantastic site. It has an electric atmosphere on big nights, providing power of a different kind. It is a great venue for those showpiece events but it is also focusing on the development of up-and-coming tennis players and up-and-coming stars of the sport. Not often do you see grassroots roots right next door to the showpiece exhibition centre. It is great to see the good work they are doing there. It has been made possible by the infrastructure works that were catalysed in the Beattie government years. The attention to detail at the Queensland Tennis Centre is great. They have a professional hawker that chases off the other birds from the site. It was great to see some of that.

Turning to the report, the terms of reference of the inquiry that I was most interested in were about the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for purpose, the necessity for and advisability of the works and the value for money achieved or likely to be achieved by the works. Throughout the inquiry we found that the works were very well constructed and it was done to a suitable level. The flood that came through in 2011 was a more than one-in-100-year flood and really knocked them for six—to mix up my sporting metaphors. It was built to a Q100 of 7.9 metres height but the floodwater got up to 8.6 metres. As anyone who was around at that time would know, that area of Brisbane really did get hit very hard and it had a longstanding effect on residences. The tennis centre has carried out improvements since then and it was interesting to see the different ways it will manage flood in the future. It used the opportunity of rebuilding after the floods to dramatically improve the centre's use going forward, dramatically improving the facilities for the development of future players and also when there are showpiece events. I commend the committee's report to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.44 pm): First of all I thank the committee: Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah and our chair; Colin Boyce, the member for Callide; Robbie Katter, the member for Traeger; Bart Mellish, the member for Aspley; and Jo-Ann Miller, the former member for Bundamba.

The committee had a good time out at the tennis courts. It was good to see Pat Rafter Arena. It is a fantastic facility. The committee concluded that the work is suitable for its purpose; the work was necessary and advisable; the work was reasonable value for money; the cost, revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of the work are reasonable; and the work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment.


On the economic impact of such a sporting facility, one thing I learnt when we built the airport at Hervey Bay and extended it to take aircraft from Sydney was that sporting tourism is important to the aviation industry. You have your business classes, the tourists and then the sporting travellers on those aircraft. We did not get to look at the real economic impact of a sporting stadium on the community, but one only has to look at the amount of money that comes in from sporting games. Having Pat Rafter at the stadium years ago brought people from around the world. These sports men and women have a huge following. Sporting facilities bring a huge amount of money into a community.

This facility has 24 courts and the main stadium. The member for Aspley talked about the birds. We were told a funny story when we visited the stadium. Crows nest in the stadium itself. Once the crow lays her eggs the department will not allow anybody to remove them. One day a bloke came up

with the bright idea that he would get his mate's falcon to come in and they would let the falcon go in the stadium. The only trouble is that the crows actually took to the falcon. It took them a couple of days to get the falcon back. It was a good laugh at the time. It was a really funny event. It just goes to show that crows can turn on falcons. The Queensland Tennis Centre is worth so much to the city of Brisbane and to the state of Queensland. It gives young people the enthusiasm to follow their dreams. Did you follow yours, mate?

Mr Minnikin: Absolutely! I went on to bigger and better things.

Mr SORENSEN: Sporting facilities are great to have in every community. They bring people together. Champions come from the small children who will go out there and play on Pat Rafter Arena. That creates a community. Without that sporting facility what would the children do and what would champions do who get through? It is an ambition of a lot of young children to go and play in a stadium such as this just to say that they have played on Pat Rafter Arena. It is important to the whole city of Brisbane and to Queensland. I wish the facility all the best in the future.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Transport and Public Works Committee's report No. 31 titled *Inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre*. The committee has written a comprehensive report, which people may or may not have read. The report goes into all aspects of what has happened at the Queensland Tennis Centre in relation to providing a state-of-the-art headquarters for Tennis Queensland and a tennis facility for the people of Queensland to enjoy.

In terms of infrastructure, there is a total of 23 international full-size courts. There is a mixture of playing surfaces provided, offering players access to all of the grand slam playing surfaces: cushioned acrylic, natural clay and natural grass as used at Wimbledon. The international court facilities include the Pat Rafter Arena, a stadium based and covered centre court with seating for 5,600 spectators and a Plexicushion playing surface, exceeding Davis Cup size requirements; show court Nos 1 and 2, which have shade structures over them and Plexicushion playing surfaces; a further 14 courts with Plexicushion playing surfaces that meet International Tennis Federation full-size court requirements; four natural clay courts; and two double natural-grass courts.

The committee toured the facility and I can report to the House that it is magnificent. We looked into the effects of the 2011 floods and what happened during that event. Mitigation works have been put in place to further alleviate problems, should such an event happen again.

Many years ago, in the early 2000s, I spent time in local government when people were advocating for the development of the suburban block in Brisbane, to take further advantage of infrastructure such as water, sewerage, roads, public transport and so on. That brought about the demise of the backyard tennis court in Brisbane. Those who advocated for the construction of the Queensland Tennis Centre went some way towards replacing those lost tennis facilities with the provision of this state-of-the-art facility so that the noble game of tennis can be furthered, especially through our children.

In closing, I recognise Deb Jeffrey, the committee secretariat, and her team, who provide us with reports and so on. Theirs is a never-ending job. I recognise our chair, Mr Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah; Mr Bart Mellish, the member for Aspley; Mr Ted Sorensen, the deputy chair and member for Hervey Bay; Mr Robbie Katter, the member for Traeger; and I welcome to our committee Mr Lance McCallum, the new member for Bundamba. I take this opportunity to send a cheerio to the former member for Bundamba, who also sat on our committee, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller. With her unexpected resignation from the House, I did not get the opportunity to say goodbye to her. If you are out there, Jo, cheerio to you. The irony is that her nemesis, the member for South Brisbane, now occupies the seat right next to where she used to sit in the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Lapse of Motion

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 26 has now lapsed.

**HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE****Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.54 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee Report No. 30, 56th Parliament—*Investigation of the closure of the Earle Haven residential aged care facility at Nerang (Inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and voluntary assisted dying)* tabled on 28 November 2019.

On 17 July 2019, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee resolved to undertake an investigation into the sudden closure of the Earle Haven residential aged-care facility at Nerang and into the safety and quality of care provided to the former residents at that facility. At the core of this report were 70 aged and vulnerable residents and staff who were sadly caught up in a corporate battle—a contractual dispute between HelpStreet and People Care. The residents, their families and the staff were the real victims of this terrible event. As a result, I have very little to say about one Mr Arthur Miller. The less said about that particular person the better.

The aim of the investigation was to determine what could be done to prevent such an event ever occurring again in Queensland. The committee conducted the investigation as part of our broader inquiry into aged care, end-of-life care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. The committee held public hearings on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane, in August and on 20 September 2019. On the committee's behalf, the Clerk of the Parliament engaged Ms Ruth O'Gorman to act as counsel assisting for the investigation. As I noted when I tabled the report, we thank Ms O'Gorman for her professional and considered approach to the investigation into Earle Haven. The report made 12 recommendations for the federal and state governments to implement.

In April 2018, People Care engaged HelpStreet to take over the running of the facility following a series of problems at the facility, which had failed audits by the federal Department of Health and Ageing. HelpStreet organised the removal of stock and equipment from the facility on the morning of 11 July. At approximately 1.30 pm, a HelpStreet staff member called triple 0 and told the operator—

We've just gone into administration and staff have gone home and it's not safe for our residents to be here anymore.

The day before the facility ceased to operate, HelpStreet removed a computer holding residents' care plans and medication records. Those records were used by staff to determine residents' daily care needs and to dispense medications. Staff from Queensland Health and the Queensland Ambulance Service attended the scene. After reviewing the situation, Queensland Health staff determined that residents could no longer be cared for safely at the facility and organised to evacuate the residents to other facilities.

Between 2006 and 2018, People Care had a number of regulatory compliance failures. It failed to meet the expected outcomes for a number of home-care standards in audits conducted by the regulator between 2007 and 2017. On each of those occasions, sanctions were imposed. In those years, People Care had significant problems in providing a safe level of quality care to residents. In June 2019, the regulator conducted an audit of the facility that revealed that chemical restraint was being used for 71 per cent of the residents and physical restraint was being used for 50 per cent of the residents.

On the morning of 11 July 2019, HelpStreet began removing numerous items from the facility, including mattresses. Mr Bunker, from HelpStreet, informed staff that if they continued to work that afternoon they would not be paid and would not be covered by insurance. At about 1.20 pm, HelpStreet's clinical care coordinator telephoned triple 0 and advised that they had gone into administration. The Queensland Ambulance Service responded, as did the health service. The committee found that, in those circumstances, the decision made to relocate the residents was reasonable and appropriate. Although the situation was distressing for many of the residents, the efforts of the QAS, the Gold Coast HHS personnel and staff members kept the situation calm and under control.


I note the care provided by the member for Gaven and the health minister, who were there within hours of the tragic event unfolding. While the committee undertook its inquiry, as chair I noted that the compassionate and caring roles played by the member and the health minister were on display throughout. What I did also see was the member for Mudgeeraba try to make it political when it was about people in the middle of this crisis.

The committee made several recommendations, and a lot of those were around the federal government making subcontractors equally accountable alongside approved providers for meeting quality and safety standards in the aspects of care that they are subcontracted to deliver.

Debate, on motion of Mr Harper, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly as its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee report on the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 3 August 2020, and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill by 3 August 2020.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1406, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (4.01 pm): I rise to speak on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. Firstly, I want to thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its consideration of the bill. I also want to thank the significant number of organisations and members of the public who took the time to make a submission to the committee.

My government values a fair and just political system in this state, and we consider it crucial to our democracy that Queenslanders have the utmost confidence in our electoral system. This bill contains fundamental changes to our electoral system to give Queenslanders this confidence and to enhance the integrity and public accountability of our electoral processes.

The bill introduces amendments relating to funding and expenditure for state elections, including implementing a cap on political donations and electoral expenditure, increasing public election funding, making policy development payments available to independent members, and implementing a range of supporting administrative and disclosure requirements. Queensland's democracy should not be for sale, and that is why we are introducing caps on political donations. This will limit improper influence by political donors in the shaping of public policy. These laws will take the money out of politics.

Electoral expenditure caps on advertising and other election material will level the playing field for electoral campaigning so that all voices can be heard. The bill introduces a requirement for a dedicated state campaign account to be kept with a financial institution to enhance transparency for voters and assist the Electoral Commission's efforts at compliance with the laws. Amendments to increase the public funding available to eligible political parties and candidates will also provide for proper public discussion and campaigning.

These are the strongest electoral donation laws in the country, as was pointed out by the Centre for Public Integrity, a collaboration of former judges and integrity experts whose board members include the Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC, QC and the Human Rights Law Centre, which welcomed the proposed changes. As they said when we announced the laws, 'Queensland will now have the strongest political donations laws in the country. We commend the Queensland government for taking action to improve transparency and accountability.'

The LNP are vocal in opposing these laws. That does not surprise me. They have form on this issue, fighting tooth and nail all the way to the High Court to stop the ban on developer donations and the \$1,000 disclosure laws.

My government wants any election day to be a democratic and neutral environment for people across the state to cast their vote free from harassment. That is why the bill makes some changes to the requirements for signage and limits the signage that can be displayed at pre-poll and polling

locations. The government will also move amendments in consideration in detail to ensure the smooth running of the 2020 state government election, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined by the Attorney-General on Wednesday. These amendments will enable the Electoral Commission of Queensland to implement actions to facilitate public health, safety and social distancing measures during pre-polling and on election day and increase postal voting arrangements should they be necessary.


My government has always been committed to the maintenance of integrity at both the state and local government level in Queensland. The Crime and Corruption Commission has made recommendations to ensure conflicts of interest are declared and to reduce the potential for intentional misconduct.

Queenslanders expect transparency and accountability from their elected representatives. My government is building on our strong record of delivering integrity reform by strengthening conflict of interest requirements for cabinet ministers. We have already implemented changes to the Cabinet Handbook, Ministerial Handbook and Ministerial Code of Conduct regarding the management of ministerial conflicts of interest. These changes were developed in consultation with the Integrity Commissioner.

My government is now introducing two new criminal offences in response to the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations 3 and 4. These criminal offences will reside in the Integrity Act 2009 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. They seek to capture deliberate and intentional dishonesty by ministers where they intend to gain a benefit for themselves or another person or cause a detriment to another person. Inadvertent and unpremeditated noncompliance would not be captured by these offences. The proposed new criminal offences will have a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, or 200 penalty units, and charges for both new offences will require consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Queenslanders deserve the highest standards from their elected representatives. These reforms will provide further protections to ensure cabinet ministers always act with accountability, integrity and transparency.

My government is committed to maintaining integrity in local government. The bill before the House today builds on the reforms already implemented by my government. Importantly, we have listened to local councils and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The provisions in this bill will provide greater clarity to councillors to assist them in understanding what is a conflict of interest and what must happen once a conflict is identified. The bill introduces the concept of a prescribed conflict of interest and a declarable conflict of interest, outlining the necessary procedures for each. The bill also proposes an amendment to address concerns about the number of local governments losing a quorum on key issues where a majority of councillors declare a conflict of interest.

I have made clear that, where we can, we will align the obligations for state and local government. Critically, this bill will increase the alignment with requirements for state and local government in relation to conflict of interest obligations of elected representatives. This includes the introduction of a new offence that applies when a councillor dishonestly contravenes particular conflict of interest or register of interest requirements. This offence will be a serious integrity offence, meaning that if the contravention is done with dishonest intent, if convicted, they will automatically stop being a councillor and will be disqualified from holding that office for seven years. Similarly, for consistency, the bill introduces new requirements relating to councillors' register of interests to better align with the requirements applying to state members of parliament for statement of interests. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.07 pm): I note that the Premier had things to say about the Ministerial Code of Conduct and amendments that were made to it in relation to matters involving the member for South Brisbane. Other members have spoken about this earlier in the day. It is all well and good to make changes to the Ministerial Handbook and indeed make changes to the legislation like we are debating here today, but it is no good making those changes to the code if they are not going to be enforced by the Premier or other people in the government who are charged with enforcing them. The fact that we are here in this situation, dealing with the provisions before us to do with integrity of state members of parliament and ministers, shows that the government simply does not get it when it comes to integrity and accountability. If the Premier had taken responsibility and dealt with the matter as convention would have it, to sack the minister who had breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct, we would not be here right now.

Earlier today we had a great display of the fact that the government does not get it when the member for Everton was talking about the integrity provisions in the bill, outlining the genesis of these particular provisions, and we had the Minister for Housing and Public Works, the member for

Springwood, shout out across the chamber, 'Are you going to talk about the bill?' That is an integral part of the bill. The fact that he did not want to hear about it shows that he clearly does not get it, and it is clear that members of the government do not get it as well. You can legislate whatever you want to legislate, but if you are not going to enforce it and if you are not going to uphold the standards on your own team then it all comes to nothing. That is why we are here today, having to have these stringent provisions put in place at the behest of the CCC.

Having made that point, I point out that the Electoral Act is very rapidly becoming the gerrymander implemented by them for the financial funding of elections. The Electoral Act is the Labor Party's financial gerrymander in Queensland. The fact that we will be able to have campaigns in marginal seats where there could be potentially millions spent by Labor and the unions and nowhere near that permitted to be spent by the LNP and their supporters simply shows that the system is being changed yet again to suit the Labor Party and to enhance their chances of winning an election. The fix is on and the rules are being changed to do that.

It is just like the 18 minutes notice for CPV back in 2016. That was sprung on the House with no notice. In terms of this bill, we had 229 amendments put before us on Tuesday night for debate in the House yesterday. It is outrageous.

I think we have come to a point where in the future we need to seriously consider whether certain elements of our electoral system need to be put beyond the reach of this House, because if this mob stay in government any longer we cannot trust them not to keep changing the rules each term to suit themselves and to entrench themselves in power. It is an abuse of the process. It is an abuse of democracy. I think people will eventually start to call for some basic parts of the electoral system to be entrenched to take away the possibility of it being abused by members opposite in the future.

Millions can be spent in Labor marginal seats while developer contributions are completely banned. This is despite the fact that the CCC did not say anything about banning developer contributions at a state level. That was only to apply to the council level.

We have 26 registered unions in Queensland. Say we have eight key seats where that funding from 26 unions is allocated. As we know, there is a balance of power in Queensland. There are probably 10 or 20 seats that are going to determine the outcome at the next election. They could divvy them up and have three unions each. A maximum aggregate of a million dollars can be spent by third parties. Three unions per seat amounts to \$3 million. Potentially, \$3 million could be spent by those third parties. That is a completely outrageous abuse of the legislation.

The gerrymander comes back when we talk about signage. This is one of the 229 amendments dropped on us on Tuesday night. Signage is back at booths now. There can potentially be over 100 signs for Labor and their affiliated 26 unions. For the LNP it is far more restrictive. The government is changing the rules to suit itself. Unaccompanied signs are okay now too. It is a ridiculous fixing of the rules for the ALP.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr Bleijie: Just listen. Great speech.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, member for Kawana. I will take that interjection. The ECQ is going to be lumped with a whole lot more compliance work. With the local government elections earlier this year, respected commentator Antony Green said that he had never seen issues like he saw when it came to the reporting of votes. That was the main issue with the local government elections, but there were other issues.

With all this compliance and regulation that is being put into the electoral system, how much more resourcing is the ECQ going to get? We do not know because there is not going to be a budget. Does the government know how much they need to do this work? Are we going to have ECQ officers running around the state counting the number of corflutes and signs that have been erected by candidates? What the regulations put in place by the 229 amendments to this bill are going to do—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: No, I am talking about the spending caps. Are you going to go out and count every corflute? It is all captured. How are you possibly going to enforce these sorts of things? How is the ECQ going to focus on its core business, which is running elections in a transparent way and reporting the results to the public in a timely manner? That should be the core purpose of the ECQ.

In the time remaining, I want to touch on the amendments to the Local Government Act, and in particular those relating to the filling of a vacancy for the role of mayor. I know that there are some changes being made in relation to councillors as well. I want to focus on the pivotal role that mayors


have in setting the direction of councils. The vacancy provisions put forward in the amendments—one of the 229 amendments given to us on Tuesday night and to be debated the day after—provide for the runner-up in a mayoral election to be appointed to the role of mayor within the first year of a local government term if required.

I believe this is an outrage for democracy. We have at least four prominent mayors in this state who were elected with a very large share of the vote. I am not making any comment on that. For example, in Toowoomba we have Mayor Antonio, who got 72 per cent of the vote. In Bundaberg we have Jack Dempsey—great man—who got 64 per cent of the vote. In Rockhampton we have Margaret Strehlow, who got 69 per cent of the vote. In Townsville we have Jenny Hill, who got 50 per cent of the vote—an absolute majority. Heaven forbid anything happened to these mayors in the first year of a term because, as I understand it under this bill, the runner-up would be appointed to that role.

In Toowoomba, someone who got 19 per cent of the vote would become mayor. In Bundaberg, someone who got 32 per cent of the vote would become mayor. Hopefully I am wrong, but I do not think I am. I think I have read the bill correctly. That is ridiculous. In Rockhampton, someone who got 30 per cent of the vote would become mayor. In Townsville, the next best was 27 per cent but 61-38 on a two-party preferred basis.

How is that reflective of the will of those council areas? That is outrageous. The present provisions say that there should be a by-election for mayor whenever there is a vacancy. I think that reflects better the importance of mayors in local communities. If that is the correct interpretation, I seriously suggest that the government think again. Heaven forbid something happened to those mayors, but I think communities would be absolutely outraged if somebody who got 19 per cent of the vote, for example, became mayor. That is what is proposed in this bill.

As I have said, none of these provisions have been through the committee process. I am sure if they had been issues like this would have been raised. This government rides roughshod over democracy. It is rigging the rules for state elections to suit itself. I do not know whether there is some sort of underlying agenda in terms of the vacancy provisions for local government, but they do not look right. They are anti-democratic. I think they further nobble and hem in local government, which this state government treats more and more as an arm of the state bureaucracy.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.17 pm): This is a *deja vu* moment. In 2011, when the Bligh government was heading to electoral defeat, it introduced the electoral law amendments that included expenditure caps and administrative expenditure caps and provisions around how elections were to be conducted. We went to the 2012 election with that. I recall that it was at the same time that we debated the laws that required Gordon Nuttall appear at the bar of the parliament—another integrity scandal of a Labor government in Queensland.

We are now a few months out from an election, and we are debating legislation that was introduced last year. As is now customary for the Palaszczuk Labor government, we had lobbed on us a day ago 100 pages of amendments containing 229 amendments to the bill. I thought Minister Grace had the record the day before with 51 pages of amendments to her piece of legislation, which, incidentally, should have been a new bill in itself.

Mr Nicholls: Or the term before with the racing bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Clayfield—the term before that with 200 to 300 pages of amendments to the racing bill. She will say that she was not the minister who introduced the bill, but she was the minister who had to fix it with the amendments.

We are now debating 100 pages of amendments to this bill. The bill was important in and of itself before the 100 pages of amendments. Again, I submit to the House that these types of bills require lengthy debate and consideration. It is not acceptable when 100 pages of amendments are dropped into the chamber and then it is expected that a proper debate will ensue over the next 24 to 48 hours. This bill goes to the heart of our electoral system. Not only that; there are integrity and accountability provisions in this bill which I note not many Labor Party members are speaking about. When they do, they very much brush over the reasons and the motivation behind the legislation. I will in my contribution talk about the motivation and the reasons behind said legislation.

I just wanted to say at the start that it is very much *deja vu* when it comes to the electoral law amendments. We have been here before—when the Labor Party has tried to corrupt the electoral system to benefit its own electoral success. We saw it with compulsory preferential voting. That bill was introduced without notice and without amendments—17 minutes in the chamber. Then it was voted on and we had a state election with compulsory preferential voting.

We then had the system whereby they banned developers from donating. The CCC never recommended the ban of developer donations to the state electoral system, but the government went ahead and did that. The LNP said at the time, 'If you're going to ban the developers, why don't you ban the unions? Why are you specifically choosing one group of people just because of their occupation or what they choose to do in life?' The problem with the Labor Party is that they put all of the developers into the 'big, bad' category.

The CCC provided no evidence, and could provide no evidence, of any official corruption or dodgy deals with state parliamentarians or developers, but the Labor Party then legislated against developers donating. I recall that we moved an amendment at the time to include unions, just like we did in 2011. We moved an amendment to include unions in their bill. Of course, the Labor Party rejected those amendments, as they rejected the amendments to the electoral laws that the honourable shadow minister moved some time ago.

We have this situation of the Labor Party continually rigging the electoral system to suit themselves. We now have only nine sitting days left of this parliament until the election at which these laws will be the laws of the land dealing with the election. I note that the government have helped the unions just that little bit extra now so they can all have their signage back. Remember when the Attorney-General introduced the law to ban signage? That was about making sure that everyone had clear space to get into the polling booth. There were to be no influential posters or signs. Of course, the unions—the paymasters of the Labor Party—have had their way. Their big signs are back.

The former speaker, the member for Scenic Rim, just set out how the unions can now have their four to six signs per polling booth. There are 26 affiliated unions with the Australian Labor Party in Queensland. Therefore, there are going to be a lot of signs back out the front of the polling booths. That defeats the whole purpose. The Attorney stood on high moral ground about wanting these elections to be free of influence from third parties. We are back to the bad old days with the unions. All of that will be back at the 31 October election.

I heard a couple of other members speak about the LNP amendments that we made in relation to having people present an ID when they vote. Statistically, after the Electoral Commission conducted a review into people being required to present their ID, guess what? There were no issues. People brought their ID to vote. God help us if we want to live in a society where you have to prove who you are to go and vote! Who could forget the Shepherdson inquiry and the electoral fraudsters like Mike Kaiser? The Labor Party do not want people to have to present their ID to vote. That is how the Labor Party do it.

I will talk to the other elements of the bill which are very important—and that is the accountability and integrity elements of the bill—and get to the heart of the motivation and reasons behind it based on the CCC investigation and the CCC's numerous recommendations with respect to conflict of interest and the pecuniary interest criminal charges that they recommended. We know that the government have not gone as far as the Crime and Corruption Commission have advised. I do recall the Attorney-General being on TV when the media gallery in Queensland asked, 'Are you going to fully implement the CCC recommendations?' and the Attorney-General with a straight face looked down the barrel of the camera and said yes. Attorney, this is not what the CCC recommended. If they did what the CCC recommended, I suspect they would know that a few of their ministers might be in trouble and could end up behind bars. They did not go as far as the CCC recommended. What we are debating today is not what the CCC recommended, despite what the Attorney-General would have us believe.

With respect to the integrity provisions in this bill, there would not be an integrity bill that we have debated in this House that would not have had the genesis being the member for South Brisbane or the motivation behind it being the member for South Brisbane. I listened to the contribution of the member for South Brisbane today when she went into quite some detail about her house purchase and what conversations took place. A *Courier-Mail* article has now been published where the former deputy premier, the member for South Brisbane, has given an exclusive interview to be aired tonight at 7 pm on Sky News. There are more questions raised in this and in her contribution today than have been answered.

I recall the member for South Brisbane saying that she was looking forward to her day where she could fill the void. There have been plenty of opportunities for the member for South Brisbane to fill the void, but I can tell this House that there is still a big void. The member for South Brisbane, as reported in the *Courier-Mail* today, has exclusively told Sky News that she did have discussions with her husband about the house purchase in Woolloongabba. The member for South Brisbane is on record in this House saying that it was all by text message. There are so many more questions that have to be answered here. I do not think we have fully got into all the details.

It is people like the member for South Brisbane who give all parliamentarians a bad name and a bad rap in our communities. When our communities see the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the arrogance of certain members, it does put us all in a bad light. Do you know what the public think? The public see that sort of behaviour and they think we all do it. Well, we do not. By and large, the majority of members of parliament are good, honest, decent people. We fight every day for our constituents. It makes me mad and upset when I continually see the integrity scandals that we are dragged into by the member for South Brisbane. It brings us all down, unfortunately and unfairly. The member for South Brisbane throughout this whole process had this arrogant and born-to-rule mentality—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, I have given you a little bit of latitude. I will read exactly what the Speaker's determination was at the beginning of this week. It said—

... debate must be reasonable and reference to the reasons for the legislation moderate in language and temperament.

I believe, member for Kawana, you are treading a very thin line there. I suggest that you temper your comments in your remaining 40 seconds.

Mr BLEIJIE: There is another matter that is currently the subject of a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation. I suspect that there will be recommendations coming out of that. It involves the Inner City South State Secondary College. There are serious questions to be answered there.

The CCC made various recommendations. I know that we have to legislate based on this. The government have had to change the Ministerial Handbook because of the likes of Minister Bailey and the mangocube email. We are continually having to fix issues of accountability and integrity because of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It comes back to a lack of leadership by the Premier. That is it in a nutshell.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak briefly to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. This government is committed—and I am personally committed—to the cleanest, fairest electoral system possible in Queensland. Our commitment is not a recent thing and it is not a small thing. The LNP's resistance to it is not a recent thing or a small thing either.

Having seen how developers corrupt and distort elections in New South Wales, the Bligh Labor government made the decision in 2011 to block developer donations on the basis of external parties exerting inappropriate influence on government decision-making. The LNP repealed that legislation. When Labor was re-elected in 2015, under the leadership of our Premier we demonstrated a strong ongoing commitment to keeping our democracy clean in a number of ways but including by reinstating bans on developer donations. The LNP complained again and took the legislation to court, but the High Court upheld the Palaszczuk government's legislation—and let us not even talk about the waste of taxpayers' money to go through this process.

Since then we know that the Crime and Corruption Commission has made recommendations arising from its consideration of allegations relating to the former deputy premier. The Palaszczuk government has said it would accept all recommendations. This is what this bill is about today.

I was not at all surprised to hear that the LNP is opposing this bill. The Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill is about ensuring our elections cannot be bought and sold. We are levelling the playing field; we are keeping it fair. One of the lessons from increasingly ugly elections and electoral politics overseas is that all too often the biggest campaign budget is what wins elections, not necessarily the best ideas, the best vision or the most honest team. We do not want to—and we cannot—import that into Queensland. Elections should be a contest of ideas and ideals, and the community must have faith that it is so.

The need for big-dollar fundraising makes it too easy for political parties and candidates to listen more closely to the voices of big donors, and the result is policies that reflect the needs of big donors and not the community. This infection is growing and spreading through every democracy without spending caps. We owe it to our constituents to make sure the Queensland electoral system is not one of them. We want to ensure that government policy still reflects the needs and interests of the community, including the Queensland business community, but not just the big donors. Without public funding parties and candidates will still have to chase the big dollars. Without donation caps parties and candidates can still chase the big dollar. Without expenditure caps parties and candidates will still have


an incentive to chase and spend the big dollars. Without bringing third parties into the regime, parties and candidates can set up their own organisations or access the resources of existing organisations that have an incentive to get those other bodies to spend money they are not allowed to.

This legislation addresses all of the pressure points at which big dollars can corrupt our precious democracy. Our democracy just cannot be taken for granted. With these bills we are doing our bit to keep Queensland's democracy strong and healthy and not in the hands of big dollars.

There has been much discussion today about the high standards to which ministers will be held after this bill is passed. This comes on top of the code of conduct to which the Premier referred earlier. I am very pleased to publicly commit to those standards. We were talking about the local government bill, and I again want to congratulate all of the mayors to whom I had the great pleasure of writing after their election in March. I was very pleased to receive replies from many of them, committing to supporting any vulnerable people in their communities. I want to especially acknowledge Mayor Keri Tamwoy, who is the new mayor of Aurukun. I am very proud to be the ministerial champion of that community.

I also note the changes to what will be happening on election day. I recall the member for Jordan talking about how much she really enjoys election day—I actually love it—but I recognise this will encourage people to participate in democracy probably in a more enthusiastic manner because it has become increasingly confronting for them.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Attorney-General. This is an enormous body of work that has required so much consideration and discussion. She has done an absolutely tremendous job. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.32 pm): As I understand it, the bill has two main objectives. One concerns securing the actual and perceived integrity of the political process by reducing the ability of people to donate to political parties and the third parties involved; the second is levelling the playing field in terms of campaigning material such as corflutes, signage and the technicalities associated with those sorts of things.

Someone in my position always thinks, 'What is the government trying to achieve here?' There is form on both sides of the House for trying to reduce the influence of minor parties. I have been here about eight years now and I have consistently seen a lot of evidence to support that. One of the first was when the laws were changed to amend the definition of minor parties so that now you need to get 10 per cent. I will just give you a little window on what that means to someone who does not align themselves with the values of the Liberal Party or the Labor Party.

Regardless of your value set, if you want to start a new political party you have to beat 100 years of branding—50 or 60 years of branding with the Liberal Party. I acknowledge that is a benefit those parties enjoy from putting in the hard work over the years, but just put yourself in my shoes. If you feel there are interests that need to be represented, you have to go out in competition against them from scratch, which is an enormous undertaking. To do that constrained by a \$4,000 donation limit is just nonsense. That would make it nigh on impossible. I can say that with great deal of authority, having started a party and having eight years experience in this place. I acknowledge there is a greater return on the vote, but if you are going to try to get through the selection then you are going to try to raise that money. That is very hard to do.

If it is someone like sporting shooters, who feel they are not represented properly in the political spectrum, here is a party that aligns with their values. How it works for us is not 'we do it for you because we give you money'. We say what we are doing, and if you choose to do that then that is good. I do not think any of the voters out there in voter land have a problem with that. That is not anything underhanded. That is just saying, 'You represent our rights so we will support you.' There is nothing underhanded about that.

I do not buy for a second that there is not some way here that Labor is able to gain some advantage from the masses of finances that are there or have been built up over the years and that there is not some strategy to still have large campaigns that are effective against any competition. There are some very sophisticated ways of doing that. I am sure that in government you do not give up opportunities to control or influence those outcomes. I do not believe for a second that this is about equity in the political process. I think it is quite the opposite. I saw that when they changed the definition of minor party status.


It is quite conspicuous that, after the parties decided there should be opposition resources, we are still waiting for an amendment. Quite frankly, this bill should have contained amendments to the QIRT legislation so that minor party or crossbench resources could be looked at in this place. The chain is being dragged in relation to that and it should have been attached to this legislation. If this was all about fairness and trying to level the playing field, that would have been in here. That point itself is evidence enough.

The point to be debated here is that two major parties dominate this parliament. I think both parties have strong points to make and a right to be here, but so do others. It is very difficult to break into that market and it is getting harder and harder. I have seen an escalation of the constraints on anyone else trying to break into the market. I would challenge people and ask whether debates here are debates. How many times have we seen people cross the floor because they have listened to a debate, someone has changed their view on something and they have said, 'Despite being part of this party for a number of years, for once I am going to vote for the other side because that aligns with the interests of my electorate'?

We have inherited a two-party system that is clunky. It is not working for voters. It is very important to make this parliament accessible. Whether it is good for the KAP or not, the parliament should be accessible to people so they can come in here and provide diversity in debates—some real competition and make it a real debate—not just a litany of speeches endorsed by either side. Then maybe we could get some good longevity on these outcomes so they are not revolving door issues each time we change governments.

The irony is that one of the main characteristics of major parties over the last 20 years has been their strong adherence to strong competition and free markets, but to me this regulates competition out of this market of parliament. It is making it harder. I can again speak with great authority because I am a minor party that is trying to break in. We are experiencing this exact process. We are doing the spreadsheets now on what we can get out of this election and what we need to raise to get through. I can assure you that this bill is designed to make things hard for people like us.

Those are the main points I would like to make. I will again say that I am enormously frustrated about the resources we do not seem to get in this place. You can set our office up in a tent in the gardens but we will still turn up here to challenge the parliament, regardless of whether we get our resources this parliament or not. Even if we do not get them the next parliament, the irony again is that adversity breeds determination. The harder you make it for us with legislation like this, the harder we are going to come back.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. From the outset, let me say that I will be opposing this bill. I am not opposing this bill due to some misguided belief that local government in Queensland is perfect. I am opposing this bill because, despite what the minister may say, this bill is about Labor attempting to save themselves. Indeed, this bill is about silencing Labor's critics and empowering their supporters. This bill is about Labor flexing their muscle against the democratic rights of every Queenslanders.

Let me be very clear that this bill is about ensuring that Labor ministers who are caught with their hand in the lolly jar, so to speak, are given a talking to instead of a prison sentence. It is that last point that concerns Queenslanders the most, and that is understandable, but that is merely one of the concerns I have with this bill and merely one reason I am opposing it.

From reading through this bill and the committee report, one thing becomes very clear. This bill is about stacking the deck in favour of the current government. There is a very simple comparison that illustrates that stacking perfectly. This bill includes an increase in funding of \$23 million toward election entitlements. It would be quite fair to ask if that is the best way to spend that money given the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic but let me move on.

Let me use this example. That amount of \$23 million is the state government's contribution toward a road project just north of Mackay that will improve flood immunity on a five-kilometre stretch of highway. In comparison, this bill provides Labor's union backers with permission to spend more on election campaigning than the current government added to the Works for Queensland program recently. In effect, those opposite are saying that their re-election is more important than helping Queensland recover from a pandemic. Those opposite are saying that their re-election is more important than, to paraphrase the Premier, 'water infrastructure, playgrounds, swimming pools, community centres and libraries'.

Whilst the LGAQ had to fight tooth and nail, with the support of the LNP, for their \$200 million that will benefit all Queenslanders, Labor and their mates were to get over \$200 million to keep those opposite in a job. With the amendments, the Labor campaign is effectively uncapped. If that is not a damning endorsement of this government's attitude towards democracy, I do not know what is.

It is not the only damning endorsement because this government now wants to control how many posters their opponents can put up. This is like something out of North Korea. I hope Queenslanders are taking notice, because it is clearly apparent that this government will do whatever it takes to retain office in this state. First, we saw the change to compulsory preferential voting with 18 minutes notice, and now we see the Attorney-General table 229 amendments with no notice which clearly demonstrates they are making policy—or in this case legislation—on the run, and that can never result in a good outcome.

It is this government that silences interest groups and not-for-profit groups, it is this government that imposes a limit on what a voter can spend supporting their political beliefs, and it is this government that shortens the period for candidates to nominate and brings forward the date for voters to register. Talk about attacking democracy!

Let me go back to the lolly jar analogy. Even though they failed to act, those opposite knew very well that one of their own was indeed caught with their hand in the lolly jar. So what do they do? They introduce legislation that, according to the chair of the CCC, 'provides a lesser penalty'. Everyone has heard about the member whose hand was caught in the lolly jar, and that is probably one very good reason to give their mates a blank cheque to spend on advertising, but it goes further. As a former police officer, I am very familiar with the Criminal Code and obviously so are some of those opposite. Section 92A of the Criminal Code refers to 'Misconduct in relation to public office' and states—

A public officer who, with intent ... to dishonestly cause a detriment to another person—

(a) deals with information gained because of office ...

is guilty of a crime.

The maximum penalty for that is seven years imprisonment.

Let me put that in layman's terms. If you use information you obtained as a public officer to create a sacrificial lamb in an attempt to cover your own failings, you can face up to seven years in jail. Where have we heard that scenario recently? But there is no need to panic when those opposite have the reins because, under their version of integrity, the maximum penalty will be two years imprisonment—and that is of course only if you can prove it was intentional. This government talk a big game on integrity but, as we have seen in their actions and as we see in this bill, it is all talk and their intent is to actually water it down.

This bill is an attack on democracy. It is an attack on integrity. It is legislation that is more akin to Stalin's Russia than it is to democratic Queensland, and it is a deliberate attempt to protect those opposite from the judgement of Queenslanders. Labor are rigging the election system by silencing corporations and giving more voice to their trade union mates. Laws that promote union influence in elections but arbitrarily limit donations from individuals and corporations are completely unfair and stack the deck in favour of those opposite.

I have no doubt that this bill will seriously undermine public confidence in the electoral system. Is it any wonder that Queenslanders are increasingly becoming disillusioned with the electoral system in this state and the constantly moving goal posts around electoral changes being made by this Labor government? I want to go to the CCC report, and I will read the conclusion section because it is important. The CCC stated—

In addition to creating a corruption risk, failing to properly declare and manage a conflict of interest undermines perceptions of the integrity of processes, and creates a lack of confidence in processes and the outcomes they lead to.


The very legitimacy of projects can be undermined. It continues—

Properly dealing with conflicts of interest is integral to the effective and efficient functioning of the public sector.

The Queensland community expects all people involved in public sector administration to adhere to the highest standards of integrity in dealing with conflicts of interest.

Moreover, the community expect the highest standards of ethical leadership—both political and within public sector agencies.

This is bad legislation. It is as simple as that. It is purely aimed at preserving a bad government and I implore all members to vote against it.


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill and the amendments before the House. In speaking more broadly to the clauses relating to chapter 2, I wholeheartedly support the proposal for funding and expenditure caps. I had never really been involved in politics for most of my adult life. The first election campaign I ever really became involved in was my own and it certainly was a bit of an eye-opener. On reflection, I can understand why the majority of Queenslanders out there consider politics to be in a completely different world. My campaign was funded by trivia nights and raffles, and I would have been lucky enough to scratch up to anywhere close to a five-figure sum in what I raised. It certainly is a matter of money. It is the involvement of money, particularly the involvement of big money, in politics that ensures that we in this House continue to court the disdain and distrust of the general community.

When the Attorney-General announced the intention to limit spending as well as donation caps, I happened to be with my Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee colleagues in Melbourne attending an Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference, which was quite fortuitous. During a panel session facilitated by the Grattan Institute, the issue of money in politics was the focus. I asked the panel about the new proposals that had been raised in Queensland. The general feeling in the room and on the panel was that this was certainly a way forward, even if it was just initial steps. Obviously, for the hard core in the room, being an anti-corruption conference, it did not go far enough. These are indeed the first steps to removing the perceptions that many people have relating to donations and influence.

Just to speak generally, the idea that one has to be able to raise a significant sum of money to participate in the political process, to actually have a voice in this House, is a fundamentally flawed one. I understand that those opposite see these limits proposed as the death of democracy but I see it as the growth. To be able to step foot in this House, it should be about the battle of ideas and ideology and not the dollars. It should be about what someone stands for and not how many pieces of glossy mail can be stuffed in one letterbox. Anyone should be able to have a go at stepping foot in this place, but the truth is many know that they do not have the money that it takes to even get a foot in the door. This is the people's house and, minor caveats aside, there should be few impediments to any person out there putting their name on the ballot and having a genuine crack at winning a seat. Money or lack of it should not be an impediment.

The other aspect of the bill that I wish to speak to is the signage limitation. I can advise the House that this is probably the part of the bill that my constituents are most looking forward to—certainly my school principals are. Over the past 24 hours I took a quick poll of the support for limitation on signage at polling places. Of the 260 people who voted, 93 per cent were in favour of the signage limitations. I would not mind having 93 per cent support in any poll that I ran in.

I understand that there has been much discussion in this House around the reasoning behind the bill. I am looking to the future in terms of where this bill will take us and how our elections are contested. I have asked a lot of the people in my electorate and they certainly do not think this bill goes far enough in terms of the signage limitation. They would like to see absolutely no signage, they would like to see no roadside stalls and they would like to see nothing in their letterbox. Looking at what we have before us in the House, I think we are quite a few steps away from that. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.51 pm): The Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 is indeed a very important bill, and I am pleased to make my contribution to the debate. As eloquently stated by the shadow Attorney-General, we oppose Labor's bill apart from the local government changes, which are an improvement on the current integrity framework and stem from the CCC's Operation Belcarra report. The Palaszczuk Labor government will stop at nothing to try to rig the electoral system to maximise their own interests even if democracy is unaccounted for. So much for the committee system!

Yesterday I listened to the member for Miller try to lecture us during his contribution. It was hypocrisy at its best. Honourable members should remember that this is the genius who was caught up in the mangocube private email imbroglio. In relation to the very essence of integrity, and the long title of the bill, Mr MacSporran went on to state that Mr Bailey was incredibly lucky not to be facing criminal charges and urged MPs to avoid using private email accounts because they created the perception of corruption.

Moving amendments to this extent, 100 pages long and with little notice—292 amendments came through at about 10 past 10 the night before last—is simply wrong and is indeed a complete affront to good lawmaking. This is history repeating itself. In fact, this government has a long history of trashing

our democracy. I was in the chamber in April 2016—and this has been noted by other members on this side of the chamber—when the LNP introduced the Electoral (Improving Representation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to increase the size of the Legislative Assembly from 89 to 93 seats. During the consideration in detail on that bill Labor moved an amendment to abandon OPV and reintroduce CPV. As we all know, that time frame is meshed in our minds: 18 minutes of notice and absolutely no consultation.

I note that the amendments also give the Electoral Commission of Queensland, the ECQ, the power to conduct electronic voting. If the March local government and state by-elections are anything to go by, Queensland's online vote count publication will be another embarrassing failure. I have proudly been involved in every local, state and federal election since late 1989. When I tuned in that night—it is quite ironic; I have the new member for Currumbin here—for obvious reasons it was unlike any other. It was also a spectacular failure when it came to the very hallmark of democracy. Simply put, people could not follow anything online. We were frantically making phone calls and texting each other to try to find out what was going on. The ECQ had better have it together in time for 31 October.

I turn now to the objectives of the bill. The bill encompasses various reforms including changes to electoral campaigning, funding and expenditure for state elections as well as new integrity measures to apply to state and local government. However, specifically the bill achieves its objectives by introducing caps on political donations and electoral expenditure by registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties. I note that there are new offences that relate to the display of unpermitted signage during an election period. There are also new offences that apply to 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, and where a minister intentionally fails to update their statement of interest.

In relation to chapter 2, the political donations caps and the electoral expenditure, I note the bill imposes caps on donations that donors may make and defined recipients—political parties and their associated entities—may receive. The 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. Other amendments in chapter 2 relate to signage. As has been enunciated on this side of the chamber over the last day and a half, the bill imposes restrictions on signage in the lead-up to and on an election day.

In relation to the integrity offences, the Integrity Act 2009 is amended to create a criminal offence where a minister knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit for themselves. I note that the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 is to be amended to create a new offence where a minister intentionally fails to comply with the obligations of members of parliament to register their interest with the Clerk of the Parliament with dishonest intent to obtain a benefit for themselves or another person or to cause detriment to another. For both offences a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, or 200 penalty units, applies. A minister convicted of either offence and sentenced to more than one year imprisonment may lose their seat. Interestingly, these new offences fail to adopt the CCC's recommendations by requiring proof that the minister had a dishonest intent.

With respect to the integrity measures, the CCC were very critical of the integrity offences proposed by Labor because they do not meet the recommendations they made back in September of 2019 following the assessment of the former deputy premier and member for South Brisbane. The CCC does not support the bill's proposal to limit prosecutions for noncompliance with disclosure obligations to only matters for which a dishonest intention is able to be proved. The CCC recommends that the requirement for proof of dishonest intent be removed. In fact, in their submission, the CCC said the proposed new section 40A does not achieve the purpose of the CCC's recommendation 3 to create a criminal offence.

Furthermore, the CCC slammed Labor's laws because they do not go far enough to encourage transparency and reduce corruption risk. In fact, the chair of the CCC, Mr Alan MacSporran when interviewed said—

It duplicates them and provides a lesser penalty, so it lowers the bar rather than raises it in one sense.


The CCC submission also said that Labor's 'Trad' laws introduce lesser offences than what is already provided under existing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order. Pause the clock for a moment please. Member for Chatsworth, you will refer to the bill by its correct title.

Mr MINNIKIN: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. The CCC went on to state that the elements of the proposed offence overlap entirely with more serious offences already in existence under section 92A of the Criminal Code, Misconduct in relation to public office and section 408C, Fraud. Both of these offences involve acts or omissions done dishonestly with intent to gain a benefit or cause a detriment. The new offence as proposed would essentially require proof of the same elements but with a substantially lower penalty.

In relation to the local government provisions, the bill implements further reforms to improve transparency, integrity and consistency in local government decision-making and local government elections. This follows feedback on the Palaszczuk Labor government changes in 2018. Therefore, the government are trying to address problems of their own making.

We on this side have made it pretty clear that we will be opposing the bill but not those provisions as they pertain to the local government section. It has been talked about ad nauseam in relation to this trying to give the ALP an undue advantage when it comes to 31 October. I distinctly recall back in 2012 when members of the ALP absolutely just chose to simply lay down. The unions were simply nowhere to be seen on that March day in 2012 and we saw what then happened when it came to the rank and file, as the ALP describes its membership base. They simply were nowhere to be seen. They need these provisions. Unlike many union representatives who work on election campaigns, whose time and services are paid for, everyday Queenslanders who are members of the LNP willingly give up their time for free. We can never put a price on the human condition when it comes to overcoming the political odds through fierce determination. They turn up, they set up and they might get a bread roll, water or drink, but they do it because they are absolutely driven by their intent. They are not paid. Unlike those opposite, they will never succumb to those pressures.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. This bill is an unconcealed manipulation of the electoral laws by the Labor government to hang on to power. Claims that these changes are in the interests of transparency and accountability are dishonest. The reality is that they are cynically designed to favour the Labor Party and to rig the election. The policy objectives are to make significant amendments relating to election campaigning issues of funding, expenditure and signage and dishonest conduct of ministers and councillors. Campaigning expenditure caps will apply to political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties.

The legislation is motivated by political goals and raises serious legacy issues. Taxpayers will have to make up funds for political parties. The fundraising burden will shift from the party to the public purse. The advantage will go to political entities that do not rely on donations over those that rely on donations. It will generate a rise in third-party campaigning. The Australian Institute of Progress's submission said that the bill 'massively slants financial advantage to the ALP' and 'it arbitrarily limits individual and corporate giving to a ludicrously small amount'. The funding caps are designed to skew the system in favour of the Labor Party. Donations from an individual or organisation cannot exceed \$10,000 in each parliamentary term, with a \$6,000 limit to party candidates, \$4,000 for political parties and \$4,000 or to a maximum of six third parties over four years. Donations include designing, producing, printing, broadcasting or publishing an advertisement or other election material—for example TV ads—direct distribution costs for an advertisement and conducting opinion polls or research.

The maximum amount that can be spent is \$58,000 by the endorsed candidate, \$87,000 by an independent candidate, \$92,000 by a party with an endorsed candidate in any single electorate and \$87,000 by a third party in any single electorate with no more than \$1 million in aggregate. The government will compensate political parties with increases in public funding, otherwise known as taxpayers' money. We cannot even have a budget this year, but the government thinks it is fine to dip its sticky fingers into the pockets of Queensland taxpayers. It shows a breathtaking contempt for the financial burden Queenslanders are carrying. A *Courier-Mail* editorial said—

... the lesser known part of these laws will radically alter Queensland's electoral landscape and voters deserve to know about it because it will hit every single one of them in the hip pocket. A compensation for expenditure and donation caps which will supposedly clean up politics, the Palaszczuk government has proposed a very generous new regime of public funding.

Public funding will almost double from \$3.14 to \$6 for formal first preference votes. The eligibility threshold for political parties and candidates will decrease from six per cent to four per cent. These changes to rig an election will cost an additional \$23 million. In effect, the government believes that there is one electorate—not one frontline service that could better use that \$23 million. It is \$23 million which will not be spent on health, transport, police, law and order, small businesses, ambos, fireys or education.

Political parties which rely on donations for the majority of their funds are more closely connected to their communities and supporters. The AIP said—

The public funding will ensure that candidates in both safe and unwinnable seats will essentially have their campaigns funded for them, whether the public think they are worth supporting financially or not.

This is bad for political parties and also for the taxpayer forced to subsidise not only successful politicians but unsuccessful ones as well. It also gives the existing political parties a free ride. These changes will institutionalise our democracy and promote increased campaigning by third parties. Third parties, other organisations, activists, NGOs, protesters and unions will fight proxy wars on behalf of their political party sponsors. It creates a gross imbalance in favour of those parties that have strong ties to the trade unions.

The expenditure cap of \$87,000 which is applied to trade unions means that our state's 26 trade unions can spend \$87,000 in each electorate, up to \$1 million in total across the state. Simple mathematics tells you that they can manipulate saturation expenditure across electorates throughout the state. The cost will be a lack of transparency and the Americanisation of our elections. Cash contributions are only part of the equation. The AIP submission said—

... we can't quantify the totality of the union contribution to Labor ... there is abundant anecdotal evidence of unionists being paid and bussed around to operate in various key electorates during election campaigns, as well as warehousing candidates so they can campaign for the next election on a salary, and generally running "independent", but aligned public relations and issues campaigns beneficial to the Labor Party.


These same unions hold immense sway over this government—over decisions, over appointments, over preselections and over the agenda. The member for South Brisbane is no longer deputy premier only because the unions said so. The Premier did nothing until the unions said so. That is why we have integrity measures. The bill proposes a new criminal offence when a minister knowingly fails to disclose a conflict of interest, and a new offence to fail to comply with the register of interest obligations with the intent to dishonestly gain a benefit or cause detriment to another person. Both offences have a minimum two years imprisonment or 200 penalty units. A minister convicted of either offence and sentenced to more than one year imprisonment may lose their seat.

The second most senior person in this government purchased a property and failed to make appropriate declarations in a timely manner. Those actions go to the heart of the culture of this government. It is unethical, it manipulates and it is driven by factional machinations. It treats the public with contempt, is arrogant and incompetent. The CCC's assessment is that, while the then deputy premier did not break the law, what she did should be a criminal offence. This bill does not meet the Premier's assurance that she would accept the CCC's recommendations following its assessment of the then deputy premier. The new offences fail to adopt the CCC's recommendations by requiring proof that the minister had a dishonest intent. The elements of this proposed offence overlap entirely with the existing and more serious offences of the Criminal Code of misconduct in public office and fraud but with a substantially lower penalty.

The CCC was very critical of those proposed integrity offences. The Premier boasted to parliament that the government accepted the CCC's recommendations, only to have them rejected. The CCC chairperson, Alan MacSporran, said that the laws duplicate and provide a lesser penalty, so it lowers the bar rather than raises it in one sense. The CCC said the laws introduce lesser offences than what is already provided under existing legislation, thus watering down penalties. The government's rhetoric does not match its behaviour. A *Courier-Mail* editorial said—

... between the inextricable removal of Queensland's "Just Vote 1" laws that banned developer donations, the Palaszczuk government already has an established track record of reforms that favour itself ... the government (needs) to properly explain to Queenslanders why they must pay a hefty price so politicians aren't unduly influenced by donors after endless assurances that such prejudice doesn't exist? After five years in power, it is difficult to accept that the second term Labor administration is suddenly motivated by munificence to clean up politics.

Labor has governed for 26 of the last 31 years. This government has been in power for half a decade—five years which have provided a litany of examples about the culture and standards in William Street. The government applies a different set of rules regarding property purchases, the appropriateness of phone calls to investigating bodies and those at the inner sanctums of power who have enough time to have a sideline business which secured state funds. This bill mocks government claims about accountability and transparency.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.10 pm): I rise to support the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. It is pretty apparent that there is a declining level of trust that members of the public have for political institutions, and that is a great

shame. It is a shame because the work that we do as legislators has the ability to make a profound impact on the lives of people whom we represent and it is critical and incumbent on all of us that in return for that responsibility we can provide trust—trust that we will not abandon our principles and our community in exchange for money from big donors.

I am disappointed to hear that I may be the only Gold Coast member of parliament voting for greater transparency and accountability, but I am not particularly surprised because the member for Bonney learnt his politics from working for people like Stuart Robert, the man behind the Fadden Forum controversy, and it was the Newman government that raised the threshold for the reporting of political donations to \$12,400 so that big donors were effectively kept secret from the community. It was our government that restored this threshold to \$1,000. We brought in real-time—

Mr Molhoek interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you were not in a chair. You will need to be in your chair if you make comments. Next time you will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: We brought in real-time political donations and banned property developer donations, both voted against by the LNP. Today we are adding to those measures by enhancing integrity and public accountability for elections. The proposed election funding and disclosure regime in this bill is intended to ensure that no single person or entity is able to improperly influence those involved in electoral campaigning for state elections by putting in place caps on political donations and on the electoral expenditure by registered political parties and their associated entities, candidates and third parties that campaign.

I think most people in our community are tolerant of the contest of ideas that happen during elections and in fact appreciative that we live in a country where everyone can participate in debate. What I do not think that people are appreciative of is that the voice of an aged-care worker, early childhood educator, cleaner, paramedic—the list goes on—can be drowned out by the likes of multimillionaires. I was interested to hear the member for Mermaid Beach yesterday claim that these changes allegedly increase power for Labor candidates, because this bill creates a level playing field. At the end of the day the member for Mermaid Beach has the same expenditure cap as any other Labor candidate running against him. If his admission is that the LNP needs more money to compensate for bad policy, then I suggest it goes back to the drawing board.

This bill also limits a candidate or registered political party to no more than two signs up to a specific size within 100 metres of a polling centre entry, meaning that there will not be a huge number of signs and bunting covering our schools that only go into the bin the next day—something that many people in my community supported when I broached this on Facebook in September last year. This bill also 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 detriment to others.

It also amends the City of Brisbane Act and Local Government Act to introduce new offences that apply if a councillor dishonestly contravenes certain obligations in relation to conflicts of interest or a register of interests. These are all measures the LNP will be opposing if it does not support this bill. It is big on lecturing others but light on taking responsibility when it comes to actually supporting reform that strengthens accountability and integrity in this space. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. This bill has an interesting long title because it talks about accountability and integrity. The reason for this bill is that we have not seen much of that from the executive of this government. We have seen failure after failure of integrity and we have seen failure after failure of leadership in dealing with those breaches of integrity by the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk. I am interested to understand why we would have to legislate these things if people acted with integrity. The reason we are here is that quite clearly the executive of the Labor government has no integrity. If it had any integrity, then we would not need this legislation.

I want to start by talking about one little issue with regard to the local government amendments, and I want to use an analogy. Imagine if what is being done to our mayors was done in this House for state members. There would be a situation where in the Premier's seat she might get a vote of, let us say, 72.9 per cent—somewhat similar to what the mayor of Toowoomba received—and the person coming second received 19 per cent. Imagine what members in this House would say if something happened to the Premier and she was unable to fulfil her duties in this chamber so it automatically fell to her opponent who received 19 per cent.

What would members in this chamber say about what just happened to democracy? They would say it is absolutely outrageous. They would suggest that it was a complete perversion of the people's vote to appoint that person instead of the mayor who received 72.9 per cent. That is exactly what this bill does, and it is a complete and utter shame. It is an absolute shame that that could exist, that we would even contemplate it. Imagine the outrage of the people of Toowoomba if the person for whom almost nobody voted for—less than one in five—became the mayor by default. That would be terrible.

Let me move on to what really is at the heart of this bill, and it relates to the conducting of elections in our state. Why do we conduct elections in our state? We conduct elections because the people's voice should be heard and the representatives they select should be their voice in this chamber, answerable to them. That is what I am. I am a strong local voice for my community in Toowoomba and that is what I bring into this chamber. Instead of putting that power in the local member's hands, this bill with sleight of hand and with trickery and with deceit puts it in the hands of the unions.

At the election I will be allowed six signs at a polling booth. My opponent will be allowed six signs. The unions will be allowed 104. That is 104 to six. First of all, that is not fewer signs. Second of all, I think the people of Queensland will look at that and say, 'Do you know what? That doesn't seem fair. Why would someone do that?' Let me tell members why someone would do that. People do that because this House is no longer about the people; it is about power. It is about the power of the elite of the Labor Party and they will do anything to preserve that power, including corrupting our democratic processes in Queensland. They absolutely crave the power. They do not serve the people. They are not interested in the people. If they were interested in the people, they would not bring in over 200 amendments into this place without even asking the people. Would they do that? If you really respected the people, would you not come into this place and say, 'Do you know what? We think there's a problem with some of the Electoral Act. What we're going to do is we're going to propose some changes. I know. Let's put it through a committee structure. Why don't we call for witnesses and experts in our community to look at this bill?'

The bill that the committee looked at does not actually reflect anything that is in this bill in relation to the Electoral Act. The 120-something amendments across 100 pages were dropped in very late. We know that the guillotine will drop and the idea of being able to study them carefully and debate them as they are put into the different clauses to make sure these are amendments that will serve the people of Queensland well—that is the job of this place—is completely gone because the elite want the power. They do not want to talk to the people. They do not want to ask the people. What they want to do is tell the people what they are going to do and how they are going to influence their vote without them even realising it has happened. It is a complete disgrace.

I am positive that the people of Queensland will be very interested to know that the unions can outspend a local candidate by over 26 to 1. Twenty-six unions can come into an electorate and they can spend over \$80,000 each and the local person, the local lady, the local guy, will be allowed to defend themselves or to try to grab a little bit of opportunity to represent their community with just some \$50,000. Does anybody think that is democratic? Is there anybody in here who genuinely thinks that having 26 organisations that are completely aligned, that form part of one larger organisation, that spend all of their funding on one side of politics, that own and control most of the members in this place, that gave them jobs when they lost their seats, looked after them and protected them, is there anybody who thinks that these amendments will not restrict the unfettered power and control of the union movement interfering in the executive and interfering in the management of Queensland? I see a lot of heads go down because they know the truth of it. The simple truth is that without the union backing they would not even be able to get into this place.

Mr Bailey interjected.


Mr WATTS: I hear the minister over there, the foolish minister as described by the CCC, squawking away—Minister Bailey. He is busy telling me about accountability. Let me tell him, when I make a mistake I am accountable for it. You need to look in the mirror, Minister, and see if you can say the same.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!


Mr WATTS: Through the chair, Mr Deputy Speaker, I apologise. The minister is busy squawking away with his interjections about accountability and yet we have seen none. We all know the debacle that was mangocube. We all know who his puppetmasters are. We all know who pulls the strings of the executive of the Labor government. It is painfully obvious from the private emails who pulls the strings. This bill should be about the people. It should be about policy. It should be about making sure the

people have confidence in the institution that is the parliament of Queensland. It should be about what the long title says—accountability and integrity—but it is not. It is a cover-up to defend the elite so that they can abuse the power and they can reward their union masters. That is what this bill is about. It is about rushed amendments. It is about deceit and sleight of hand. It is about protecting mates and making sure that there will be plenty of opportunities for them after the Labor Party win an election. That is what this is about.

Democracy in Queensland has died with this bill. Integrity in Queensland has died with this bill. The Labor Party should be ashamed of bringing this bill into the House. I thought better of the Attorney-General who complained about the plethora of signs that were allowed and now lets the union put 100 up against my six and tells me that that is a level playing field. It is far from it!

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate in relation to the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, a bill that is the latest inadequate response to the rampant failures of integrity and leadership so evident under this Labor government, failures of integrity and leadership so rampant under the previous Labor controlled Ipswich City Council and, indeed, failures of integrity and leadership so rampant, as we have seen in the last couple of days, in the Victorian Labor Party. It is endemic. There seems to be a common theme through those three examples. This bill exists for one reason. It exists because the Premier is incapable of exercising leadership and enforcing standards. For more than 100 years premiers from across the political spectrum have enforced ministerial accountability.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time limit for this stage of the bill has expired. I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.25 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. However, I have found the contributions of those opposite extremely disappointing. The rhetoric that we have heard and the lack of understanding of this bill—

Mr Mickelberg: We might have had a better understanding if we could have read the amendments.

Mrs D'ATH: I am talking about the bill itself. Some needed to even read the bill because some of the statements that have been made in this debate are completely wrong and show that those opposite have not even read the bill let alone any amendments. I will get to the amendments, do not worry about that. The willingness to completely disregard the views of other stakeholders—not the government, not political parties, not unions, but other stakeholders such as the Centre for Public Integrity, the Human Rights Law Centre—is appalling; to completely ignore their views, to ignore all the evidence, all the academic reports, all the research that has been done over many, many years after every single election saying the way to bring in integrity and take big money out of politics and the influence of money is expenditure caps, donation caps and increased public funding. That is the reality. Those opposite can stick their heads in the sand as much as they want, but that is the reality. There is so much evidence to support that and to deny that is denying the people—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: If Queenslanders want to get an insight into the pathology of those opposite, observing this debate would be quite enlightening for them I am quite sure. What I found most revealing was the absolute incapacity of those opposite to perceive these reforms through anything other than the prism of self-interest. Those opposite cannot conceive of a situation where a government would introduce electoral reforms because of their objective benefit to the community. They have no interest in levelling the electoral playing field or stopping the expenditure arms race or taking the stench of big donor dollars out of politics. Those opposite did not engage in any discussion on how these reforms would impact on our communities. They did not really want to discuss how it impacted the political culture. All they wanted to talk about was themselves—that is the difference. The Palaszczuk government is focused on providing for Queenslanders, the LNP just want to talk about themselves.

When those opposite were not focused on themselves, unfortunately they were keen to spend a fair bit of time talking about me. In particular, they wanted to know what exactly it was that I had been doing for the last four months, why they have only just seen the amendments. What could possibly

have been happening over the last four months? Let us have a think. They cannot be serious. A number of people on that side said, 'They've had four months! What have they been doing? Why are we only seeing the amendments now?'

Those on the other side must be suffering from memory loss. We know that they have completely blanked out the cutting, sacking and selling by the Newman government, but February 2020 was not that long ago. Let us be clear: on 7 February the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee tabled its report on this bill and on 29 January the Palaszczuk government declared that there was a public health emergency due to COVID-19. When those opposite ask what it is that we have been doing, the answer is pretty simple: we have been putting our shoulder to the wheel and dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been dealing with COVID-19 and keeping Queenslanders safe.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, two minutes ago I said that you were warned under the standing orders. You are now to leave the chamber for one hour. You will not be able to return during divisions.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 5.30 pm.

Mrs D'ATH: We were mapping out the economic strategy to ensure Queenslanders could unite and recover. We were making sure that we could hold local government elections with zero COVID-19 cases connected to them. That is what we have been doing. Importantly, the stakeholders we need to engage with, who raised issues in the parliamentary committee process, were also busy dealing with COVID-19. After working through all of those issues, we were able to look closely at this bill and consult with the stakeholders who have raised fundamental issues. We hear rhetoric about the parliamentary committee process. On the one hand I was told that the parliamentary committee is a rubber stamp and then we were asked why we are introducing all of the amendments. We have introduced the amendments because issues were raised in a committee process.

Referring again to the memories of those on the opposite side, it is very convenient that they forget what they did in government. They forget what the Manager of Opposition Business did. He brought in 108 pages of amendments to the Directors' Liability Reform Amendment Bill and there were 17 urgency motions to declare bills urgent. When they were in government, they moved 17 such motions. What did those bills go to? The Criminal Code, the Parliament of Queensland Act, changes to the industrial relations framework—I can tell the member for Kawana that we all remember that one—and changes to the Crime and Misconduct Commission Act were all substantive matters that were rushed through the House.

Members on the other side love to refer to the changes on optional preferential voting, but even the change to compulsory preferential voting stemmed from a bill, as an urgency bill, that sought to increase the number of electorates and, consequently, the number of elected members in this parliament. Those opposite introduced that as an urgency bill and it did not go to any committee. Apparently, that is not important. That is the problem that confronts the opposition.

This government and I are very proud of these reforms. These reforms are nation leading. I hope that other jurisdictions and the Commonwealth—although I have zero faith—will look to introduce them. The only way that we will ever get these sorts of transparent and strong electoral laws at a Commonwealth level is with a Labor government. That is the only way that we will see these laws introduced at a federal level. These laws will provide balance. Lastly, I refer to the carry-on about the multiplication of the number of unions versus the number of seats, how much would be spent and how many signs could go on a fence. I will explain it really slowly for all of you opposite: it is a cap. It brings things down.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Through the chair, Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: It is a maximum that can be used. There is no cap now. I do not think they get it. There is no cap. They can put up as many signs as they want. They can spend as much money as they want now. The rhetoric is that they are going to spend millions of dollars in single seats and that we will see \$2 million spent in every electorate. There is absolutely no evidence that they can rely on to support their rhetoric in the debate on this bill.

I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which from day one has been reforming our electoral laws to bring transparency and integrity. This is another significant step forward. I commend the bill to the House.

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1—

Division: Question put—That clause 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I note that the Attorney-General’s amendment No. 1 proposes to amend clause 2 and relates to proposed new provisions contained in later amendments. Therefore, clause 2 needs to be postponed.

Division: Question put—That clause 2 be postponed.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 2 postponed.

Clause 3—

Division: Question put—That clause 3, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mrs D'ATH (5.47 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 17, line 11, after '*financial year*,'—

insert—

associated entity,

3 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 17, after line 17—
insert—

associated entity—

- (a) of a registered political party—see section 204(2) and (3); or
- (b) of a candidate in an election—see section 204A(2), (3) and (4).

4 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 17, after line 19—
insert—

bank statement, for part 11, see section 197.

campaign purpose, for incurring electoral expenditure, for part 11, see section 199A.

5 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 18, line 3, 'participant'—
omit, insert—

registered political party or candidate

6 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 18, line 5, 'an election participant'—
omit, insert—

a registered political party or candidate in an election

7 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 18, after line 7—
insert—

election material, for part 11, see section 197.

8 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 18, lines 20 and 21—
omit, insert—

participant, in an election—

- (a) for part 11, generally—see section 197A; or
- (b) for part 11, division 12A—see section 305.

9 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 18, after line 25—
insert—

prescribed matter, for part 11, division 12A, see section 305AA.

10 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 19, line 12, 'person's'—
omit, insert—

individual's

11 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 19, line 15, 'person's'—
omit, insert—

individual's

12 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 2 (Definitions))

Page 19, after line 24—
insert—

- (5A) Section 2, definition *third party*, ', for part 11,'—
omit.

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

Tabled paper: Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[966\]](#).

Tabled paper: Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[967\]](#).

I simply outline to members that amendments Nos 2 to 12 provided for various amendments to definitions in section 2 of the Electoral Act, including new terms introduced by other amendments and ensuring that definitions relevant to the donation caps no longer extend to third parties.

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 2B, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules, any postponed clauses and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note the Attorney-General’s amendments Nos 153 and 162 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.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That the minister’s amendments Nos 1 and 13 to 228, as circulated, be agreed to.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 16, lines 8 to 22—

omit, insert—

- (1) Chapter 2 commences as follows—
 - (a) part 1A commences on assent;
 - (b) section 22, to the extent it inserts new part 11, division 5, commences on 1 January 2022;
 - (c) the following provisions commence on 1 July 2022—
 - (i) sections 19, 20 and 21;
 - (ii) section 22, to the extent it is not in force under paragraph (b);
 - (d) the remaining provisions of chapter 2, and schedule 1, commence on 1 August 2020, immediately after the commencement of the provisions of the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019* that, under section 2 of that Act, commence on 1 August 2020.
- (2) Chapter 3 commences as follows—
 - (a) sections 57 and 58A commence on assent;
 - (b) the remaining provisions of chapter 3 commence on 1 August 2020.
- (3) Chapter 4 commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.
- (4) Chapter 5 commences as follows—
 - (a) the following provisions commence on assent—
 - (i) section 74;
 - (ii) section 77;
 - (iii) section 94;
 - (iv) sections 97 to 99;
 - (v) section 102;
 - (vi) section 103A;
 - (vii) section 105;
 - (viii) section 113B;
 - (ix) section 120;
 - (x) section 121A;
 - (xi) part 3;
 - (b) the remaining provisions of chapter 5 commence on 12 October 2020.

13 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 21, line 17, after '*financial year*,'—

insert—

associated entity,

14 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 21, after line 26—

insert—

associated entity—

- (a) of a registered political party—see section 204(2) and (3); or
- (b) of a candidate in an election—see section 204A(2), (3) and (4).

bank statement, for an account with a financial institution—

- (a) means a written record issued by the financial institution of all of the transactions carried out in relation to the account during a stated period; and
- (b) includes a written record of the transactions printed from an online banking facility provided by the financial institution.

campaign purpose, for incurring electoral expenditure, see section 199A.

15 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 21, line 31, 'participant'—

omit, insert—

registered political party or candidate

16 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 22, line 2, 'an election participant'—

omit, insert—

a registered political party or candidate in an election

17 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 22, after line 4—

insert—

election material means material produced as a result of incurring electoral expenditure, including, for example, an advertisement.

18 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 22, lines 22 to 25—

omit, insert—

participant, in an election—

- (a) generally—see section 197A; or
- (b) for division 12A—see section 305.

19 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 197 (Definitions))

Page 22, after line 29—

insert—

prescribed matter, for division 12A, see section 305AA.

20 Clause 8 (Insertion of new s 197A)

Page 24, line 23, 'delivered'—

omit, insert—

supplied

21 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 24, line 28, 's 199'—

omit, insert—

ss 199 and 199A

22 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 24, line 32 to page 25, line 30—

omit, insert—

- (1) **Electoral expenditure** means expenditure of a kind mentioned in subsection (2) incurred for a campaign purpose.
- (2) For subsection (1), the kind of expenditure is—
 - (a) expenditure for designing, producing, printing, broadcasting or publishing material for an election, including, for example—
 - (i) an advertisement for broadcast on radio or television, at a cinema, or using the internet, email or SMS; and
 - (ii) material for publication in newspapers or magazines, on billboards, or as brochures, flyers, signs, how-to-vote cards or information sheets; and
 - (iii) material for distribution in letters; or
 - (b) expenditure for the cost of distributing material for an election, including, for example, the cost of postage, sending SMS messages or couriers; or
 - (c) expenditure for carrying out an opinion poll or research; or
 - (d) expenditure for contracted services related to an activity mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), including, for example, fees for consultants or the provision of data; or
 - (e) expenditure of another kind prescribed by regulation to be a kind of electoral expenditure.

23 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 25, lines 32 and 33, 'advertisement or other election'—
omit.

24 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 26, lines 18 to 23—
omit, insert—

- (c) expenditure incurred employing staff for a campaign purpose; or
- (d) expenditure of a kind prescribed by regulation not to be a kind of electoral expenditure.
- (5) Expenditure incurred by a third party is **electoral expenditure** if the dominant purpose for which the expenditure is incurred is a campaign purpose.
- (6) However, expenditure incurred by a third party is not **electoral expenditure** if the dominant purpose for which the expenditure is incurred is another purpose, even if the expenditure is also incurred for, or achieves, a campaign purpose.

Example of other purposes for incurring expenditure—

to educate or raise awareness about an issue of public policy

25 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 26, line 24, '(6)'—
omit, insert—

(7)

26 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 26, line 28, '(7)'—
omit, insert—

(8)

27 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 27, line 7—
omit.

28 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 199)

Page 27, after line 7—
insert—

199A Meaning of campaign purpose

- (1) Expenditure is incurred for a **campaign purpose** if the expenditure is incurred to—
 - (a) promote or oppose a political party in relation to an election; or
 - (b) promote or oppose the election of a candidate; or
 - (c) otherwise influence voting at an election.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), expenditure is incurred for a purpose mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) if material produced as a result of the expenditure does any of the following in relation to an election—
 - (a) expressly promotes or opposes—
 - (i) political parties or candidates who advocate, or do not advocate, a particular policy or issue; or
 - (ii) political parties or candidates who have, or do not have, a particular position on a policy or issue; or
 - (iii) candidates who express a particular opinion;
 - (b) expressly or impliedly comments—
 - (i) about a political party, elected member or candidate in the election; or
 - (ii) in relation to an electoral district;
 - (c) expresses a particular position on a policy, issue or opinion—
 - (i) if the position is publicly associated with a political party or candidate; and
 - (ii) whether or not, in expressing the position, the party or candidate is mentioned.

29 Clause 11 (Insertion of new ss 200A and 200B)

Page 28, lines 17 to 31—
omit, insert—

- (b) any of the following applies—
 - (i) the expenditure is incurred with the participant's authority or consent;
 - (ii) the participant accepts election material resulting from the expenditure;
 - (iii) another circumstance prescribed by regulation happens in relation to the expenditure; and

- (c) the person does not, within 7 days after the circumstances mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) happen—
 - (i) receive consideration, or adequate consideration, from the participant incurring the expenditure; or
 - (ii) invoice the participant for payment of the amount.

30 Clause 11 (Insertion of new ss 200A and 200B)

Page 29, after line 7—

insert—

- (3) A gift of electoral expenditure is made when subsection (1) applies to the expenditure, regardless of when the expenditure is incurred.

Notes—

- 1 See section 280A in relation to a participant in an election being taken to have incurred electoral expenditure gifted to the election participant.
- 2 See also section 281A in relation to electoral expenditure incurred by a participant in an election that benefits another election participant.

31 Clause 12 (Replacement of s 201 (Meaning of gift))

Page 30, lines 23 and 24—

omit, insert—

- (d) an amount transferred to an individual from funds the individual holds jointly with the individual's spouse; or
- (e) the provision of voluntary labour; or
- (f) the incidental or ancillary use of—

32 Clause 12 (Replacement of s 201 (Meaning of gift))

Page 31, lines 21 to 25—

omit, insert—

- (a) for a loan made on terms requiring the payment of interest at less than the official cash rate plus 3% a year—the loan had been made on terms requiring the payment of interest at least at the official cash rate plus 3% a year; or
- (b) for a loan for which interest payable is waived—the interest payable had not been waived; or
- (c) for a loan for which interest payments are not capitalised—the interest payments were capitalised.

33 Clause 13 (Insertion of new ss 201B and 201C)

Page 32, lines 7 to 10—

omit, insert—

- (b) if a regulation prescribes principles for deciding the value of the property—the value decided in accordance with the principles.

34 Clause 13 (Insertion of new ss 201B and 201C)

Page 32, lines 17 to 20—

omit, insert—

- (b) if a regulation prescribes principles for deciding the amount that would reasonably be charged for the service—the amount decided in accordance with the principles.

35 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 204)

Page 34, line 25, 's 204'—

*omit, insert—***ss 204 and 204A****36 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 204)**

Page 35, lines 1 to 13—

*omit, insert—***204 Associated entity to be treated as part of registered political party**

- (1) If a registered political party has an associated entity, divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9 apply as if—
 - (a) the party and the associated entity together constituted the party; and
 - (b) a reference to the party included a reference to the associated entity; and
 - (c) a gift or loan made to or for the benefit of, or received by, the associated entity were a gift or loan made to or for the benefit of, or received by, the party; and
 - (d) the State campaign account of the party were the State campaign account of the associated entity; and
 - (e) electoral expenditure incurred by or for the associated entity were incurred by or for the party.

- (2) An entity is an **associated entity** of a registered political party if the entity—
- (a) is controlled by the party or a group of endorsed candidates of the party; or
 - (b) operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of the party or a group of endorsed candidates of the party; or
 - (c) operates for the dominant purpose of—
 - (i) promoting the party in elections; or
 - (ii) promoting a group of endorsed candidates of the party in an election.
- (3) However, an **associated entity** of a registered political party does not include—
- (a) a candidate endorsed by the party for an election; or
 - (b) another political party that is a related political party of the party; or
 - (c) if the party is part of another entity—a federal or interstate branch or division of the other entity.
- (4) In this section—
- group of endorsed candidates**, of a registered political party, means 2 or more candidates endorsed by the party for an election.

204A Associated entity to be treated as part of candidate in election

- (1) If a candidate in an election has an associated entity, divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9 apply as if—
- (a) the associated entity and the candidate together constituted the candidate; and
 - (b) a reference to the candidate included a reference to the associated entity; and
 - (c) a gift or loan made to or for the benefit of, or received by, the associated entity were a gift or loan made to or for the benefit of, or received by, the candidate; and
 - (d) the State campaign account of the candidate were the State campaign account of the associated entity; and
 - (e) electoral expenditure incurred by or for the associated entity were incurred by or for the candidate.
- (2) An entity is an **associated entity** of a candidate in an election if the entity—
- (a) is controlled by the candidate in relation to the election; or
 - (b) operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of the candidate in relation to the election; or
 - (c) operates for the dominant purpose of promoting the candidate in the election.
- (3) However, an **associated entity** of a candidate in an election does not include an entity if—
- (a) the entity is an associated entity of a registered political party under section 204 because it—
 - (i) is controlled by a group of endorsed candidates of the party; or
 - (ii) operates wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of a group of endorsed candidates of the party; or
 - (iii) operates for the dominant purpose of promoting a group of endorsed candidates of the party; and
 - (b) the candidate is 1 of the candidates in the group of endorsed candidates of the party.
- (4) Also, an **associated entity** of a candidate does not include an electoral committee mentioned in section 203.
- (5) In this section—
- group of endorsed candidates**, of a registered political party, see section 204(4).

37 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))

Page 40, lines 4 and 5, 'as the person's agent'—
omit, insert—

the person's appointment as agent

38 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))

Page 40, line 14, after 'has resigned'—
insert—

the person's appointment

39 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))

Page 42, line 9—
omit, insert—

- (1) The agent of a participant in an election must take all reasonable steps to ensure the participant keeps a separate

- 40 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, lines 2 to 5—
omit, insert—
- (1) A person must not pay an amount into the State campaign account of a registered political party or candidate if the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, the amount is not an amount that may be paid into the account under subsection (2).
Maximum penalty—200 penalty units.
- (2) An amount may be paid into the State campaign account of a registered political party or candidate if the amount is—
- 41 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, line 7, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate
- 42 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, lines 8 and 9, 'the participant'—
omit, insert—
, or for the benefit of, the party or candidate
- 43 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, lines 16 to 18—
omit, insert—
- (d) for the State campaign account of a candidate—an amount contributed by the candidate from the candidate's own funds or funds held jointly with the candidate's spouse (other than an amount given to the spouse by a prohibited donor); or
- 44 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, line 19, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate
- 45 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, line 24, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate
- 46 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 43, line 30, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate
- 47 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 44, lines 4 and 5—
omit, insert—
- (i) for the State campaign account of a registered political party—
- 48 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 44, line 21, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate
- 49 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 44, line 26 to page 45, line 1—
omit, insert—
- (3) A person does not commit an offence against subsection (1) if the person or another
- 50 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 45, after line 9—
insert—
prohibited donor see section 273(1).
- 51 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 47, lines 17 and 18, 'an election participant'—
omit, insert—
a registered political party or candidate in an election

- 52 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 47, lines 21 and 22, 'election participant's State campaign account'—
omit, insert—
State campaign account of the party or candidate
- 53 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 48, lines 5 to 7—
omit, insert—
benefit of, a registered political party or candidate in an election.
(2) The party or candidate, or a person acting with the authority of the party or candidate, must ensure a record
- 54 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 48, line 28, 'an election participant'—
omit, insert—
a registered political party or candidate in an election
- 55 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 49, lines 3 and 4, 'election participant's State campaign account'—
omit, insert—
State campaign account of the party or candidate
- 56 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 50, line 1, 'happen'—
omit, insert—
happens
- 57 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 50, lines 6 to 9—
omit, insert—
(ii) incurs electoral expenditure for an election to the extent it becomes a third party that is required, under section 297, to be registered for the election.
- 58 Clause 17 (Replacement of pt 11, div 2 (Agents))**
Page 50, line 14, 'became'—
omit, insert—
becomes
- 59 Clause 18 (Amendment of s 222 (Interpretation))**
Page 51, lines 1 to 4—
omit, insert—
(1) For this division, electoral expenditure is taken to have been incurred for an election—
(a) if the expenditure is incurred for a campaign purpose that relates to the election; and
(b) whether or not the expenditure is incurred during the capped expenditure period for the election.
- 60 Clause 21 (Amendment of s 225 (Election funding amount))**
Page 51, lines 18 and 19, '1 July 2020'—
omit, insert—
1 July 2022
- 61 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 54, lines 18 to 29—
omit, insert—
(a) the total number of formal first preference votes given in the most recent general election to each candidate who—
(i) was endorsed for the election by the political party; and
(ii) polled at least 4% of the total number of formal first preference votes given in the candidate's electoral district;
divided by—
(b) the total number of relevant first preference votes at that general election.
- 62 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 55, lines 5 and 6—
omit, insert—
(b) the total number of relevant first preference votes at that general election.

- 63 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 55, lines 14 and 15, 'in the election'—
omit, insert—
given in the candidate's electoral district
- 64 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 55, after line 18—
insert—
(4) A vote is **given in a candidate's electoral district** if the vote is given to—
(a) the candidate; or
(b) another candidate for election in the same electoral district in which the candidate is a candidate for election.
- 65 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 56, line 25, 'which'—
omit, insert—
whom
- 66 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 57, lines 1 and 2—
omit, insert—
(3) However, if a general election is held during a 6-month period and the writ for the election is not returned by the end of the period, the
- 67 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 59, line 13, after 'election'—
insert—
(the **current election**)
- 68 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 59, line 22, after 'for the'—
insert—
current
- 69 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 59, line 24 to page 60, line 5—
omit, insert—
(2) The **donation cap period** for a registered political party is each period that—
(a) starts 30 days after the polling day for a general election; and
(b) ends 30 days after the polling day for the next general election.
- 70 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 60, line 6 to page 61, line 12—
omit.
- 71 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 61, line 16 to page 62, line 4—
omit, insert—
(1) A gift or loan is a **political donation** if the gift or loan is—
(a) made to, or for the benefit of, a registered political party or candidate in an election; and
(b) accompanied by a donor statement.
- 72 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 62, line 6, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
registered political party or candidate
- 73 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 62, line 13, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
registered political party or candidate
- 74 **Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 62, line 15, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
party or candidate

- 75 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 62, line 29 to page 63, line 6—
omit, insert—
- (d) state that the gift or loan is made with the intention that it is used for an electoral purpose; and
- 76 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 63, line 23 to page 64, line 3—
omit, insert—
- 252 Amount of *donation cap***
- (1) The *donation cap* for a registered political party is \$4,000.
(2) The *donation cap* for a candidate in an election is \$6,000.
(3) However, if the amount of a donation cap for a registered political party or candidate in an election has been adjusted under section 253, the *donation cap* for a registered political party or candidate is the amount most recently published as the donation cap by the commission under section 253(3).
- 77 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 64, lines 5 and 6, 'an election participant'—
omit, insert—
- a registered political party or candidate in an election
- 78 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 64, line 28, 'an election participant'—
omit, insert—
- a registered political party or candidate in an election
- 79 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 66, line 23 to page 67, line 9—
omit.
- 80 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 67, line 10, ', 255 and 256'—
omit, insert—
- and 255**
- 81 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 67, line 12, ', 255 or 256'—
omit, insert—
- or 255
- 82 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 67, line 23, ', 255 and 256'—
omit, insert—
- and 255
- 83 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 68, lines 1 to 24—
omit, insert—
- 258 Requirement to notify donor about offence to exceed political donation cap**
- (1) This section applies if a person (the *donor*) makes a political donation to, or for the benefit of—
- (a) a registered political party; or
(b) a candidate in an election; or
(c) an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in an election.
- (2) The party, candidate or associated entity, or a person acting with the authority of the party, candidate or associated entity, must, within 14 days after receiving the donation, give the donor a receipt that—
- (a) states the names of the party, candidate or associated entity, and the donor; and
(b) acknowledges the receipt of the donation from the donor; and
(c) includes a statement, in the approved form, that summarises the circumstances in which it is an offence, under sections 254 and 255, for a person to make a political donation to, or for the benefit of—
- (i) a registered political party; or
(ii) a candidate in an election; and

- (d) for a receipt for a political donation made to, or for the benefit of, an associated entity—
- (i) states the name of the registered political party or candidate of which it is an associated entity; and
 - (ii) includes a statement, in the approved form, that summarises the effect of sections 204 and 204A in relation to the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (c).
- Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (3) A person does not commit an offence against subsection (2) if the person has a reasonable excuse.
- (4) This section applies despite sections 204 and 204A.
- 84 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 68, lines 25 and 26, 'election participants'—
omit, insert—
registered political parties or candidates
- 85 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 68, line 29, 'participant'—
omit, insert—
registered political party or candidate
- 86 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 68, line 31 to page 69, line 11—
omit, insert—
- (2) The registered political party or candidate, or a person acting with the authority of the party or candidate, must not accept the political donation if—
 - (a) the amount or value of the donation, by itself, exceeds the donation cap of the party or candidate; or
 - (b) both of the following apply—
 - (i) the amount or value of the donation exceeds the donation cap of the party or candidate when added to the other political donations made by the same donor to, or for the benefit of, the party or candidate during the donation cap period;
- 87 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 69, line 29, 'exceeded'—
omit, insert—
exceeds
- 88 Clause 22 (Replacement of pt 11, div 5 (Policy development payments))**
Page 70, lines 6 to 8—
omit, insert—
- (c) otherwise—the recipient.
- 89 After clause 24**
Page 71, after line 25—
insert—
24A Amendment of s 261 (Disclosure by candidates of gifts)
Section 261(1)—
insert—
Notes—
- 1 Section 204A does not apply to an associated entity of a candidate in an election for this division.
 - 2 See section 294 for the requirement for a return about a gift received by an associated entity of a candidate to be given to the commission.
- 90 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 262 (Loans to candidates))**
Page 71, after line 29—
insert—
- (1A) Section 262(1)—
insert—
Notes—
- 1 Section 204A does not apply to an associated entity of a candidate in an election for this division.
 - 2 See section 294 for the requirement for a return about a loan received by an associated entity of a candidate to be given to the commission.

91 Clause 26 (Amendment of s 263 (Disclosure of gifts by third parties that incur expenditure for political purposes))

Page 72, lines 14 to 16—

omit, insert—

(3) Section 263(2), from ‘period that’—

omit, insert—

period if—

- (a) the value of the gift is equal to or more than the gift threshold amount; and
- (b) the third party uses the gift, or part of the gift with a value equal to or more than the gift threshold amount—
 - (i) to incur expenditure for a political purpose; or
 - (ii) to reimburse the third party for expenditure incurred for a political purpose.

92 Clause 29 (Replacement of pt 11, div 8, sdiv 3 (Loans from entities other than financial institutions))

Page 74, line 28, ‘the election’—

omit, insert—

an election

93 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 77, lines 2 to 24—

*omit, insert—***280 Meaning of capped expenditure period**(1) The **capped expenditure period**, for an election, starts—

- (a) for an ordinary general election—on the first business day after the last Saturday in the preceding March; or
- (b) for an extraordinary general election—
 - (i) if the capped expenditure period for an ordinary general election has started under paragraph (a)—the day that capped expenditure period started; or
 - (ii) otherwise—the day the writ for the election is issued; or
- (c) for a by-election—the day the writ for the election is issued.

(2) The **capped expenditure period**, for an election, ends at 6p.m. on the later of—

- (a) the polling day for the election; or
- (b) if the poll at a polling booth for an election is adjourned under section 99B(3) or 100(1)—the day the adjourned poll is held.

(3) Subsection (2)(b) applies despite section 100(6).

(4) In this section—

preceding March, in relation to an ordinary general election, means the March that occurs in the same calendar year as the normal polling day for the general election.**280A Election participant is taken to have incurred gifted electoral expenditure**

(1) If electoral expenditure incurred by a person is gifted to a participant in an election, the election participant is taken to have incurred the electoral expenditure.

Note—

Section 200B provides for when electoral expenditure incurred by a person is gifted to a participant in an election.

(2) Section 281 applies for determining when gifted electoral expenditure is incurred.

94 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 77, line 28, ‘delivered’—

omit, insert—

supplied

95 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 78, lines 6 and 7, ‘material containing election matter’—

omit, insert—

election material

96 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 78, after line 10—

insert—

(3) Subsection (4) applies if—

- (a) electoral expenditure is incurred to obtain goods; and
- (b) the goods are obtained for the dominant purpose of being used for a campaign purpose in relation to 1 or more elections; and
- (c) the goods are supplied before the capped expenditure period starts.

- (4) Despite subsection (1), the electoral expenditure is taken to have been incurred when the goods are first used for a campaign purpose during a capped expenditure period, regardless of when the amount of the expenditure is invoiced or paid.
- (5) For this section, the electoral expenditure incurred to obtain goods includes electoral expenditure incurred to design, produce, print or distribute the goods.

97 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 83, lines 21 to 26—

omit, insert—

Maximum penalty—1,500 penalty units or 10 years imprisonment.

98 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 83, after line 30—

insert—

- (3) An offence against subsection (1) is a crime.

99 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 84, line 2, '\$1,000'—

*omit, insert—***\$6,000****100 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)**

Page 84, line 10, '\$1,000'—

omit, insert—

\$6,000

101 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 84, line 13, '\$1,000'—

omit, insert—

\$6,000

102 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 84, line 24, '\$1,000'—

omit, insert—

\$6,000

103 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 9)

Page 84, lines 28 and 29, from 'A person' to 'election participant'—

omit, insert—

A participant in an election, or a person acting with the participant's authority, who incurs electoral expenditure

104 Clause 34 (Replacement of s 283 (Returns of electoral expenditure))

Page 88, lines 2 and 3—

omit, insert—

- (c) an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in the election;
- (d) a registered third party for the election;
- (e) another third party if, under section 297, the

105 Clause 34 (Replacement of s 283 (Returns of electoral expenditure))

Page 88, lines 15 to 24—

omit, insert—

- (3) Also, the return must be accompanied by a copy of each bank statement for the election participant's State campaign account—
 - (a) for the period that—
 - (i) starts when the capped expenditure period for the election starts; and
 - (ii) ends on the day before the return is given to commission; and
 - (b) for an earlier period that includes a transaction related to an item of electoral expenditure incurred for the election.
- (4) For subsection (2), a reference to electoral expenditure incurred by or for an electoral participant includes electoral expenditure that is taken to have been incurred by the participant under section 281K or 281L.

106 Clause 34 (Replacement of s 283 (Returns of electoral expenditure))

Page 88, line 25, '(4)'—

omit, insert—

(5)

- 107 Clause 34 (Replacement of s 283 (Returns of electoral expenditure))**
Page 88, line 29, '(5)'—
omit, insert—
(6)
- 108 Clause 34 (Replacement of s 283 (Returns of electoral expenditure))**
Page 88, after line 32—
insert—
(7) For this section—
(a) a reference to a participant in an election includes a reference to an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in the election; and
(b) a reference to the agent of a participant in an election includes a reference to the financial controller of an associated entity of a party or candidate.
- 109 Clause 35 (Amendment of s 284 (Returns by broadcasters))**
Page 89, line 5, 'broadcast'—
omit, insert—
broadcasts
- 110 Clause 35 (Amendment of s 284 (Returns by broadcasters))**
Page 89, lines 11 to 13—
omit, insert—
(b) even if the broadcaster is outside Queensland when the advertisement is broadcast.
- 111 Clause 36 (Amendment of s 285 (Returns by publishers))**
Page 90, line 6, 'published'—
omit, insert—
publishes
- 112 Clause 36 (Amendment of s 285 (Returns by publishers))**
Page 90, lines 12 to 14—
omit, insert—
(b) even if the publisher is outside Queensland when the advertisement is published.
- 113 Clause 38 (Amendment of s 290 (Returns by registered political parties))**
Page 91, after line 13—
insert—
(3A) Section 290(1)—
insert—
Notes—
1 Section 204 does not apply to an associated entity of a registered political party for this division.
2 See section 294 for the requirement for a return about a gift or loan received by an associated entity of a registered political party to be given to the commission.
- 114 Clause 38 (Amendment of s 290 (Returns by registered political parties))**
Page 91, after line 18—
insert—
(5) Section 290—
insert—
(5) A return under subsection (4) must be accompanied by a copy of each bank statement for the registered political party's State campaign account that relates to any part of the reporting period.
- 115 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))**
Page 93, line 6, 'entities'—
omit, insert—
entity of registered political party or candidate
- 116 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))**
Page 93, line 11, after 'associated entity'—
insert—
of a registered political party or candidate in an election
- 117 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))**
Page 93, lines 26 to 28—
omit, insert—
(c) for a return about a loan—state the information required to be kept under section 272(3) about the loan; and

118 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))

Page 93, line 29, after 'day,'—

insert—

or the time,

119 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))

Page 94, line 10, after 'associated entity'—

insert—

of a registered political party or candidate in an election

120 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))

Page 94, line 21, after 'associated entity'—

insert—

of a registered political party or candidate in an election

121 Clause 42 (Replacement of s 294 (Returns by associated entities))

Page 94, line 32, after 'associated entity'—

insert—

of a registered political party or candidate in an election

122 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 95, line 1, 'divs 12 and 12A'—

*omit, insert—***divs 12–12B****123 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)**

Page 95, line 11, '\$1,000'—

omit, insert—

\$6,000

124 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 95, lines 14 and 15, 'omits to do an act required'—

omit, insert—

fails to register for an election

125 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 95, after line 15—

*insert—**Note—*

A third party that is not registered for an election commits an offence if it incurs electoral expenditure of more than \$6,000 during the capped expenditure period for the election. See section 281H.

126 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 99, line 16 to page 101, line 20—

*omit, insert—***305 Definitions for division**

participant, in an election, includes an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in an election.

prescribed matter, in relation to a participant in an election, see section 305AA.

305AA Meaning of prescribed matter

- (1) Each of the following is a **prescribed matter** in relation to a participant in an election, other than a third party—
- (a) a political donation made to, or for the benefit of, the participant;
 - (b) a gift or loan that is not a political donation made to, or for the benefit of, the participant;
 - (c) a gift, loan or political donation made by the election participant to another participant in the election;
 - (d) electoral expenditure incurred by the election participant or with the participant's authority;
 - (e) without limiting paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) a return given, or required to be given, by or for the election participant under division 7, 10 or 11 and the matters required to be stated in the return;

- (f) for a registered third party or candidate in the election—
 - (i) a claim made by the party or candidate under division 4 and the matters required to be stated in the claim; or
 - (ii) an amount of policy development funding paid to the party or candidate under division 5; or
 - (iii) an application for reconsideration of a decision made under section 245; or
 - (iv) an amount paid into or from the party's or candidate's State campaign account;
 - (g) another matter prescribed by regulation to be a prescribed matter in relation to the election participant.
- (2) Also, each of the following is a **prescribed matter** in relation to a third party for an election—
- (a) a gift made to, or for the benefit of, the third party about which the third party is required to give the commission a return under section 263;
 - (b) electoral expenditure incurred by the third party, or with the third party's authority, during the capped expenditure period for the election;
 - (c) without limiting paragraph (a) or (b), a return given, or required to be given, by or for the third party under division 7 or 10 and the matters required to be stated in the return;
 - (d) for a registered third party for the election—an amount paid from the third party's State campaign account;
 - (e) another matter prescribed by regulation to be a prescribed matter in relation to a third party for the election.

305AB Records to be kept by election participants

- (1) A participant in an election must make, or ensure a person authorised by the participant makes, a record about each prescribed matter that—
- (a) includes the information necessary to demonstrate, to the greatest extent practicable, the election participant complied with this part in relation to the prescribed matter; and
 - (b) without limiting paragraph (a), includes the information prescribed by regulation to be information to be included in the record; and
 - (c) complies with section 305C.
- Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter whether or not a return about a prescribed matter is required to be given to the commission under this part.

305AC Records to be kept by agents of participants in elections

The agent of a participant in an election must make a record about the agent's compliance with section 306B that—

- (a) includes the information necessary to demonstrate, to the greatest extent practicable, each step taken by the agent to comply with section 306B; and
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), includes the information prescribed by regulation to be information to be included in the record; and
- (c) complies with section 305C.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

127 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 102, line 23, 'or'—

omit, insert—

section

128 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 102, line 28 to page 103, line 20—

omit, insert—

305C Requirements for records

A record under section 305AB or 305AC must—

- (a) be in English; and
- (b) be accurate; and
- (c) be made in—
 - (i) paper or electronic form; or
 - (ii) another form approved by the commission by notice published on the commission's website; and

- (d) be made in a way that allows it to be—
 - (i) conveniently and properly investigated or examined by an authorised officer under this part; and
 - (ii) readily given, under this part, to an auditor appointed to conduct an audit under section 319A.

305D Record must be kept for 5 years

- (1) This section applies to—
 - (a) a person who makes a record that the person is required to make under this division; and
 - (b) for a record made by or for a participant in an election under this division—a person to whom the record is transferred, by or with the authority of the participant, in the ordinary course of the participant's business or administration.
- (2) The person must keep the record, unless the person has a reasonable excuse—
 - (a) for 5 years after the day the record is made; and
 - (b) in a way that allows the record to be—
 - (i) conveniently and properly investigated or examined by an authorised officer under this part; and
 - (ii) readily given, under this part, to an auditor appointed to conduct an audit under section 319A.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

129 Clause 43 (Insertion of new pt 11, divs 12 and 12A)

Page 103, after line 24—

insert—

Division 12B Registers to be kept**305F Register of non-monetary gifts**

- (1) A participant in an election must keep an up-to-date register, that complies with this section, of non-monetary gifts.
Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (2) The register must contain a record about each non-monetary gift made to, or for the benefit of, the election participant that—
 - (a) includes the particulars prescribed by regulation; and
 - (b) for a register kept by an election participant other than a third party—states whether the gift was a political donation made or received in contravention of section 259.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies to a non-monetary gift made to, or for the benefit of, a third party only if the third party is required to give the commission a return about the gift under section 263.
- (4) In this section—
non-monetary gift means a gift of property other than money.
participant, in an election, includes an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in an election.

305G Register of members and affiliates of registered political parties

- (1) A registered political party must keep an up-to-date register, that complies with this section, of subscribed members and affiliates.
Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (2) The register must contain a record that includes the particulars prescribed by regulation about each person who is—
 - (a) a subscribed member of the registered political party; or
 - (b) a current affiliate of the party.
- (3) A person is a **current affiliate** of a registered political party if—
 - (a) the person has paid an amount to the party for a period of affiliation with the party, other than as a subscribed member; and
 - (b) the period of affiliation has not ended.

130 Clause 44 (Insertion of new ss 306A and 306B)

Page 104, line 31, after 'the candidate'—

insert—

or member

131 Clause 44 (Insertion of new ss 306A and 306B)

Page 105, lines 14 to 24—

*omit, insert—***306B Agent's obligation to ensure compliance**

- (1) The agent of a participant in an election must take all reasonable steps to—
- (a) inform the participant, and each person the participant authorises to act for the participant under divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9, about the obligations that apply to the participant and person under divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9; and
 - (b) establish and maintain appropriate systems to support the participant and person to comply with the obligations.
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (2) If a registered political party or candidate in an election has an associated entity, the agent of the party or candidate must take all reasonable steps to—
- (a) inform the associated entity, and each person the associated entity authorises to act for it under divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9, about the obligations that apply to the associated entity and person under divisions 3, 4, 6 and 9; and
 - (b) establish and maintain appropriate systems to support the associated entity and person to comply with the obligations.
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (3) In deciding whether steps taken by the agent of an election participant to do a thing mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) are reasonable, a court must consider—
- (a) for a participant that is a registered political party or third party or an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate—
 - (i) the number of members and employees of the political party, third party or associated entity; and
 - (ii) the number of people authorised to act for the political party, candidate or associated entity; and
 - (b) the amount or value of the political donations received by or for the benefit of the participant and an associated entity of the participant; and
 - (c) the amount of electoral expenditure incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the participant and an associated entity of the participant.
- (4) A reference in subsection (2) or (3) to an associated entity of a candidate in an election includes a reference to an electoral committee mentioned in section 203(1) that is associated with the candidate under that section.

132 Clause 46 (Insertion of new ss 307AA and 307AB)

Page 106, line 10, 'or (2)'—

*omit.***133 Clause 46 (Insertion of new ss 307AA and 307AB)**

Page 106, line 18—

*omit.***134 Clause 46 (Insertion of new ss 307AA and 307AB)**

Page 107, line 10, after 'donation is'—

insert—

made or

135 Clause 46 (Insertion of new ss 307AA and 307AB)

Page 107, line 15, before 'accepting'—

insert—

making or

136 After clause 49

Page 109, after line 22—

*insert—***49A Amendment of s 310 (Audit certificates)**

- (1) Section 310(1)—
- omit, insert—*
- (1) This section applies if a person is required to give the commission—
- (a) a return about electoral expenditure incurred by a registered political party under section 283; or
 - (b) a return about amounts received, paid and outstanding under section 290(4) or 294(4).

- (2) Section 310(2)(a), from 'accounts and documents' to 'directly or indirectly'—
omit, insert—
records related

49B Amendment of s 311 (Auditor to give notice of contravention)

- (1) Section 311(1), 'for this part'—
omit, insert—
mentioned in section 310(2)
- (2) Section 311(1), 'by a registered political party or candidate'—
omit.

137 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 316 (Publishing of returns))

Page 109, lines 24 to 27—

omit, insert—

- (1) Section 316(3)—
insert—
- (c) details of an election participant's State campaign account;
 - (d) information prescribed by regulation as information not to be published.
- (2) Section 316—
insert—
- (5) The commission must not publish a copy, or part of a copy, of a bank statement that accompanied a return mentioned in subsection (1).

138 After clause 50

Page 109, after line 27—

insert—

50A Insertion of new pt 11, div 13A

Part 11—

insert—

Division 13A Audits

319A Commission may appoint auditor

- (1) The commission may, by instrument, appoint an auditor to conduct an audit of a participant in an election under this division.
- (2) An auditor may be appointed to audit any of the following matters—
- (a) a claim for election funding made under division 4 by a participant in an election;
 - (b) a return given to the commission under division 7, 10 or 11 by a participant in an election;
 - (c) the State campaign account of a participant in an election;
 - (d) the compliance of a participant in an election with this part generally.
- (3) The commission may appoint an auditor to conduct an audit whether or not the commission suspects the election participant has contravened a provision of this part.

319B Participant in election must assist appointed auditor

- (1) This section applies if an auditor is appointed under section 319A to conduct an audit of a participant in an election.
- (2) The election participant must give the auditor the assistance the auditor reasonably requires to conduct the audit.
Maximum penalty—200 penalty units.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the election participant must give the auditor—
- (a) full and free access, at all reasonable times, to all accounts, records and documents reasonably required by the auditor that—
 - (i) are owned by, or in the custody or under the control of, the election participant; and
 - (ii) relate, directly or indirectly, to a matter being audited; and
 - (b) other information, or an explanation, the auditor reasonably requires about a matter being audited.

- (4) For subsection (3), a matter being audited includes—
- (a) for an audit about a claim for election funding under division 4—a matter required to be stated in the claim; or
 - (b) for an audit about a return given under division 7, 10 or 11—a matter required to be stated in the return; or
 - (c) for an audit of a State campaign account—a transaction on the State campaign account carried out, or required to be carried out, under this part.
- (5) In this section—
reasonably requires means requires on grounds that are reasonable in the circumstances.

319C Audit report

- (1) An auditor who conducts an audit of a participant in an election under this division must prepare a report about the audit.
- (2) The report—
- (a) must state whether, in the appointed auditor's opinion—
 - (i) the matters audited were truthful and accurate; and
 - (ii) the election participant has, or may have, contravened a provision of this part; and
 - (b) may suggest ways the practices or systems the election participant uses to manage its financial affairs may be improved to assist the participant's compliance with this part.
- (3) The auditor must give a copy of the report to—
- (a) the commission; and
 - (b) the election participant.

50B Amendment of s 321 (Appointment and qualifications)

Section 321(1)—

insert—

- (ba) other persons who are auditors;

50C Amendment of s 384 (Evidentiary provisions)

- (1) Section 384(2) and (3), 'or an authorised officer'—
omit, insert—
, an authorised officer or an appointed auditor
- (2) Section 384—
insert—
- (5) In this section—
appointed auditor means an auditor appointed under section 319A to conduct an audit of a participant in an election.

139 Clause 51 (Insertion of new s 388A)

Page 110, line 1, 's 388A'—

omit, insert—

ss 388A and 388B

140 Clause 51 (Insertion of new s 388A)

Page 111, after line 16—

insert—

388B Commission must not publish information about political party membership

- (1) The commission must not publish, or otherwise make available for public inspection, information about the membership of a political party.
- (2) For subsection (1), it does not matter how the information came to be in the possession or control of the commission.

141 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 113, lines 9 to 18—

omit, insert—

439 Candidates for 2020 election

An individual who has announced or otherwise indicated the individual's intention to be a candidate in a 2020 election is a candidate even if the announcement or indication occurred before the commencement.

Note—

See schedule 1, amended definition *candidate*, paragraph (b)(ii) or (iii).

142 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 113, line 25—

omit, insert—

after the commencement; or

(c) is a participant in another election (a **pre-July 2022 election**) held—

(i) after the 2020 general election; and

(ii) before 1 July 2022.

143 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 114, line 4, after '2020 election'—

insert—

or pre-July 2022 election

144 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 114, line 6, after '2020 election'—

insert—

or pre-July 2022 election

145 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 114, lines 7 to 26—

*omit, insert—***440A Amounts that may be paid into State campaign accounts**

(1) This section applies in relation to—

(a) an entity that, immediately before the start date, is a registered political party; and

(b) an entity that—

(i) immediately before 1 August 2020, was an associated entity of a registered political party; and

(ii) is, and has continued to be since 1 August 2020, an associated entity of a registered political party.

(2) Despite new section 216, the following amounts may be paid into a State campaign account of the registered political party—

(a) for the party—

(i) money held by the party on the start date; and

(ii) proceeds from the disposal of property, or a return on an investment, held by the party before the start date; and

(iii) if, after the start date, the party used the proceeds or return on investment mentioned in subparagraph (ii) to purchase property or make an investment—proceeds from the disposal of the property or a return on the investment;

(b) for the associated entity of the party—

(i) money held by the associated entity of the party before 1 August 2020; and

(ii) proceeds from the disposal of property, or a return on an investment, held by the associated entity of the party before 1 August 2020; and

(iii) if, after 1 August 2020, the associated entity of the party used the proceeds or return on investment mentioned in subparagraph (ii) to purchase property or make an investment—proceeds from the disposal of the property or a return on the investment.

(3) In this section—

start date means the later of the following days—

(a) 1 July 2022;

(b) if a general election is held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the election.

146 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 114, line 28, '(1)'—

*omit.***147 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)**

Page 115, lines 3 to 13—

*omit.***148 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)**

Page 115, line 15, '2019–2020'—

*omit, insert—***2020–2021**

149 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 115, lines 18 and 19, '2019–2020'—
omit, insert—

2020–2021

150 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 115, line 25, '31 July 2020'—
omit, insert—

31 January 2022

151 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 115, lines 28 and 29, '31 July 2020'—
omit, insert—

31 January 2022

152 Clause 52 (Insertion of new pt 13, div 11)

Page 116, line 4 to page 117, line 7—
omit, insert—

- (4) Despite the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 20, the registered political party is no longer entitled, under previous part 11, division 5, to be paid—
- (a) the instalment of the policy development payment for the 2020–2021 financial year that would have been payable to the party on or before 31 July 2022; or
- (b) a policy development payment for the financial year that starts on 1 July 2021.
- (5) In this section—
2020—2021 financial year means the financial year that starts on 1 July 2020.

443 Commencement of caps on political donations

- (1) Subsection (2) applies for a candidate in—
- (a) the first general election to be held after 1 July 2022; or
- (b) a by-election held after 1 July 2022 and before the general election mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (2) Despite section 247, the donation cap period for the candidate for the election—
- (a) starts on the latest of the following days—
- (i) 1 July 2022;
- (ii) if a general election is held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the general election;
- (iii) if the candidate is a candidate in a by-election held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the by-election; and
- (b) ends 30 days after the polling day for the election.
- (3) Despite section 247, the first donation cap period for a registered political party—
- (a) starts on the later of the following days—
- (i) 1 July 2022;
- (ii) if a general election is held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the general election; and
- (b) ends 30 days after the polling day for the next general election.

444 Electoral expenditure for 2020 election—caps

- (1) Despite new section 280, the capped expenditure period for the 2020 general election starts on 1 August 2020.
- (2) New section 199 applies to expenditure incurred before the commencement as if the expenditure were incurred after the commencement.
- (3) New section 281 applies to electoral expenditure, whether the expenditure was incurred before or after the commencement.
- (4) However, new section 281 does not apply to electoral expenditure incurred to obtain goods that are first used for a campaign purpose during the capped expenditure period for the 2020 general election unless a contract for the supply of the goods was entered into on or after 17 June 2020.
- (5) New section 281A applies to electoral expenditure incurred for a campaign purpose for the 2020 general election, whether or not an event mentioned in new section 281A(3) happened before or after the commencement.

445 Records required to be kept by election participants

- (1) For new part 11, division 12A, until the start date—
- (a) an amount paid into the State campaign account of a registered political party or candidate in an election is taken not to be a prescribed matter for the party or candidate; and
 - (b) a political donation does not include a political donation within the meaning of new section 250.
- (2) In this section—
- start date** means the latest of the following days—
- (a) 1 July 2022;
 - (b) if a general election is held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the election;
 - (c) for a candidate in a by-election held during June 2022—the day that is 30 days after the polling day for the by-election.

445A Register of non-monetary gifts—application of requirement related to political donations

The requirement mentioned in new section 305F(2)(b) does not apply to a registered political party or candidate in an election until the first donation cap period for the party or candidate starts under section 443.

153 After clause 53

Page 117, after line 26—

insert—

Part 1A Amendment of Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019**53A Act amended**

This part amends the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019*.

53B Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

- (1) Section 2, 'This Act'—
- omit, insert—*
- Subject to subsection (2), this Act
- (2) Section 2—
- insert—*
- (2) The provisions of this Act that are not in force commence on 1 August 2020.

154 Chapter 3, heading (Amendments relating to signage at State elections)

Page 119, line 5, 'at'—

omit, insert—

and other matters for

155 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 119, after line 17—

insert—

designated area, for a pre-poll voting office or ordinary polling booth, means the following areas—

- (a) the area within 100m of the building within which the voting compartments for the voting office or polling booth are located;
- (b) if the building is located in grounds—the area within 100m of each designated entrance to the grounds.

156 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 121, line 15 to page 122, line 10—

omit, insert—

185C Meaning of restricted signage area for pre-poll polling booth or ordinary polling booth

- (1) The **restricted signage area** for a pre-poll voting office or ordinary polling booth is—
- (a) the building, or part of the building, in which the voting compartments for the voting office or polling booth are, or are to be, located (the **polling premises**); and
 - (b) the area within 100m of the polling premises; and
 - (c) if the polling premises are located in grounds and the commission has designated entrances to the grounds under section 185D—
 - (i) the area in the grounds; and
 - (ii) the area on a boundary fence or another structure or feature that marks the boundary of the grounds; and
 - (iii) the area within 100m of each designated entrance to the grounds.

- (2) However, the **restricted signage area** for a pre-poll voting office or ordinary polling booth does not include premises in the area mentioned in subsection (1)(b) or (c) that are—
- (a) used as a residence; or
 - (b) used by a candidate in the election or registered political party as an office; or
 - (c) other premises lawfully occupied—
 - (i) by a person other than the commission, a candidate in the election or a registered political party; and
 - (ii) for a purpose that is not related to the polling premises being used for the election.
- (3) If the polling premises are located in grounds, or are part of larger premises, the reference to other premises in subsection (2)(c)—
- (a) includes premises located in the same grounds as the polling premises, or that are part of the same larger premises as the polling premises, that are lawfully occupied—
 - (i) by a person other than the owner of the grounds or larger premises; and
 - (ii) under an arrangement with the owner of the grounds or larger premises; and
 - (b) does not include any part of the same grounds, or same larger premises, that are not occupied in the way mentioned in paragraph (a).

157 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 124, line 10 to page 125, line 19—

omit, insert—

- office or polling booth; or
 - (iii) a third party; and
 - (c) 1 of the maximum number of signs that, under section 185G, may be displayed in each designated area by or for the candidate, political party or third party.
- (3) For subsection (2), a sign displayed by an associated entity of a registered political party or candidate in an election is taken to be displayed for the party or candidate.
- (4) If a member of the commission's staff considers a sign is displayed in contravention of subsection (1), the staff member may remove the sign.

185G Maximum number of signs that may be displayed

- (1) For section 185F(2)(c), the maximum number of election signs that may be displayed by or for a candidate in an election, registered political party or third party is—
- (a) 2 small signs in each designated area at a pre-poll voting office; and
 - (b) in each designated area at an ordinary polling booth—
 - (i) for signs displayed by or for a candidate or political party—6 signs, comprised only of large signs (a maximum of 4) and small signs; or
 - (ii) for signs displayed by or for a third party—4 signs, comprised only of large signs (a maximum of 2) and small signs.
- (2) However—
- (a) a candidate endorsed for election by a registered political party may display the maximum number of signs mentioned in subsection (1) less the number of signs displayed by or for the party; and
 - (b) a registered political party that has endorsed a candidate for election may display the maximum number of signs mentioned in subsection (1) less the number of signs displayed by or for the candidate.
- (3) For this section, an A-frame sign is taken to be 1 sign—
- (a) even though a sign may be displayed on each side of the A-frame sign; and
 - (b) whether the same election sign, or different election signs, are displayed on the 2 sides of the A-frame sign.
- (4) In this section—
- large sign** means a sign that is no larger than 1,830mm by 1,220mm.
- small sign** means a sign that is no larger than 900mm by 600mm.

158 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 125, line 20, '185G'—

omit, insert—

185H

159 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 125, lines 22 to 26—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies—
 - (a) for a place used as a pre-poll voting office and an ordinary polling booth for an election—during the period that—
 - (i) starts when pre-poll voting for the election ends at the pre-poll voting office; and
 - (ii) ends at 5a.m. on the polling day for the election.
 - (b) for another ordinary polling booth for the election—during the period that—
 - (i) starts when the election period starts; and
 - (ii) ends at 5a.m. on the polling day for the election.

160 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 125, line 28, 'area around'—

omit, insert—

restricted signage area of

161 Clause 58 (Insertion of new pt 10, div 2A)

Page 126, lines 2 to 17—

omit, insert—

- (3) If a member of the commission's staff considers a sign is displayed, or another thing is situated, in contravention of subsection (2), the staff member may remove the sign or other thing.
- (4) For subsection (1)(a)(i), pre-poll voting for an election ends at a pre-poll voting office when the voting hours end for the pre-poll voting office on the last day electors are allowed to make a vote for the election at the pre-poll voting office before the polling day for the election.
- (5) In this section—

restricted signage area, for an ordinary polling booth located in grounds—

 - (a) includes—
 - (i) the area in the grounds; and
 - (ii) the area on a boundary fence or another structure or feature that marks the boundary of the grounds; but
 - (b) does not include the area mentioned in section 185C(1)(c).

162 After clause 58

Page 126, after line 17—

*insert—***58A Insertion of new pt 12B**

After part 12A—

*insert—***Part 12B 2020 general election****392K Purpose of part**

- (1) The purpose of this part is to facilitate the holding of the 2020 general election in a way that helps minimise serious risks to the health and safety of persons caused by the COVID-19 emergency.
- (2) In this section—

COVID-19 emergency means—

 - (a) the declared public health emergency under the *Public Health Act 2005*, section 319(2) for COVID-19 declared on 29 January 2020 as extended and further extended under that Act; or
 - (b) another declared public health emergency under the *Public Health Act 2005*, section 319(2) for COVID-19.

392L Application of part

This part applies—

- (a) in relation to the 2020 general election; and
- (b) despite any other provision of this Act about the holding of a general election.

392M Definitions for part

In this part—

2020 general election means the next ordinary general election to be held after the commencement.**postal vote** means a declaration vote made by an elector, using a ballot paper and declaration envelope sent to the elector, and posted or sent to the commission or a returning officer.

392N Cut-off days

- (1) This section applies in relation to the writ for the 2020 general election.
- (2) The cut-off day for electoral rolls stated in the writ may be a day earlier than the day stated in section 84(1)(b).
- (3) The cut-off day for the nomination of candidates stated in the writ may be a day earlier than the day stated in section 84(1)(c).

392O Procedure for voting

- (1) A regulation may declare that, despite section 107, any of the following electors must vote in the 2020 general election by postal vote—
 - (a) all electors;
 - (b) electors in a stated electoral district;
 - (c) electors of a stated class;
 - (d) electors in a stated electoral district of a stated class.
- (2) The regulation may—
 - (a) provide for the commission posting, delivering or otherwise sending a ballot paper and declaration envelope to each elector to whom the declaration applies; and
 - (b) permit electors to whom the declaration applies to vote in the 2020 general election other than by postal vote, including, for example—
 - (i) by making an electronically assisted vote; or
 - (ii) voting in another stated way approved by the commission.
- (3) A regulation made under this section applies in relation to voting in the 2020 general election despite any other provision of this part.

392P Pre-poll ordinary voting

An elector may make a pre-poll ordinary vote for the 2020 general election, by following the procedures set out in section 112, during the period—

- (a) beginning 12 days before the polling day for the election; and
- (b) ending at 6p.m. on the day before the polling day for the election.

392Q Making a declaration vote using posted voting papers

- (1) The commission may, by notice published on the commission's website, fix a time and day by which an elector may make a postal vote request under section 119 for the 2020 general election that—
 - (a) is earlier or later than the time and day mentioned in section 119(2)(b); but
 - (b) before the polling day for the election.
- (2) For the 2020 general election, section 119 applies as if a reference in section 119(2)(b) to 7p.m. on the day that is 12 days before the polling day for the election were a reference to the time and day fixed under subsection (1).

392R Electoral visitor voting

- (1) This section applies if the commission is satisfied, for the 2020 general election, that it would pose a risk to the health and safety of an issuing officer to visit, under section 120—
 - (a) a particular elector who has given a request to vote as an electoral visitor voter under section 120; or
 - (b) any elector; or
 - (c) electors in a particular electoral district or of a particular class.
- (2) The commission or a returning officer may direct issuing officers not to visit the particular elector, any elector or electors in the particular electoral district or of the particular class.
- (3) Section 120 applies to issuing officers subject to the direction.
- (4) The commission or returning officer must, to the extent practicable, have an issuing officer make alternative arrangements to enable an elector affected by the direction to vote in the 2020 general election.

392S Electronically assisted voting

- (1) This section applies if the commission is satisfied that, having regard to the purpose of this part, it would be in the public interest to allow electors of a class not mentioned in section 121A to make an electronically assisted vote in the 2020 general election.
- (2) The commission may, by notice published on the commission's website, declare that electors of the class may make an electronically assisted vote in the 2020 general election.
- (3) An elector of a class declared under subsection (2) may make an electronically assisted vote in the 2020 general election.

- (4) For the 2020 general election, the commission's procedures under section 121B apply in relation to electors of a class declared under subsection (2).
- (5) The commission may make procedures about electors making electronically assisted votes in the 2020 general election.
- (6) The procedures—
 - (a) must be published on the commission's website; and
 - (b) take effect when they are published on the commission's website.
- (7) If the commission makes procedures under subsection (5)—
 - (a) the procedures apply in relation to electors who may make an electronically assisted vote for the election under section 121A or subsection (3); and
 - (b) if there is any inconsistency between the procedures under subsection (5) and the procedures under section 121B, the procedures under subsection (5) prevail to the extent of the inconsistency; and
 - (c) for the 2020 general election, a reference in this Act or another document to procedures approved under section 121B(3) is taken to include a reference to the procedures in effect under subsection (6).

392T Distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material

- (1) This section applies if the commission is satisfied that, having regard to the purpose of this part, it would be in the public interest to regulate, limit or prohibit the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material at a polling booth for the 2020 general election.
- (2) The commission may give a direction—
 - (a) about how, where or when how-to-vote cards may be distributed or displayed at a polling booth for the 2020 general election; or
 - (b) prohibiting the distribution or display of how-to-vote cards or other election material at a polling booth for the 2020 general election; or
 - (c) prohibiting a person from canvassing for votes in or near polling booths; or
 - (d) permitting the display of political statements at a place mentioned in section 190(1).
- (3) The direction must be published on the commission's website.
- (4) A person must not contravene the direction, unless the person has a reasonable excuse. Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.
- (5) Section 190 does not apply to the display of a political statement permitted under the direction.

392U Directions about candidates or scrutineers at particular places

- (1) The commission may give a direction for the 2020 general election—
 - (a) regulating the number of scrutineers each candidate may have at a polling booth or another place where a scrutineer is entitled to be present under this Act; or
 - (b) prohibiting a candidate or scrutineer from being present at a polling booth or another place whether the candidate or scrutineer would otherwise be entitled to be present under this Act.

Example of another place—

a place where votes for the 2020 general election are to be counted

Example of a direction that may be given under paragraph (b)—

a direction prohibiting a scrutineer from accompanying an issuing officer under section 109

- (2) However, the commission may give a direction under subsection (1) only if the commission is satisfied that, having regard to the purpose of this part, it would be in the public interest to give the direction.
- (3) The direction must be published on the commission's website.
- (4) A person must not contravene the direction, unless the person has a reasonable excuse. Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (5) The direction applies despite section 104 or any other provision of this Act that allows a candidate or scrutineer to be present at a polling booth or another place.
- (6) Section 189(d) does not apply to the extent a scrutineer is prevented from entering a polling place under the direction.

392V Direction about movement of candidates or scrutineers

- (1) A returning officer or member of the commissioner's staff in charge of a polling booth may give a direction for the 2020 general election under this section if satisfied that, having regard to the purpose of this part, it would be in the public interest to give the direction.

- (2) The direction may be given to a candidate or scrutineer at a place (a **relevant place**) that is a polling booth or another place at which the candidate or scrutineer is entitled to be present under this Act.
- (3) The direction may be about—
 - (a) the movement of a candidate or scrutineer at a relevant place; or
 - (b) an area in a relevant place in which the candidate or scrutineer may or may not be; or
 - (c) the maximum number of scrutineers who may be in a particular area in a relevant place.
- (4) A candidate or scrutineer must comply with the direction, unless the candidate or scrutineer has a reasonable excuse.
Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.
- (5) A candidate or scrutineer does not commit an offence against subsection (4) unless the person giving the direction has warned the candidate or scrutineer that it is an offence not to comply with the direction unless the candidate or scrutineer has a reasonable excuse.

392W Counting of votes

- (1) A returning officer may direct a member of the commission's staff to carry out the counting of votes for the 2020 general election at a stated place.
- (2) Votes may be counted at the place stated in the direction, despite any procedures approved under section 130A or any other provision of this Act relating to the counting of votes at a polling booth or another place.
- (3) A returning officer may arrange for the counting of votes for the 2020 general election to be filmed by a member of the commission's staff.

392X Restriction on directions

- (1) This section applies in relation to a provision of this part authorising the commission, a returning officer or a member of the commission's staff to give a direction.
- (2) The commission, returning officer or member must not give a direction under the provision—
 - (a) of a kind prescribed by regulation under section 392Y as a kind of direction that may not be given under the provision; or
 - (b) in circumstances prescribed by regulation under section 392Y as circumstances in which a direction may not be given under the provision.

392Y Regulation about 2020 general election

A regulation may make provision about a matter to facilitate the holding of the 2020 general election in the way stated in section 392K, including, for example, by providing for any of the following—

- (a) a matter about voting in the election by postal vote other than as provided under section 392O, including—
 - (i) permitting electors of a class not mentioned in section 119(1) to make a postal vote; and
 - (ii) the availability and distribution of how-to-vote cards for electors making postal votes;
- (b) the commission, a returning officer or a member of the commission's staff who has a stated function in relation to the election to give a direction about any matter necessary to facilitate the holding of the election in the way stated in section 392K;
- (c) a matter about directions that may be given under a provision of this part or the regulation, including—
 - (i) a kind of direction that may not be given under the provision; and
 - (ii) circumstances in which a direction may not be given under the provision;
- (d) the commission to make procedures for the application of a provision of this part or the regulation for the 2020 general election.

392Z Matters about regulation under this part

- (1) This section applies to a regulation made under this part.
- (2) The regulation may—
 - (a) prescribe an offence against the regulation and fix a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units for the offence; and
 - (b) other than for an offence mentioned in paragraph (a), have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than the commencement; and
 - (c) be inconsistent with this Act, including, for example, by modifying the application of part 7 in relation to the 2020 general election, to the extent necessary to achieve the purpose of this part.

- (3) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under this part only if the Minister is satisfied the regulation is necessary to achieve the purpose of this part.
- (4) Also, the Minister must consult with the commission before recommending to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under section 392O.
- (5) The regulation must declare that it is made under this part.

392ZA Expiry

This part, and each regulation made under this part, expire 1 year after the name of each candidate elected in the 2020 general election is published in the gazette under section 132(2).

163 Before clause 59

Page 126, before line 18—

insert—

58B Insertion of new s 449

Part 13, division 11, as inserted by this Act—

insert—

449 Application of offences relating to signage at polling booths to pending elections

New part 10, division 2A does not apply in relation to a polling booth for an election if the writ for the election was issued before 1 August 2020.

164 Clause 78 (Amendment of s 170 (Giving directions to council staff))

Page 138, lines 5 to 14—

omit, insert—

- (2) Section 170(2)—

omit, insert—

- (2) However, a direction under subsection (1)—

- (a) must not be given if it is inconsistent with a resolution, or a document adopted by resolution, of the council; and
- (b) must not be given to the chief executive officer if it relates to—
 - (i) the appointment of a council employee under section 193(3); or
 - (ii) disciplinary action by the chief executive officer in relation to a council employee under section 194 or a councillor advisor; and
- (c) must not be given to the chief executive officer or a senior executive employee if it would result in the chief executive officer or senior executive employee contravening a provision of an Act.

- (3) No councillor, including the mayor, may give a direction to any other council employee except in accordance with guidelines made under section 171A about the provision of administrative support to councillors.

Note—

Contravention of subsection (3) is misconduct under the Local Government Act that could result in disciplinary action being taken against a councillor under that Act. See the Local Government Act, sections 150L(1)(c)(v), 150AQ and 150AR.

165 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))

Page 140, line 3, 'In'—

omit, insert—

Without limiting when a person participates in a decision, in

166 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))

Page 140, after line 5—

insert—

- (aa) if the councillor or other person is wholly or partly responsible for making the decision— considering or discussing the matter to which the decision relates before the decision is made; and

167 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))

Page 140, lines 19 to 21, from 'to,' to '; or'—

omit, insert—

to—

- (i) making a planning scheme that applies to the whole of Brisbane; or
- (ii) amending a planning scheme, if the amendment applies to the whole of Brisbane; or

- 168 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 140, line 23, after 'adoption'—
insert—
or amendment
- 169 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 141, lines 2 and 3, from 'public' to 'accident'—
omit.
- 170 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 141, after line 15—
insert—
(2A) In addition, this division does not apply in relation to a councillor's conflict of interest in a matter if the councillor, close associate or related party of the councillor, or the donor mentioned in section 177D(1)(a) or 177E(1)(a) stands to gain a benefit or suffer a loss in relation to the matter that is no greater than the benefit or loss that a significant proportion of persons in Brisbane stand to gain or lose.
- 171 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 142, lines 11 to 13, from 'or loans' to 'subsection (2)'—
omit, insert—
, loans or sponsored travel or accommodation benefits under section 177E given by the donor to the councillor, or a close associate of the councillor, during the councillor's relevant term
- 172 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 142, lines 24 to 27, from 'loan' to '; and'—
omit, insert—
loan to a group of candidates for an election when the councillor is a member of the group, or a political party that endorses the councillor for an election; and
- 173 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 143, lines 7 to 11—
omit, insert—
(2A) Subsection (3) applies for gifts or loans given by a donor—
(a) to a group of candidates when the councillor is a member of the group; or
(b) to a political party that endorses the councillor.
(3) For working out the total gifts or loans given by the donor for subsection (1)(c), the amount of each gift or loan given to the group or political party must first be divided by—
(a) for a group of candidates for an election—the total number of candidates in the group stated in the record of the membership of the group under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, section 41; or
(b) for a political party endorsing the candidate for an election—the total number of candidates endorsed by the political party in Queensland on the nomination day for the election under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.
- 174 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 143, lines 28 and 29, 'sponsored travel or accommodation benefits given'—
omit, insert—
gifts, loans or sponsored travel or accommodation benefits given by the donor
- 175 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 143, after line 31—
insert—
(1A) Section 177D(2A) and (3) applies for working out the total gifts or loans given by the donor for subsection (1)(c).
- 176 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 145, after line 18—
insert—
(aa) a person who is being considered for appointment as chief executive officer is a close associate of the councillor and the matter is or relates to the appointment of the person;
or
- 177 **Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 150, line 32 to page 151, line 3—
omit.

- 178 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 151, lines 6 to 18—
omit, insert—
- councillor, receives a gift, loan or sponsored travel or accommodation benefit from an entity, if—
- (i) the gift, loan or benefit is given in circumstances that would constitute a prescribed conflict of interest under section 177D or 177E if the total gifts, loans and benefits given by the entity totalled \$2,000 or more; and
 - (ii) the total gifts, loans and benefits given by the entity to the councillor or related party total less than \$500 during the councillor's relevant term; or
- 179 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 151, after line 34—
insert—
- (2A) Section 177D(2A) and (3) applies for working out, under subsection (1)(e)(ii), the total gifts, loans and sponsored travel or accommodation benefits given by the entity as if a reference in that section to a donor were a reference to the entity.
- 180 Clause 81 (Replacement of ch 6, pt 2, div 5A (Dealing with councillors' personal interests in council matters))**
Page 159, lines 11 and 12, 'deferring the matter to a later meeting under subsection (2)'—
omit, insert—
- making a decision under subsection (2)(b) or (c)
- 181 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 4, div 2A)**
Page 166, lines 5 and 6, 'The council may, by resolution, allow a councillor to'—
omit, insert—
- A councillor may
- 182 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 4, div 2A)**
Page 166, lines 14 and 15—
omit, insert—
- (2) However, the councillor must not—
- (a) appoint a close associate of the councillor as a councillor advisor; or
 - (b) appoint more than the number of councillor advisors prescribed under section 194C(1)(a).
- 183 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 4, div 2A)**
Page 167, after line 5—
insert—
- Note—*
- A person who is appointed as a councillor advisor may carry out or assist in an activity mentioned in paragraph (a) other than in the person's capacity as a councillor advisor.
- 184 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 4, div 2A)**
Page 167, lines 10 to 15—
omit.
- 185 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 4, div 2A)**
Page 168, after line 2—
insert—
- 194C Regulation may prescribe particular matters relating to councillor advisors**
- (1) A regulation may—
 - (a) prescribe the maximum number of councillor advisors each councillor may appoint; and
 - (b) limit the functions and key responsibilities that may be provided for in a councillor advisor's contract of employment.
 - (2) Before recommending to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (1)(a), the Minister must ask the remuneration commission for its recommendation about the proposed regulation.
 - (3) The Minister must have regard to the recommendation of the remuneration commission in recommending the making of the regulation to the Governor in Council.
 - (4) The maximum number of councillor advisors prescribed under subsection (1)(a)—
 - (a) is the number of full-time equivalent councillor advisors a councillor may appoint; and
 - (b) does not prevent a councillor appointing more than 1 part-time councillor advisor to perform the role of 1 full-time councillor advisor.
 - (5) In this section—
remuneration commission see the Local Government Act, section 176.

186 Clause 91 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 11)

Page 181, after line 23—

*insert—***297 Remuneration commission's recommendation not required for initial regulation**

Section 194C(2) and (3) does not apply to the regulation first made after the commencement under section 194C(1)(a).

298 Application of s 198A for councillors

- (1) This section applies if, on the commencement, a councillor has an interest mentioned in section 198A(1).
- (2) Despite section 198A(2), the councillor must comply with section 198A in relation to the interest within 30 days after the commencement.

187 After clause 96

Page 185, after line 15—

*insert—***96A Amendment of s 104 (Financial management systems)**

Section 104(5)(a)(i), '5-year'—

*omit.***188 Clause 101 (Amendment of s 150L (What is misconduct))**

Page 187, line 25, '170(2)'—

omit, insert—

170(3)

189 After clause 103

Page 188, after line 19—

*insert—***103A Insertion of new s 150DSA**

After section 150DS—

*insert—***150DSA Protection and immunity for members in performing particular functions**

In performing a function of the conduct tribunal under chapter 5A, part 3, division 6 or chapter 7, part 1, a member of the tribunal has the same protection and immunity as a Supreme Court judge performing a judicial function.

190 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 189, line 9, 'In'—

omit, insert—

Without limiting when a person participates in a decision, in

191 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 189, after line 12—

insert—

- (aa) if the councillor or other person is wholly or partly responsible for making the decision—considering or discussing the matter to which the decision relates before the decision is made; and

192 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 189, lines 27 to 29, from 'to,' to ' ; or'—

omit, insert—

to—

- (i) making a planning scheme that applies to the whole of the local government area; or
- (ii) amending a planning scheme, if the amendment applies to the whole of the local government area; or

193 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 190, line 2, after 'adoption'—

insert—

or amendment

194 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 190, lines 10 and 11, from 'public' to 'accident'—

omit.

- 195 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 190, after line 24—
insert—
(2A) In addition, this chapter does not apply in relation to a councillor's conflict of interest in a matter if the councillor, close associate or related party of the councillor, or the donor mentioned in section 150EG(1)(a) or 150EH(1)(a) stands to gain a benefit or suffer a loss in relation to the matter that is no greater than the benefit or loss that a significant proportion of persons in the local government area stand to gain or lose.
- 196 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 191, lines 16 to 18, from 'or loans' to 'subsection (2)'—
omit, insert—
, loans or sponsored travel or accommodation benefits under section 150EH given by the donor to the councillor, or a close associate of the councillor, during the councillor's relevant term
- 197 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 191, line 28 to page 192, line 2, from 'loan' to '; and'—
omit, insert—
loan to a group of candidates for an election when the councillor is a member of the group, or a political party that endorses the councillor for an election; and
- 198 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 192, lines 13 to 17—
omit, insert—
(2A) Subsection (3) applies for gifts or loans given by a donor—
(a) to a group of candidates when the councillor is a member of the group; or
(b) to a political party that endorses the councillor.
(3) For working out the total gifts or loans given by the donor for subsection (1)(a), the amount of each gift or loan given to the group or political party must first be divided by—
(a) for a group of candidates for an election—the total number of candidates in the group stated in the record of the membership of the group under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, section 41; or
(b) for a political party endorsing the candidate for an election—the total number of candidates endorsed by the political party in Queensland on the nomination day for the election under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.
- 199 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 193, lines 3 and 4, 'sponsored travel or accommodation benefits given'—
omit, insert—
gifts, loans or sponsored travel or accommodation benefits given by the donor
- 200 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 193, after line 6—
insert—
(1A) Section 150EG(2A) and (3) applies for working out the total gifts or loans given by the donor for subsection (1)(c).
- 201 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 194, after line 26—
insert—
(aa) a person who is being considered for appointment as the chief executive officer of the local government is a close associate of the councillor and the matter is or relates to the appointment of the person; or
- 202 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 200, lines 6 to 11—
omit.
- 203 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)**
Page 200, lines 14 to 26—
omit, insert—
councillor, receives a gift, loan or sponsored travel or accommodation benefit from an entity, if—
(i) the gift, loan or benefit is given in circumstances that would constitute a prescribed conflict of interest under section 150EG or 150EH if the total gifts, loans and benefits given by the entity totalled \$2,000 or more; and
(ii) the total gifts, loans and benefits given by the entity to the councillor or related party total less than \$500 during the councillor's relevant term; or

204 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 201, after line 7—

insert—

- (2A) Section 150EG(2A) and (3) applies for working out, under subsection (1)(e)(ii), the total gifts, loans and benefits given by the entity as if a reference in that section to a donor were a reference to the entity.

205 Clause 104 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 208, lines 26 to 28, 'or deferring the matter to a later meeting under subsection (2)'—

omit, insert—

or making a decision under subsection (2)(b) or (c)

206 Clause 106 (Replacement of s 161 (What this division is about))

Page 214, lines 18 to 26—

*omit, insert—***106 Amendment of s 161 (What this division is about)**

- (1) Section 161(2)—

omit, insert—

- (2) The way in which a vacancy is to be filled depends on whether the office becomes vacant during the beginning, middle or end of the local government's term.

- (2) Section 161(4) and (5)—

omit, insert—

- (4) The **middle** of the local government's term is the period of 24 months that—

(a) starts on the first anniversary of the last quadrennial elections; and

(b) ends on the day before the third anniversary of the last quadrennial elections.

- (5) The **final part** of the local government's term is the period that—

(a) starts on the third anniversary of the last quadrennial elections; and

(b) ends on the day before the next quadrennial elections are held.

207 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))

Page 216, lines 1 to 11—

*omit, insert—***166 Filling vacancy in office of mayor or other councillor**

A vacancy in the office of a mayor or other councillor must be filled by—

- (a) if the vacancy is to be filled during the beginning of the local government's term—following the procedure under section 166A; or
- (b) if the vacancy is to be filled during the middle of the local government's term—a by-election; or
- (c) if the vacancy is to be filled during the final part of the local government's term—following the procedure under section 166B.

208 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))

Page 216, line 12, 'other vacancies in office of councillor'—

*omit, insert—***vacancies during beginning of local government's term****209 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))**

Page 216, lines 14 to 16, from 'a councillor' to '36 months'—

*omit, insert—*a mayor or other councillor (each the **former councillor**) during the beginning**210 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))**

Page 218, line 13, after 'of a'—

insert—

mayor or other

211 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))

Page 218, line 16, after 'former'—

insert—

mayor or other

- 212 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))**
Page 218, line 21, after 'former'—
insert—
mayor or other
- 213 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))**
Page 218, lines 28 and 29, 'vacancy in office of mayor or other councillor'—
omit, insert—
vacancies
- 214 Clause 109 (Replacement of s 166 (Filling a vacancy in the office of another councillor))**
Page 220, lines 8 to 14—
omit.
- 215 Clause 110 (Amendment of s 170 (Giving directions to local government staff))**
Page 220, after line 16—
insert—
(1) Section 170(2)—
omit, insert—
(2) However, a direction under subsection (1) must not be given if—
(a) it is inconsistent with a resolution, or a document adopted by resolution, of the local government; or
(b) it relates to the appointment of a local government employee under section 196(3); or
(c) it relates to disciplinary action by the chief executive officer in relation to a local government employee under section 197 or a councillor advisor; or
(d) it would result in the chief executive officer contravening a provision of an Act.
- 216 Clause 110 (Amendment of s 170 (Giving directions to local government staff))**
Page 220, line 17, before 'Section'—
insert—
(2)
- 217 After clause 113**
Page 221, after line 25—
insert—
113A Amendment of s 177 (Functions)
Section 177(d)—
omit, insert—
(d) to consider and make recommendations to the Minister about the following matters relating to councillor advisors—
(i) whether or not to prescribe a local government under section 197D(1)(a);
(ii) the number of councillor advisors each councillor of a local government may appoint;
(iii) the number of councillor advisors a councillor of the council under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* may appoint; and
(e) another function relating to the remuneration of councillors directed, in writing, by the Minister.
113B Amendment of s 181 (Qualifications to be commissioner)
Section 181(2)(i)—
omit.
- 218 Clause 115 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 5, div 2A)**
Page 222, lines 9 and 10, 'by regulation may, by resolution, allow a councillor to appoint'—
omit, insert—
under section 197D(1)(a) may, by resolution, allow a councillor to appoint
- 219 Clause 115 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 5, div 2A)**
Page 222, after line 17—
insert—
(1A) The resolution must state the number of councillor advisors, up to the maximum prescribed under section 197D(1)(b) for the local government, that the councillor may appoint.

220 Clause 115 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 5, div 2A)

Page 223, after line 12—

*insert—**Note—*

A person who is appointed as a councillor advisor may carry out or assist in an activity mentioned in paragraph (a) other than in the person's capacity as a councillor advisor.

221 Clause 115 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 5, div 2A)

Page 223, lines 17 to 22—

*omit.***222 Clause 115 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 5, div 2A)**

Page 224, after line 23—

*insert—***197D Regulation may prescribe particular matters relating to councillor advisors**

- (1) A regulation may—
 - (a) prescribe a local government as a local government to which section 197A(1) applies; and
 - (b) prescribe the maximum number of councillor advisors each councillor may appoint; and
 - (c) limit the functions and key responsibilities that may be provided for in a councillor advisor's contract of employment.
- (2) Before recommending to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (1)(a) or (b), the Minister must ask the remuneration commission for its recommendation about the proposed regulation.
- (3) The Minister must have regard to the recommendation of the remuneration commission in recommending the making of the regulation to the Governor in Council.
- (4) The maximum number of councillor advisors prescribed under subsection (1)(b)—
 - (a) is the number of full-time equivalent councillor advisors a councillor may appoint; and
 - (b) does not prevent a councillor appointing more than 1 part-time councillor advisor to perform the role of 1 full-time councillor advisor.

223 After clause 121

Page 236, after line 8—

*insert—***121A Amendment of s 235 (Administrators who act honestly and without negligence are protected from liability)**

Section 235(8), 'another law or Act'—

omit, insert—

this Act or another Act or law

224 After clause 122

Page 236, after line 14—

*insert—***122A Amendment of s 247 (Local government references in this Act)**

Section 247(1), after paragraph (a)—

insert—

- (aa) a reference to a councillor advisor is a reference to a councillor advisor appointed by the mayor or another councillor of the local government; and

225 Clause 123 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 15)

Page 236, after line 24—

*insert—***332A Existing vacancies in office of mayor or other councillor**

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement, the office of a mayor or other councillor became vacant; and
 - (b) on the commencement, the vacancy has not been filled.
- (2) Chapter 6, part 2, division 3 applies in relation to filling the vacancy as if the *Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2019*, had not commenced.

226 Clause 123 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 15)

Page 238, after line 5—

*insert—***335 Remuneration commission's recommendation not required for initial regulation**

Section 197D(2) and (3) does not apply to the regulation first made after the commencement under section 197D(1)(a) or (b).

336 Application of s 201A for councillors

- (1) This section applies if, on the commencement, a councillor has an interest mentioned in section 201A(1).
- (2) Despite section 201A(2), the councillor must comply with section 201A in relation to the interest within 30 days after the commencement.

227 Clause 125 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 238, line 17 to page 239, line 1, from 'beginning' to 'middle'—
omit, insert—

conflict of interest, local government meeting, material personal interest

228 Clause 125 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 240, line 23—
omit.

Division: Question put—That clauses 2 and 4 to 134 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 2 and 4 to 134, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the long title of the bill be agreed to. The minister's amendment No. 229 seeks to amend the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That amendment No. 229 be agreed to.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

229 Long title

Long title, after '*Electoral Act 1992*,'—
insert—

the ***Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019***,

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.


Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Pegg, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

Gympie Electorate, Cooloola Coast

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.09 pm): The Cooloola Coast—Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Cove, and Tin Can Bay—is a cheap, easily accessible, family friendly, adventure based holiday destination. Rainbow Beach—the gateway to Fraser Island—is a 100 per cent tourist based economy relying on the drive tourist market. Local businesses have experienced more than a 90 per cent decline in revenue, one reported 97 per cent—100 per cent for those with no income. There are reports that some businesses are closing.

Locals are frustrated with the unworkable, chaotic, and contradictory fanfares about lifting restrictions which do not match the rhetoric. The 50-kilometre rule stopped Gympie locals visiting. It was deemed too far. Six weeks ago I wrote to the Premier and the environment minister about the mess. The government's reluctant extension to 150-kilometre rule was after a two-week wait.

Accessing national parks has been a debacle. Two weeks ago visitors who followed the Premier's advice to holiday locally were locked out. They were met with barrier tape, told camping was not on and to go home. Some had travelled three hours to get there. I contacted the minister's office. The next day we were told capped camping was available and visitors must have two permits. The cat was let out of the bag when people went online to apply for permits. I was inundated with angry calls that it was limited to 20 when normal capacity is 2,300.


Locals who have a beach-driving exemption must have the extra permit and daytrippers and non-campers are making block bookings. It is inflating the numbers. Driving permits were previously available at the Shell service station QPWS office. Now people must go online. The QPWS office is often closed and daytrippers are being turned away at the station. Last Friday at 9 am, the cap was 200; at 10.30 am, it increased to 760. It raised false hopes which were dashed yesterday. It was a clerical error.

Some Rainbow Beach residents cannot access Double Island Point—they cannot even get day passes. Inskip Point campsites are limited to 200 until 27 June, when they will be divided into seven capped areas. This weekend 2,000 people can attend stadiums, but people cannot camp in an area where normal capacity is 2,300. At this rate it could take years.

QPWS and QPS are doing their job. However, it defies logic to limit camping which QPWS officers can closely monitor, and the QPS can enforce road rules on the beach. People are legitimately sceptic about the government's agenda because last year the former Noosa mayor tried to manipulate a reduction in camping numbers.

Will there be ongoing restrictive permits, increased limits on campers, day tourists, and fishermen? When will the draft of a new management plan for the Great Sandy National Park be released for public consultation?


Dobinsons Springs & Suspension

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.12 pm): Last month I had the pleasure of meeting Glen Dobinson, the director of Dobinsons Springs & Suspension, with Glenn Butcher, our new Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing. Dobinsons Springs & Suspension was successful in their application for round 2 of Made in Queensland funding and received \$581,000 towards their \$1.265 million project to install and commission a cold-coiling machine and stress-relieving load temperature furnace. This leading-edge technology has allowed the company to increase its daily coil spring output by 400 per cent, employ three new full-time workers and set them on a path to create more new jobs over the next five years. The first small run, completed late last year, demonstrated a reduced processing time of up to 83 per cent and a gain of 10 per cent reduction in cut-offs, resulting in cost savings per unit. This is a fantastic result that could mean big things for this company globally.

Glen Dobinson said that his dad started the business in the backyard in 1953, and they have grown and are now delivering and manufacturing and repairing a large range of springs. They also sell a comprehensive range of suspension components and export to more than 50 countries. His two sons are now looking after the business as he moves to a more relaxed lifestyle.

During COVID-19 their export trade ceased for four weeks and, as a result, six casuals have not had shifts. In the last few weeks orders have started to drip-feed in, and once they are back up at capacity the casual staff will be back in the stores as they require a niche skill set. During our inspection of the site Glen said that they generally have at least one semitrailer of goods being sent around the world each week. It was also great to hear how proud Glen is that the head office and manufacturing plant are based in Rocky. He has smaller offices around Australia and across the world. They employ about 55 local staff and are a great local employer for Rockhampton. Some of the staff have been there for many, many years. It is a really great local business that is going ahead.

Moggill Electorate; Burton, Mrs T

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to acknowledge some important community events that have taken place in the electorate of Moggill. The 2019 annual Moggill electorate seniors' morning tea was a terrific success. It brought together seniors from all suburbs across the electorate of Moggill.

This local annual event is a fantastic opportunity to recognise service endeavours and contributions to our community by a number of local residents via the Moggill electorate Community Service Awards. Congratulations to recipients Jean Clarke, Doreen Farrell and Brian Beconsall on their hard work and dedication to our local community. Also, congratulations to Phillip and Elizabeth Batten for receiving a Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor Award. I would also like to thank Barbara Davey and her team for all their support in ensuring the event ran smoothly.


In the electorate of Moggill our local Rotary Club of Kenmore, in collaboration with the Brookfield Show Society, also recently installed an automated external defibrillator, an AED, at the Brookfield showground. The Brookfield Show Society and Rotary clubs of Kenmore and Brookfield are to be commended for working together to secure this potentially lifesaving piece of equipment. It is made available for emergency situations.

In 2019 I was lucky enough to attend both the Pullenvale State School's Spring Fair and also the Chapel Hill State School's Festival on the Hill. Both events offered a large variety of entertainment and activities for everyone in the family. These fetes are a fantastic way to support our local schools. Both schools had their traditional dunk tank event, and my annual participation as the local state member for Moggill attracted large queues at the time. I am pleased to say that the opportunity for students to dunk their local state member for Moggill raised some good financial support for their P&Cs.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to sponsor the book prizes for Mount Crosby State School's years 1 and 2 Creative Writing Competition. This competition received assistance from the Rotary Club of Karana Downs and builds creativity and literacy skills in our students. Whilst it is unclear which community and school events will occur during the remainder of this year given the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, all local community organisations and their members, along with schools, parents, teachers, students and all local residents are looking forward to a gradual return to normality and the terrific range of local events that are held on an annual basis in the electorate of Moggill.

In my remaining time can I also offer my condolences to the family of Tricia Burton, to her son James and her daughter Ceirwen, as well as her entire extended family. Tricia was a warm, generous, spirited, passionate and highly intelligent person who will always be fondly remembered as an iconic resident of not only the western suburbs of Brisbane but also Clayfield and Albion. Like many others I will miss her greatly, and both my family and I will cherish the over 45 years of shared memories and friendship. Vale Tricia Burton.

Coronavirus, Jobs

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.17 pm): I would like to thank the Premier and the people of Queensland for working together to flatten the curve. We have avoided the worst of the outcomes we have seen overseas, but we should be under no illusion that this pandemic is over. We certainly cannot relax, but we can start to look forward. I am proud to be part of a government with a plan—a plan to unite and recover for Queensland. At the core of that plan are jobs—jobs for today, jobs for tomorrow and jobs for the future. Real jobs for real people.

I was greatly pleased to see the members of my community come together to support a campaign called the Takeaway Message, supporting local restaurants and cafes. It was really pleasing to go into the Ninebar + Kitchen to pick up a takeaway meal and hear Marco, the owner, say that thanks to the support he received they had been able to take on an additional staff member.


I would like to acknowledge the great announcement of the Works for Queensland program made recently by Minister Hinchliffe. It is a fantastic program that will see jobs rolling out straightaway. On this side of the chamber we work for Queensland; on that side of the chamber they work for Clive.

I also took some time out last week to look at some jobs that are coming our way tomorrow. I went to the Energex site in Greenslopes where we are seeing a total rebuild of that site. With 100 jobs over the next couple of years it is an exciting project. I am also keeping my eye on the new classrooms that are coming our way at Nursery Road State Special School and Holland Park State School. Of course, Cross River Rail is already delivering jobs and will continue to deliver jobs into the next few years.

If you want to see the jobs of the future, go to the Mount Gravatt TAFE where I went with my good friend, Corrine McMillan, and Minister Fentiman. We saw the nearly \$19 million project that is being rolled out at the fashion institute. We have a world-class fashion institute, and now we will have world-class facilities for that fashion institute. The students coming out of that program will be stepping into the jobs of the future. I am extremely proud to have worked with people in my community to save that TAFE.

Almost a year ago to this day I said in this place that I am removing the E from my name and replacing it with a B. Well, I am doing that again. I want to be known as 'Job' Kelly, and I am not joking here. Today we have heard the shocking statistics of people who have lost their jobs, but they are not statistics—they are people. I say to every single one of those people that I will work hard every day until we have all of those people back in jobs. I will work with every single minister on this side of the House. I will support the members on this side of the House to make sure that we work hard to get people back into jobs, because that is what we have to do. Jobs are at the core of the Palaszczuk government. We are all committed to creating jobs today, jobs tomorrow and jobs for the future. We are out there creating real jobs for real people.

Toowoomba North Electorate

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.20 pm): The people of Toowoomba North have chosen me to be their strong local voice in this chamber for the last eight years, making sure we deliver for the region. In that time, we have invested in growth in our region. We have invested in the Second Range Crossing, which is a great toll road that allows a lot of economic activity in our area to skip our town and deliver products to Brisbane, to the west and to all four corners of Australia. We have also seen the current range be upgraded in that time so it is smooth for the people who want to travel down to Brisbane or the coast or for those people who are heading back west to come through town and stop off to grab a coffee on their long journey.


Investing in that growth has supercharged our region in so many ways, but there are still more projects to come. We have inland rail which is on the cusp of beginning in our region. If the LNP is elected, we will make sure that the New Bradfield Scheme gets up to secure our water future. In Toowoomba we have some fantastic businesses. While we are investing in that growth and making sure we are supercharging our region, it is time to invest in unleashing that industry and the advanced manufacturing that the Pulse Data Centre and the Aatlis project will bring, where we can merge digital and manufacturing technology in our region to create the jobs of the future. That is why we should be making sure we are investing in our regions, investing in growth and unleashing the manufacturing opportunities. We have seen that happen in Toowoomba. The Wagner's airport is providing a great opportunity for our products to fly all around the world straight out of the Darling Downs. It is providing opportunities for local distributors that never existed.

We also need to make sure we are supporting our children's future. In the eight years that I have been a member, we have seen that happen. We have seen the Highfields high school being built, we have seen the Wilsonton school hall being built and we have seen two police stations being built. There has been a lot of talk in Toowoomba about the hospital being built. I very much look forward to that investment in the growth of our region so that we can secure our children's future in Toowoomba North.

I will constantly serve and work hard to make sure that my voice is heard in this place, and I think a lot of people will ensure that happens. We also need to make sure we deliver. The LNP has delivered in spades for the Toowoomba region in the time that I have been in this chamber. We will continue to do that by investing in growth and supercharging the regions.

(Time expired)

Rochedale


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.23 pm): I rise in the House to highlight one of the Mansfield electorate's fastest-growing suburbs that is attracting people from many cultural backgrounds who now call Rochedale home, including me. The first settlers moved into Rochedale around 1865 to farm its rich soil. By the end of the 19th century, most of the area was dedicated to farming, with the land owned by just a few landholders who owned several large blocks. In comparison, the population was very small. The area takes its name from the Roche family who immigrated from Ireland to Australia in 1860 and settled in the region—much like my own family, though some years later.

Fast forward to the 21st century and Rochedale is a thriving hub of schools, sporting clubs, residential estates, businesses, community groups and places of worship. I would like to celebrate the number of achievements that I have delivered for this outstanding community. This includes four new local police officers, \$4.5 million for an additional 357 car parks at the Eight Mile Plains park-and-ride and a brand-new park-and-ride at Rochedale. For our schools, Rochedale State School received \$797,000, Rochedale State High School received \$5 million and 10 new learning areas, Redeemer Lutheran College secured more than \$300,000, and St Peter's Catholic school received a new administration building. I also successfully secured a direct bus route from the Rochedale community to the outstanding and world-leading Mansfield State High School.

Road safety is an ongoing issue in Rochedale, and our community has been campaigning for a long time to make the Rochedale Road-Priestdale Road intersection safer. Thanks to those in our community who signed the petition with my colleague for Springwood, the Hon. Mick de Brenni, we now have confirmation that both the Brisbane and Logan city councils are stepping up to fund this council road. Finally the traffic around the Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection will get the fix that our community deserves.

As a proud member of the Rochedale Neighbourhood Watch, I would also like to acknowledge the following groups: the Rochedale Scout Group, the Mount Gravatt District Horse and Pony Club, the Rochedale Junior Australian Football Club, the Rochedale Rays Swimming Club, the Brisbane Chinese Alliance Church, the New Heart Baptist Church, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, St Philip's at Rochedale and also St Peter's Catholic Parish. We also have a wonderful group of local businesses that are flourishing in the community, including Rochedale Village, the Flying Pepper Cafe, the Dabang Coffee House, Hana on Rochedale, Nishiki Japanese Cuisine and Queensland Lifestyle Real Estate to name just a few. The Palaszczuk government will continue to fight for communities like Rochedale as we invest in jobs to ensure that our economy continues to recover.

Hinchinbrook Electorate


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.26 pm): Hinchinbrook needs better health services. We are much closer to a much needed upgrade of the hospital because of the final document being put together by the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. The THHS proposed COVID-19 recovery infrastructure program estimates that the Ingham hospital will need \$5.2 million for renal services, \$3.64 million for a CT scanner and \$1.12 million for emergency department upgrades, plus an additional 15 per cent for contingency funding that will be needed post COVID for market conditions.

What we essentially have is a business case ready for the government to give the green light to. The HHS estimates the three projects could begin construction in 2021 and go through to 2022. Once the government approves the funding, planning for this procurement could be completed. The HHS economic impact assessment of construction of this project estimates \$16 million would be generated from the building of these additional parts of the Ingham hospital, with 49 direct and indirect jobs as a flow-on from this activity. Better health outcomes are needed for those who love living in the Hinchinbrook electorate and who want better health standards.

A visionary proposal to develop Dungeness into a boating precinct is underway and will include the opening up of Enterprise Channel to all-tidal access, recreating a historic spit, and erecting a rock wall, a car park extension and a viewing platform. Since 2016 a lot of hard work has been done by the Hinchinbrook Shire Council to bring this project to the forefront, and together we are finally seeing good movement on this region-building project. The development of this marine precinct will put Hinchinbrook on the map, drawing business and commercial operators to our region. We have world-class boating and fishing spots, not to mention seemingly endless places to discover on Hinchinbrook Island, like Mulligan and Zoe Bay falls. Giving all-tidal access will transform the Hinchinbrook shire, and I am calling on the state government to back this council driven project 100 per cent.

I am pleased to have played my part in helping the Hinchinbrook Shire Council be awarded the Building our Regions grant funding which will see the first phase of the project come to life. The \$1.74 million windfall will ensure the Dungeness ramp recreational area refurbishment will get underway but the job is not over yet. The next phase will be to secure the approval for building the rock wall to protect the mouth of Enterprise Channel from further erosion. It is vital that this goes ahead together with the dredging of Enterprise Channel to recreate the historical spit. I will continue to work with my local councils and the people of Hinchinbrook to make this happen.

Wolfenden, Ms K; Losberg, Mr R

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.29 pm): Tonight I would like to pay tribute to the life of two outstanding citizens from the Caboolture region, Karen Wolfenden and Rick Losberg. They were two community champions, two people who contributed a lot to the community and also to their respective activities in the community. I will speak first in respect of Karen Wolfenden.

She was a true community champion, a true hero and a one-of-a-kind contributor to our community. She passed away last month. She was a key player in the Caboolture Little Athletics Centre and also went on to serve Little Athletics at higher levels like the Little Athletics Queensland board. She was a Caboolture person through and through. She went to Caboolture State School and Caboolture

State High School. She became a nurse and she worked as a teacher aide at Caboolture State School for many years. Of course, the stories she could tell the kids from her time as a student at that school certainly kept them involved and interested in attending school.


I know that people at the Little Athletics Centre at Caboolture dearly miss her as does the Caboolture State School community and the broader community. I would like to pass on my condolences to her husband, Kevin, and the rest of the family. In paying tribute to Karen, I acknowledge that the oval that the Caboolture Little Athletics Centre is based on was named Wolfenden Oval because of Karen's and her family's contribution to Little Athletics, particularly her father, Ross. I pay tribute to Karen. I know that she will be dearly missed.

I also pay tribute to Rick Losberg. Rick was another outstanding citizen. He was a police officer based at Caboolture for many, many years. We used to attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings together when he was the district crime prevention coordinator 10 years ago. We often used to pass the questions from one another. If they were tricky questions, I would give them to Ricky, and Ricky would look after me with the easy questions as well.

Rick continued to serve his community after his retirement from the police in 2010. He was on the board of the local PCYC. I know that he helped out a lot at Caboolture softball where his wife was very involved. Rick also continued to serve the community and police by being a part of the Queensland Retired Police Association.

Rick will be dearly missed as well. I know that not only the police family but also his family are very sad about his passing and certainly I am as well. To Karen and Rick, I say we will miss you and thank you for your outstanding contribution to Caboolture and the people who call it home.

Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.32 pm): Labor are failing the Sunshine Coast. Because of their weak laws and lack of investment in police resources, the bedrock of our Sunshine Coast community and our easygoing lifestyle are under threat. Over recent weeks we have seen a number of high profile crimes committed across the Sunshine Coast. We have seen a violent home invasion in Buderim, break and enters in Sippy Downs and high-speed police chases on our roads across the Sunshine Coast. It is only through the work of our local police with the help of our community that these kinds of threats are not more common, but more needs to be done. Measures like CCTV, an increased police presence on the coast, improved community awareness and stronger measures to address—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Morayfield, there is a provision that we are able to interject from any seat but not from the aisle.

Mr RYAN: I withdraw and apologise.


Mr MICKELBERG:—repeat offenders will all result in a reduction in criminal behaviour, and all of these are desperately needed across the Sunshine Coast.

Despite what the Labor government would have people believe, Sunshine Coast police numbers have not kept pace with the population growth that we are experiencing. When considered as a percentage of the population across the Sunshine Coast, there are fewer police on the job to keep our community safe. Our local police are stretched and they are doing what they can with the limited resources they have. They are working as hard as they can, but we need more of them on the Sunshine Coast to keep up with our rapidly growing population.

Issues like hooning, graffiti and public nuisance often play second fiddle to the higher profile crimes such as those I spoke of earlier. Despite this, their effect on the perception of safety in our community is pervasive and they need to be addressed. Many young families and elderly residents are telling me that they do not feel safe. Residents are fed up with being woken at night by the sound of screeching tyres and the noise of burnouts. They are fed up with young offenders stealing their cars and breaking into their homes.

I wrote to the Minister for Police asking for support to address these concerns, and the response that I received was pathetic. I call on the minister to work constructively with me and my Sunshine Coast colleagues to address the genuine concerns of our community. It is time the minister puts the community ahead of his petty political pointscoring. Community safety should be the government's top priority, but it is clearly not with this Labor government. It is clear that local residents do not currently feel there is an adequate police presence in their community to address the increasing levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is time for Labor to start governing for all Queenslanders and to listen to the voice of Sunshine Coast locals.

Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure; Coronavirus, Bancroft Electorate

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.36 pm): During the last couple of adjournment debates I have been incredibly fortunate to speak after a member from the Sunshine Coast. That allows me to outline some of the things we have delivered for the Sunshine Coast: \$236 million in schools over the last five years—an incredible amount of money. There was Chancellor State College and Brightwater State School—all these schools in the member for Buderim's area. I point out that at Coolumb and Nambour there are new stations and there are new facilities at Mooloolaba. There are more police than ever before. As I said, what luck I have to follow Sunshine Coast members.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mr WHITING: On the issue of COVID-19, in my area the locals are very appreciative of the achievements and the effort of the Palaszczuk government. It is very clear that they see we do have a plan, the Unite and Recover Plan, and that we are following it. When I talk to ordinary working Queenslanders in my area it is very clear that they have a pretty good picture of what is actually happening. I talk to Denise Daniels from Deception Bay. She is active in her faith communities in the area. She said to me, 'Lives are more important than money could ever be.' I talked to Bob Battaglione from Mango Hill. I think he had been exposed to chemicals during his working life. He said, 'We mightn't be as rich, but if you haven't got your health you aren't much chop.' That I think sums up why we are doing what we are doing here in Queensland.

Working Queenslanders have a very good grasp of who is looking after them during this time. They know that they are the ones at risk. They are the ones in retail, the ones doing the contract cleaning whether or not it is late at night and the ones looking after the kids in child care. They know that they do not have an option to stop working. They know that they do not have holiday homes to isolate in. These working Queenslanders know that there could be long-term health impacts from COVID-19. They know that people are taking a long time to recover and some may never fully recover. Working Queenslanders know what a second wave could cost in terms of their jobs and their community.

It is very clear that working people are very thankful to the Palaszczuk government. Denise wanted me to give my thanks to the Premier and also the Chief Health Officer. What they are saying to me is, 'Tell the Premier not to give in to this pressure to open the borders. Do it when we're all safe,' when working Queenslanders are safe. They are very appreciative of the plan to make Queenslanders safe.

(Time expired)

The House adjourned at 6.39 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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