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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 12 August 2020

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WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 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 Thursday, 9 July I was interviewed by Steve Austin on ABC Radio Brisbane's *Drive* program. I was asked in that interview to confirm Mr Austin's proposition that the state was in breach of the government's fiscal principle No. 6. I stated that I would not confirm that proposition. Since that time, on two occasions in the House the member for Everton has misrepresented that interview to the effect that I did not know what the fiscal principle was. The member for Everton is aware of what I said in the interview.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the same principles apply when hearing motions. I expect to hear the matter of privilege in silence.

Mr DICK: The member for Everton is aware of what I said in that interview as he was interviewed by Mr Austin immediately after my interview. I was not asked what the fiscal principle was but, had I been asked, I would have provided an answer. In the interview, I answered the question I was asked. I believe this is another example of the member for Everton being in defiance of the standing orders in misleading the House. I will be writing to you further on the matter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Treasurer. Order, members!

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 17 July 2020, the member for Toowoomba South wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 28 November 2019. The matter related to an alleged inconsistency in an answer by the Premier in question time on 28 November 2019 and her contribution in the second reading debate of the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill on 18 June 2020. In his letter to me, the member for Toowoomba South alleged that the Premier has been deliberately misleading because her contribution to the second reading debate contradicted her prior answer in question time.

The matter revolves around Crime and Corruption Commission recommendations that the Leader of the Opposition referred to in her question to the Premier. The CCC's recommendations did not provide the specifics of what elements should comprise those offences. I am not convinced that any inconsistency has been established. In considering the referral, I had regard to the purpose of standing order 269 being that it should be reserved for serious, unresolved matters and not matters that are of a trivial or technical nature. I have decided that, at best, the matter is trivial or technical in nature and does certainly not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence relating to an allegation that the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, deliberately misled the House [\[1316\]](#).

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 21 July 2020, the member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing deliberately misled the House on 16 July 2020. The matter relates to an answer by the minister in question time where he stated, 'You can bet that the LNP will cut our programs that deliver real benefits to manufacturers.' The comment is referring to a possible future event as opposed to a question of fact that could be assessed against evidence. In considering the referral, I had regard again to the purpose of standing order 269 being that it should be reserved for serious, unresolved matters and not matters of a trivial nature. On that basis, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the future 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 correspondence relating to an allegation that the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing, Hon. Glenn Butcher, deliberately misled the House [[1317](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Tennis on the Speaker's Green

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Alas, there has been no Wimbledon this year due to COVID-19, but the other premier grass court tennis offering has arrived! It is that time of year that Tennis on the Speaker's Green, parliament's annual celebration of tennis, is upon us. From 1 pm today, members are invited to have a hit on the green with Australian elite tennis players Archie Graham, Mitchell James and Luke Barker. I place on record my appreciation for Tennis Queensland for the support of this event every year but particularly this year. I also thank the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis, their co-chairs the member for Stretton and the member for Oodgeroo, for their support for this highlight of the parliamentary social calendar.

Ekka at Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Roll up! Roll up! I am pleased to announce that the Ekka is coming to parliament today by way of some classic Ekka treats. Dagwood dogs, chips and strawberry sundaes will be on sale from 11.30 am until 3.30 pm or until sold out, with money raised from the sale of Ekka strawberry sundaes providing much needed funding for medical research. For 33 years now, the Common Good, an initiative of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, has brought the iconic creamy strawberry goodness to the Ekka not only to satisfy several sweet teeth but also, most importantly, to fund critical medical research. This is only the second time in Ekka history that the sundaes have been available outside of the Brisbane Showgrounds. In a coup for the parliamentary catering group, they have secured the last 100 Ekka strawberry sundaes in Brisbane. This is a one-off, limited edition promotion. Get in quick while stocks last!

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Mary of the Cross Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Clayfield and Faith Lutheran College Redlands in the electorate of Redlands. It is great to have students back here at Parliament House.

PETITIONS

The following honourable member has lodged a paper petition for presentation and an e-petition which is now closed and presented—

Proserpine Hospital, Dialysis Services

Mr Costigan, from 1,366 petitioners, requesting the House to take appropriate steps to deliver renal dialysis services at Proserpine Hospital [[1318](#), [1319](#)].

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In more good news for Queensland I can announce that overnight Queensland has recorded no new cases of COVID, but this battle is not over. New Zealand has discovered that sad fact. Suddenly, after 102 days of being

COVID free, four members of one family tested positive without any clue how they have got it. It means restrictions have returned in New Zealand. We have two enemies in this pandemic: the first is that the virus itself is unpredictable and kills; and the second is complacency.

The response of the people of Queensland to this pandemic has been nothing short of heroic. I see the evidence of this in how willingly people are stepping forward to be tested. In the past 24 hours, 9,883 tests were conducted in this state. That shows how serious Queenslanders are to keep COVID out. This war against COVID is not going away. Today we are sending in reinforcements. Today I announce a trial that will add pharmacies to the places where Queenslanders can be tested. In a moment, the Deputy Premier will detail these measures. I thank the Deputy Premier and the Chief Health Officer for this wonderful initiative. Often pharmacies are the first place people with symptoms will seek treatment. It makes sense to be able to offer these people tests. It is another way we are keeping Queenslanders safe.

I want to once again thank the people of Queensland for everything they are doing, especially staying home when they are sick and keeping up with their social distancing. Their good work is the reason sporting codes like the AFL have relocated to Queensland. It is why we are able to announce today that AFL teams the Sydney Swans and the Fremantle Dockers are basing themselves in Cairns, providing a much needed boost to a city suffering from the tourism downturn from the global pandemic. They will join other teams playing a number of games at Cazaly's Stadium. I hope Cairns will adopt a team. I know they will make them feel right at home. Our health response is the reason we are able to begin delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery, and the credit for that belongs to each and every Queenslanders.

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): Investing in education infrastructure and having a pipeline of projects well into the future is a key part of Queensland's economic recovery plan. We are creating vital jobs while also providing world-class schools and facilities for our students. We opened eight new schools this year worth \$450 million which supported 1,300 jobs. We are opening five more schools next year and our total investment across all stages is \$462 million, supporting around 1,400 jobs. Last month I announced a \$346 million education package as part of our unite and recover plan which included building four new state schools from 2022 and beyond, creating 870 jobs.

Whilst I am on my feet, I want to wish the Minister for Education a very happy birthday today. I am quite sure the member for Kawana will as well.

Mr Bleijie: She nearly didn't make her birthday yesterday!

Ms Grace: Thanks to you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was good to see the member for Kawana helping out—probably the first and last time. Yesterday I announced a tradies jobs bonanza for a refurbishment works program across our Queensland state schools. That \$220 million investment will create 720 jobs for projects like repairing paths and walkways, upgrading classrooms, libraries, playgrounds and tennis courts, and creating outdoor learning spaces. Today I am pleased to announce—

Mr Bleijie: Which schools?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You will find out, member for Kawana, because the department will be letting you know.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just wait, just wait; the department will be letting you know.

Mr Bleijie: The Premier could've told the journalist last night.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Today I am pleased to announce—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not like good news. They do not like jobs for tradies.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not like programs in the schools.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not like maintenance in the schools.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please continue with your ministerial statement, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was provoked, Mr Speaker.

Mr Bleijie: I just want to know which schools.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You will find out.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair and the member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Today I can announce that tenders will be called shortly for stage 2 expansions at Ripley Valley, Yarrabilba, Foxwell, Mango Hill State Secondary College, Lee Street State Special School, as well as Ripley Valley and West End state schools. This is a further \$200 million investment supporting 660 jobs while building world-class education facilities for our students. Whilst I am on my feet I want to say that it was wonderful to be in the electorate of the Minister for Police, joined by the Minister for Education, when we met with the wonderful students at Lee Street. I will tell members one thing: they are right up there when it comes to general knowledge on COVID and what the government is doing. It was wonderful to see them and—

An honourable member: They've been watching the TV ads.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me tell members that they know all about the borders. They are so happy with their new school. They are thriving. The teachers love the new environment, and what a great addition for Caboolture. I really want to thank the minister for his hard work and for his advocacy. It was wonderful to see. By investing in infrastructure now and planning for the future, we are creating a pipeline of projects and jobs that will steer our economy and jobs through this global pandemic.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): The global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. Our government's recovery plan includes Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This is a program which has helped and will continue to help workers to gain job-ready skills and enter the labour market with confidence. Last month we announced the successful projects for this year's round 1 of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. More than \$42 million funded more than 200 projects to support communities across the state and on-the-job training for thousands of people. In fact, we recently reached a major milestone, with over 31,000 people finding work as a direct result of participating in one of those local projects.

Today I can announce we are ready to fund another multimillion dollar round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects from this year's \$90 million allocation. This will again help not-for-profit community organisations, local councils and school P&Cs with projects to provide hands-on training. In turn that will assist Queenslanders like Jacqueline, Neale and Micah, whom I met here during our last sitting with the Minister for Training and Skills Development, and they absolutely love the work that they are doing. They are Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees from the Gold Coast who lost their jobs due to COVID. They are completing a Certificate I in Construction at the Mudgeeraba Showgrounds. Skilling Queenslanders for Work gave them the opportunity to upskill and get re-employed. Jacqueline, who was deemed as a non-essential staff member and let go from her previous job, said that finding a paid position came at the right time for her. The hands-on experience she has gained will help her find permanent work.

I know members of this House are incredibly supportive—well, members on this side of the House are incredibly supportive—of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. As we continue reinvigorating our economy, it is important that people looking for work can access local support and guidance to prepare them for new opportunities.

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.45 am): Today is another zero day for Queensland, with 11 days of no community transmission. Here in Queensland we have been fortunate to have many days like today thanks to the hard work of Queenslanders and to our preparedness. Queensland has acted quickly and decisively throughout this pandemic and it is that action which has allowed us to focus on economic recovery, on getting people back to work.

We were the first Australian state to declare the pandemic a public health emergency. We legislated to give our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, the powers she needed to fight this pandemic. We injected \$1.2 billion into our public hospitals to double intensive care and triple emergency department capacity. We ordered more PPE and ventilators. We hired more frontline health staff and we were one of the first jurisdictions in the world to start testing for COVID-19.

Right from the beginning we knew that testing capacity would be critical, so we have continued to expand our testing capabilities. We bought 35 more GeneXpert machines to rapidly test for COVID and more Panther machines so we could test right around the state. We also introduced serology testing to assist with contact tracing. Our great Queensland based private pathology services QML and Sullivan Nicolaides have bolstered our public testing capacity. Together, as of this morning, 693,707 tests have been done in Queensland, with 9,883 in the last 24 hours. Until we have an approved vaccine for COVID-19, we will continue to rely on methods like testing to keep Queenslanders safe, and that is why I am pleased to inform the House that we are once again increasing our testing capability.

Today I am announcing a trial of testing for COVID-19 in pharmacies. Over the next few months community pharmacies across the state will be able to take part in the pilot project. Queenslanders have so far done extremely well. We saw recently in the southern suburbs of Brisbane and in Logan and in Ipswich people coming out in droves to get tested when we asked. This trial is about making testing even more accessible. Each year there are over 458 million patient visits to pharmacies, or about 8.8 million a week. Community pharmacies are accessible, trusted places in communities across Queensland, including some of our regional and remote areas.

Making testing available at your local pharmacy will make it even easier for Queenslanders to get tested. The pharmacy is often the first place we go when we have those respiratory symptoms—an itchy throat, a sniffle, a fever. They provide us with lozenges, cold and flu tablets, paracetamol. Now they will be able to test us for COVID-19. Under this pilot program, pharmacists will be provided with extra training to conduct the testing and samples will still be analysed by Queensland Health. The same rules will apply. People who are tested will be required to self-quarantine until they get a negative test result. A strong health response is our first step to economic recovery. I want to ask all Queenslanders to get tested if they have any symptoms whatsoever. If we continue our strong health response together, we will be able to continue to deliver Queensland's plan to unite and recover.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): As we unite and recover from COVID-19 to get more Queenslanders working, every day our construction industry is building a stronger Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's \$6 billion in measures to support Queensland jobs and businesses includes funding that benefits tradies, apprentices, building suppliers, home owners, seniors and local communities across the state.

Last month our government also announced the \$200 million Building Acceleration Fund to fast track projects that will unlock development, increase construction activity and support long-term jobs. It is great news for our hardworking chippies like Wade and Natasha who the Premier and I had the opportunity to meet recently at the Spring Mountain development in the electorate of Jordan. By partnering with councils, property developers and industry we will leverage the capacity of the private sector to stimulate the economy and encourage job growth.

We know this model works. Our previous investment vehicle in 2017 delivered \$3 of private sector investment for every \$1 from the government and generated hundreds of jobs in Townsville alone through the JCU Central Plaza development, the Townsville airport apron extension and the Elliott Springs residential estate.

Building Acceleration Fund applications are now open for projects ready to commence construction within 12 months of funding approval so we can create jobs now that will help stimulate long-term private investment. Co-investment funding will be provided to successful projects as an interest free loan, with the proponent required to co-invest between 10 to 50 per cent of the total project cost depending on the scale of development.

We are providing further stimulus for the construction industry by making it easier for Queenslanders to build their first home. Queensland was the first east coast state to have our home builder application up and running and early trends show strong take-up in regional Queensland. This shows that Queensland government measures, like our \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant and \$5,000 regional building boost, are delivering. We are providing affordable rental housing for Queenslanders who need it most through our build-to-rent pilot which has progressed to the shortlist stage for

developers. Proponents have been invited to submit detailed development solutions to supply up to 750 dwellings, with up to 40 per cent of those to be affordable rentals. Our government recognises the value of our construction sector and we are backing our tradies to help build a stronger economy as we unite and recover to support Queensland jobs.

Cairns, AFL

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.52 am): We are kicking goals for Cairns. As you have heard from the Premier this morning, after weeks of negotiations the Palaszczuk government has secured a deal with the AFL that will see two clubs relocate to Cairns. Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef will be the temporary home of the Sydney Swans and the Fremantle Dockers for the next three weeks. This will see hotel rooms across the city bustling with some of Australia's very best footy players.

The teams will play a number of games in the Far North during rounds 15, 16, 17 and 18, helping to showcase the beauty of the Far North to thousands of footy fans throughout the country. This is a first for Cairns. We have never seen so many AFL premiership games in the Far North in one season. The eyes of sports fans across Australia and around the world will be on Cairns. This will deliver a huge boost for the local economy that has been doing it so tough during COVID-19.

Mr Speaker, as you know better than anyone here, it has been pretty cold and overcast in Perth and Sydney this week, but in Cairns today they are predicting a top of 27 degrees with a nice breeze coming off the Great Barrier Reef. This is the kind of exposure that money cannot buy. That is why when the AFL first agreed to relocate to Queensland we fought so hard to ensure that Cairns got a piece of the action. We know that tourism will be vital when it comes to rebuilding our economy in places like Cairns. We will continue to work hard to secure events that will pump millions of dollars into local businesses, support local jobs and further our economic recovery efforts.

School Infrastructure

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I call the birthday girl.

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): I am at that age, Mr Speaker, where I would like to forget about them, to be honest.

Ms Jones: You don't look it, Gracie.

A government member: Yeah, you look good.

Ms Fentiman: Take that interjection.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection from the member for Cooper and minister.

Another day, another fantastic education infrastructure announcement from the Premier! Following on from yesterday's tradie bonanza, where we are announced \$220 million for building works, upgrades and maintenance at Queensland schools, today we can get on with the job of delivering additional classrooms and facilities at another seven schools. This \$200 million investment will not only be great news for these growing school communities but also support another 660 jobs right here in Queensland and add to the record \$1.5 billion school infrastructure investment over the past financial year.

Everyone knows that COVID-19 has had a big impact on the global economy and Queensland is not immune, so by continuing the pipeline of work on school infrastructure we are helping to support construction jobs now and into the future. For the schools at Ripley Valley, Yarrabilba, Mango Hill, Caboolture and Coomera this represents the next stage of development following their opening at the start of the 2020 school year. The Palaszczuk government opened eight new state schools for the 2020 school year, the most in one year in more than 30 years, and we will continue to create hundreds of jobs through the next stage of these important infrastructure projects.

Tenders will be called shortly and contractors for these projects are expected to be announced later this year, with construction to start in 2020 and finish during 2022. It was fantastic to visit Lee Street State Special School with the Premier and local member, Minister Mark Ryan, to see the great work being done at that new school. The pride in those students was really unmeasurable. As I mentioned yesterday—well, I tried to mention yesterday—last week I was at Yarrabilba State Secondary College with the member for Logan, and I look forward to visiting the other new 2020 schools, including Mango Hill with the Deputy Premier and Ripley Valley with the member for Bundamba, in the coming weeks.

I also want to make special mention of the work being done at West End State School. There has been incredible growth in that area. This was a school that was bursting at the seams as more and more people moved into the inner-city suburbs of West End and South Brisbane. On Monday the official key handover of the newly completed stage 1 project occurred with the member for South Brisbane. The new buildings look absolutely fantastic. It is great to see stage 2 of the project now forging ahead for parents, students and staff in that school community. All of these projects build on the Palaszczuk government's record investment in building new schools and expanding existing schools in high-growth areas, supporting hundreds of local jobs and giving our kids a great start.

Isaac Downs Coalmine

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to strengthening our state's economy as we continue to battle the global COVID-19 crisis. That is why we are delivering Queensland's plan to unite and recover to support key Queensland industries that are creating jobs right around the state. Today I can announce that a key Bowen Basin mining project that will deliver hundreds of jobs is a step closer after I declared Stanmore Coal's Isaac Downs project a prescribed project. The prescribed project declaration allows the Coordinator-General to work with Stanmore Coal to ensure that all necessary project approvals are obtained in a timely manner.

The \$900 million metallurgical coal project is located in the Bowen Basin about 10 kilometres south-east of Moranbah. I am advised that the Isaac Downs project has the potential to deliver \$2.5 billion to boost the region's economy and that over the course of its anticipated 16-year life the mine is also expected to generate a further \$457 million for Queensland's broader economy. Pending all necessary approvals, and Stanmore's business plans for the site, the project construction for the new mine could begin as soon as early 2021. I am advised that on that time line, the mine could be expected to be operational by the middle of next year.

The construction phase of the project is expected to create over 250 jobs. Having recently travelled to Moranbah and met with the Isaac Regional Council Mayor Ann Baker, councillors and manufacturers who supply into the resources industry, I know this project will be a huge boost to the region. The project would also provide ongoing long-term employment for workers at the company's existing Isaac Plains Complex, with 220 workers transferred to the new mine. In addition, Stanmore Coal estimates that, when operational, the new mine would create an extra 80 jobs on site. Stanmore Coal in January 2020 submitted an Environmental Impact Statement to the Department of Environment and Science, a process which includes reviewing and responding to public submissions.

Once again the Palaszczuk government is supporting our resources sector to create jobs in regional Queensland. We will continue to back resource industry workers as we deliver Queensland's plan to strengthen our economy in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Capricornia Correctional Centre; Southern Queensland Correctional Centre

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.59 am): We face twin challenges: there is a health emergency and there is a formidable economic challenge. The Palaszczuk government has a steely focus on and a plan for dealing with both issues. Our plan to support jobs and communities right across the state is well known.

Last week, I officially opened the new secure units at Capricornia Correctional Centre, increasing capacity by 100 cells. When completed, the entire Capricornia expansion project will increase capacity by 348 cells and almost 400 beds. At a cost of \$241 million, that project is creating local jobs and providing the local community with an economic boost at this critical time.

We are also building a major piece of infrastructure in the Lockyer Valley that will generate hundreds of jobs during construction. Once complete, that project will create hundreds of permanent full-time jobs. Today I am pleased to announce that the successful tenderer for the construction of Southern Queensland Correctional Centre stage 2 is experienced correctional centre builder John Holland. This \$653 million excluding GST piece of infrastructure will be a game changer for the Lockyer Valley. Construction of the 1,000-bed prison facility will generate hundreds of jobs. I am advised that the construction phase will commence this year and will support an average of 400 jobs per year, but at peak construction times the number will rise to 900 jobs. Once complete, the facility will require at least 500 full-time permanent staff.

This is a major project and it is win, win, win for the local community and for Queensland. The project supports jobs as we rebuild the economy through the recovery from COVID-19. It greatly enhances the capacity of our corrections network and enhances officer safety and community safety. As I said, it will be an economic game changer for the Lockyer Valley. I know that the mayor of the Lockyer Valley, Tanya Milligan, is tremendously excited about the flow-on effects from this project. I thank Tanya for her support. I know that the local member, the member for Lockyer, is also a strong supporter. I thank Jim for his support too.

This is about Building Queensland's future. It is all about Queensland's plan to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic. Quite frankly, this \$650 million investment in infrastructure and jobs could not come at a better time.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.02 am): Across the world and here in Queensland we have seen the COVID-19 pandemic impact local economies, but because the Palaszczuk government has managed the health response to COVID-19 so well we can firmly focus on our plan for economic recovery, which is all about investing in training so that Queenslanders have the skills they need for jobs now and into the future. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of our most popular programs. It provides on-the-job skills and training, with more than 31,000 participants going on to get a job as a result of the program.

Just last month the Premier announced an additional \$10 million for the program. This boost will go towards assisting more Queenslanders such as Max Edwards, who is working on the Belong's bush conservation project in Logan. During COVID-19 he and other participants continued their landscaping work whilst helping to pack food boxes at Lighthouse Care in Logan for families doing it tough. Max said he loved every minute of working with his team and helping people in need, and he now has a job with Logan Landscapes.

It is stories such as that that make the program such a success. As the Premier announced today, the next round of funding is open. It will be wonderful to see hundreds more organisations apply for funding to give participants the experience and hands-on training needed to get a job whilst also working on local community projects.

I know that members on this side of the House are big fans of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. The member for Redlands has seen firsthand what the program can achieve for local communities. Recently I attended a graduation with the member for Redlands at the Redlands Rugby League Club, where 30 young construction trainees have been giving the club a much needed makeover. Not only have they been able to give back to their local community but also they have learnt skills for life. Eighty per cent of the graduates have already found a job.

This is why the Palaszczuk government is proud to continue our support for that successful program unlike those opposite who, when in government, scrapped the program and went to the last election promising to scrap it again. Our government understands the value of providing skills and training for Queenslanders to get a job. As we continue our plan for economic recovery, it is vital that Queenslanders looking for work have the opportunities they need to upskill and get a job.

Buy Queensland

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): There has never been a more important time in our history for Queenslanders to be supporting Queenslanders. It is the work that Queenslanders are doing to support each other that is getting us through the COVID-19 pandemic as well as we are. Even still, with the global economy facing severe economic headwinds, we must continue to do everything possible to put Queenslanders first. Our Buy Queensland policy does that and continues to protect Queensland jobs. Since the introduction of Buy Queensland, over 47,900 Queensland businesses have supplied approximately \$24 billion worth of goods and services to the state, with almost 21,000 of those businesses located in regional Queensland. In the first full financial year of operation, Buy Queensland injected an additional \$900 million into Queensland businesses compared to 2016-17.

In the recent sitting week, the opposition speculated and attempted to misinform the House in relation to Queensland government contracts with companies with Queensland workers that, in some circumstances, have been purchased by overseas interests. What we are investing in is jobs for

Queenslanders and the businesses that support those jobs. Our approach includes a local benefits test to ensure that as far as possible the emphasis is on local jobs and the suppliers that support those jobs, and that the supply chain benefits from government procurement activity. The Buy Queensland approach is shown in the statistics on the recent construction of the new home of the North Queensland Cowboys in Townsville, with over 1,900 North Queenslanders in jobs over the life of the project. With 488 local businesses benefiting in the local supply chain, 83.4 per cent of construction hours were completed by local subcontractors, exceeding the 80 per cent target.

We know that the LNP policy is not about Queensland workers. In fact, they are quite happy to turn their back on Queenslanders in the circumstances where the company they work for is purchased by an international business. However, if you are one of the 500 Queenslanders employed at Bundaberg Sugar, because your company is internationally owned does not make you less of a Queenslanders. If you brew Milton Mango, you are still a maroon even though it is overseas owned these days. If you are one of the 250 or so Queenslanders who work directly or indirectly for Rex Regional Express, you are no less a Queenslanders because Rex has its headquarters in Sydney. If you have spent your whole working life making biscuits at Virginia in the Arnott's factory, which now has an international owner, still you are a Queenslanders.

To come back to what the LNP asked the Premier in the last sitting week in this House, I say this: if you are one of the 250 Queenslanders who work for Dimension Data, set up in Queensland by South Africans and bought out by NTT from Japan, the LNP says that you are somehow less of a Queenslanders. That was the message from the LNP leader during the last sitting week of parliament to Queensland workers. However, what is at the heart of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy is supporting Queenslanders in jobs and the local businesses that support those jobs giving everybody a fair go.

Let us be clear: LNP treasurers in Canberra could have chosen not to sit on their hands and instead exercise their foreign investment review powers, but they did not and they have not. It is the Liberal Party in this nation that has presided over some of the largest foreign takeovers in Australian history that the Leader of the Opposition is now criticising. What Queenslanders want to see is a government that works with everyone to give all Queenslanders a fair go, not one that pits worker against worker. Queenslanders want unity, not division. They want economic recovery, not dog-whistle rhetoric. It is only Labor that has a real plan for Queensland and Queensland jobs.

Regional Queensland, Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government backs regional Queensland. Despite the global challenges of COVID-19, our strong health response means we are delivering a plan for economic recovery and jobs. In our regions that means creating more than 13½ thousand jobs with a record \$4½ billion pipeline of road and transport upgrades. It also means \$1 billion in new stimulus funding under our economic plan, locked in by this government to seal more dirt roads, build better bridges and link our paddocks and pits to the ports of the world. Better connections by road, rail and port are crucial to make sure that products get to millions of dining room tables. That is why the Palaszczuk government has kept our ports in public hands and why we are investing hundreds of millions of dollars to bolster rail freight.

I am pleased to announce today that we are bolstering that investment with three new projects approved as part of a \$50 million commitment for the Townsville to Mount Isa rail line, saved by the Palaszczuk government from privatisation by those opposite. Right now, there is more than half a billion dollars going into the crucial supply chain between North Queensland's largest port and the state's minerals province. These three new projects will build on the jobs already created and supercharge regional Queensland's economy through the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland Rail will look at enabling double-stack trains to run from Mount Isa to Stuart and potentially to the Port of Townsville, with a business case to be finalised this year. We will also see major investment in improving flood resilience on the line and the replacement of ageing rail equipment like sleepers and ballast.

I recently met with the new Mount Isa Mayor, Danielle Slade, to see firsthand how our investment in the rail line is supporting regional Queensland jobs and economies through the COVID-19 pandemic. I also met with Cloncurry Mayor Greg Campbell to discuss how upgrades to the Butcher Creek Bridge and the Cloncurry to Dajarra Road sealing, funded by our billion dollar stimulus package, will benefit north-west families, tourism and industry. Whether it is rail, ports, new price-tracking software for regional airfares or more road projects for regional Queensland, it is the Palaszczuk government that is delivering a real, funded plan for economic recovery and jobs for Queensland.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.11 am): I am pleased to announce that more than 600 community groups will share in \$14.6 million worth of Queensland government grants through the approval of round 104 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The fund is Queensland's largest one-off grants program, distributing approximately \$59 million per year and over \$287 million since the election of the Palaszczuk government.

The approval of this latest grant round is timely, given the challenges Queensland communities are facing in managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the heart of each community, these grassroots organisations keep Queenslanders connected and united. That is why the Palaszczuk government is encouraging Queenslanders, including our community organisations receiving these grants, to support local businesses and suppliers. This funding will stimulate metropolitan, regional and remote economies by encouraging the purchase of much needed equipment, the hiring of contractors and builders for facility upgrades, and the contracting of services for events and workshops.

I would like to share with the House just a few examples of the fund in action. Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the member for Noosa at the Noosa Animal Care Centre, which is an RSPCA site, to announce that the centre, which was opened by Labor MP the Hon. Terry Mackenroth in 1994, was receiving \$35,000 for new facilities. I want to acknowledge the manager, Nicole, who recently was recognised for 25 years service at the RSPCA. I am pleased that the RSPCA across Queensland will receive \$140,000 to support their vital animal welfare program.

I also visited the Caloundra Men's Shed and had the pleasure of being joined by Jason Hunt, Labor's candidate for Caloundra, to announce over \$18,000 worth of funding to purchase a new saw and extractor to help the group set up their new site. This funding will help stimulate the local economy through the purchasing of new equipment, which I know will be well used.

Finally, I visited the Aspley Special School, a school which I have known and been part of for many years. I am pleased to announce, with the amazing member for Aspley, Bart Mellish, \$35,000 to install air-conditioning in the school's hall. This funding will see not only local tradies supported through the installation of the air-conditioning but also an upgraded, cooler space for our next generation to learn in.

The Palaszczuk government, through a variety of programs and grants, including the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, is supporting our local community and not-for-profit groups and, by association, supporting local businesses and jobs as these groups spend the funds in their communities. This is particularly important when many of these groups rely on sponsorship and support by local businesses and when our community clubs, who are doing it really tough at the moment, will not be providing as much support and sponsorship as they have in past years. These grants are really critical at this time. I congratulate all of those organisations on their successful grants, supporting their local communities and local jobs.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.15 am): In this the penultimate week of this parliament, no doubt members will be delighted to receive a series of reports from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner as well as reports that I am obliged to table under various pieces of legislation. I commend to all members these reports. Some of them are only a page each, so members should have no difficulty in reading them. They are indeed worthy and vital components of the work of this parliament.

I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report, as I always comment, thrillingly titled *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated June 2020.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, June 2020 [[1320](#)].

This is a slightly longer report. It contains about eight pages, so I am not sure members will be able to deal with that one! The committee is required to table this report within 14 sitting days of receipt. The committee received the report smack on the deadline of 30 June 2020.

I also table the following Crime and Corruption Commission reports pursuant to sections 314 and 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and sections 138 and 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. These reports are the shorter version and I do commend them to members. The first is titled *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Section 146ZQ, Crime and Corruption Act 2001: assumed identities—annual report: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020*. As I say, that one is a good one. The second is titled *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Section 314, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000: assumed identities—annual report: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020*. There are no assumed identities by members of parliament in there. The third is titled *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Section 358, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000: surveillance device warrants—annual report: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020*. Finally, I table *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Section 138(2) Crime and Corruption Act 2001: Controlled Operations Committee—report on activities: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020*.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2019-20 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [1321].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2019-20 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities relating to criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [1322].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2019-20 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [1323].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2019-20 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on the schedule of controlled operations applications for corruption offences for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [1324].

The committee is required to table the reports within 14 sitting days of receipt. The committee received the reports on 5 August 2020. There were no issues of concern identified in any of the CCC reports.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your enthusiasm, member for Clayfield.

Mr NICHOLLS: I have to keep trying, Mr Speaker!

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Referral of Matter to Ethics Committee

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.17 am): In accordance with standing order 268(1), I rise as chair of the Transport and Public Works Committee to report that the committee has considered an unauthorised disclosure of confidential committee proceedings by persons unknown. The disclosure was that the committee had discussed advice received in relation to subordinate legislation No. 57—Residential Tenancies and Room Accommodation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020—at its committee meeting on 15 June 2020. The committee has unanimously resolved to recommend that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee as a potential breach of standing order 211.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.18 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to implement the LNP's Plan to Get Queensland Working:

- (a) no new or increased taxes to boost business confidence and create jobs;
- (b) build and own the visionary New Bradfield Scheme;
- (c) build a second M1 to get people home safer and sooner;
- (d) air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland because cool kids are smart kids;
- (e) break Ergon's monopoly and introduce retail price competition for electricity into regional Queensland allowing regional Queenslanders access to the same deals as South-East Queensland saving households around \$300 a year;
- (f) clear elective surgery wait lists by partnering with the private sector so Queenslanders get the surgeries they need on time;

- (g) build dams. The first stage of our water security plan is to get shovel-ready the Nullinga Dam, the Urannah Dam and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam;
- (h) fix Paradise Dam instead of ripping down a dam in drought;
- (i) set up a Queensland Infrastructure Fund with royalties from the Galilee Basin;
- (j) stop Labor's wasteful spending;
- (k) introduce a public sex offender register to help parents protect their kids from serious sexual offenders;

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: From serious sexual offenders. I continue—

- (l) reducing water prices for Sunwater irrigators by almost 20 per cent per year from next year;

Government members interjected.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right! The Deputy Premier will cease his interjections.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I mention serious sexual offenders and that is their response.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your commentary, Leader of the Opposition. Please continue with your notice of motion.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I continue—

- (m) fast-tracking shovel-ready projects across South-East Queensland through our \$1 billion congestion-busting program to stimulate the economy; and
- (n) appoint 60 new police in both Cairns and Townsville over the next four years to crack down on crime.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.20 am.

Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.20 am): My first question is to the Premier. Yesterday in relation to Cross River Rail's billion dollar blowout the Minister for State Development said any cost overrun would be taken from the existing budget allocation. Can the Premier tell the House which part of Cross River Rail will be scrapped to fund Labor's billion dollar blowout?

Ms PALASZCZUK: From the outset, I reject the imputation in the question that the Leader of the Opposition has asked. As we said clearly yesterday, the government has gone with the intermodal solution which will benefit people coming in from the eastern part of the line otherwise they would have had to walk.

Mr Mander: At what cost?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the member for Everton that it was publicised back in, from memory, September 2017 that the Boggo Road station would be the intermodal solution. There is nothing new.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am very pleased the member for Clayfield is here because if we want to talk about cost blowouts let us look at 1 William Street. As the minister said yesterday, in the budget papers there is an allocation of \$5.4 billion. That will be met by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority which has now been absorbed as part of government. The minister for Cross River Rail is responsible for the development.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Clayfield, 1 William Street is your legacy. The selling of assets and wanting to sell assets—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say very clearly—I said this yesterday and I will say it in the House again: in Victoria we have a situation where only 25 per cent of construction workers are undertaking construction work at the moment due to the lockdown. We have just seen Auckland go into lockdown.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have construction happening here in Queensland because we have made the tough decisions to keep Queenslanders safe and allow our recovery to continue.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Clayfield, despite your earlier comedic efforts these ones are not appreciated. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Clayfield might want to give the member for Nanango some very clear advice on how to pay for her unfunded election commitments. We can talk about the \$7 billion or \$8 billion they are up to at the moment, but if we add in the New Bradfield Scheme it is \$23 billion. The only way they can find that money is to sell Queensland assets. That is what the opposition's secret plan is. The secret plan to open the borders to Victoria and the secret plan—

(Time expired)

Virgin Australia Airlines

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. I table an email from a Virgin employee saying that many Queensland Virgin staff are in the process of being made redundant. The email says—

I believe morally Virgin have no right to take taxpayers' money from the Queensland government when they have made no effort in keeping jobs here in Queensland.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 6 August 2020, to the Nanango electorate office titled 'Virgin Australia—Tax payers money' [1325].

What action will the Premier take to guarantee that Virgin Australia—a company part owned by the Labor government—does the right thing and keeps every single one of its Queensland workers in a job?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question because it was very clear that the opposition did not support the Queensland government when we were looking to keep Virgin headquartered in Queensland. We had attack after attack about why we were even looking at Virgin. I will tell members why we were looking at Virgin. It was to keep as many jobs as possible here in Queensland and to keep their headquarters in Queensland.

Mr Dick: What about regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, and also have connectivity to regional Queensland. There is only one side of this House that backs regional Queensland and it is this side.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth and member for Glass House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We saw the attacks about Virgin and why we would even dare consider that. Now they come in and do another backflip, like the one they did on borders. All of a sudden they are caring about jobs. No-one believes you, Leader of the Opposition

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not one Queenslander believes that the LNP cares about people's jobs. Why do I say that? The public still remember Campbell Newman and the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, who was just sitting there—I am sorry he left—

Mrs Frecklington: Welcome to 2020, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will welcome you to 2020. In 2020 the Leader of the Opposition would have had the borders open and heaven would have helped us.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked you to cease interjecting. Clearly the guidance was not clear enough.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Nanango and the member for Everton all lined up wanting the borders open. That is what they did. The Prime Minister and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg—they all stood up one after the other demanding that we open the borders. We stood strong. This government protected Queenslanders. We will continue to look after Queenslanders. We will plan the path to

economic recovery. Queenslanders remember the damage that Campbell Newman, the member for Kawana, the member for Everton and the member for Nanango did when they were in government and sacked 14,000 workers. The LNP only needs to go and ask any public servant to hear that they fear for their jobs to this day.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You may laugh, member for Everton, but it is no laughing matter.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Job Creation

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Townsville and North Queensland as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan to create jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for being a strong advocate for regional Queensland in this House. Along with the member for Mundingburra and the member for Townsville, the member for Thuringowa continues to stand up for the people in his electorate of Thuringowa and for the people of Townsville and is focused on delivering for jobs in North Queensland. You only have to see the stadium as you are flying into Townsville to see the commitment we have made to that great city, making sure that we invested in the jobs and the infrastructure that Townsville needs. At the end of this month—I think it is on Wednesday, 23 August—I stand to be corrected, Minister Jones—is the Jeff Horn fight.

Ms Jones: Yes, it is.

Mr Mander: The 26th.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On the 26th the Jeff Horn fight is happening in the great Townsville stadium. We are all backing Jeff Horn. On this side of the House we are backing Jeff Horn. I do not know about the other side. I should add that the New South Wales Premier attacked me in line with the member for Nanango—obviously a Blues supporter through and through!

Not only have we built the great Townsville stadium for the people of North Queensland because they deserve a stadium in North Queensland; tonight Townsville Enterprise is coming to the House and we welcome them. It gives us a great opportunity to once again meet with them and talk to them about our plan for economic recovery for the region. The North Queensland ROC was also in town yesterday. I had the great pleasure of also hearing their plans for North Queensland.

Of course there has only been one side of this House that has delivered stage 1 of the Haughton pipeline—\$225 million by Queensland—

Mr Mander: \$39 million wasted.

Ms PALASZCZUK: 'Wasted,' I hear.

Mr Crisafulli: No, that's not what he said.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh—the member for Broadwater! You cannot talk about Townsville. You cut and run. You're a runner!

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Broadwater is a runner!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier!

Mr Crisafulli: I'd back my reputation over yours every day of the week.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Despite provocation, the member for Broadwater will cease his interjections. The Premier will put her comments through the chair to avoid such conflicts in the future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Broadwater is a little bit touchy touchy when it comes to issues around Townsville—a little bit touchy touchy. Is it any wonder!

I am looking forward to travelling back to Townsville. We have our community cabinet happening in Cairns. We will also be supporting Townsville.

Now we are going it alone for the second stage of the Haughton pipeline—400 jobs—making sure that those contracts can be let and the work can continue. I thank the Treasurer for the great work he has been doing. He is standing up to Canberra when we would have lost so much money through the GST when other states do not have that. We will always stand up for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development. I table part of a secret briefing note to the Minister for State Development which states that the Cross River Rail delivery partner Pulse was ordered to stop work on 26 February 2020, some 168 days ago—and Pulse can claim \$2 million for every day that work is delayed.

Tabled paper. Extract, undated, from briefing note referenced CRRDA Ref: D2020/34264 [1326].

Can the minister confirm that taxpayers could be slugged \$336 million for delay payments to Pulse alone?

Ms JONES: I thank the member for the question because it gives me an opportunity to reinforce and clarify comments I made yesterday. We are working through that detailed design. I can assure all Queenslanders that, as I said yesterday, no matter where we built the station—and we examined both stations—we would have to tie the—

Mr Hunt interjected.

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

Ms JONES:—old rail network into the new rail network. That was always in the design. That was always in the cost of the project. Therefore, I stand here today to reiterate that Pulse, in the contract that the state government has signed, must deliver this within the \$5.4 billion budget allocated for the project. I cannot be any clearer than that.

Mr Mander: Not if the government delays them.

Ms JONES: You are right. That briefing note, I believe, is dated in April. We are now here, and I can advise the House that I have weekly meetings with Cross River Rail. We are working through this issue with the great work of Queensland Rail to get the detailed design right. I have even personally met with engineers who are working on this project. I can assure every single member in this House that we have almost concluded that detailed design work. It will be delivered within the \$5.4 billion envelope as per the contract signed with the state.

Aquaculture Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the aquaculture industry is growing in Queensland and what this means for jobs as we unite and recover, particularly in regional Queensland like Mackay and North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. We know how important aquaculture is for Queensland. The minister has been working very closely with a number of proponents about how they can expand in Queensland. I firmly believe that there is a great future for further expansion of aquaculture as we unite and recover for Queensland jobs as a result of the global pandemic that we are now in.

It gave me great pleasure that Minister Hinchliffe and I were able to visit Tassal just recently north of Proserpine to see the amount of work that is happening there—the construction, the bulldozers. They are very much focused on local regional employment and, because they are expanding and able to put on more jobs, it means more spending in the local economies which is what our unite and recover plan is all about.

Their \$257 million planned investment in North Queensland is for two projects. Importantly, it will create up to 1,000 jobs in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. I know that the assistant minister would be very pleased with that. Last month we were able to announce that the \$85 million expansion program is underway. The ponds have been dug. Once they are filled they have the capacity to be one of the largest aquaculture prawn farms in the nation. It is a huge credit to this company that it was able to see a huge opportunity in North Queensland. I visited there and tasted some of the tiger prawns—and I must say they were delicious. We will see huge opportunities not just for domestic consumption but also for expansion of exports into overseas markets.

In further good news, the Coordinator-General has declared Tassal Group's \$172 million proposed new facility at Exmoor Station north-west of Mackay a coordinated project. Once again, there is even more expansion happening. In terms of their combined investment, they were expected to produce around 10,000 tonnes of prawns per annum from 2026, doubling the existing prawn aquaculture industry in Queensland. That is absolutely tremendous news.

Also, being trade minister I had the opportunity when I went to Abu Dhabi to look at a Sunshine Coast company's expansion in the middle of the desert. Our aquaculture technology is being exported to the world. It is a great Queensland story. It is a story that should be told and must be told. I think we will see in years to come that we will rival Tasmania, if not overtake Tasmania.

Mr Hart: About time.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There we go. The member for Burleigh is here today.

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. In the House yesterday in relation to Labor's Cross River Rail billion dollar blowout, the minister said the decision to overrule expert advice was considered cost neutral. I table a page from leaked cabinet briefing notes which state, 'The option Labor rejected had cost benefits compared to Labor's chosen option.' Will the minister apologise to the House and correct the record?

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Consideration of Proposed Innovation' [1327].

Mr BAILEY: I welcome the first question to me from the member for Chatsworth since 2018. Congratulations! I thought he had retired, but he is still here. I do love a lecture from somebody who was the assistant minister for public transport—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, you will put your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders after previous cautions.

Mr BAILEY: I love a lecture from the former assistant minister for public transport under Campbell Newman, who ordered trains manufactured overseas that were not disability compliant. They cut the Cross River Rail project altogether. We would be opening it this year if it had not been for the cuts from the LNP. They did nothing on light rail and nothing on heavy rail. They have an appalling record on public transport. That was the Newman government record.

Anyone who understands this issue knows full well that the hospital is well-served by the Dutton Park station. That is where staff get off. It is 100 metres away. The option put forward for the new Dutton Park station would have disconnected two train lines, so let us be very clear what the LNP is advocating. They are saying that we should spend \$5 billion and disconnect two train lines. It is bizarre. Currently when people change lines they have a nine-second walk across platforms at Park Road. The LNP is saying they should walk nine minutes in the hot summer sun after we invest \$5 billion. It is absurd!

Their record on public transport is appalling, and it continues to this day in this chamber right now. It is very clear that the proposal would have decreased intermodal opportunities and it would have been a disincentive for people to take the train line. They do not understand public transport. They cut this project once and they would cut it again, and we know that.

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: We would be opening this project if it had not been cut by the member for Chatsworth, Campbell Newman and the member for Nanango. They cut this project eight years ago. We would be opening it right now if it had not been for them cutting, sacking and selling. We know what their record is.

Mr Minnikin: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister is not answering the question. I would ask that the minister answer the question.

Mr SPEAKER: There were a number of parts to the question, but I do ask the minister to come back under standing order 118B.

Mr BAILEY: Let me be very clear: Queensland Rail has provided in-principle support for the current redesign of the southern portal alignment because it is the best outcome for passengers. The revised design has resolved curvature issues and is compliant with the project specifications—

Mrs Frecklington: Safety?

Mr Minnikin: Mind the gap!

Mr BAILEY: They do not want to know the answer but I will give it to them anyway. The revised design has resolved design curvature issues and is compliant with the project specification and technical requirements in relation to vertical and horizontal curvature, and the agencies will continue to

work together on the detailed design process. As Minister Jones outlined in the House yesterday and today, any costs associated with the detailed design and alignment must be absorbed within the existing budget. That is the fact.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We are building a project that will enhance public transport when we know—

(Time expired)

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

Aged-Care Facilities, Staffing Ratios

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to improve nurse-to-patient ratios in the aged-care sector and is he aware of any alternate approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for her question. I know that she is an advocate for the older residents of her community who are currently receiving care in an aged-care facility. It was only during the last sitting we heard it has been one year since that awful crisis at the Earle Haven nursing home on the Gold Coast. Our ambos and the Gold Coast hospital service had to rescue 70 residents who had been abandoned. They did a great job, but they should never have had to do that.

This week we have learned that nine aged-care facilities failed their safety audits. They could not even meet the bare minimum standard of safety set for these facilities. Also this week the royal commission into aged care heard that the federal Morrison government had no plan whatsoever for keeping COVID out of aged-care facilities or how to address an outbreak in an aged-care facility. That is despite the fact that for the entire pandemic experts have warned us that nursing homes are one of the highest risk settings. The fact is that now there are 1,765 cases of COVID-19 linked to nursing homes; 1,061 residents of nursing homes in 122 different facilities are currently infected and 125 have died. The practices, regulation and funding of aged care has gone from unethical to cruel, to now deadly. The Queensland government is only a small provider of aged-care services. We have 16 facilities. We would not have any if those opposite had won.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Dr MILES: They wanted to get rid of each and every one of them; however, we do still have 16 and we are determined to make sure they are the best. That is why we have committed to safe staff-to-patient ratios. Recently I was in Rockhampton with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel, committing 28 additional nurses to the two facilities in Rockhampton—the two facilities that those opposite would have cut and sold. Nurse-to-patient ratios in our hospitals will keep patients safer. Safe staff-to-patient ratios in aged care will deliver better care to older Queenslanders and they should be applied across the sector.

Cross River Rail

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development. In relation to Labor's decision to overrule experts about the location of the Dutton Park station and the Cross River Rail billion-dollar blowout, the minister said it would save some commuters a nine-minute walk. I ask: can the minister tell the House how long it will take a disabled patient to travel from Boggo Road station to the Princess Alexandra Hospital, and is the route planned to be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question, because once again I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker. I have repeatedly said in this parliament now—four times, if not five—that the cost of fixing the existing rail line to connect to the new Cross River Rail line will be absorbed within the budget. I have said that repeatedly—

Mrs Frecklington: Keep saying it.

Ms JONES:—tonnes of times, so I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, because there is no blowout. If they bothered to read paragraph 35 of the briefing note—I know it is the last page so it would have taken you a bit of time to get to that—it says that we are in negotiations with Pulse right now resolving these matters within the existing framework and budget. I stand by these comments.

That is why you have contracts. You enter into contracts with companies to build things—because we build things—and you say within that contract, ‘You must build it within the \$5.4 billion allocation.’ That is our contract. That is what we are negotiating with Pulse as we speak. I stand here on my feet in the parliament promising every single one of you—and I say promise—that we will deliver this within that \$5.4 billion framework.

Mrs D’Ath interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member. It is ironic that those opposite, who ordered cheap trains from India that did not meet the disability specifications of Australia or Queensland, all of a sudden care about people with a disability using the train network. Give me a break! We are very proud that a lot of the work that the Minister for Transport is doing—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Ms JONES:—is with regard to upgrading all of our train stations along the network to meet disability standards. Unlike those opposite, every single station that will be delivered as part of Cross River Rail will absolutely meet the requirements of people with disability. We have a working group we have already engaged. Our experience centre in the city has already had a disability network team examining those stations. We have been working very closely with the disability sector. We have learned from the mistakes of the LNP, who did not negotiate or work with people with disability, and we have embedded that from day 1 in our negotiations.

There is someone who does not always agree with the government. Everyone knows about Robert Dow, who goes on the radio and talks about rail more than the minister. He said, ‘Certainly the Boggo Road’—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Ms JONES: The LNP like to hold him up as the expert. Why don’t you hold him up today? Last night he said, ‘Certainly Kate Jones has got this right. Certainly the Boggo Road interchange with Park Road is definitely the best location from a passenger perspective.’

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Economic Response

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer advise the House on the importance of investing in Queensland’s economic recovery? Is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question. As the member for Mount Ommaney knows, the way forward from COVID-19 is the path to growth—growing our economy, growing industry sectors and growing small business. I know that the member for Mount Ommaney is a very strong and vigorous advocate for small business in Mount Ommaney. Through that growth, we will grow jobs in Queensland. Every dollar we spend must be considered against those priorities, and we acknowledge that together we must invest in Queensland’s future.

At the moment, with revenues depressed, spending involves borrowing. As I have said many times, I do not like borrowing money. I do not like doing it but, as the federal coalition finance minister, Mathias Cormann, said a few weeks ago, ‘You ask about debt. I ask you, what is the alternative?’ That is right. It is a question perhaps he should pose to LNP members of this House. Like jurisdictions around the world, Queensland faces challenges that, outside of wartime, we have not seen for 100 years. They are challenges that required determined, considered, prudent responses and of course decisive leadership, exactly the things—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt. Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you have been in the chamber for all of a minute and you have managed to get on the list of warnings. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: As I said, what the state needs is decisive leadership, and that is exactly what we have got from the Premier. As Mathias Cormann said, what is the alternative to decisive leadership? We saw the South Australian Premier in the parliament yesterday meeting with the member for Nanango. I am sure he was happy to give the member for Nanango advice on how to effectively manage borders, but in this case it was too late and the LNP would not have listened in any event.

What did we hear in the House yesterday afternoon from the LNP? The Leader of the Opposition blew the needle off the spendometer—she went on in the MPIs with promise after promise, commitment after commitment, without any description about how she would fund it. Then into the breach jumped the hapless deputy. What did he say? The shadow Treasurer said that he will be limiting general government expenditure to be less than revenue, so expenditure under the LNP will be less than revenue when revenue is collapsing. The deputy leader said there would be no new taxes and he said no increase to debt. There we have it. They have no way to fund \$23 billion in promises without cutting, sacking and selling.

The most fundamental question that can be asked of any party of government is this: how will you fund the promises you make to the people? In this case, the only way the LNP can fund \$23 billion of commitments is to cut, sack and sell. It is the only way. That is what they did in government. It is what they were proud to do around the CBRC table, including the member for Nanango.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: Well may she laugh. She is not a job maker, as she said yesterday. She was a job taker and she will do it again.

(Time expired)

Virgin Australia Airlines

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. Labor gambled \$200 million buying a share in Virgin Australia. Yesterday it was exposed that Labor-owned Virgin Australia will sack at least 400 Queenslanders. Why did the Labor government hand over \$200 million without any guarantee that Virgin would save the jobs of Queensland workers?

Mr Dick: Because we did not want it to go to Sydney or Melbourne.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. I thank the member for the question, but this is the LNP that did not want to have anything to do with Virgin. It is a Labor government that got them headquartered here in Queensland, and it is a Labor government that is going to keep them headquartered here in Queensland. It also means a regional airline route for Queenslanders; it means competition.

Mr Mander: It would have happened anyhow.

Ms PALASZCZUK: For goodness sake. I take that interjection because what we would have seen is probably Virgin going to Sydney or Melbourne. We on this side of the House know that those opposite like backing New South Wales over Queensland. They do not back Queensland.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We know they do not like Queensland because when they have an LNP retreat they pick anywhere except Queensland. They have been to the Western Australian wineries and Luna Park in Sydney. This year they have got to stay here, but maybe they were talking to the Premier of South Australia about going to the Barossa. Perhaps it was a Barossa conversation.

Mrs D'Ath: Maybe.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Maybe. What is very clear is that we will do everything we can to protect Queensland jobs. If the Queensland government had not put \$200 million on the table, either the airline could have collapsed or they would have moved interstate. Let me also say very clearly that the LNP were opposed to any moves that the Queensland government was making about saving the airline and contributing to saving that airline. We will always stand up for Queensland jobs and back Queensland jobs, and we will back Virgin being headquartered here in this state.

North Queensland, Major Events

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister update the House on the importance of major events when it comes to rebuilding North Queensland's economy?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Townsville for the question. He is very proud that not only have we delivered a huge wonderful stadium in Townsville but, more importantly, Jeff Horn will have his next fight there next week against New South Wales man Tim Tszyu. We on this side will all be cheering for Horn, as the Premier said. Who knows what they will be doing opposite, but we will be cheering for Horn.

I have very good news for the House. More than 9,000 seats have already been sold for the Jeff Horn blockbuster bout with Tim Tszyu at the new stadium, and corporate ringside seats have completely sold out. It will be at full capacity. I know that the member for Townsville actually bought tickets himself. I understand that it was an anniversary present for his wife. She did not think she was that lucky, so I understand that he is going with his son. Is that correct?

Mr Stewart: Yes.

Ms JONES: Maybe I will be able to bank on that at home in my household. In all seriousness, we have had a deliberate strategy of delivering major events to Queensland, particularly regional towns and cities, because we know it makes a difference. Right now, given where we are with international borders closed by the Prime Minister and the restrictions we have had to put in place to keep Queenslanders safe, by having these events in regional communities we know that we can deliver economic activity to towns like Cairns, as we were talking about this morning in ministerial statements, and Townsville when it comes to this fight. I think I speak on behalf of all members—certainly those on our side—that we wish Jeff Horn all the very best with his preparation as he leads into this fight. We know that he has a heart of gold but he fights like a man of steel.

There has been a lot of boxing going on around here. We had a right hook from the member for Callide yesterday when he completely blindsided his team by voting with the Katter boys and not voting with the LNP. I do not know if that is the end of that story or if there might be some more rounds in that ring before we know it.

In all seriousness, we are very much looking forward to having this blockbuster event in the Townsville stadium. It is because the Labor government gets on with building the infrastructure that regional Queensland needs that we can have events like this. If we did not have that stadium there, we would not be having the Horn fight in Townsville; it would be down here at Suncorp Stadium. I want to acknowledge and thank all of the members in the Townsville region—my ministerial colleague and member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and indeed the member for Townsville—for lobbying so hard to secure this infrastructure and to have this fight here. Go, Jeff Horn.

Anzac Day Trust, Appointments

Mr BENNETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Because the Premier has not signed off on the reappointment of trustees to the Anzac Day trust since their appointments ended on 31 December 2019, more than 200 requests by veterans groups for financial support from the Anzac Day trust are not being considered at this time. Why is the Premier delaying the decision and denying vital support to veterans?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look into that matter. This government absolutely backs our veterans. I know that members of the government and I will be attending the commemoration marking the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War II. We have exceeded our number of veterans working in the Queensland Public Service, and we will continue to work with our veterans community. We also worked very closely with the city council with the works that were done at Anzac Square recently. I am more than happy to have a look at that matter for you.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim will cease his interjections. The Premier is being responsive to the question asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do not be disrespectful.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Disgraceful! I will personally get back to the member about that.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Will the Premier be taking that on notice pursuant to the standing orders as has been practised in the past?

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier indicated that she would personally get back to the member, which means that she is not taking that on notice under the standing orders.

Small Business

Ms RICHARDS: 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 the support that is available for small businesses, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. She is a champion for small businesses in her part of the world and a great supporter of the work that the Palaszczuk government is doing to support our small businesses. We know that small businesses are vital to our economic recovery and we know they have been doing it tough during COVID-19. That is why I am incredibly proud of our government's support for small businesses.

We are the only state in the country to have offered a billion dollars in no interest loans and now two rounds of small business adaptation grants. It was great to recently visit one of the small businesses in the Redlands with the member for Redlands, Salads Made Fresh. They received one of our \$10,000 grants and they are using that money to ensure they have software to put all of their systems online. They are pivoting the way they do business, going from catering to big restaurants and cafes to allowing individuals to order meals at home. It was wonderful to meet with Jeff and the team and to hear that they have managed to keep all of their staff employed and they now have new avenues for business.

As I travel across Queensland, small businesses are telling me that they really appreciate our government's support. They are also telling me that they know that a second wave would be absolutely disastrous for small businesses. That is why they are telling me as I travel around Queensland that they are so proud of the Premier's strong action on borders to keep Queenslanders safe and to keep our small businesses safe. That stands in stark contrast to those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition called for borders to be opened how many times? It was a total of 64 times. She has lost absolutely all credibility when it comes to leadership on COVID.

After calling on the Premier to open the borders 64 times the Leader of the Opposition then had to completely change her position after Gladys, the Premier of New South Wales, also had to close the borders to Victoria. Even though those opposite changed their position, they still managed to petition the Premier for weeks to open the borders. Their petition was still running on their website weeks after they backflipped on their own petition. Even when the Deputy Premier pointed out on Twitter that their petition was still running, it still took them five hours to take the petition down.

The Leader of the Opposition is happy to go to shopping centres and touch almost everything, but the one thing she needed to touch was the delete button on the petition; she still could not manage that. Those opposite have absolutely no credibility when it comes to leadership on COVID. Small businesses here in Queensland know who has their back, and that is the Premier of Queensland with her strong action on borders.

North Johnstone Transfer

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. I understand recommendations have been provided by the department on the feasibility of the North Johnstone Transfer project where excess water that is normally wasted during the wet season will be harvested for use. Will the minister commit to the construction of this vital water infrastructure project to the benefit of the Far North Queensland region?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. It is a very pertinent question. There is no doubt—and I agree with him—there is water demand in the Mareeba-Dimbulah region. It is a fine region of our state, an agricultural powerhouse. You must be justifiably proud to represent that region. Like with any water in this state, the water from the North Johnstone diversion must be provided at the right price for farmers. Farmers have to have the right price to be able to afford to convert this water to economic production.

The department, as you alluded to, and Sunwater are rightfully considering the potential viability of the North Johnstone diversion. We are on the record as supporting a lot of water infrastructure in North Queensland. However, they have to stack up. The North Johnstone diversion is under investigation now by the department to make sure that it does stack up. Robust assessments have to be undertaken based on cost and the amount of water—and with the North Johnstone diversion in particular, that is where preliminary investigations have to be done on hydrology to make sure there is enough water to go across into the Tablelands. We are up there already. There is \$28 million for the channel improvements in the Mareeba-Dimbulah region already on record. That will provide 8,000 megalitres of extra water, valuable water for farmers in your region. We are undertaking the detailed hydrological modelling of the area and I will be very happy to report to you once that is available to me—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Dr LYNHAM: I will be very happy to report to the member once that is available to me so he can update his community on the modelling.

When it comes to water infrastructure, the Palaszczuk government has undertaken \$1.2 billion worth of water infrastructure: Rookwood Weir, \$176 million; \$13.6 million to Emu Swamp Dam; \$16 million to Burdekin Falls Dam raising; \$2.9 million Urannah Dam coordinated project; Haughton pipeline duplication stage 1 and now stage 2—because the LNP failed to deliver stage 2 of the Haughton—and sealing a \$24 million deal for Hells Gates Dam.

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Dr LYNHAM: What do they have over there? We heard it last time, in 2015, 'We will build hundreds of dams,' they said. They were going to build hundreds of dams. How many dams did they build?

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gympie, I have asked you to cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders. The member for Bundaberg will cease his interjections.

Dr LYNHAM: How many dams did they build? I would like to say zero, but I cannot. They actually built negative one because they destroyed the Connors River dam. Their score on dams is negative one; the Palaszczuk government is \$1.2 billion and we have water infrastructure for the state. We build water infrastructure; they talk. They cannot deliver.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

Mr POWER: My question is for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the recent milestones of the Palaszczuk government's record road and transport investments in South-East Queensland?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member. Has there ever been a greater advocate for the Mount Lindesay Highway than the member for Logan? He has been relentless about it. We have kept on with our investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway and our infrastructure throughout the COVID pandemic. We are seeing 100 per cent of the construction rolling on—jobs—because the Premier and the Chief Health Officer made the right decisions to protect our economy. Whether it is Cape York or Mount Lindesay, they are continuing uninterrupted.

What we are seeing is a new phenomenon. It is called the Palaszczuk government infrastructure photo fan club. We see the member for Burleigh and the member for Mudgeeraba have been getting pictures on the M1 because they did not upgrade the M1; they did not spend a dollar. We saw the member for Bonney at the opening of the light rail, Broadbeach to Burleigh, because they did not do anything in light rail; he was trying to get into the photo.

We have a new candidate. This is a cracker. The member for Scenic Rim was complaining about not enough going on on the Mount Lindesay Highway. One would think that in illustrating that point he would be careful about the background in his photo. However, here is a photo of him in front of—get this—a \$20 million upgrade of the Mount Lindesay Highway by the Palaszczuk government. There are trucks, gravel, bitumen and big, heavy loaders. It is an absolute pearler. The member for Scenic Rim now becomes a member of the Palaszczuk government infrastructure photo fan club. I look forward to more members from the opposite side joining our fan club because we are getting infrastructure done.

I will add to my answer that I have received an email from Rail Back on Track's Robert Dow. He states—

[RAIL Back On Track supports the decision to build the Cross River Rail underground station at Boggo Road.

If you want to understand the importance of this station, all you need to do is look at a map.

...

The touted alternative of building a station off by itself ... lacks efficient connectivity with other lines, damaging the ability of CRR to unclog transport bottlenecks and inconveniencing passengers. PA Hospital already has its own Busway station.

...

For public transport to work, it needs to be fast. Introducing long hot/wet walks when changing modes is a non starter.

RAIL Back On Track supports the current plan to build what is necessary to ensure Boggo Road station functions as an efficient interchange with rail and busways.

What an embarrassing question from the member for Moggill, who thinks that the Boggo Road station is the nearest station to the PA Hospital. Everyone knows that Dutton Park station is the nearest station to the PA Hospital. It is 100 metres away. The LNP does not understand the basics of public transport, and it is evident in this question time. Why make that huge investment and disconnect two lines that are already connected? It is a nine-second walk across the platform at Park Road to change lines. It would be a nine-minute walk in the hot summer sun under the LNP.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Quarantine

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. There are media reports that a person has fled from quarantine in Toowoomba. Can the Premier guarantee that Queensland's quarantine arrangements have not been breached, potentially putting lives and livelihoods at risk?

Ms Jones interjected.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cooper. Thank you, Deputy Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not been alerted to any such reports. I am happy to look into it. If it is a breach of quarantine, it involves police. The ADF is working with us as well. We have very strong quarantine measures in place. We have a high rate of compliance, but I am happy to look into that matter.

Rookwood Weir

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of the potential flow-on benefits from Rookwood Weir to Central Queensland?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. What a great question! It was a great pleasure to be in Central Queensland last week to deliver more good news on Rookwood and McCosker Contracting. There is little more satisfying in this job than to hear from someone like Bob McCosker—a local Central Queenslander, the owner of McCosker Contracting, one of the real people of Rookwood. He was so proud that a Central Queensland company was working on one of the biggest projects this region has seen for a long time. It was heartfelt. According to Bob, it is a real boost for his company and his 300 employees. It is also good for his suppliers and other Central Queensland businesses such as those offering accommodation and building equipment. It is good for Central Queensland. My colleague the Minister for Regional Development would be pleased to hear that McCosker plans to source all its concrete from Gladstone, another great Central Queensland town.

Capricorn Enterprise gave Sunwater kudos on its engagement with local industry around the construction. I emphasise: Capricorn Enterprise also congratulated Sunwater on its engagement with locals on the sale of water and on how it engaged with other matters regarding the weir. I am advised that there has been a very enthusiastic response in relation to the first tranche of water. I am told that farmers are looking at macadamias, citrus, grain and other crops. The mood is just so positive in Central Queensland regarding Rookwood. Then up pops the member for Capricornia on the news. She is still harping about all the ancient history, about when her boss refused to put up any more money for Rookwood. The member for Capricornia can talk about politics, but we are building a weir.

The federal LNP government committed to fund half of it but not a cent more. Here we are with two road projects completed and about to start on the weir. It is raring to go. It still is all on Queensland's coin. At this time, we are the only government paying for Rookwood. There is a medical condition rampant in the federal LNP. It is called 'no-dam-money-itis'. It has short arms, deep pockets, restless mouth and an inability to pass water. The Palaszczuk government will continue to build Rookwood for Central Queensland. It is part of Queensland's economic recovery. It is part of our plans for jobs in the regions and a part of our important plan for jobs in Central Queensland.

Coronavirus, Quarantine

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Premier. Did the Palaszczuk government grant an exemption for Brisbane Broncos coach Anthony Siebold to quarantine at home, avoiding the mandatory two-week hotel quarantine requirement everyone else must follow if they travel from a COVID hotspot?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will ask the health minister to get back to the member on that. They have COVID-safe industry plans with the Chief Health Officer. The Deputy Premier and health minister will get back to the member on that.

In answer to the question previously asked about the Anzac trust, I signed off on that on 4 August and it is currently scheduled to go to Executive Council.

Corrective Services Facilities

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's achievements in building prison infrastructure in Queensland?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. First, I will address a question just asked of the Premier regarding a man in Toowoomba. On advice from the police, I can advise that police are currently searching for a man who breached mandatory hotel quarantine in Toowoomba. The man returned from a New South Wales hotspot and was directed to hotel quarantine for 14 days. Police will allege that the man left on his ninth day in quarantine. The man has, however, received a negative COVID-19 test and is not considered to be a high risk to the community. I assure the House and all Queenslanders that the police will be very proactive in ensuring they search for this man and apprehend him. It is a very serious matter to breach quarantine. There will be serious consequences for this man as well.

In addressing the question, our government has a very proud record of investing in public infrastructure and the public sector. Of course, that is nowhere more obvious than in Queensland Corrective Services. We have invested in two significant prison expansions. One is in the Rockhampton area: the Capricornia Regional Centre expansion, over \$240 million worth of construction and 232 ongoing jobs in the public sector, ensuring the community remains safe. We also are investing in new prison infrastructure in the Lockyer electorate, at Gatton. I know that the member for Lockyer is a big supporter of the project. There is over \$650 million in infrastructure and, once complete, at least 500 ongoing Public Service jobs.

Here we see a strong investment in public infrastructure and the public sector. This is very important for our government because, following the recommendations of Taskforce Flaxton, we know that a hybrid system of prison operation in Queensland does not work. We also know that, with the public operating system in prisons, we have more staff which means more safety in our community. Those opposite have a different plan. We heard what the member for Everton said last week. He called the investment in jobs and the investment in safety 'a waste'. That is what he thinks about our custodial officers.

Mr Mander: A total waste.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection. He says it is a total waste. This is just the member for Everton softening up the community for the LNP's plan when it comes to prison operations. We do not have to go too far to find what it is. All we have to do is dust off the Campbell Newman playbook. What did he want to do: 'Wheels in motion to privatise state prisons'. That is the Campbell Newman playbook. They want to privatise, but it will put the safety of our staff at risk.

(Time expired)

Agriculture, Regional Service Centres

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. In the light of reports of pending closures, will the Premier rule out a permanent closure or reduction in service at all department of agriculture regional service centres across Queensland given that two-thirds of our state is still suffering from drought?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not aware of any plans for any closures. We know how important our service centres are right across Queensland.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier and Treasurer, I called the House to order and you continued to interject. You are both warned under the standing orders. Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Coronavirus, Sport and Recreation

Mr KING: 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's COVID response has enabled Queenslanders to get back to sport and recreation and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to respond.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for the question. His constituents, like all Queenslanders, have been doing a tremendous job working together to fight the global pandemic, and that is seeing us get back to community sport and recreation. I can advise the House that we are backing in our community sport and recreation clubs with a \$51.3 million COVID recovery plan. That has seen 3,810 clubs so far benefiting from our Active Clubs funding to get back on the field. In just a few weeks time we will be announcing further support for clubs through the infrastructure recovery fund. That is support for 3,000 clubs of \$20,000 for minor capital works and \$5,000 of revenue-generating equipment to the clubs that need it the most. That means up to \$15.5 million in projects to keep local trades in work, backing in team Queensland.

Whether you are in Cape York or Capalaba, Mount Isa or Maryborough, the Palaszczuk government is there backing in team Queensland. We know that those opposite are not on team Queensland—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.20 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, debate of committee reports be postponed for this week's sitting and the sitting week scheduled in September.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): We oppose this motion. The reason for this motion is that the government cannot control the times of the sitting. It does not want people to speak. It does not want members of parliament to speak. We saw this earlier in the week with the Business Committee motion where the government wanted to debate six bills this week. Only yesterday in the first bill that we were debating in a cognate debate its own members were guillotined. Its own Labor members were guillotined. Those opposite may be happy for that to happen, but we are not. We want members of parliament to speak. We want the Labor Party members to speak. In particular, this motion goes to the heart of our committee system. The Leader of the House herself has said on many occasions in this House that the reason we can have the shorter debates on bills is that we have the transparency of the committee system. She has said that we do not need the upper house that every other state and territory has and we do not need the Legislative Council because we have this robust committee system.

Now, those opposite have moved a motion and we are debating that motion which disregards all of the work that committees have been doing and members of parliament have been paid to do on those committees. They just willingly come in here and dismiss the work of the committees like the arrogant plaything this parliament has become for the Palaszczuk Labor government. Those opposite say, 'We're worried about what committee reports have to be debated. It's only 5½ sitting days until the next election. Who cares what the Queensland public think about committee reports?' That is the attitude of the government rather than saying, 'Let's sit a little later every night this week. Let's put more hours into sitting and working.' Oh, no! Those opposite say, 'What else can we get rid of from the parliamentary agenda? What's easy to get rid of? Oh, committee reports!'

We on this side of the House take a very different view to committee reports. We think that committee reports should be debated. Members of parliament on those committees from the crossbench, the opposition and the government are paid to produce those reports. They are paid to sit on those committees and do the work. The government says to people all of the time across Queensland, 'You have the opportunity to submit to the committees.'

Mr McDonald: Hundreds of people.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Lockyer: hundreds of people do take the opportunity to submit, and then those submissions form the basis of reports and the reports get debated in parliament. However, because we have the arrogant Palaszczuk Labor government which dismisses parliament as a political Labor plaything, it wants to dismiss committee reports.

We will not stand for it, we will not have it and we will never support it. Not for one minute do I think that because we only have five sitting days left those committee reports do not really matter. Every day in this place matters. Every day in this place counts, and that is what we are paid for. We are not here like Dolly Parton's *9 to 5*. We have said that we are happy to sit past six o'clock, past seven o'clock—all hours of the evening—to fulfil these debates.

I did say in the Business Committee meeting on Monday that if the parliament needed to sit longer in order for the debate of committee reports not to be curtailed or deleted then we would. Instead, Labor government members are so lazy that they cannot sit in this place past six or seven o'clock at night. Why? I ask a genuine question: what is so wrong with this place that they cannot stay here past seven o'clock? Is it that they have other things to do? Is it that they are tired? Is it that they just cannot be bothered? No, it is because they are arrogant. It is because they believe that what they want to do they should be able to do without any judgement, accountability or transparency around these issues.

Members of those committees worked hard. On the parliamentary side of things, think of the amount of work that the research officers in the Parliamentary Service have put in—the hundreds of hours that they have put in—to draft these reports, only to have them now put on a shelf gathering dust. If that is the case and the government has the numbers and it will pass this motion, then I guarantee the people of Queensland that after 31 October we will dust those committee reports off and we will—the LNP government—make sure that they get debated in this place. Those opposite do not want to debate committee reports. They want to curtail the times of parliamentary debates. They want to guillotine democracy.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Minister for Education, who has found her voice today. She says that it is irrelevant.

Ms Grace: No, you are irrelevant.

Mr BLEIJIE: Is that the attitude of the Labor government that this place is just irrelevant?

Ms Grace: No, you are!

Mr BLEIJIE: Why is the minister here? Why does the minister sit here?

Mr SPEAKER: The minister will cease her interjections.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is misleading. I did not say what he said. I take offence. He is irrelevant. I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Before dealing with that matter: Minister, you consistently were directing your comments at the member and I ask you to withdraw those comments.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw, and I take personal offence at what the minister said and ask her to withdraw.

Ms Grace: I have already.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has just withdrawn the comments. I asked her to do so. She has done that. Please continue with your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the minister, who sits in the education portfolio and gets paid over \$300,000 a year to be a minister of the Crown—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at being called 'arrogant'. I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has asked that you withdraw those comments, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The minister sits in the cabinet—sits on the government benches—and has a fake Harvard masters degree and gets paid over \$350,000—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have made two personal explanations in relation to that matter. The member for Kawana is misleading the House and I ask that he withdraw. If he does not, I will write to you personally. I take offence.

Mr SPEAKER: Will you withdraw, member for Kawana?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Before continuing your contribution, there is a pattern emerging of matters which are not relevant to the motion before the House. I ask you to come back to the motion as it has been moved by the Leader of the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you. The Leader of the House moved a motion to suspend the debate of committee reports this week. I asked the Leader of the House when she did it why she did not table a copy of the reports that are now being suspended. She did not even have the courtesy to tell the parliament which reports will not be debated this week.

Mrs D'Ath: They are on the *Notice Paper*.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: 'It's on the *Notice Paper*. Go and have a look. It's in the government budget papers. It's all over the place.' The Leader of the House's obligations to this House are not discharged just because something sits on a *Notice Paper* buried on a website somewhere. The committee reports are important, even the PCCC reports. This morning the honourable chair of that committee tabled and spoke to all of those reports. Those reports will not be debated in this parliamentary sitting week or the next parliamentary sitting week, and that is the case for all of the other committee reports to which Queensland citizens have made submissions.

I sit on the CLA. I know the work that the committees are doing. The members who sit on the committees know the work they are doing. They are travelling throughout Queensland talking about all the issues that are important. In fact, we tell the committees the only way they can properly achieve their objectives of being a proper committee is to go out and get feedback from Queenslanders. There have been a lot of sad days for democracy in the last 2½ years in terms of curtailing parliament, but I do not recall in the last 2½ years committee business being curtailed or deleted from the agenda completely. I hold value in the importance of the committee system. Members get paid substantially more to sit on a committee. The work that they have done, the work this parliament should be able to debate, is not able to be debated because of the government.

There are members who do not sit on those committees who want to be afforded the opportunity to speak on these issues, including shadow ministers. I have seen ministers get up and talk on committee reports. That opportunity has gone. It goes to the heart of what has been happening over the last three years, with the schedule of the sittings, the times we finish, the curtailing of not only committee business but also the time for debate of a bill, the guillotining of debates and the cutting off of members.

There has been a pattern in the past three years that I am really concerned about because the people who are missing out when their members of parliament are not doing effectively what they should be doing in this place are the people of Queensland, the 30,000 to 40,000 constituents we each represent. I see the independent member for Noosa here. She sits on the crossbench. She sits on the CLA. She also sits on a committee. She is now denied an opportunity to speak on the committee bills all because the government made a decision on Monday that they were not going to make us sit past seven o'clock at night so we need to find the extra hours in the day.

The Labor government do not cancel the lunch break—they keep the lunch break in—but they cancel the committee debate time. Here is a suggestion: if the government is serious about getting more debate time, cancel lunch every day this week. We will make up three hours by cancelling the lunch break. We are happy to work through our lunch break. The question is: is the arrogant Labor government happy to work through their lunch break? I suspect they are not happy to work during the lunch break. We could have had committee debates for three hours this week if they cancelled the lunch break. They will not because they put their lunch before the people of Queensland and before the important work of the committee system in this state.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.32 am): I rise to oppose this dreadful, undemocratic and completely unnecessary motion moved by the leader of the House to suspend committee report debate not only this sitting week but also in our final sitting week. I want to pick up on some of the comments made by the member for Kawana. If we have to sacrifice one hour of debate this week, and one hour of debate next week, then there are plenty of opportunities to amend the time we sit, including our lunch breaks, to accommodate that one hour.

In 2009 when I was first elected and joined this chamber it was not uncommon for us to sit late into the evening, even into the early morning of the subsequent day. In fact, there was one sitting in 2009 I recall, a Friday night of a budget sitting, when we sat until four o'clock on the Saturday morning. There is nothing stopping us from doing that again. If there is so much legislation that this government need to get done such that they need to suspend committee reports, then we can obviously extend the hours of parliament. We used to do it. We have done it every session until this Labor government.

Instead of changing the hours that we sit, changing the hours of debate, what have we seen? A business program motion moved on the Tuesday of every sitting week that curtails the amount of time that we can speak on the bill—guillotines it—regardless of whether it is a Labor, crossbench or LNP member on their feet.

Ms Grace: Now you are wasting time.

Mr POWELL: Now we are wasting time?

Ms Grace: Yes, you are.

Mr POWELL: Again, if you had left the committee reports we could have saved having this debate and had that debate. The member for Kawana asked what we are missing out on. Quite a few things. Some members on this side of the House have been waiting in some instances five years to debate these issues.

Many of these issues are relevant to the constituents of Glass House and, indeed, across Queensland. Take, for instance, the one we are in the middle of debating at moment, the inquiry into the impacts of invasive weeds and their control in Queensland. As a result of this decision that will be made shortly, the good people of Glass House will not get an opportunity for me to represent their concerns around weed management in the electorate of Glass House. People like the Lions Club of Woodford, who are doing a fantastic job trying to control fireweed and giant rat's tail, have significant concerns around the role the government is playing in weed control. They will not have those concerns represented here.

We have reports on the operation of the Crime and Corruption Act. We have reports on an inquiry into the redevelopment of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre that I know the member for Bundaberg and the member for Burnett were very keen to speak on. We have reports on aged care, end-of-life and palliative care. We have reports on water financial audits, energy financial audits and voluntary assisted dying. Which member in this House has not had constituents contact them about voluntary assisted dying or palliative care?

Mr Brown: Have you met with them?

Mr POWELL: Who in this House has not received such an inquiry and who has not met with such individuals? It is outrageous that we cannot find one hour in each sitting week to accommodate debate on these committee reports. It is undemocratic that we are now not going to be given the opportunity to speak on those reports.

As I said, only a couple of years ago it was quite a regular occurrence for us to sit to at least 10.30, 11 o'clock at night, if not until 1 am or 2 am. Most of us on this side are here anyway. We do not get to go home to our beds each night. You yourself, Mr Speaker, cannot fly back up to Cairns at the end of each evening and then turn around and come back the next morning. We are here. We may as well work. That is what our constituents elect us to do. There is no reason for us to pull up stumps at seven o'clock. Extend it until 8 pm. Fit in an extra hour for committee reports. Indeed, extend it to 8 pm every night and we will fit in an extra three hours. We may even get through more than one or two committee reports in the remaining sittings.

It is irresponsible for government to make a decision like this to curtail democratic debate on reports that impact on the livelihoods and the wellbeing of the people of Queensland, including the people of Glass House. I do not support this motion and I encourage all members in this House not to support this motion.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.37 am): This goes to the heart of credibility. Here we have an opposition that is what I would call merely wasting time on this. They are so dedicated to debate in this House they debate every single procedural motion that is put forward by the Leader of the House. Even if it is the most trivial of procedural motions we have extensive debate, wasting considerable time in this House, because the member for Kawana loves to hear his own voice.

This is a matter of credibility. When those opposite were in government they sacked the PCCC—sacked, gone, finished—in the middle of the night. That is how much they respected the staff who worked on the PCCC and that is how much they respected the committee process. They sacked them

in the middle of the night. That is why they are sitting over there. The arrogance and the manner in which they were so hypocritical when they were in government to what they stand up and say here in the House is absolutely breathtaking. They respect the estimates committees so much that when they were in government they truncated the process. That is the respect they had for the staff and that is the respect they have for the committee process.

I say what the member for Cooper and minister said earlier on: give us a break. Actions speak louder than words. This is nothing but wasting time. It is pathetic. Mr Speaker, in accordance with standing order 88, I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr Powell: You guillotine even this debate.

Ms GRACE: Absolutely!

Division: Question put—That the question be now put.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 47—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, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 47:

ALP, 47—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, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

NOES, 44:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.47 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [[1328](#)].

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [[1329](#)].

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1330](#)].

Our first responders play an incredibly important role in protecting and serving our Queensland community. We have all marvelled at the work they have done in confronting some of Australia's biggest challenges in recent times, from the terrible bushfires earlier this year to our ongoing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Each and every day our first responders are exposed to traumatic incidents that most of us could never imagine. Attending those types of incidents, whether it be one catastrophic event or a gradual build-up over many years, can take a toll on our first responders' mental health. That is captured well in Beyond Blue's 2018 survey *Answering the call*, which reported that workers compensation claim rates for first responders with mental health conditions or psychological injuries were 10 times higher than the adult Australian workforce.

Claiming workers compensation can be a daunting process when you have a mental health condition and, despite increasing awareness in our community about the impacts of mental health, many of our first responders are worried about the stigma of having a work related injury. Both the Beyond Blue survey and the 2019 Senate committee inquiry into the workers behind triple 0 observed an increased risk of experiencing conditions such as PTSD that suggest presumptive workers compensation laws as a way to positively impact on the workers compensation claims experience for first responders.

Against that backdrop I am proud to introduce this bill into the House today to provide presumptive workers compensation laws for our first responders and eligible employees of first responder departments diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. Presumptive laws mean that those workers will no longer have to go through the added stress of having to prove their PTSD is a work related injury for their workers compensation claim to be accepted. Instead, by reversing the onus of proof it will be presumed that their PTSD was caused by their work on the front line, thereby providing first responders with easier and timelier access to necessary support and compensation without having to be put through sometimes stressful claims determination and investigation processes.

Importantly, presumptive laws do not create new or change any existing workers compensation entitlements but instead provide a different pathway for certain claims to access the scheme. To ensure appropriate coverage for those on the front line, first responders are defined in the bill as workers or volunteers who respond to time-critical and often life-threatening incidents. This includes police officers, ambulance officers and paramedics, firefighters including volunteers and rural fire brigade members, members of the State Emergency Service, corrective services officers, authorised officers within Child Safety and Youth Justice staff members, as well as doctors and nurses working in certain areas such as emergency and trauma care. It also includes workers performing corresponding roles in the private sector, such as paramedics working in the not-for-profit sector.

The bill also provides coverage for other eligible employees in first responder departments if they work in a role that exposes them to repeated or extreme details of traumatic incidents, for example, fire communications officers who provide advice in emergency situations or a worker whose employment requires them to investigate often horrific child sexual abuse cases. The bill covers both those workers who are physically on the scene and directly involved in responding to a traumatic situation and those whose work exposes them in another way to graphic details of traumatic incidents. The bill also provides for further occupations or employers to be added by regulation at a later date.

For the presumption to apply, the PTSD diagnosis must be certified by a psychiatrist. This requirement recognises the unique manner in which PTSD may present in first responders, particularly where there has been cumulative trauma, and will help to optimise treatment and rehabilitation.

To ensure first responders are not impeded in making a claim and are able to access support as soon as possible, if a first responder does not have a diagnosis from a specialist, the insurer will be responsible for arranging and funding one. Importantly, this does not prevent an insurer from accepting a PTSD claim based on a diagnosis by a doctor alone if they are satisfied that the injury is work related.

Under the bill, the presumption can be rebutted but only if there is evidence employment was not the cause of the PTSD; for example, if a psychiatrist certifies that a first responder's PTSD was caused by an accident outside of work. The presumption cannot be rebutted on the basis of reasonable management action.

The bill follows the work of a stakeholder reference group of first responders and first responder departments that I established in 2019 to consider these matters. I would like to thank all those involved in that group including the relevant government agencies, WorkCover and key unions—the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union, the Queensland Police Union, Together Queensland, the United Workers Union and the United Firefighters Union of Queensland.

With this bill, Queensland is the first mainland state of Australia to take action to deem PTSD as a work related injury for first responders, following Tasmania and the Northern Territory, who introduced similar legislation in 2019 and 2020 respectively. It continues a proud record of the Palaszczuk government in protecting and advancing the rights of Queensland workers. The list of what we have done is long and includes paid pandemic leave, nation-first labour hire licensing laws, nation-first paid domestic and family violence leave, industrial manslaughter laws—the first state in Australia to do so—portable long service leave for community service workers, restoring the rights of injured workers to access common law damages, ensuring workers with CWP and other work related lung disease receive their full and just entitlements, and presumptive workers compensation laws for firefighters with specified forms of cancer. I am proud to add to that list today presumptive PTSD workers compensation laws for our first responders. Once again, this bill demonstrates that Labor and only Labor will deliver for Queensland workers.

First Reading

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.55 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 Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 August (see p. 1905), on motion of Ms Jones—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (11.55 am), continuing: I am glad to resume my contribution after I was rudely interrupted by that pointless disallowance motion that was moved last night by those opposite. I note that the members for Glass House and Kawana have a newfound enthusiasm for committee reports, so I want to put on the record that this is report No. 1 of the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee. I thank all honourable members of the committee and the secretariat for their hard work in relation to this particular bill.

In the short time I had yesterday to make a contribution in relation to this bill, I was addressing the main arguments from those opposite. They talk about potential damage to state forests and about residents' concerns in relation to this, even though the proposed wind farms will be well away from any residential premises. I did not see those same people, including the member for Glass House, raise these kinds of issues when they voted against ending sandmining on Stradbroke island. Who could ever forget that when he was the environment minister the member for Glass House overturned the ban on uranium mining? I think it is a bit rich for those opposite to try to lecture us on environmental grounds.

The member for Broadwater talks about practical environmentalism. When those opposite talk about practical environmentalism, we on this side of the House know what it really means. It means doing nothing. That is the reality of that.

I want to talk about some of the benefits of this particular bill. The benefits are twofold. It contributes to renewable energy in Queensland, which is the future. It also has economic benefits for regional communities. From my perspective, I see it as a real win-win on both counts.

Upon completion, the proposal is anticipated to deliver 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy. This represents 12 per cent of Queensland's installed energy capacity and, according to the explanatory notes, will make significant contributions towards the government's renewable energy target. That is to generate 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. This will make a significant contribution to meeting the renewable energy target.

Not only are there environmental benefits; there are also economic benefits, particularly to regional communities. This project is expected to create up to 516 jobs, comprising 444 full-time-equivalent direct jobs during the construction phase, peaking at over 600 jobs, and 50 direct long-term operational roles that are mostly located in the Wide Bay-Burnett region. That really sums up the benefits in that we can support renewable energy, we can support protecting our environment, we can support reducing our emissions and we can also have green jobs in regional communities.

I commend this bill because I see it as forward thinking and I see it as focused on the future. It is important that those opposite do not try to tear down these kinds of initiatives using spurious arguments. They should be supporting the renewable energy target and they should be supporting green jobs, sustainable jobs, in regional communities because that is very important to the future of this state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. From the outset and as I always do, I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their work and all those who participated in the hearings and voiced their opinion on this very large project. By way of overview, this project will see 226 wind turbines produce about 1,200 megawatts of energy. This is certainly not a small project. This is a massive project. To give members an idea of the size of the wind turbines, it was stated during the committee process that they are almost the size of the Eiffel Tower. They are massive towers. That goes to show how big this project is.

Under the current framework, the Forestry Act 1959 prohibits developments like this in forestry areas. It is interesting to note that forestry areas were once owned by the Queensland government, but were sold under licence by the Bligh Labor government.

Mr Powell: Palaszczuk was kicking around as a minister.

Mr BOOTHMAN: The Premier was certainly a minister in those days.

Mr Hart: They sold assets.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, they did sell this asset and they got \$603 million for it. It shows people the hypocrisy of those opposite. They come into this chamber and say, 'You guys sell assets.' They are the ones who sold assets. The Labor Party sold assets in this state. They have had many years in government and they carry on about the LNP selling assets. They are the ones who sell assets. I could go on with a long list of the assets sold, but that would be diverging from the bill we are debating.

Mr Sorensen: Who sold the assets?

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you, Ted. Opposition members of the committee expressed a lot of concern with regard to consultation with local landowners and what impact the proposed transmission lines will have on potential land prices. This project has been around for about three years but it was only late last year that these individuals found out about it. This is a blight on the government's ability to inform residents about what is going on in these areas. These are massive towers. People will be able to see these towers for miles. The closest properties are some kilometres away, but given the size of the turbine blades—I believe they are about 50 to 70 metres long—they will create noise and will certainly be visible.

The Gympie Regional Council raised concerns about the lack of consultation around the proposed development. There were residents who stated that they feel they were not consulted. They expressed concerns about the health risks for themselves and the wildlife et cetera.

It is a major project. It is obviously going to go ahead. The LNP is supportive of this project, but I understands the concerns of the residents who will have high-voltage lines going through their properties. There are a lot of concerns when it comes to high-voltage powerlines and the potential impact on people's land values.

No consultation has been afforded to these individuals, especially when it comes to compensation for the impact on their land values and land prices. This is something that the government has overlooked. I know back in my patch that the consultation around exit 57 was woeful. The local community got duckshoved to the corner and the department did whatever it liked. This is where the government is failing. They need to consult with these residents. When it comes to compensation, they should be talking to residents right now and working through the process.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.05 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. The objective of the bill is to provide tenure within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests to enable a proposed major renewable energy project for Queensland to occur.

Under the current legislative framework, the Forestry Act 1959 prohibits the development of consistent and incompatible uses, including the grant of tenure for projects of this kind. Queensland state forests are permanently reserved for the production of timber and associated products and to protect the watershed therein.

The bill includes a number of provisions which exempt the development from or modify sections of the Forestry Act to allow the development to occur on state forest land. Forest Wind Holdings Pty Ltd submitted a detailed proposal under the investment facilitation process for exclusive transactions seeking to establish a large-scale wind farm with an estimated private capital investment of up to \$2 billion. The project is anticipated to deliver up to 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy from up to 226 wind turbines located in the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests. The proposed project area is also the subject of a current plantation licence. The plantation licence held by HQPlantations Pty Ltd commenced in 2020 and continues for a period for 99 years.

This bill is vital for Queensland, demonstrating the Palaszczuk government's commitment to renewable energy and job-creating opportunities for the future. Subject to completion of the project, wind energy from the project would represent 12 per cent of Queensland's installed generation capacity, which will significantly contribute to the Queensland government's target of generating 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. With a multibillion dollar capital cost, the project is also anticipated to yield significant economic benefits for Queensland, including the creation of up to 440 jobs in the construction phase and 50 operations jobs annually.

This bill establishes a legislative framework for the development to coexist with the plantation licence and to otherwise be undertaken in the state forest through exempting the project from certain provisions of the Forestry Act and the Land Act 1994. Without the introduction of the special purpose legislation, the development would not be able to proceed.

The bill was introduced into the Queensland parliament on 20 May this year by the Hon. Kate Jones, Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation, and referred to the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee for examination. The committee invited submissions from the public and received 21 submissions in total. The committee received a public briefing about the bill from representatives of the Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation and the planning group within Queensland Treasury. A public hearing was held in Brisbane on 15 June this year.

The committee handed its report back to parliament on 3 July 2020 and recommended that the bill be passed. A number of stakeholders outlined their support for the bill, largely due to the potential renewable energy generation and economic benefits for the region should the proposal proceed. I note that the Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council voiced their support by stating—

The bill proposes to provide tenure ... to enable a renewable energy project for the Wide Bay Burnett region to occur. WBBEC supports renewable energy projects in the region, for greenhouse gas reduction, sustainable economic development and local job creation.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the committee chair, the member for Stretton; committee members, the member for Jordan, the member for Noosa, the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Theodore; and the committee secretariat for all of their hard work throughout the committee process. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (12.10 pm): There are substantial benefits of shared forest tenure— in particular, the strengthening of and contribution to sustainable management of forest resources including timber and the land itself and its inhabitants. These resources belong to all Queenslanders. It is therefore incumbent on those privileged to have tenure over state owned forests to take full responsibility for the care and continued management of these precious resources and the impact of any development on surrounding communities.

The Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, as we have heard, will enable shared tenure for a major clean energy infrastructure project in the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests located in the Gympie and Fraser Coast local government areas. The project known as 'Forest Wind' proposes the development and construction of a large wind farm comprising up to 226 wind turbines.

Under the current legislative framework, the Forestry Act 1959 prohibits the development of inconsistent and incompatible uses, including the granting of tenure for projects of this kind. This bill will establish a new legislative framework to allow the Forest Wind farm to be shared with the current plantation licensee, HQPlantations Pty Ltd.

The licence with HQPlantations commenced in 2010 and will continue for a period of 99 years. We note that, at the release of the committee report, negotiations between state, Forest Wind Holdings and HQPlantations about the project agreements—including proposed development agreements—had not yet concluded.

The estimated private capital investment for this project will be up to \$2 billion. As a starting point, the proponent advised that approximately 20 people in our region are already working on the project. Once construction gets going, this could be up to 440 full-time jobs, peaking at 600 jobs during construction, and up to 50 full-time operational roles for a 1,200-megawatt project.

It is anticipated that wind energy from this project would represent 12 per cent of Queensland's installed generation capacity, which will significantly contribute to the government's target of generating 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and align with policies to transition Queensland to a low carbon energy sector and a clear renewable energy target.

There is broad support for the bill, as we have heard, due to the potential renewable energy generation and economic benefits to the region including, as the member for Cook outlined, from the Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council, who in its submission supported renewable energy projects in the region. However, questions raised need to be considered and resolved in relation to any forthcoming development application for this area. These include community impact and consultation, the proximity and aesthetics of turbines, potential impacts to migratory birds and fire management strategies.

During the submission and hearings process, the committee heard from a range of stakeholders, the community and the proponent about these. While the negotiations with the proponent have been ongoing for three years, should the bill be passed, extensive community consultation would need to continue during the development application phase, life of the development and operation of the project on these, as they are outside the scope of this bill. However, it was reassuring to hear that the proponent did have a community consultation group already formed that they can work on together.

The second part of this bill is the amendments to the Planning Act 2016 to ensure the correct administration of the Springfield Structure Plan, the SSP. Greater Springfield is a master planned community located on 2,860 hectares of former forestry land in the Ipswich local government area. Established in the early 1990s, it is now home to 43,000 residents, supports over 20,000 jobs, and has a student population of 10,000 and 11 schools. That is not a bad effort! The Springfield Structure Plan was approved in 1997 and is part of the Ipswich Planning Scheme and exists to guide the nature and extent of development in the area.

The bill proposes several amendments to the Planning Act to 'ensure that SSP processes are preserved and operate as intended'. For example, applications to make or amend precinct plans, make area development plans, or amend the town centre concept plan under the SSP, to be made by third parties will be allowed.

The bill also updates dispute resolution procedures. We did hear in the committee hearings that there have obviously been a few disputes there. On this, the department advised that the current procedures provide that any person may give notice to Ipswich City Council to dispute a decision about development approved under the SSP. This bill limits the dispute resolution to parties who have a particular interest in the subject land.

In closing, I thank my fellow committee members and submitters, the attendees at the public briefing and public hearing, the departments and our secretariat for the examination of this bill. With Forest Wind there is a journey ahead. I am satisfied that the processes in place by the levels of government involved will capture and address the concerns voiced that were outside the jurisdiction of this bill and our committee.

As this inquiry has demonstrated, the destination towards renewables, achieving Queensland's renewable energy target and reducing our reliance on coal is not without significant challenges. However, it is a road that we travel together, understanding that regardless of how we power our homes and communities, there are impacts and our role is to mitigate them as best we can.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.16 pm): I rise in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. It gives me great pleasure as the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to speak in support of this important bill, which relates to many aspects of my portfolio. This bill is yet another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs in regional Queensland and to delivering a future where clean, sustainable, renewable energy drives Queensland's economy.

Let me assure the House that this is not a bill you would ever see under an LNP government. Since 2015, 39 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operations or have become financially committed, representing nearly 6,000 jobs in construction. From this base, Queensland's renewable revolution can now launch into its next 10-year phase of growth, fuelled by this government's commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Supporting projects like the Forest Wind farm will be a key part of this next 10-year phase of growth.

Renewable energy can also place downward pressure on electricity prices by introducing more competition into the wholesale market—and that is exactly what it has been doing three years in a row. Prices are down. The recent addition of large-scale renewable capacity is already making a positive contribution to lower electricity prices. You do not need me to say that; the Queensland Competition Authority reflected that renewable energy coming on to the market is bringing prices down. This has happened for three years under the Palaszczuk government. I remind everyone that that compares with a 43 per cent increase over the term of the previous LNP government—another landmark—under which no large-scale renewable projects were initiated.

While the recent growth in renewable energy is impressive, the Palaszczuk government understands the imperative of maintaining that growth. Our publicly owned clean energy generator CleanCo will continue the renewable revolution with its remit to bring on an extra 1,000 megawatts of clean energy by 2025. The Forest Wind farm proposal seeks to establish a large-scale wind farm to be co-located within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests in the Wide Bay-Burnett region of Queensland. It was surprising that the local, federal LNP member for Wide Bay said he was very concerned about this project.

These workers will construct 226 wind turbines with a generation capacity of 1,200 megawatts, requiring an estimated private capital investment of up to \$2 billion. Electricity will be transmitted along a high-voltage electrical transmission line from the wind farm to publicly owned Powerlink's Woolooga substation. Those are transmission lines about which the member for Burleigh said, 'We do not need to build any more transmission lines.' With his support of the bill, there would be a wind farm out there churning away but no electricity coming onto the market from the wind farm because—

Mr de Brenni: It would look good.

Dr LYNHAM: It would look good. But as far as the member for Burleigh is concerned, we do not need any more transmission lines in this state. That means no CopperString, no further hook-up of any large-scale renewable projects and no interconnector upgrade. This is the first taste of the LNP's 'electricity' program. At full implementation, the Forest Wind project will reduce carbon emissions by about 78.6 million tonnes over 30 years. That is what Labor does: Labor supports the renewable energy revolution and the jobs that follow, because they are jobs all over regional Queensland.

What alternative have we heard thus far from those opposite apart from the shadow energy minister's contribution? In their 'electricity' policy we read of an eventual sell-off of our publicly owned assets. We learn from the Queensland Productivity Commission of price increases for regional families—that is what we learn—and now we also learn there are no more large-scale renewables and we will have Forest Wind farm being isolated from the grid.

The member for Burleigh also said at the energy forum, which I participated in with the member for Burleigh and the member for Maiwar, that he does not support taxpayer funds going towards new coal-fired power stations. He went on; he was on a roll. He said, 'Let's just rule a line through that straightaway.' The next day up pops the member for Burdekin with a spot of clarification about where they stand on coal-fired power. I do not envy them having to straddle the fence on this issue, but they would honestly just be better off getting on board with the renewable revolution. It is an absolute shemozzle over there when it comes to their energy policy and their water policy. They have to recognise that the Forest Wind farm, properly connected to our grid, is an important step towards our target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. The committee report states that this bill has two distinct and unrelated policy objectives. That alone should raise concerns about the haphazard and chaotic way this government conducts business. The bill's primary objective is to 'provide tenure within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests to enable a proposed major renewable energy project for Queensland to occur'. The explanatory notes advise the development cannot occur without this special purpose legislation. The Forestry Act 1959 prohibits the development of inconsistent and incompatible uses, including the grant of tenure for projects of this kind. That is because the project will be developed in an area with a current plantation licence—a plantation licence that was sold by the Bligh Labor government to HQPlantations in 2010 for \$603 million.

Forest Wind Holdings has submitted a proposal under the investment facilitation process for exclusive transactions, the former market-led proposals framework. It proposes to establish a \$2 billion large-scale wind farm with 226 wind farm turbines generating up to 1,200 megawatts of energy. The wind farm directly impacts my electorate and the Maryborough electorate. This proposal will have a significant and lasting impact on residents, businesses and visitors to the Gympie region. It is reasonable to expect that a project of this scale and impact should be undertaken with the support of the local community. It needs genuine support from the local community, not lip-service consultation. The explanatory notes state—

Consultation with relevant State Government agencies has occurred and there is broad support for the Bill.

Unfortunately, during the committee's consideration of this bill community concerns were revealed about tokenistic consultation. It was also revealed that the government has been secretly working on this project for three years. The government said nothing until a press statement six days before Christmas last year. Nothing was said to the community that will be impacted. It was ignored. The first in-person meetings with locals were held at the start of this year. The prospect of high-voltage lines cutting across family properties is disrespectful to local residents.

Despite years of secret talks, the government has still failed to announce details of where the transmission line corridor will be and what properties will be affected. The route, which will cross the Bruce Highway, must connect with the Woolooga substation by a route which is still not known to the public. Landowners cannot get any confirmation of where the lines will run. The public is unaware. I have received numerous representations from Gympie and Maryborough constituents who are concerned that their voices have not been heard. I look forward to the contribution from the member for Maryborough, given his constituents come to me.

A departmental spokesman told local media that since the project's announcement it had 'widely consulted with the community, timber industry, environmental groups, regional councils, local businesses and traditional owners'. Forest Wind said it 'has undertaken a wide range of community and wider stakeholder engagement activities', including sending letters and brochures to residents and property owners within five kilometres of the project's location, holding community and online information sessions and direct communication through an inquiry line.

Residents feel they are being treated as mugs. They were told nothing until mid-December under the cloak of Christmas, when the development application was lodged. Notice and consultation was conducted during the summer holidays or under COVID-19 restrictions. Not until mid-January were letters left at homes within a five-kilometre radius of the project. They were addressed to the householder, so many people threw them out as junk mail. There was short notice for community meetings held in early February. Residents said the meetings were 'totally inadequate and people came away with more questions than they had answers'. The process has left a sour taste in the mouths of residents, who said, 'The community appears to have been left in the dark until the last minute ... so we didn't have time to object.'

The Gympie Regional Council is concerned about the lack of consultation and the representation of its views. The mayor advised the committee—

I have received representations that GRC staff made to the committee regarding the Forest Wind Farm Project. I wish to inform the committee that the detail and expressed views are of the staff member and are not endorsed by council. It is concerning to council that there appears to have been a lack of adequate consultation with the community on the aspects of this project. As Mayor I cannot endorse the views expressed by the staff member as council has not formed a view on this project due to the lack of complete, detailed information and particularly community consultation.

The Gympie community deserves better than lip-service consultation. The project's proponent says there is still a process to go in their consultation program before construction starts. The government's three years of secret discussions on this proposal contrasts with what it did with other similar projects. The Coopers Gap Wind Farm was well known to the public five years before a development application was even lodged. The reality is that this bill has been introduced with what appears to be a predetermined approval outcome.

A submission from a Maryborough resident described this process as 'an obscene haste to get planning consent and this legislation passed'. The submission asked, 'Does "cutting through the red tape" ... mean ignoring the democratic process?' The submission noted the timing of the minister's introductory speech, which said it 'marked the successful completion of the detailed assessment stage of the Forest Wind project'. The minister's claims were made when there were still four days left to comment on the developer's EPBC Act submissions. Gympie residents know about the EPBC Act; that

is why the Traveston Dam failed. They are naturally sceptical of someone from government coming in, undertaking no genuine consultation, riding roughshod over them, and telling them what is good for them. The Beattie Labor government did just that. It is in Labor's DNA.

The fiasco of the Traveston Dam cost Queensland taxpayers half a billion dollars. It was wasted because a Labor government did not consult. It was an appalling mishandling of taxpayers' money. The Labor government tried to destroy the social, economic and environmental fabric of our community. No wonder people are sceptical. They legitimately ask whether the proposal has always been a foregone conclusion with no intention to listen to or address community concerns. This is another egregious example of a Brisbane-centric government riding roughshod over the Gympie community.

The Clean Energy Council advises that—

Community engagement is essential throughout all phases of a wind farm. Communities begin to form perceptions and attitudes toward projects long before construction begins. Being proactive in community engagement can reduce uncertainty for communities and mitigate risks for developers. Unsuccessful experiences in project development can be the result of inadequate engagement with communities in the earliest project stages.

It is incumbent on the government to ensure landholder rights are heard and appropriate community consultation is undertaken.

The explanatory notes omitted to say why we need this bill to permit the wind farm to coexist with a plantation licence. That is because HQPlantations has a 99-year plantation licence over state forests. A former Labor government sold our forestry plantations. Former Labor premier Anna Bligh sold Forestry Plantations Queensland for \$603 million in 2010. Our current Premier was complicit and sat at the same cabinet table when the Bligh Labor government sold off Queensland state owned forests. Timber Queensland supports this legislation on the proviso there is no net loss in forestry production. Unfortunately, during the committee's consideration of the bill, it revealed that any commitment to 'no net loss' of forestry production is just in principle. Wide Bay's timber industry does not need this uncertainty. The industry is already fighting for certainty before the regional forestry agreement ends and logging of Crown native forests will cease by 2026.

Each year Queensland's forest and timber industry generates more than \$3.8 billion in value and supports 25,000 direct and indirect jobs. Hardwood sawmilling in the south-east supports 2,000 direct and indirect jobs and has a mill door value of more than \$200 million per annum. Labor is deliberately dragging its feet in signing up to the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement because it wants to drive operators out of the industry. The industry needs certainty on their investment and future business prospects. Instead of providing stopgap two-year extensions, the LNP will deliver Queensland's timber industry job-creating certainty by updating the 30-year industry plan.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. The introduction of the bill will facilitate tenure for the project in a manner which provides the long-term certainty and security sought by project investors and is necessary to allow the negotiation of commercial arrangements to progress. The primary objective of the bill is to provide a tenure pathway and legal framework for the establishment of a privately financed and funded large-scale wind farm generating approximately 1,200 megawatts of energy from up to 226 turbines within the exotic pine plantations of the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests.

I recently had the opportunity like you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, to experience firsthand a wind farm located at Coopers Gap, which will be one of Australia's largest wind farms upon completion later this year. It has a total generation capacity of 453 megawatts annually and will produce 1.5 million megawatt hours of energy. The wind farm consists of 115 turbines extending across a series of ridge lines within the site. The wind turbines are approximately 180 metres in height from the tower base to the top of the blade. The tower will be approximately 113 metres high and the blades approximately 67 metres in length, with a rotor diameter of 137 metres. That is truly amazing.

This bill is a positive step towards the realisation of yet another large-scale, renewable energy, job-creating project—a project that will provide local and traditional owner employment and business opportunities, sustainable economic development, the potential reduction of electricity prices, increased safety and fire hazard response capability, and the efficient use of state owned land. Notably, the bill complements the state's existing legislative requirements and processes, including those relating to environmental matters and development approval, ensuring the rights in relation to such legislation and processes are not affected.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has already started delivering Queensland's COVID-19 recovery plan by creating more Queensland jobs in more industries, like the wind farm industry, to futureproof our state. Whilst the LNP continue to deliberate the role of renewable energy and its

contribution to the Queensland economy, only the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting Queensland industries and business and is committed to delivering widescale renewable energy and job-creating projects. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.35 pm): I would like to make a few remarks about the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, and the title really does say it all. It is a proposal to allow a massive wind farm in state forests. Given the Greens' support for renewable energy, there is a lot that I would like to welcome about this proposal. That said, I also want to echo some of the concerns raised by submitters in the inquiry on this bill.

As others have already said, the bill basically provides tenure within three state forests to enable the Forest Wind project to occur. To be clear, this is a project brought by private proponents in the renewable sector. Without this bill, the Forestry Act prohibits this project since the grant of tenure for a project of this kind is currently an inconsistent and incompatible use with the plantation licence over the area. The submission from Timber Queensland noted assurances that the main impacts for the plantation timber in question would be a reduction in plantation forest area of around 493 hectares. There is a commitment from Forest Wind Holdings for a no net forestry loss approach through a land offset for matched tree planting. State forest might seem like a pretty weird location for renewable energy infrastructure of this scale, but it seems clear enough that the project does not unduly interfere with the forestry operations.

Given the urgency of the climate crisis and the renewables transition, I welcome any investment in renewable energy infrastructure. What does concern me about this bill and more broadly is the fact that this government is allowing the bulk of new renewables projects to be built by private corporations, which means the revenue will continue going towards private corporate profit rather than public good. Electricity is undeniably an essential service and the Greens want an energy system run for people, not profit. We propose \$25 billion of government investment over four years in productive, clean energy generation and storage capacity. We can fund this sort of investment by making mining corporations, big banks and developers pay their fair share and by taking advantage of record low interest rates for debt funded infrastructure investment.

The Greens' bold investment in renewable energy is part of a strategy to transition away from this state's dependence on fossil fuels, with the urgency that climate change demands of us, by investing in the jobs of the future. This project is yet again an example of the private sector stepping in and doing the kind of work that governments should. This project represents the kind of persistent, stealthy and pervasive privatisation that the Greens have so consistently warned against in our energy sector.

The other thing I took from this is just how pathetic it makes the government's CleanCo and its targets look. The Forest Wind project will provide up to 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy. At 12 per cent of Queensland's installed energy capacity, this does make a pretty substantial contribution towards the Queensland government's renewable energy target. By contrast, CleanCo—which is supposed to spearhead the government's renewables investment and maintain public ownership—has less ambitious targets than just this one project. CleanCo's entire thousand megawatt generation target is eclipsed by this one project. This really puts in context just how unambitious the government is in its own investment in publicly owned renewables. In those projects, we need to deliver ongoing jobs and revenue and publicly owned electricity for all Queenslanders.

Government members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: They are unhappy with this, aren't they?

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Comments will come through the chair.

Mr BERKMAN: I will take that interjection. It is fascinating the way the Labor Party likes to rewrite history and reflect persistently on the Rudd government scheme and completely turn a blind eye to the fact that, when the Greens actually had power in federal parliament alongside the Gillard government, we negotiated and introduced what would still be world-leading emissions reduction legislation.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has taken the interjection and is responding to it. I ask members to hear the response in silence.

Mr BERKMAN: This is a rewriting of history that we hear over and over again. If we could just focus for a moment on the productive outcomes from genuine negotiation between the Gillard government and the Greens when we had that power-sharing arrangement in the federal parliament, we could see what successful climate policy looks like.

Finally, some submitters raised concerns about the level of consultation for those living nearby, and this has been raised by others. To be honest, the lack of consultation seems to have become a fairly consistent habit for this government. As we have heard, according to submitters, project planning began in 2016 and community engagement began in late December 2019. Some local households received a letter about the project just before Christmas and others got it as late as 20 January this year. Public consultation sessions occurred in February 2020 and the Queensland government issued planning approvals in the same month.

I am well on the record about deficiencies in our state planning process, and this consultation process is no exception. Profits and corporate interests are being put before people under this process and under this government. A project this big, one that requires our parliament to change the law just so it can go ahead, is worthy of much better community consultation, a much better look at alternative sites—if they exist—and a much better look at the environmental impacts.

I welcome the investment in renewable energy and the jobs of the future, albeit from the private sector rather than by public means. However, the community has enough concerns about this that the government should have shown its workings better and engaged better with the community.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.41 pm): I rise to support the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill, which provides a pathway for Forest Wind Holdings to obtain tenure to access, occupy, develop and manage the land and limit the construction and operation to three state forests for a proposed renewable energy project for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's plan to unite and recover for Queensland is all about supporting jobs and infrastructure projects to stimulate our economy. This project has the potential of creating around 440 jobs during construction over a three-year period and up to 50 full-time jobs once it is up and running. This will be a much welcomed project for the Wide Bay-Burnett community.

CleanSight Pty Ltd, a joint venture partner of Forest Wind Holdings, is a Queensland based company in the low-carbon energy sector seeking to significantly contribute to Queensland's transition to a renewable energy future. The fully implemented wind farm will generate approximately 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy from up to 226 wind turbines in the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests. In turn, this will increase Queensland's large-scale renewable energy capacity by 40 per cent, producing enough clean energy to supply one in four Queensland homes.

The proposed project area is also the subject of a current plantation licence held by HQPlantations, which commenced in 2010 and continues for a 99-year period. I would like to thank HQPlantations for the tour of their forestry site a few years ago. I know that my department and HQPlantations have a strong engagement on ensuring ongoing forestry production requirements. HQPlantations, as one of the largest private timber plantation companies in Australia, continues its strong local engagement on jobs and production. The forestry requirements have been well considered, as under the current legislative framework the Forestry Act 1959 prohibits this development of inconsistent and incompatible uses, including the grant of tenure for projects of this kind. This bill establishes the legislative framework for the development to coexist with this plantation licence and to otherwise be undertaken in the state forests through exempting the project from certain provisions of the Forestry Act and the Land Act 1994.

As a part of this project there are fire risk management arrangements, and a range of operational matters will need to be negotiated and finalised between HQP and Forest Wind Holdings should this bill be passed. Those negotiations are progressing well with HQP and Forest Wind agreeing to a set of principles, and both will be looking towards an agreed fire management plan for the area.

Timber Queensland have provided in-principle support of the bill as a result of commitments made by Forest Wind regarding a 'no net loss' in forestry production through the provision of land offsets and measures to appropriately manage fire hazards and operational impacts. I am advised Forest Wind have provided community consultation to date, including consulting the Butchella people and Kabi Kabi First Nation people, who will benefit from expected job opportunities; holding information sessions at three locations; and providing information through newsletters and its website.

Gympie Regional Council have indicated their support for the bill, noting the potential investment in the region from the \$2 billion project, including improved local jobs outcomes and the potential tourism opportunities in terms of renewable energy tours. What makes this bill stand up is the many jobs and economic benefits it entails, with no costs incurred; all costs associated with due diligence and subsequent delivery of the project will be met by Forest Wind. Alternative tenure options were considered under the current legislative framework and were deemed either insufficient on their own to permit the development or did not allow the project to coexist with the plantation licence, presenting limitations for progressing a tenure framework satisfactory to all parties.

Without the House passing this bill, the development will not be able to proceed. This framework is in addition to a suite of project documents which will provide for the project to occur in stages and outline each party's obligations in respect of the development and long-term occupation and use of parts of the state forests. The project detailed in this bill delivers on the government's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs and should be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, a bill that seeks to provide tenure within the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests to enable a major wind farm renewable energy project to occur. I note that when complete, the project will deliver up to 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy, which would represent 12 per cent of Queensland's installed generation capacity. I also note that the project will require an estimated private capital investment of around \$2 billion, so it is a considerable investment which should justifiably be subject to scrutiny.

I note that the shadow minister, Andrew Powell, has foreshadowed that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, we do have concerns with respect to the process the government has undertaken, which is a familiar refrain of much that the Palaszczuk Labor government touches. In my contribution I wish to address specifically my concerns and those expressed during the committee process in relation to the market-led proposal and exclusive transaction process.

We heard yesterday from the shadow minister for state development that as a consequence of government policy in relation to the market-led proposal and exclusive transaction process, the very communities that will be directly affected by this proposal were kept in the dark while the Labor government, who supposedly govern for their interests, engaged in discussions behind closed doors with the project proponent for three years. In fact, information in relation to the project was only made public after the government had had the opportunity to make media announcements with much fanfare. It smacks of a Labor government more interested in looking after themselves than the communities they supposedly represent. It is just the latest example of the Palaszczuk Labor government treating rural and regional Queenslanders like second-class citizens.

Let's be clear. The fact that consultation with the local community did not commence until 2020 is a direct consequence of government policy, not due to an unwillingness of the proponent to engage on the issue. Although the name may have changed, the exclusive transaction process is just a continuation of Labor's failed market-led proposal framework, which resulted in 160 proposals from the private sector but delivered only one.

Queenslanders have heard lots of noise in the media and we have seen plenty of Labor ministers and members trumpeting great projects which were supposedly going to be delivered under the market-led proposal framework, but they never eventuated. I speak of projects like the Queensland Maritime Museum. The name of the market-led proposal process may have changed, but it is still the same opaque and unproductive bureaucratic nightmare. I just hope that Labor are actually able to deliver a project under the exclusive transaction process or, more to the point, that a Frecklington LNP government takes the reins in November and is able to bring some common sense and business acumen to running this state.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.49 pm): I absolutely support this bill to establish a legal framework for the establishment of a large-scale wind farm, generating 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy from up to 226 turbines. How exciting is that? That would add to the Coopers Gap Wind Farm, which is almost complete—it will be the largest wind farm in Australia, here in Queensland—and the Mount Emerald Wind Farm in Far North Queensland. It is part of a renewable transformation of this state underway by this government.

When we came to office, when I was the minister for energy, not one single, large-scale, renewable energy project had started under the Newman government. At a time of plunging costs and increasing viability all around the world, not one was started because it was actively prevented by the LNP. Today we now have operational 25 large-scale renewable energy projects, and this will add to that. There is the Coopers Gap and Mount Emerald wind farms along with solar farms at Barcaldine, Childers, Clare, Clermont, Collinsville, Daydream, Emerald, Hamilton, Haughton, Hayman, Hughenden, Kidston, Lilyvale, Longreach, Maryborough, Oakey I, Oakey II, Ross River, Rugby Run, Sun Metals, Susan River, Whitsunday and Yarranlea. What an amazing list of solar renewable energy coming out because of this progressive Labor government. We are getting it done.

It is amazing to hear the whingeing from those opposite—both the LNP and the Greens were in peak whinge mode—because we are getting this done. This is an amazing project that will create more than 400 jobs in the Wide Bay-Burnett region, with up to 50 full-time operational jobs. What do members opposite have against jobs? It is extraordinary. Some 80 per cent of these construction jobs will be filled

by Queenslanders; 90 per cent of the operational jobs will be filled by Wide Bay-Burnett locals. We are about jobs, clean energy and acting on climate change—not just talking about it, like the Greens do. We actually get it done. We all know that the Greens stopped the emissions trading scheme under the federal Labor government and also tried to water down tree-clearing laws. You cannot trust the Greens when it comes to acting on climate change, because they say one thing but when it comes to the crunch they do another. They are just another political party, just like the LNP. It is unfortunate.

This Forest Wind farm project, if fully developed, would increase Queensland's large-scale renewable energy capacity by 40 per cent and reduce CO₂ emissions by over 78 million tonnes over 30 years. That is pretty astonishing. We are committed to jobs, clean energy and science. We acknowledge science, be it concerning climate change or this pandemic. We listen to health advice and protect our economy. This is a government that believes in science. This bill absolutely takes advantage of the latest technology and acknowledges the impact of climate change and our need to respond to it by using the latest technology and the latest developments. I am proud to be part of a government that is doing that. We have achieved an enormous amount.

Currently, 35 renewable energy projects are operational, under construction or financially committed, and there are more than 92 proposals across Queensland. We are absolutely on track to reach our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We have been criticised often by those opposite—in both the LNP and the Greens—but we will get on and achieve, and I believe exceed, that target. Of course, that means not just jobs and action on climate change but also lower electricity prices. We already have the lowest power prices on the eastern seaboard, because we kept our assets in public hands and we have invested in renewable energy because the costs keep dropping. We understand that. People will get more of that from a Labor government.

People have been given some relief on their electricity bills to help them through this pandemic. This is a very important bill. It is a very important project to add to our commitment to action on climate change and to jobs at a time when Queenslanders need it during the pandemic. Fundamentally, this bill would not happen under the LNP. They might say today that they believe in renewable energy, but they change their mind. Listen to their whingeing, whining and criticism in this debate. They might even vote for it, but we know that if they ever got into power they would be the same old LNP. We would have a 2.0 version of the Newman government under the member for Nanango. It is in their DNA.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. First I will respond to some of the matters already raised in the debate. When I was in my office watching the live feed I noted that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy had the audacity to bring some unfathomable falsehoods into this House concerning electricity policy in Queensland. As it has already been allowed by the Speaker, I hope Mr Deputy Speaker will allow me to rebut those points.

I heard the minister—and also, indeed, the Minister for Transport, who was just in the chamber—say that this is a bill we would never see under an LNP government. What nonsense! If a proponent emerges with a project that meets all of the requirements, has community support and is a suitable business proposition, of course it will be supported. That is no different from what the government proposes here with this enabling legislation.

We heard the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy—and, indeed, the Minister for Transport just before—talk about the sale of electricity assets. What nonsense! We are hearing these things from a government that seems to forget that Labor sold wind farm assets in this state. Labor is the party that sells assets in this state. We have had \$16 billion of asset sales in this state in relation to which senior ministers in the current government sat around the cabinet table.

Mr Powell: Including the Premier.

Mr LISTER: Including the Premier and the Minister for State Development, among others.

Mr Powell: It was a fire sale.

Mr LISTER: A fire sale of assets.

Mr Powell: The Treasurer.

Mr LISTER: And the Treasurer, yes. Where has all that money gone? It has been frittered away—on weight loss for dogs and unprivatising prisons, I suppose. We heard the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy talk about 43 per cent increases in electricity prices. The fact is—and everyone in this chamber knows—that those price rises were a legacy of the Labor government, which locked us into that. If people want to know who is responsible for power price rises in Queensland, it is the Labor Party.

We heard about power prices for regions. We heard a pious dissertation from the minister about cheap electricity prices for the regions. I have invited the minister on a number of occasions to accompany me to places like Toobeah, Weengallon, Bungunya, Wallangarra, Inglewood and Goondiwindi.

Mr Powell: And you can pronounce them!

Mr LISTER: I can pronounce them; that is right. I would love to have a beer with him and get him to meet locals in those areas who are paying way over the odds. They are a part of Queensland that has been cut away from the interests of this Labor Party government. They pay heaps more for electricity but we never hear the minister respond. Whenever I interject in the House the minister is usually good for a bit of a cross-chamber touch-up, but he always ignores me when I talk about that.

Mr Powell: We'll introduce competition, though, won't we?

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Glass House. I will speak about that very point. Regional Queensland needs competition. Those who are shackled to Ergon, as the monopoly provider of electricity in this state, pay way over the odds. Why should electors in my electorate of Southern Downs and in other regional electorates like those of my friends the members for Gympie and Warrego pay more than everyone else and not be given access to competition like every other Queenslander?

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection by the member for Warrego. We want to see more providers set up. That is something an LNP government would enable. It is entirely disingenuous and false for any member of the Labor Party government to come into this chamber and speak of electricity prices in regional Queensland. If they do not believe me, I invite them to put their money where their mouth is, come to the Toobeah pub, talk to the publican there, Michael Offerdahl, and to the locals to see what they think of Labor's mouthings about electricity. It is all just soft soap.

In their contributions to this debate, some of my colleagues made very vivid and correct observations about consultation. It is something that we in this chamber hear of a lot. We even heard from my honourable friend the member for Maiwar about a lack of consultation. It is a proclivity of this government—

Mr Powell: Friend?

Mr LISTER: Well, the honourable member for Maiwar is a guy I can get along with. Maybe we do not share a lot in common politically, but he is not a bad fellow.

Mr Mickelberg: Not as good as the LNP candidate, though.

Mr LISTER: That is true. Nevertheless, it has been said by everyone here who was prepared to tell the truth that this Labor government has a proclivity for riding roughshod over consultation when it does not suit its aims. Anyone who sits on my committee will have seen that. I am sure that everyone else who sits on a committee and sees how the committee processes are run and how public consultation is dealt with will agree with me on that point.

In order to demonstrate what I think the government should do when it comes to consultation, I would like to talk about the wind farm being developed in my own electorate. I just spoke to Michelle Holmes, the community relations manager for the MacIntyre Wind Farm project. As the local member of parliament, I would very quickly find out if a project like that, with large implications for residents in my area, was going astray or riding roughshod over their considerations, but that is not happening. It is a project which will deliver a lot of jobs, investment and renewable energy in my electorate of Southern Downs. I am proud of that. Why will the government not replicate what is happening with the MacIntyre Wind Farm to ensure that stakeholders are given the respect of consultation and the opportunity to have reasoned stakeholder input into government decisions? I am ashamed of some of the things I have seen this government do. The government needs to improve its game on consultation, but I suspect it will not have the opportunity because those who have been disadvantaged and disobliged by the government will turn this Labor government out on its ear at the coming October election.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill, and it is a pleasure to do so. I want to start by addressing a couple of things that the member for Maiwar talked about in an attempt to berate us for a lack of action or commitment thereof. I remind the member that when we got into government there was no renewable energy industry. There was none. Since that time we have created a whole new regional industry based on renewable energy.

We on this side of the House are all very proud of what we have created under the Palaszczuk government—a new industry that is lowering electricity prices and creating jobs throughout regional Queensland.

The Forest Wind farm is another example of the innovative economic initiatives that we will be seeing more of under the unite and recover plan. The unite and recover plan and projects like the Forest Wind farm will get the economy back on track and get Queenslanders back into work into more jobs in more industries. It is a plan which will see a \$6 billion investment in industry infrastructure and innovation to keep people in work and to ensure that Queensland recovers as quickly as possible.

The Forest Wind farm well reflects the first two parts of our unite and recover plan, and that is, firstly, building vital infrastructure by fast-tracking our infrastructure plan, investing in new infrastructure and supporting private projects which deliver jobs and, secondly, strengthening Queensland's industries, including traditional ones, while also supporting emerging ones such as renewable energy. As we have heard previously and I want to reiterate, the wind farm is another step forward in reaching our 50 per cent renewable target by 2030 and we are on track to reach that 20 per cent renewable generation by the end of this year.

As we have previously heard, over the past five years the Palaszczuk government has seen 39 large-scale renewable energy projects either commence operation or financially committed, creating and supporting 5,700 jobs. Earlier the member for Miller talked about some of the projects that we have seen happening in recent times under the Palaszczuk government. We heard about Coopers Gap, and I will touch on a couple of others.

For example, in regional Queensland work has started on Australia's biggest solar farm near Chinchilla which will create up to 400 jobs and generate 400 megawatts of renewable energy. That company will sell 320 megawatts of that energy to CleanCo, our new publicly owned energy generator. I also mention the \$125 million University of Queensland Warwick solar farm. That has opened and will provide 64 megawatts. It will make the University of Queensland the first in the world to have all of its power coming from its own renewable energy asset, and that supported up to 100 jobs during construction. I also mention the \$350 million Rodds Bay Solar Farm project proposal south of Gladstone, and that passed another milestone recently in that United Green, an international company, signed up to be part of this project. This project will produce 500 megawatts of power for Queensland and the manufacturing hub of Gladstone which could translate into 300 jobs.

These are only some examples of the renewable energy boom that we are seeing in Queensland which would not have happened without the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why this particular proposal fits in so well with where we are going as a state and fits in so well under our unite and recover plan. This proposal, as we have heard and as the minister has said—and I commend the minister on helping get this to parliament—involves \$2 billion worth of infrastructure from private sector investment which is going to provide significant economic benefits for the state, including the creation of 440 jobs and up to 50 full-time operational jobs. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.05 pm): I support the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill. It is an important part of the transition to a clean energy future. Recently at a community forum I was asked if I had a vision for large-scale renewable and clean energy projects in Queensland. I said, 'I don't really have a vision. What I've got is hindsight. I've got hindsight because we've already done it.' We have already done it, we are already delivering it and there is more on the way, and this is an important part of that.

We heard the whinging and the whining from the Greens party, which does not have vision and which does not have hindsight. I think it should change its name to the 'I'm gunna party', because all it does is come in here with no vision and no hindsight but fantasies about what it is going to do: 'We're gunna do this. We're gunna do that. We're gunna do the rest.' We are doing it. Not only are we delivering clean energy; we are delivering cheap energy, and that drives those on the other side of the House absolutely crazy. This is an important step forward, just like CleanCo is an important step forward. I am proud to be part of a government that is the only government in the world that has a fully clean energy generation company.

The Forest Wind farm is a private sector delivered project, and that is what this bill is facilitating. We have to ask ourselves why it is being facilitated. There are a whole range of reasons. The No. 1 reason most importantly is that on this side of the House 100 per cent of the members believe that climate change is real and believe that climate change requires real action. That is not the case on the

other side of the House. Just yesterday we heard some of the great work from the member for Callide, who has made many great statements in this House about his views on climate change which are shared by some of the more extreme and weird people whom you will meet on social media.

Ms Grace: He crossed the floor too, didn't he?

Mr KELLY: I think he did cross the floor. We believe in climate change, and that is what is driving our future energy policies. We are also backing them which is giving the private sector the confidence and the certainty that it needs to make these large, long-term investments. Not only that, we have invested in the transmission, because there is not much point producing electricity if you cannot get it to where it needs to go. We should be very proud of the investments that we have made in transmission. That is why the private sector is investing in projects like the Forest Wind farm. Again, if we turn to our friends in the 'we're gunna party'—the 'we're gunna' Greens—the reality is they do not want anybody from the private sector investing in clean energy. We have invested in public sector clean energy projects and we have created the certainty to deliver even more renewable and clean energy via the private sector. I do not know why anybody who claims to be concerned about climate change or the environment would not want the private sector investing in clean energy and getting even more clean energy into our system.

I also want to turn to a part of this bill that I think is really important, and that is the number of jobs being created by this bill. Our government is focused on jobs. We have been through significant lockdown periods which have had considerable economic impacts on people. Why have we done that? We did that on the advice of experts to keep people safe. It has come at a cost.

Every single job that we can support, in either the private or the public sector, is important. That seems to have been recognised by the councillors in the local area. It seems to be recognised and supported by the environmental groups. Timber Queensland seems to have no objection to this particular project. This project is delivering clean energy and it is delivering jobs, which is what we desperately need as we move forward. This project is an important part of powering our future. It is a future that is clean and it is a future that is cheap. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. Renewables will play a big part in the provision of energy in Queensland. I was very fortunate to grow up at Cardstone Village on the Tully River where my father was a power station operator at the Kareeya power station. We then moved to Collinsville where my father was again a power station operator. I acknowledge the importance of coal-fired power generation and the massive amount of jobs it creates and also the energy the Collinsville Power Station provided to North Queensland.

There is some merit to the government pushing wind farms. There are some disadvantages as well—for example, they need wind to turn the turbines to generate electricity. When it comes to providing land and infrastructure for those wind farms there are issues where they impede on residential areas and concern in regard to noise and people losing property.

The Tully-Millstream hydro-electric scheme that was approved 32 years ago would have provided 600 megawatts of power. It would have saved \$200 million a year in electricity generation losses coming from the south to the north. I believe it was going to provide power to 100,000 homes in that region. It would have made electricity in the North Queensland region cheaper. We cannot rule that project out. As I said, it was an approved project. The tunnels are already there. Money has already been put into that project. That is something we need to look at in regard to electricity generation to power homes.

Cogeneration has been rejected and pushed aside by both the state and federal governments. There are two projects on the Tablelands and the South Johnstone project, which is using bagasse, which is burnt sugar cane, as a form of energy. If the government supports that South Johnstone project it will provide power to about 30,000 homes. Bagasse is important as a power source as it also improves the cane supply agreement. Canefarmers can sell their sugar cane and that can be used not only as sugar but also to provide an energy source and subsequently electricity to homes in the region. On top of that, there is money that flows back to the community.

It is fine for the government to look at these wind farms, but I encourage it to look at cogeneration and get these projects up and running because there is no doubt that, if we invest in cogeneration, communities stretching from Port Douglas right through to the Sunshine Coast will benefit. I bring those issues to the attention of the House.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.14 pm): I rise in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. This is a great project for Wide Bay. It is very disappointing to see the other side of the House against it because it means jobs, jobs and more jobs for the Wide Bay region, in particular for the Maryborough electorate. It was interesting to read the committee report. The member for Scenic Rim stated that I am the member for Brisbane in Maryborough. I have a chihuahua at home that has more heart and intelligence than that member. If the member had taken note, he would know I had assisted the residents in their approach to the National Wind Farm Commissioner. It is very disappointing that those opposite are playing politics. Can members imagine if they were in power. We would still be driving buggies.

Mr Powell: We are not playing politics, we are supporting it. We just like good process following.

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the interjection from the member for Glass House. He is the man who gave us the Toogoom rock wall. A lot of people in my electorate know all about the member for Glass House. I say to the member for Glass House, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The Toogoom rock wall is one of the biggest disasters that people have had to put up with environmentally.

This wind farm is fantastic for the region. Not only will it create jobs during construction but also Forest Wind have had over 800 submissions from businesses that want to supply and work on the wind farm. I heard the member for Gympie saying he had been doing the work for the member for Maryborough. I would tell him to walk in my shoes because for the last five years I have been doing the work for the member for Gympie. I do not think he knows where the northern part of his electorate is.

Let us get the record straight. This is about jobs and renewables. Between Maryborough and Tiaro will be one of the biggest sustainability hubs in Queensland powered fully by renewable energy. This will create hundreds of jobs in my electorate. Did one member of the LNP talk about it? No, they did not. The mantra of those opposite is jobs, jobs, jobs, but when something like this comes along we see nothing but negativity. In my electorate they are called F Troop. Do members remember *F Troop* on TV? Those opposite are called F Troop because they cannot get anything right. Sixty-four times they called for the borders to be opened. Now it is about the wind farms. Will we see them in my electorate saying, 'We don't want the jobs. We don't want wind farms'? They cannot have both. This bill gives Forest Wind tenure for their wind farm which will create hundreds of jobs in my electorate.

I am concerned about making sure people have a roof over their head and food on the table, their children can be educated and they have health care. I am not interested in petty politics. I am not interested in the flat earth society. It is a wonder the member for Callide is not here talking about flat earth. Fair go. Those opposite really have to come into 2020. At the moment I think they are in 1921. We can drag them to 2020, get them across the line. They are a bit like the Amish community. They will be driving around in buggies. You can see them now. This is very good for jobs, jobs and more jobs in the Maryborough electorate and right across Wide Bay. How can the federal member for Wide Bay and the member for Gympie say they do not want jobs? How can they possibly go back to their constituents and say we do not want jobs in our electorate? If we get this wind farm we will have jobs. This is fantastic for the Maryborough electorate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by this House the time limit for this stage of the bill has expired. I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (2.19 pm), in reply: I would rather listen to the member for Maryborough, actually.

An honourable member: I think we all would. I second that motion.

Ms JONES: Okay, let's do it! I have had to listen to you banging on about environmental law for 10 years of my life.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Ms JONES: I thank all members who have provided their support to the bill. In particular, I thank the community and industry groups and local councils that have all taken the time to provide feedback on the bill. Many key stakeholders have shown their support. I acknowledge that the opposition, whilst raising a number of concerns that I will address in my reply, have indicated that they will support the bill, which is great. Yesterday the mayor of Gympie Regional Council, Glen Hartwig, attended the parliament and met with officers from my office—including Donnie whom it is lovely to have here. In

that meeting he expressed his strong support for the project and the downstream economic and employment benefits that it will bring to the region, which many members of the House have spoken about throughout the debate.

This will be one of the largest wind farms in the whole of the southern hemisphere. At capacity it could generate up to 1,200 megawatts of clean energy from up to 26 turbines. To give members an idea, that could service around one in four Queensland households. If it proceeds, the wind farm could reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions by 78.6 million tonnes over 30 years. The project will create 440 jobs during construction and when it is completed there will be 50 full-time operational jobs. In the words of the member for Maryborough when we were doing media outside, this bill is all about jobs, jobs and jobs.

It is important for members to reflect that the bill itself does not grant tenure for the project but enables the minister responsible for the act to grant access licences for the development of the project. Under the Land Act 1994, the minister can grant project leases provided the requirements in the bill and project agreements are met. There are safeguards in this to ensure that we meet those standards. The bill does not alter existing processes in the progression of these kinds of projects nor does it reduce or amend any rights in relation to those processes. That includes any applicable state and federal planning and environmental approvals for the project.

The bill contains key amendments to support the ongoing administration of the Springfield Structure Plan. I thank the shadow minister for his strong support for Springfield. We understand that this is really about modernising and providing clarity. It includes re-establishing the planning hierarchy that was widely assumed to have applied prior to recent court decisions. It requires development to comply with the hierarchy of plans and modifies the dispute resolution process under the structure plan. Once again I acknowledge that everyone who spoke in relation to the Springfield amendments has been very supportive and I thank all members of parliament for that.

In regard to some of the comments of opposition members, I will say a number of things. Firstly, I point out that Forest Wind Holdings is responsible for determining the transmission line corridor from the south-west corner of the project site to Powerlink Queensland's Woolooga substation, including negotiations and compensation with respect to landowners as part of the development of the project. I note that this is outside the scope of the bill and clearly the state will not be involved in those negotiations. Conditions for the assessment, consultation, monitoring and mitigation of the impacts, if any, are considered applicable under state and federal planning and environmental approvals. In short, that means they must stack up environmentally under all of the relevant pieces of legislation.

There was some talk about the timing on this. I am advised that the state did not make a formal announcement about the proposal at an earlier stage to allow stakeholders to consider the commercial, technical and legal feasibility of the proposal. This ensured community expectations about the viability and likely success of the proposal were not raised prematurely and avoided undue pressure on the proposal to progress. We cannot be any clearer. I note that the former state development minister and current Treasurer is here. We wanted to back this project because we want to see it go ahead. We know that this is about creating jobs—as I said, 440 construction jobs and 50 operational jobs. We felt that this was the most appropriate way to give that level of certainty to the proponent and to surrounding landholders.

Additionally, in accordance with statutory requirements under state code 23, wind farm development contained in the State Development Assessment Provisions, which I think came in under the LNP government, the purpose of this wind farm state code is to protect individuals, communities and the environment from adverse impacts as a result of construction, operation and decommissioning of wind farm developments. Once again, there are safeguards to ensure that we look at the amenity for surrounding landholders.

The State Assessment and Referral Agency awarded approval on 21 February 2020, which was accompanied by a range of conditions to ensure that the project is constructed and operated in accordance with the assessment outcomes. Under Queensland's planning system, code assessable applications do not require public notification. Forest Wind Holdings remains responsible for and is committed to continuing consultation as the project development is ongoing. As we move to the construction phase and the operational stage, Forest Wind Holdings will continue to have ongoing consultation with the local community and affected landholders.

Since the announcement of the project, Forest Wind Holdings has been actively engaged with local residents, even though this has been a very different year with COVID-19. Throughout the process, they have done a lot of mail-outs to residents, have contacted residents and have scheduled

another two face-to-face community engagement sessions from the mid to the end of August this year. Nominations for the Forest Wind Community Reference Group, previously known as the community consultation committee, are currently open. The group is intending to provide a forum for discussion between the Forest Wind project team and representatives of the community, traditional owners, stakeholder groups and local councils on issues directly relating to the project. There is going to be a very open and transparent process for local residents to raise their concerns. I encourage the community to take advantage of that opportunity and engage directly with the proponent.

The forest industry is a major employer in the region, as we have heard from a number of members of parliament during their contributions on the bill. The growth and sustainability industry is important to the Gympie and Fraser Coast regions. Forest Wind Holdings and the current plantation licensee, HQPlantations, are working closely to ensure that there is minimal impact on timber production, as well as to leverage complementary opportunities for improvements in fire protection and road access in the estate.

Forest Wind Holdings has also consulted with a number of key stakeholders in the timber industry, including Timber Queensland. At this stage it is estimated that the project will require approximately 493 hectares or about 0.6 per cent of the total plantation area. Forest Wind Holdings is also working with HQPlantations to determine any potential negative impacts from the project on the timber industry. If required, they have undertaken to provide solutions to mitigate any impacts, although we believe that they can coexist and we think this is a much better outcome for everybody involved.

While ecological offsets are outside the scope of the bill, Forest Wind Holdings has also committed to the government to a 'no net loss of forest product' outcome for the timber industry and is currently investigating land capable of growing the same volume of timber as the reduction of net commercially plantable area. It is important to put on the record that this government remains committed to the cardinal principle for the management of state forests as enshrined in the Forestry Act 1959 and to ensuring that the development of the wind farm is balanced with the environmental values and integrity of the state forest reservations.

I acknowledge the support of the opposition for the amendments in the bill in relation to the Springfield Structure Plan. As we have said, these amendments are vital to reinforcing the role of the planning hierarchy under the structure plan and to ensuring that access to dispute resolution arrangements under the structure plans are proportionate and fit for purpose in light of the substantial population growth that has occurred.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms JONES: Is that you, Ray? The little mermaid!

Mr Stevens: Correct titles, please.

Ms JONES: I am sorry if I offended you. I thought we were beyond that, member for Mermaid Beach. We have known each other a long time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, members! Let us get back to the bill.

Ms JONES: I am your favourite anyway, aren't I, Ray? I consider that the amendments that I will be moving in relation to the Springfield Structure Plan provisions of the bill will further improve the operation, for example, by providing an appropriate level of flexibility in relation to the interim development in the structure plan area, further streamlining processes by removing duplication and acknowledging the vital role played by Queensland Urban Utilities in providing water supply and waste water infrastructure.

In conclusion, I thank the departmental officers who have worked extremely hard on this and have briefed me extensively. I thank them for their work. In particular, I thank Michael Carey, Chris Le Serve, Steffen Poetzsch, Kathleen Yeo, Matthew Cronin, Rebecca Merretz, Mahala Butler, Bree Hughes and Donna Tobe from my department. I sincerely thank everyone in the department who has worked on this bill. I acknowledge the former minister for state development and current Treasurer who led the majority of the work on this. Thank you, member for Woodridge. I finish by thanking all members of the State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee for their detailed consideration of the bill. I also offer my thanks to the committee secretariat and to everyone in the House. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 74, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms JONES (2.30 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 74

Page 49, after line 15—

insert—

74A Amendment of s 231 (Non-appealable decisions and matters)

Section 231(1), after 'chapter,'—

insert—

section 316(2),

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

Tabled paper: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Hon. Kate Jones's amendments [1331].

Tabled paper: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Kate Jones's amendments [1332].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 75—



Ms JONES (2.30 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 51, after line 18—

insert—

Queensland Urban Utilities means the Central SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority established under the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*, section 8.

3 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 53, lines 8 to 15—

omit, insert—

- (a) are serviced by infrastructure provided under an infrastructure agreement applying to the premises; or
- (b) will, within a reasonable period, be serviced by infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a); or
- (c) are serviced by interim infrastructure that is consistent with infrastructure to be provided under an infrastructure agreement applying to the premises; or
- (d) will, within a reasonable period, be serviced by interim infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (c).

4 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 53, line 24, 'consistent'—

omit, insert—

generally consistent

5 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 54, line 13, 'consistent'—

omit, insert—

generally consistent

6 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 55, line 19—

omit, insert—

- (a) give a copy of the application to—
 - (i) the SCG; and
 - (ii) Queensland Urban Utilities; and

7 Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)

Page 56, lines 20 to 25—

omit, insert—

- (b) whether the premises to which the plan application relates are or will, within a reasonable period, be serviced by infrastructure as mentioned in section 275W(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d);

- 8 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 56, after line 34—
insert—
275ZAA Queensland Urban Utilities may make representations about non-SCG plan applications
(1) Within 10 business days after receiving a copy of a non-SCG plan application under section 275Y(2), Queensland Urban Utilities may make representations to the applicant and the local government about the application.
(2) In deciding the non-SCG plan application, the local government must have regard to any representations made by Queensland Urban Utilities under subsection (1).
- 9 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, line 1, 'SCG'—
omit, insert—
particular entities
- 10 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, line 5—
omit, insert—
must give notice of the decision to—
(a) the SCG; and
(b) Queensland Urban Utilities.
- 11 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, after line 5—
insert—
275ZAB Application of Springfield structure plan, s 2.2.4.6
The Springfield structure plan, section 2.2.4.6 does not apply in relation to a non-SCG plan application.
- 12 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, line 14, after 'plan'—
insert—
, other than a reconfiguration plan,
- 13 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, line 21, 'apply to the premises'—
omit, insert—
plans apply to the premises (each an **applicable plan**)
- 14 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, line 24, after 'plan'—
insert—
other than a reconfiguration plan
- 15 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 57, lines 26 to 27, 'plans mentioned in paragraph (a)'—
omit, insert—
applicable plans
- 16 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 58, line 1, after 'plan'—
insert—
, other than a reconfiguration plan,
- 17 **Clause 75 (Insertion of new ch 7, pt 4C)**
Page 58, line 5—
omit, insert—
(4) Subsections (1) to (3) apply despite section 72(1).
(5) However, subsections (1) to (3) do not apply in relation to—
(a) development that is reconfiguring a lot if—
(i) a reconfiguration plan applies to the lot; and
(ii) the reconfiguration complies with the reconfiguration plan; or

- (b) development under a development approval if—
 - (i) the application for the approval was made before the commencement; or
 - (ii) the application for the approval was made under the Springfield structure plan, section 2.6; or
 - (iii) the approval is for the carrying out of operational works in accordance with engineering drawings mentioned in the Springfield structure plan, section 10.2.1.
- (6) Also, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to development if—
 - (a) an area development plan, other than a reconfiguration plan, applies to the premises; and
 - (b) the development is shown on, or consistent with, the area development plan; and
 - (c) the plan application for the area development plan—
 - (i) was made before 20 May 2020; and
 - (ii) was decided on or after 20 May 2020.
- (7) In this section—

reconfiguration plan means an area development plan if the plan application for the approval of the plan states the plan is for the purpose of reconfiguring a lot only.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 75, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 76—



Ms JONES (2.31 pm): I move the following amendment—

18 Clause 76 (Insertion of new ch 8, pt 8)

Page 62, lines 10 to 16—

omit, insert—

353 Application of s 275ZC

Section 275ZC does not apply in relation to a development approval, or an approval of a change application, given before the commencement.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 76, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 77—



Ms JONES (2.31 pm): I move the following amendment—

19 Clause 77 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 63, after line 20—

insert—

Queensland Urban Utilities, for chapter 7, part 4C, see section 275T.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 77, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (2.32 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (2.32 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUEENSLAND FUTURE FUND BILL

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Queensland Future Fund Bill resumed from 14 July (see p. 1528) and Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 16 July (see p. 1745).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.32 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

In response to COVID-19, all Australian governments are increasing their borrowings to support households, businesses and the broader community. Queensland's general government sector borrowings are forecast to reach \$59.4 billion this financial year. Commonwealth general government sector borrowings will be nearly \$800 billion higher by the end of next June, at \$851.9 billion.

The Palaszczuk government has a plan to manage debt, including by establishing the Queensland Future Fund. The Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 provides the legislative foundation for the Queensland Future Fund. The Queensland Future Fund will be established as a special purpose account which can only be used for paying down debt or meeting its own administrative expenses. The Future Fund will be seeded with publicly owned assets, including Queensland's land titles registry, the Cross River Rail precincts and \$1 billion of the current \$3.5 billion surplus of the defined benefit superannuation fund.

By placing strategic assets in the locked box of the Future Fund, we are protecting them from the risk of LNP privatisation while reducing net debt. By amending the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990, we are providing a 100 per cent guarantee that the state's future defined benefit liabilities will remain fully funded on a funding basis. This is about managing the budget better and putting our assets to work for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

There are very clear processes and a strong accountability framework about the reporting of the Future Fund. It will be reported on as part of Treasury's annual financial statements, which are audited by the Auditor-General, included in Treasury's annual report and tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Like the New South Wales Generations Fund, which reported a 9.6 per cent return in its first seven months of operation, the Queensland Future Fund will grow over time as interest on our investments is returned to the fund and quarantined to reduce debt.

Importantly, the credit rating agencies have acknowledged the Future Fund as a key plank in Queensland's economic success. To maintain our credit rating amidst challenging economic conditions and major fiscal risks, we are working hard to keep our financing costs down and to preserve our future ability to raise debt.

The bill clearly demonstrates our government's commitment to Queensland's fiscal and economic future. We are keeping Queensland's public assets in public hands. We are keeping our savings plan on track. We are keeping borrowing costs low and sustainable as we face challenging times.

In my opening remarks on the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill, I noted that Queensland's economy had grown from exporting no gas as recently as 10 years ago to becoming an LNG powerhouse today, exporting nearly \$16 billion in gas each year. Much can change in 10 years, but one thing that had not changed, until now, was Queensland's petroleum royalty framework. The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill modernises Queensland's petroleum royalty regime. It ensures that all petroleum producers pay their fair share of royalties on the natural resources that belong to Queenslanders, and it ends the protracted and costly legal battles associated with the wellhead value model.

The volume model that this legislation implements is the first of its kind in the world. The model levels the playing field among exporters, ensuring that one gigajoule of gas is subject to the same royalty rate regardless of which producer ships it. It encourages efficient, low-cost producers. It provides greater certainty of royalty revenue for industry and for government. It eliminates most deductions, simplifies the complex issues about producers selling to related parties and removes the need for costly petroleum royalty decisions which often take years to litigate. Importantly, the volume model

encourages domestic producers to supply Queensland first by offering lower royalty rates for CSG supplied to the domestic market than for CSG used for export LNG. This will help to ensure that Queenslanders reap even more of the benefits of the natural resources that they own.

The volume model was developed following consultation with industry, both during the review and as part of implementation consultation undertaken by the Office of State Revenue. Changes sought by industry have been incorporated where appropriate, including using actual sales revenue rather than a benchmark price where petroleum is sold at arm's length, exempting gas swaps from royalty, and expressing all rates, tiers and royalty amounts in GST-exclusive terms. The Office of State Revenue will continue to work with industry to implement the new model. This includes publishing royalty rulings on issues identified by industry, such as the basis for measuring liable petroleum, which is being developed as a priority. The new volume model will come into effect from 1 October 2020, with producers able to move to the model without penalty and interest risks for the first six months.

The bill also modernises the administration of mineral and petroleum royalties, applying the same robust framework to royalties that currently applies to state taxes. Royalty payers will be granted full merits review for royalty assessments and valuation decisions, replacing judicial review. Royalty payers may challenge decisions by objection to the Commissioner of State Revenue and, if dissatisfied, will have recourse to QCAT or the Supreme Court.

I will be moving amendments during consideration of the bill to make changes to the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 and minor amendments to the Duties Act 2001. The amendments to the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 will support the proper administration of Queensland's regional home building boost grant and the Australian government's HomeBuilder grant. As I have noted, Queensland was the first east coast state to have our HomeBuilder application up and running.

I will also move amendments to the Duties Act 2001 to extend the benefit of the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production. Finally, amendments will also be moved to make minor drafting changes to clarify the operation of the new petroleum royalty volume model provisions. The Royalties Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 represents the culmination of substantial work undertaken to reform Queensland's royalty arrangements, delivering benefits to Queenslanders by ensuring they receive a fair return for their valuable non-renewable petroleum resources, and to royalty payers through adoption of the modern revenue administration framework provided by the Taxation Administration Act.

In closing, I acknowledge the Economics and Governance Committee's reports on both the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill and the Queensland Future Fund Bill, tabled on 7 August 2020. I would like to thank the committee members and secretariat for their hard work in considering these bills. I would like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about these bills and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiries. I note that in each case, the committee made only one recommendation—that each bill be passed. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. Both these bills were declared urgent by the Treasurer under standing order 137 during the last parliamentary sitting. The fact that the intention to legislate both bills was announced by the former treasurer, Jackie Trad, in 2019 shows how out of his depth Anastacia Palaszczuk's third and latest Treasurer is. The Royalties Legislation Amendment Bill has been progressing since a royalty review was announced over a year ago in last financial year's budget and the Future Fund was announced during the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

This out of his depth Treasurer, who has challenges when trying to remember his own fiscal principles, has had to declare these bills urgent and debate them cognately in a desperate attempt to avoid legislative scrutiny. We have just heard him speak to the two bills in seven or eight minutes, which is astonishing. These bills are simply handing in the member for South Brisbane's homework, albeit late, and \$17 billion in more debt later. Treasurer Dick will be the only Treasurer in the nation not to deliver a budget this year. His only legacy will be handing in scandal-ridden former treasurer Jackie Trad's homework. The member for Woodridge took the member for South Brisbane's discarded portfolio when she became Treasurer in 2017 and now he is doing her bidding again by legislating her agenda. It is obvious that Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's third Treasurer in five years is Labor's worst.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The reports are available if the member wishes to speak to the bills. Speaking about the previous treasurer is not relevant to the bills discussed by the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Logan. I have been listening. I am happy to allow the member for Everton to continue down the track he is going.

Mr MANDER: It is obvious that Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's third Treasurer in five years is Labor's worst. He may not be their last Treasurer this term either. This Treasurer will forever hang his head in shame for being responsible for pushing Queensland's debt beyond \$100 billion.

The royalty review that led to the development of this bill was announced on the same day that the Palaszczuk Labor government's scandal-ridden former treasurer, Jackie Trad, declared a 25 per cent increase in gas royalties, ripping another \$476 million from the Queensland economy. The announcement of the 25 per cent gas tax was met with widespread condemnation. The CEO of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, Andrew McConville, stated that 'to increase a cost right at a time when we need growth and investment, it just makes very little sense and it's extremely disappointing'.

Ms Grace: We wouldn't have an industry if it wasn't for Labor.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. Even Labor's former federal resource minister the Hon. Martin Ferguson said that the Palaszczuk Labor government's decision was going to effectively 'increase the price of gas and probably raise serious questions in the minds of investors about sovereign risk'—a concept that this government does not understand. They do not understand why people and corporations are reluctant to invest in this state when the goalposts were changed in a matter of weeks and they were assured that there would be no tax increase.

Labor's 25 per cent gas tax has pushed Queensland into having the highest royalties in the nation. The regulatory uncertainty under the Palaszczuk Labor government and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's almost \$4 billion of new taxes is stopping resources investment in Queensland and costing jobs. Because of Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's antiresource and antijob agenda, Queensland has fallen to 15th place on the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies investment attractiveness behind Western Australia in first place, South Australia in sixth place and the Northern Territory in 13th place. We cannot even get ahead of South Australia when it comes to investment attractiveness according to the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies.

Concerningly, during the public hearings on the bills, CEO of the Queensland Resources Council, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane, stated that Queensland is 'now below some African companies as an investment destination'. That is an absolute embarrassment. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's antijob attack on the Queensland resources sector has been relentless over the last five years. Queenslanders do not forget that the Palaszczuk Labor government's former treasurer, Jackie Trad, who first announced the proposed royalty changes contained in this bill, told the Queensland resources community that they need to reskill. Look what happened in the last federal election, particularly in Central Queensland, after that comment which reflected the sentiment of the Palaszczuk government towards the resources industry.

To stop a repeat of Labor's 25 per cent surprise gas tax, I table amendments that I will move to the bill which provide a legislative guarantee that prescribed royalty rates at 1 October 2020 will remain unchanged for a period of 10 years ending 30 September 2030.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'LNP Amendments to Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020' [\[1333\]](#).

Our amendments will freeze royalties to provide industry with the certainty needed to unleash investment, create jobs and boost exports. I call on the Palaszczuk government to back our amendments that will help get Queensland working again.

The Queensland Resources Council issued a media statement this morning outlining that the LNP's amendments would create more jobs and strengthen COVID-19 recovery efforts. In the media statement, QRC CEO, Ian Macfarlane, stated—

... today's announcement by the LNP that it will legislate a 10-year freeze on royalty rates until 2030, because it's exactly what Queensland needs right now.

For the benefit of the House, I table the QRC media statement, which calls on all members of state parliament to support the LNP's proposal.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 12 August 2020, by the Queensland Resources Council, titled 'Royalty certainty essential to protect Qld economy from COVID-19 impacts' [\[1334\]](#).

These amendments are part of our plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs and drag Queensland out of this recession. Before coronavirus, Queensland already had the highest unemployment in the country on average, the most bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence. Queensland is a resources state. We need to provide industry with the confidence to invest,

to construct and to create jobs. The LNP will start working on opening up new resource projects as a major new economic driver for Queensland, invest in new infrastructure to create jobs and stimulate the economy. We will guarantee a 10-year royalty freeze. Only the LNP has a plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs and drag Queensland out of this recession.

This bill will transition Queensland's existing petroleum royalty regime to a volumetric model. The volume model is proposed to apply to all petroleum produced in Queensland—LNG, coal seam gas, oil and condensate. After nearly a year of regulatory uncertainty for Queensland's resources industry, the Treasurer finally announced that the outcome of the royalty review was the transition to the proposed volume model. The Treasurer stated that the new royalty regime was based upon the findings delivered by former South Australian Labor politician Jay Weatherill.

At a cost of \$122,634.41 to Queensland taxpayers, the then treasurer Jackie Trad paid her former mate Jay Weatherill to do the job and undertake the royalty review that she announced—\$122,000. This outrageous contract for a Labor mate shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government are working for themselves and not for Queenslanders. Hardworking Queenslanders who are struggling under Queensland's record unemployment level should not be slugged to fund a retirement windfall for failed Labor politicians. Shockingly, eight months after the review was announced, all that Jay Weatherill was reported to have submitted from his review was the outline of three royalty models—one of which was not even complete—and with no report recommendations. That is not quite money well spent.

In line with the Treasurer's announcement on 8 June 2020 to transition the existing petroleum royalty regime to a volume model, the bill amends the Petroleum and Gas Act 2004, the Petroleum and Gas Regulation 2004 and the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 to change the basis for imposing petroleum royalties from 1 October 2020. The only problem with the volume model is that the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill being debated does not prescribe detail on how liable petroleum is to be measured. To date, OSR has not published a royalty ruling to set out guidelines for measuring the volume of liable petroleum.

Labor has introduced a bill to change Queensland's existing petroleum royalty in less than two months—effective from 1 October 2020—without knowing how to measure the volume of liable petroleum. That is genius, as one of my former colleagues was known to say on many occasions. Only the economically incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government could introduce urgent legislation to amend royalty arrangements without having determined how the volume measurements for the royalty calculations will be made. Even though former treasurer Jackie Trad announced changes to royalty arrangements more than a year ago, Labor has failed to develop the underlying royalty measurement guidelines or even publicly release any economic modelling on the impact that the new royalty regime will have on industry and government revenue.

During the committee's consideration of the bill, the government could not provide any economic modelling of the impact the new royalty regime would have or any forecasted government revenue adjustments from the new regime. The only response that the government was able to provide is that revenue modelling will be undertaken in September for the fiscal update. That is all they could do. No update could be provided in this year's budget because we are the only state who will not have a budget this year. Premier Palaszczuk was the last premier to announce an economic stimulus package but was the first and only premier to declare there would be no budget this year. It is no wonder that under Premier Palaszczuk, prior to coronavirus, Queensland had the highest unemployment, the most bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence.

It has been almost nine months since the Palaszczuk Labor government's former treasurer Jackie Trad announced her intention to establish a Queensland Future Fund to try to pay off Labor's massive debt. The Future Fund announcement was made last year in a desperate attempt to provide a distraction to the soaring debt, lower growth and higher unemployment forecasts which were locked in by the 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review. I think there was a billion dollar blowout in debt only six months after the previous budget. According to the former treasurer Jackie Trad's own figures in 2019, the new fund would take a staggering 2030 years to clear the Palaszczuk Labor government's massive debt. While ongoing Palaszczuk Labor government integrity scandals forced the appointment of a new Treasurer during an unprecedented economic crisis, Labor's abject failure to manage Queensland's economy has continued.

Premier Palaszczuk's third and latest Treasurer, Cameron Dick, has dusted off former treasurer Jackie Trad's dodgy Future Fund during the same press conference he announced Labor's skyrocketing \$100 billion debt—a \$17 billion blowout in seven months. At least at that press conference the Treasurer knew what the debt level was. Who can forget when the Treasurer announced Labor's

saving measures during a train wreck press conference on 9 July 2020 when he did not know Queensland's debt level and he could not tell us how many public servants were on the payroll; what would be in the Future Fund or what size it would be; how much money Labor would be raiding from the Queensland public servants' superannuation scheme; and how much savings the now defunct Service Priority Review Office delivered last financial year.

His statement in parliament when he talked about the savings that they were intending to make over the forward estimates of \$3 billion was an admission of failure by the Treasurer, saying how they had mismanaged funds over the last five years. He admitted that the growth rate of the Public Service had far exceeded the population rate, which broke one of their fiscal principles. He admitted that consultants were doing jobs that public servants should be doing. He admitted in his statement that there were too many executive level public servants. He admitted that the IT blowouts had meant we had to stop the IT programs. He admitted that too much money was spent on glossy magazines. He admitted that apparently social media was costing a lot of money as well. That was going to be a major contributor towards saving \$3 billion. If it were not so serious, it would be laughable.

The revised asset allocation for the proposed fund was announced by Treasurer Cameron Dick to still have 'at least \$5 billion in assets' comprising the Queensland government's title registry, which was stated to be worth at least \$4 billion; Cross River Rail precincts, which were stated to be worth at least \$160 million; and the defined benefit scheme surplus appropriation of \$1 billion, down from Jackie Trad's original commitment of \$5 billion.

Since being elected in 2015, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has demonstrated Labor's reckless economic principles to be higher taxes, wasteful government spending and the raiding of public servants' employment benefits. Over the last five years, the Palaszczuk government has taken \$2 billion from Public Service superannuation, \$2 billion from suspending employer contributions to Public Service superannuation and \$3.4 billion from raiding the long service leave benefits of public servants. These public servant raids are in addition to the over \$5 billion that was ripped out of government owned corporations.

Concerningly, during the public briefing on the bill, the State Actuary confirmed that Labor is forging ahead to raid another \$1 billion from the Public Service defined benefit scheme even though the fund's surplus had halved in the past year. Premier Palaszczuk is recklessly pursuing a further \$1 billion raid on the defined benefit scheme surplus before the State Actuary has undertaken updated future deficit probability modelling. Last year, before the meltdown in financial markets, the State Actuary found that there was a 53 per cent risk of the fund going into deficit under the former treasurer Jackie Trad's proposed raids. In just one year the fund's surplus measurement, the vested benefits index, has fallen from 121.7 per cent to just an estimated 108 per cent. Without updated deficit modelling, the Premier is gambling the superannuation entitlements of public servants away through a highly risky raid.

Worryingly for the many thousands of public servants in the state's defined benefit scheme, the State Actuary has also confirmed that reporting requirements of the fund's surplus will revert back to every three years, not every year. Isn't that funny! How often do we see them get rid of reporting performance measurements and accountability measures—I think the hospital performance is one of those—when they do not like what they tell them. This change in policy will end the annual reporting requirements that were introduced by the then under treasurer in 2016 after Premier Palaszczuk's first superannuation raid. Given the Palaszczuk Labor government's track record, public servants should rightly be concerned about the decreased transparency regarding the management of their hard-earned retirement savings.

In a direct contradiction to Treasurer Cameron Dick's stated value of the title registry being 'at least \$4 billion' and the Cross River Rail precincts being 'at least \$160 million', the Deputy Under Treasurer has revealed that due diligence has not been completed and the prescribed values were only estimates with no available detail on forecasted return.

Without due diligence the Treasurer's prescribed asset values could be overestimated and the resulting rate of return of the fund significantly lower. Recent sales of the New South Wales land title registry in 2017 raised \$2.6 billion and Victoria raised \$2.86 billion in 2018, both significantly less than the at least \$4 billion value prescribed to the Queensland titles registry by the Treasurer, Cameron Dick.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Service Delivery Statement, in 2019-20 the service area, which included the title registry, generated \$51.95 million in user charges and fees. Under the Future Fund model, the expected revenue raised by the registry would be quarantined within the fund, delivering an approximate 1.3 per cent return on the asset value

prescribed by the Treasurer—a return that is less than half the government debt interest rate. That is ‘Laboromics’ once again. Labor’s plan is to raid public servants’ superannuation and invest it in a fund that does not even provide a return greater than the government’s borrowing rate.

The most insightful submission made to the bill was from eminent Queensland economist and former federal Treasury fiscal group manager Mr Gene Tunny, who observed that it is ‘unclear what the government’s current medium-term fiscal strategy is.’ I would add that their long-term and short-term fiscal strategy is very uncertain as well. This observation affirms Premier Palaszczuk’s failure to provide the economic leadership that Queensland needs. For five years Premier Palaszczuk has abandoned her own fiscal principles, which have resulted in nearly \$4 billion of new taxes, more than \$100 billion in state debt, the most bankruptcies in the nation, and a record number of unemployed Queenslanders. There are now more than 200,000 unemployed Queenslanders. Queensland has the longest unemployment queue in our state’s history.

Queensland is the only state that will not deliver a budget this year, which means the Palaszczuk Labor government has no plan for the state’s economic recovery. No budget means that Labor is flying blind through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century. Labor’s antibusiness agenda has seen private sector investment plunge from \$207 billion under the LNP to just \$128 billion in the last three years, a fall of 38 per cent. According to an ANZ bank and Property Council survey, the Palaszczuk Labor government is the worst state government for planning and managing growth. Under Labor Queensland lost its AAA credit rating in February 2009, meaning Queenslanders are still paying more for debt than New South Wales or Victoria.

Queensland has slipped to the bottom of Australia’s economic ladder after just five years of Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor. There is no doubt that another four years of Labor will turn our state into Australia’s economic basket case. The LNP will not oppose either bill but, as I have outlined in my contribution, the process from which both bills have been developed clearly shows that Labor is not working. With a record 200,000 Queenslanders looking for work, the state election in October will be about who has the economic plan to get Queensland out of recession.

The LNP’s vision is to make Queensland Australia’s economic powerhouse once again—the best place to get a job and to get ahead. The LNP has an ambitious plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs and drag Queensland out of recession. I urge the Palaszczuk Labor government to support the amendments I have tabled to this cognate bill because Queensland is in desperate need of more investment and more jobs. The LNP’s amendments to this bill show that we are the only party that has a plan to create a strong economy and more secure jobs.

Our plan for a stronger economy and secure jobs is based on our four foundations: investing for growth, supercharging the regions, unleashing Queensland’s industry and securing our children’s future. Let’s get Queensland working again!

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.04 pm): That was revealing. The shadow Treasurer has a deeply unhealthy obsession with the member for South Brisbane but has not moved on. There is such an interest in the member for South Brisbane but no interest at all in the future for Queenslanders, no interest at all in what Queenslanders face as a challenge with COVID-19. Revealingly, the one thing that was targeted was public servants and the need for them to be cut. That was quite evident in that speech, but it was mostly abuse. It was mostly obsession with the member for South Brisbane. We on this side of the House are looking to Queensland’s future through these two bills.

As the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to support the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. These bills were referred to the committee, which held separate consultation processes on the bills. The committee invited submissions from stakeholders on both bills: the Queensland Future Fund Bill received two submissions and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill received 22 submissions. We received a public briefing on both bills from Treasury and we also received responses from the department about submissions. They are all contained on the committee’s website and reflected in the reports that have been submitted to parliament.

The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill recognises that Queenslanders own the petroleum and gas resources of our state. The Queensland government previously entered into a process of consultation on royalty modernisation through 2019-20 and noticed that the industry broadly recognised that the process of modernising these royalty arrangements was needed. We should also recognise that the process of attempting to calculate wellhead value was complex, subject to distortion, dispute and sometimes even litigation and not reflecting community expectation of royalty returns on this resource.

These resources are non-renewable resources that can only be extracted and used once. It is vital that Queenslanders get a return in the form of royalties on these resources. We saw the LNP in their term of government simply increase royalties on coal companies. I note that the member for Everton, and even my erstwhile deputy chair, voted in favour of those increases, so any kind of promise that they make at this point about royalties simply is not worth the paper it is written on. However, the process here is to implement a new basis for petroleum and gas royalties so that Queenslanders get a fair value on the volume of the non-renewable resource extracted. Previously, this was linked to the value of a reported transaction that might not fully reflect the royalties due to Queenslanders.

A consequence pointed out by some submitters was that the projects would have to pay royalties from day one of production instead of an effective holiday on royalties. It is worth reflecting that this industry, because of social concern, faces a ban in many states. It is important that, in order to continue to receive the support of the Queensland community, there is a fair return of royalties to the Queensland community. We also heard the message there would be continued investment in the area, with the recent announcement of the final investment by Arrow Energy. The member for Everton seemed unaware of this massive investment and confidence in the sector. We also received a submission—again this was not mentioned by the member for Everton—from Senex Energy, which stated—

... our experience and our view that the model would pose no impediment to further development of such fields. By way of particular example, Senex has successfully developed the Roma North natural gas field in western Queensland, including the construction of greenfields gas infrastructure, and at a cost of more the \$200 million.

We are actively progressing internal approvals for a material expansion of this field, and I can confirm that the proposed royalty regime which is the subject of this Bill will not negatively impact this investment decision ...

Although there were different views, we recognise that we have to get a fair rate of return of royalties for Queenslanders. It is vital that we continue to have community support for this vital industry through fair royalty processes that provide a fair return for Queenslanders and is transparently applied for those who take out this non-renewable resource. I also want to note that we encourage the use of local industry and the use of gas locally. Gas locally, whether it is used in the port of Gladstone or out in more regional and remote areas, is going to encourage and increase jobs in industry where that gas is located.

I now turn to the Queensland Future Fund Bill. We should recognise that we as Queenslanders have fully funded the future expected liabilities of our defined benefit fund. I note that the member for Everton noted that, even after the effects of COVID-19, we have funded at a rate of 108 per cent of funded liability. It is really important to note that, instead of what he seemed to claim, we are taking this fund and securing it such that that liability continues to be secured by putting it in this Future Fund as an offset against debt.

No other state or indeed the Commonwealth can make the same claim about having a fully funded defined benefit superannuation scheme. Other states hope that at some time in the future they will be able to claim the same, but by that time liabilities will have reduced to the point where it will not nearly be the same as what we have here in Queensland.

We have funded the expected future retirement defined benefits, but we also have a surplus. This surplus is not properly recognised by those who rate the state's credit worthiness. After looking at a similar fund in New South Wales, the Treasurer is moving to establish a fund to hold funds for Queensland's future, this Debt Retirement Fund, with the value to be netted off against the debt of our state to support our credit rating. The ratings agencies have accepted this model established by New South Wales. We took New South Wales as a model and a basis to be replicated as far as possible. It is worth noting that the New South Wales bill was not only declared urgent but also cognated with four other bills. That is what happened in New South Wales, so the criticisms are really of the New South Wales government. Criticisms of the Future Fund are indeed criticisms of New South Wales and their legislation.

As I have said before, we received a briefing from the department as well as the State Actuary and the QIC head who will administer investment on the fund. We also received two brief submissions that were broadly supportive. Importantly, this is about keeping public assets in public hands. It is a mechanism to ensure that the LNP do not put our public assets further at risk.

It is also important to note that the member for Everton now does not have the four pillars that they had in government. They had four somethings—I am not sure what they were—but he has to recognise that he cannot go back to the four pillars because they were a disaster while they were in government. All of them contracted. If we were to have that contraction in the future, those investments by the QIC in the Future Fund would be put at risk by a future LNP government. There are cracks in their pillars.

Of particular importance for the residents of Logan is the HomeBuilder grant from the federal government. There is an amendment to legislate this very important grant from the federal government, and I recognise that. Along with the state incentives, that will drive growth and get young families and others who are moving into a house for the first time to move out to Logan. I encourage them to do that because we are building a great community that cares about each other.

We recognise that we are in uncertain times and that our economy is being battered by the effects of COVID-19, but our state is continuing to look to a bright future. We must unite and recover, and the royalty amendments and Future Fund will aid in strengthening our economy and helping us to recover in the future.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.13 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to talk on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Unfortunately, the real long title of this bill should be 'How do we avoid a Standard & Poor's downgrade before an election bill' because of the creative accounting that has been used in this Queensland Future Fund Bill and because it is another tax grab on the royalties in Queensland. That is what this bill is all about and, unfortunately, it has been declared urgent.

This is about a Future Fund for Queensland 2½ months before we get a new government in Queensland. This is all about trying to avoid a financial downgrade before 31 October. The creative accounting of the former treasurer, which has been carried on by the current Treasurer, will not hide the disastrous financial state that this government got Queensland into before coronavirus arrived. That is the tragedy of it. We were the worst prepared state for the debacle that is coronavirus.

The member for Logan has been going on about the valuations of the public servants' defined benefit scheme. However, when the valuations come in on all the investments that particular scheme has in 12 or 18 months time—and I think the investments are worth around \$270 billion to \$290 billion around the world and Australia—we will find that the defined benefit scheme has gone very much into deficit. There will be public servants out there extremely worried about their payout after their long careers in the Public Service. That is what this bill is really about.

It is full of nonsense in terms of ridiculous valuations on the titles in Queensland—for instance, \$4 billion, when they can only sell the New South Wales title. How many titles would there be in New South Wales compared to Queensland? In round figures, theirs is \$2.6 billion and we have said, 'No, ours is bigger and better at \$4 billion.' That is the sort of nonsense and creative accounting used by this government. It is a pea-and-thimble trick by this government to hide their financial disaster before 31 October, but it is not going to wash with the people of Queensland.

Neither of these bills should have been cognated because neither of them—as you know, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan—are relevant to each other, which is the normal requirement for cognate bills. They are two separate issues completely. The committee dealt with this matter urgently, because the Treasurer said it was an urgent matter before the 31 October election. We now only get five minutes to speak on each bill, while some members in the House only get five minutes to speak on this bill, when both of them are substantial bills about the future of Queensland.

For instance, the royalty bill, which has a new formulation for taxing the petroleum and gas industries in Queensland, is going to put a severe burden on the industries, particularly for exploration. In the dissenting report by the non-government committee members, we said that we are now being rated as sovereign risk, along with the lunatic African countries. That is a disaster for a state like Queensland. We were formerly one of the leaders in resource industries in the world but we have now become a sovereign risk investment for many mining companies throughout the world.

Make no mistake, the mining and resource industries will be heavily impacted by the world economic crisis that we will have following the world health crisis. We are still in the world health crisis but what will be even worse will be the world economic crisis that will follow in about 12 months, and everyone is ducking and weaving around that. Most businesses are on the dole at the moment, if you like, in terms of federal government support. That is why the Queensland government do not care a fig about closing businesses down and shutting industries down, because they know that the federal government has got to stump up with the money. The Queensland government are not stumping up major amounts of money. All the states are the same. The Queensland government do not care about the future investment of mining companies and the resource industry in Queensland.

We can see in the valuations for this Future Fund that they have put in all this nonsense with the Cross River Rail precinct worth \$160 million. All these assets and creative accounting that they are putting in place through the Queensland Future Fund Bill are all about trying to protect their AA credit rating. A long time ago, the 'world's greatest treasurer', Andrew Fraser, lost the AAA credit rating that Queensland had enjoyed for many years. That is the purpose of this bill.

It is an absolute disappointment that we have not had the opportunity to get further and wider input on this particular bill. It was all done in a rush. Members would notice there were only a couple of submitters on the Queensland Future Fund Bill. Quite clearly, the mining industry were too frightened to announce any major objection to the 25 per cent increase and the change in their royalty regime that has impacted—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Logan.

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection from the member for Logan. I needed you in the committee.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, I would appreciate you not making those comments. Would you mind getting on with the speech?

Mr STEVENS: I understand. I return to the royalty regime. Queensland is now rated 16th in terms of places to invest in mining—and Western Australia is No. 1. There are other places in front of us in terms of places to invest. Unfortunately, we see that China, which is our major trading partner, is under the pump at the moment due to certain issues. You can guarantee that those sorts of matters will have long-term, long-ranging effects.

It is an absolute nonsense to say that this particular bill, the Future Fund Bill that is coming in with 2½ months till the election, will save Queenslanders in the future. If I was a public servant in the defined benefit scheme—and I wish I was; and I will not mention those around me who may well be in that scheme—I would be very worried. I am sure there will be public servants everywhere who will be worried about this particular—

Mr Krause: Police officers.

Mr STEVENS: There are police officers, other members of the House and also long-term teachers and nurses et cetera who are in these schemes. They will be particularly worried about their income streams in retirement because they will retire in what will at the least be a recession, if not a depression. All the economists throughout the world—even the British economists—are saying it is the worst financial disaster to hit Britain in 300 years. That is telling. We have been through a lot of hard times since then. You can guarantee that these bills will be absolute destroyers of the Queensland economy, which is what this government has done since being elected in 2015.

We look forward to the challenges ahead after 31 October to right the good ship *Titanic*, which is heading towards the glacier. We will then be able to put Queensland back on track.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.23 pm): I rise today to support the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. I point out to the member for Mermaid Beach that when the NSW Generations Funds Bill was passed, it was done with the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, so I think it is okay to cognate this bill. Both bills came before the Economics and Governance Committee and underwent rigorous industry consultation. I say thanks, as always, to the committee secretariat and the team, my fellow committee members, particularly Hansard and the digital teams that throughout the COVID pandemic have managed to keep our committees going in this new Zoom world.

I will start with the Queensland Future Fund Bill. This bill delivers on our government's commitment to establish a Future Fund and provides a guarantee that the state's defined benefit scheme superannuation liabilities will remain fully funded. QIC will administer the Future Fund, and we heard from them during the public hearing process. It is also important to note that Queensland is in an enviable position of having the only fully funded scheme in Australia. The defined benefit scheme in New South Wales is predicted to remain in deficit until at least 2030, and in Victoria it is estimated they are about \$30 million in arrears.

At the heart of these bills is smart fiscal management in the most tumultuous times for economies around the world. This bill ensures that Queensland's assets are working for Queenslanders. It is about managing our balance sheet in the most effective and efficient way possible. This bill does just that whilst also protecting Queensland assets from future privatisation. We all remember the LNP's Strong Choices agenda. Our Palaszczuk government will always protect Queensland assets to make sure they yield dividends for Queenslanders, not quick, one-off sugar hits to a budget the effect of which is we lose those assets and they cease to serve the people of Queensland.

In these uncertain times providing certainty, particularly around cost-of-living expenses like electricity, is important and we can do this by having these assets in our hands—the poles and the wires. We would not be able to provide our communities with dividends in the electricity space if we did not hold on to those and protect them.

The bill will ensure all interest earned and investment returns from the Queensland investments held in the Future Fund will be returned to the fund and utilised to reduce debt. Under this bill we will continue to extend the reward of our assets back to Queensland and take a more fulsome financial view of our balance sheet as it is offset against debt.

Moving to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill, Queensland is a powerhouse in the export of LNG, exporting nearly \$16 billion worth of gas annually. It is an industry that the Labor government championed over a decade ago. This bill introduces a new basis for imposing petroleum royalties following the recent review by the Hon. Jay Weatherill that looks to see how Queensland can benefit from our own natural assets. The review found that the existing model designed over a decade ago had scope for improvement and recommended a shift to a volumetric model. Currently, the existing royalty regime levies royalties on the value of gas at the wellhead and this bill will see that replaced with a model that is based on the volume of gas produced. We heard from a number of stakeholders during our committee process about the model.

The industry was consulted at every step of the process including, as I said, throughout our committee process. The government has accommodated a number of industry requests while still preserving the intent of the recommendations from the Weatherill report recommendations. The volume model will provide greater transparency and streamline the process and return more to Queenslanders for their non-renewable resources.

Finally, the bill also contains amendments for consideration in detail relating to the administration of three important initiatives for our construction industry, and this is really important. These initiatives are so important during this COVID pandemic and in our journey to economic recovery. Our Palaszczuk government's economic response to COVID-19 has been swift and comprehensive with a focus on building projects, investing in infrastructure and creating jobs for Queensland. Works for Queensland, our schools program and the extension of the first home buyers assistance are just some of those.

This bill addresses the administration of \$45,000 from these three important initiatives: the First Home Owners' Grant, one of the most generous schemes in the nation might I add; the Regional Home Building Boost; and the HomeBuilder program. The Commissioner of State Revenue will administer these grants in accordance with the administrative directions which provide for the detailed eligibility criteria, the application process and ongoing obligations for its applicants.

This legislation will ensure that a robust compliance and review framework is in place to support administration grants. I would also like to thank one of my local builders who came to talk to me about the grants administration, particularly the HomeBuilder program, and issues relating to how banks would deliver finance for their potential customers. That has been addressed in this bill, so that is great news.

Our government is not only focused on protecting Queenslanders' health during this global COVID pandemic but also has a laser focus on Queensland's economic health. We will continue to deliver on our strong economic plan for all Queenslanders. That is what this bill does. Our plan is to see Queensland lead the nation in economic recovery. New lending for dwellings is the highest in the nation at the moment. Our retail sales are the best on the east coast and we are the only state to record a decline in unemployment during this crisis.

The Palaszczuk government is all about securing our assets and making sure that our journey is accelerated in the economic recovery post COVID. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on these two bills as a member of the Economics and Governance Committee. I thank my fellow committee members; the chair—I am not sure what I can say about him other than he is the member for Logan; the illustrious deputy chair, who of course was the former mayor of the Gold Coast and the former mayor of the Albert shire; and of course our brilliant secretariat staff, who put together this inquiry report very swiftly.

First I will make some comments about the Queensland Future Fund Bill. My colleagues on this side of the House and I take issue with this government's mismanagement of the Queensland economy and the extraordinary rate at which our debt is growing. It is not something to be blamed on COVID-19, either. Members opposite are trying to blame it all on the pandemic, trying to forget their last five years in government. We need not look very far to know that our economy was in a dire situation before COVID hit. Now we have an even bigger debt for the government to get under control, something it is entirely incapable of doing.

Of course, this year we will not see a budget delivered by this Treasurer. The 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review showed all key economic indicators heading in the wrong direction. Queensland had the highest unemployment, most debt, most bankruptcies and lowest business confidence. I feel this on the ground in my part of the Gold Coast where we have the highest unemployment in our city. People are crying out for more job opportunities.

This bill originated in the MYFER of last December with the former treasurer announcing the establishment of this fund of around \$5 billion. That was very conveniently announced in the context of the higher-than-expected unemployment rate and the lower-than-expected growth figures. Again, before COVID-19 Queensland had higher debt levels than any other Australian state or territory. We heard nothing about this for months until the new Treasurer mentioned it again, conveniently in the context of the announcement of our huge \$17 billion blowout of debt. Of course, that was around the time he held that press conference where he was not sure of our debt level, how many public servants were on his payroll, what would be in this fund or how big it would be, how much would be raided from the public servants' superannuation scheme, how many savings the Service Priority Review Office delivered last financial year or even the government's own fiscal principles. The legislation came before the parliament last month and was declared urgent.

We are told that the fund will include the Queensland Titles Registry, valued at at least \$4 billion; a billion dollars from the surplus of the state's defined benefit scheme; and the Cross River Rail precincts, valued at around \$160 million. As my colleagues have mentioned, the figure for the Titles Registry needs further clarification as both the New South Wales and Victorian registries were sold in the last couple of years for \$2.6 billion and \$2.86 billion respectively, and those are in larger jurisdictions than Queensland. The \$4 billion figure needs to be clarified. As well as their value, Treasury could not even confirm the inclusion of these assets because they still were undergoing due diligence. That means we are in the dark about the estimated return this new fund will generate.

Importantly, the committee hearings heard that the defined benefit scheme surplus was around \$3.5 billion. It will remain in surplus even after this decision to redirect a billion dollars, but it is a serious concern, with the surplus having been essentially halved in the past year, from \$4.976 billion to just over \$2½ billion. This all increases the risk of the fund going into deficit.

Now I will make some comments about the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a result of the changes announced in the last budget with the surprise 25 per cent increase in petroleum royalties. The \$122,000 royalty review by former South Australian premier Jay Weatherill started last October and recommended the volume model of calculating coal seam gas to replace the wellhead value regime.

In our public hearing I asked Treasury how much additional revenue will be raised by the change in petroleum royalty calculations to this volume model. They did not have any details on what those figures are and said that we would have to wait until the COVID financial statements in September. They could not even provide us with any estimates. I also asked whether any economic modelling had been undertaken on the impact of these changes and, again, we were told that we would have to wait until September.

As with the Future Fund, I question the urgency of the legislation considering it was announced in the last budget and given the Queensland Resources Council's disappointment about receiving the bill only the day before it was tabled in this House. In the hearings we heard from major industry bodies as well as some of the smaller operators upon whom this could have a significant impact. One interesting question that the member for Mermaid Beach asked of the QRC concerned whether this enhances Queensland's reputation as a sovereign risk. Mr Macfarlane answered that the legislation certainly decreases our attractiveness as an investment destination on the basis that it increases Queensland's sovereign risk profile. That is reflected in the statistics collected internationally by the REaD Group which has seen Queensland fall to 16 in comparison to Western Australia, which is No. 1 in the world, in terms of investment destinations for royalties. Mr Macfarlane added that we are now below some African countries as an investment destination. Industries like these need certainty and our state needs economic leadership. Only the LNP can provide that. We have a vision and a plan to stimulate our economy and drag Queensland out of recession.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of both the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Now, more than ever, as we deliver our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs, we must protect our assets and get them working hard for Queensland's future. The Queensland Future Fund was announced as part of the Mid Year Fiscal

and Economic Review in December 2019. The establishment of the Queensland Future Fund will retire debt by acting as an offset account, with the value of its assets netted off against state debt as part of a well-considered and prudent fiscal strategy.

The Future Fund will be seeded with over \$5 billion in locked down, protected public assets which consist of: \$1 billion in surplus financials from the more than fully funded defined benefit fund, which is and will remain in surplus despite harsh global economic conditions due to COVID-19; over \$4 billion in value from the Queensland Titles Registry; and at least \$160 million in value from the Cross River Rail precincts and unregulated infrastructure.

It is important to note that our defined benefit scheme will remain in surplus and that Queensland will be the only state or territory in Australia with a fully funded defined benefit scheme. We already guarantee the full payment of defined benefit scheme entitlements via section 29 of the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act. The bill before the House bolsters this guarantee by requiring that the state hold assets that are at least equal in value to the accrued liability of the state in relation to defined benefits, measured at least once every three years. That three-year measurement aligns with the triennial actuarial investigation undertaken by the State Actuary. The bill also includes important protections in that any asset in the fund must be held directly or indirectly by a state entity in perpetuity. This means that assets cannot be sold to the private sector but must remain government owned.

I turn to some comments made by the members for Everton and Mermaid Beach. They quoted a survey by the Canadian Fraser Institute, a think tank. They quoted a few things, but what they did not quote is probably the most important thing. They failed to mention that under the Fraser Institute survey business confidence in Queensland rose from 2015 to 2019. They did not mention that. Our ratings actually went up. Clearly, the think tank they quote has more confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government than it did in the Newman LNP government.

Mr Krause interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Scenic Rim!

Mr McCALLUM: They also mentioned the New South Wales title registry.

Mr Krause interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, you are warned.

Mr McCALLUM: It was leased for 35 years for \$2.6 billion. What happened after that? Fees went up in New South Wales—funny that!

What happened when there was a 99-year lease for the \$7.6 billion leasing of poles and wires for the New South Wales electricity network? Electricity prices went up. We will not have that happening here in Queensland. Public assets must remain in public hands and the privatisation protections contained in the bill will ensure that the LNP cannot privatise by stealth such as when it used the Queensland Investment Corporation to flog off Queensland Motorways in 2014 with no public oversight. Queenslanders know that only a Labor government can be trusted to keep strategic assets in state hands. The Queensland Future Fund will make it much harder for the LNP to undertake a sneaky sell-off.

I now turn to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Petroleum royalty in Queensland is currently imposed as a proportion of the wellhead value of petroleum less certain deductions incurred between the wellhead and the point of disposal. From 1 October 2020 the bill provides for a switch to royalties to be calculated on a volume model which will impose tiered rates of petroleum royalty applicable to the volume of petroleum produced by a producer over each return period to support affordable supply for domestic customers, appropriate returns for Queenslanders and fairness to gas producers.

During the committee process it was clear that there was broad acknowledgement of the significant collaborative work undertaken by both government and industry in and during the royalty review process which preceded the bill and in subsequently progressing its recommended reforms. Stakeholders also generally supported the objectives underpinning the reforms, including the commitment to greater equity, transparency and fairness within the new royalty regime.

I also want to make a few comments in relation to the amendments that have been moved regarding the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 to help with the administration and compliance of our HomeBuilder and regional home building boost grant programs. The critical part of the Palaszczuk government's response to COVID-19 has been support for the construction sector. As we unite and recover, we have brought forward building projects on schools, roads and via the much lauded Works for Queensland program to stimulate our economic recovery and create jobs. Between the First Home Owners' Grant, Regional Home Building Boost and HomeBuilder grants programs, new home buyers

in Queensland will be eligible for up to \$45,000 in government support which will flow on to our construction sector. Both of these bills were considered by the Economics and Governance Committee, which recommended that both be passed. I want to thank my fellow committee members and all those who made submissions and appeared at the public hearings. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill in terms of resources. As a member of the committee it has been interesting to go through the process and listen to the evidence that was presented on both of these bills, but let me start with the Future Fund. This is a bandaid over a massive gash in the Queensland economy. We have massive debt bearing down on us because of waste and poor administration by the Labor government over repeated years. To try and cover this gash a box of bandaids has been pulled out, and what do we see? We see that every hollow log has been raided.

Over a number of years the very well funded facility that existed to ensure that our public servants had their superannuation covered has been repeatedly raided by this government. Some \$2 billion was taken out—that is, \$2 billion from suspending employer contributions. Imagine running a business where you can say, 'Things are a little bit tough. We're a little bit overgeared. I just won't pay anything into the super for a bit.' There is not another employer in the state that can turn off its super contributions, but this Labor government did it and it masks it by suggesting that this will be covered in the future and that it can guarantee it. That is true: that is guaranteed by my children and it is guaranteed by their children and the taxes they will pay if this money is squandered and wasted by the Labor government as we have seen repeatedly as it tries to manage this state.

Let us look at how this government is managing the state. What do we see? There is this gaping wound in the budget and so we have a truncated process where this bill is rushed in because all of a sudden the government thinks, 'Crikey! There's an election coming. We've cut some sitting weeks. There's not a lot of debate time. Let's crunch this through. Let's rush everybody to try and assess this bill and not give true public debate and scrutiny because we wouldn't want anybody to look at the game we're actually playing with their money'—the taxpayers of Queensland's money and the future of the Public Service and the administration of the Queensland budget.

The long service leave benefit has been raided to the tune of \$3.4 million. These are outrageous raids on the Public Service. These were and should be the Future Fund. They are there to ensure that the people who have worked hard guiding this state without fear or favour are paid. The way it has been operated has been prudent, but this government has raided it so that it can get a little box of bandaids to try and cover over the gaping wound of waste that it has incurred.

As we look at this Future Fund and what is being proposed for it, this is really just shuffling things around. This is all about trying to protect the credit rating and trying to make sure there is a story to tell going into an election when in actual fact the story is that the taxpayers of Queensland's money has been wasted by this government. It has been incompetently managed—no better than the process of this bill, no better than the rushed process of the committee hearings and no better than we see in this parliament today where members will be guillotined on a debate on one of the most important things we need to do, and that is manage the people of Queensland's money effectively to deliver them the best government that we can. The LNP has some great plans for managing the finances going forward.

I now turn to the bill in relation to royalties. One of the things that the LNP has given and one of the things that business is desperately looking for is stability. We know that in the last budget, without announcement but a bit of a rushed process, all of a sudden people who had invested billions of dollars found themselves with a 25 per cent increase which sent a shudder through the industry. Those people who had been trying to make long-term financial decisions had a shudder go down their spines as they were trying to explain to international boards that they thought Queensland and Australia were not a sovereign risk and that government would consult on this kind of change, not have a government that, with a quick snap of the fingers, would say, 'There's a bit of a hole in the budget. We've been wasting a bit of money, squandering it around the place, spraying it everywhere, inefficiently managing it renaming hospitals with overspends and various other things and all of a sudden we need a bandaid. Quick, let's grab the gas industry.' The gas industry sits on the wrong side of the cost curve internationally, so it is already struggling.

If we look at what Professor Andrew Garnett from the University of Queensland said in his submission, he basically stated that the implementation of this legislation should be delayed because prices internationally are uncertain and this will cause great pain in the industry. In addition to that, it makes the job of the small and marginal players and the explorers that are out there looking for new gas opportunities harder.

The simple facts are that they will start paying royalties before they get to a break-even point. They will probably pay royalties on transportation costs. What does that mean going forward? That means that potentially opportunities that exist in Queensland will not be opened up because someone cannot finance the cash flow. In terms of putting a royalty on up-front, not allowing tax deductibility of transport costs and changing this model, this model does not exist anywhere in the world. This model is an unusual model that will make an industry that was already on the wrong side of the cost curve go even further over. This also reduces the exploratory nature of the industry and the smaller marginal fields, all of which are royalties that could benefit Queensland but which will no longer be discovered and established.

Delaying this and looking at what is world's best practice would have been a good solution. This model is clearly not world's best practice. We know that the shifting of the goal posts by this government on the resource industry is causing us to slip down the rankings internationally to the point where, as stated by Ian Macfarlane, there are African nations that are seen as less of a sovereign risk than Queensland. We should be the jewel in the crown when it comes to sovereign risk and we are not. Western Australia is. Why are we not looking at the Western Australia model? We might be able to learn something. Instead we are blindly forging ahead, destroying opportunities that would exist into the future to contribute royalties to our budget, which we will desperately need, and causing companies to not invest in Queensland. which will have a long-term effect.

We have seen the moving of the goal posts before in relation to Adani. The goal posts were shifted all over the place right up until the Labor Party got an absolute flogging in a federal election and then all of a sudden, hey presto, off we go. Up in my patch we have the New Acland mine. There is this furphy about legislation. There is nothing stopping the government giving the approvals and protecting those jobs in my community right now except for the fact that this government's lawfare and allowance of these protests has created a situation of sovereign risk where people are nervous about investing in resources. This bill continues down that path of creating that nervousness.

When big and small companies are looking at opportunities, Queensland is less attractive and less competitive than it was. We should be looking at world's best practice. I can assure members that the process that New Hope and the Acland mine have had to go through is a long way from best practice in the world. It is soul destroying for the communities on the Downs. This government should be ashamed of how it has treated royalties: coming in just before a budget and saying we need a quick fix, let us take an extra 25, let us not tell anybody, let's hope nobody notices. These are billion dollar companies. I ask the minister to withdraw this legislation because it is terrible legislation.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.52 pm): This bill is about Queensland's economic future. It is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that has a plan for Queensland's future. Because of our health response to COVID we are able to have a healthy economy and a healthy outlook post COVID-19. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in health, education, infrastructure and innovation to deliver jobs. We are living in a time where more than ever the community wants to feel secure. They want to know that there is a plan to ensure that they can expect to have a secure future for their children and for themselves.

Mr Watts interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Toowoomba North, you have given your contribution.

Mrs GILBERT: It was interesting that the member for Toowoomba North was quoting African countries and their mining. Gina Rinehart does that as well because she likes to pay workers a couple of bucks an hour. There seems to be a bit of a correlation there. The community understands that we are navigating our way through the COVID-19 pandemic where unprecedented measures are needed to be taken by government to ensure that everyone is cared for on our path back to some form of normality.

The Queensland Future Fund will go a long way to delivering future security and will ensure that the state's defined benefit superannuation liabilities will remain fully funded. People know the value of having guaranteed superannuation for their retirement. It makes a huge difference to the quality of their retirement in senior years. It is only the Labor Palaszczuk government that has an economic plan that will deliver security for Queensland. Queenslanders know the value of keeping public assets in the hands of Queenslanders. They want the security of the services that are provided from these assets. They also want the benefit of the profit that is derived from these assets.

Treasurer Cameron Dick announced through the 2019-20 fiscal and economic review the establishment of the Queensland Future Fund. The Future Fund will be used to reduce the state's borrowings and reduce state debt. The fund will be a separate account to consolidated funds and to

department accounts. The fund will be administered by the Treasurer. To ensure transparency, openness and accountability, the bill will make amendments that will provide accountability for movements in the fund, deposits and withdrawals. The movements will be disclosed in the Treasury's audited financial statements that are part of Treasury's annual report which is tabled in this House.

Queenslanders will have all of the interest and returns from investments held in the Future Fund quarantined to reduce debt. Our state owned assets were under threat from those opposite with their Strong Choices agenda. They were prepared to sell off our assets. Under this bill our assets will be able to deliver a dividend into the future to reduce debt.

We are a resource-rich state. The resources that are mined in Queensland belong to Queenslanders. That might be something that the member for Toowoomba North needs to remember. It is timely to review the payments of royalties for the petroleum industry that were designed 10 years ago. The review was announced in the 2019-20 budget and was chaired by the Hon. Jay Weatherill. The review found that the current model is not suitable for the existing configuration of the Queensland gas industry and recommended the adoption of the volume model.

On 8 June this year the government announced that the existing petroleum royalties regime which levies royalties on the value of the gas at the wellhead, less certain deductions, would be replaced by a model based on the volume of gas produced. The volume model proposes a tiered rate similar to the current royalties regime for coal. The proposed rates and the benchmark will be frozen for five years. This will give certainty to industry and government. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. Nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-three dollars and forty-six cents is what the Queensland government earned in the form of royalties from the resources industry every single minute during the 2018-19 financial year. I will make it easier for those opposite: royalties from Queensland's resources sector pays \$1,000 a year for each and every Queenslanders. That contribution towards the services and the infrastructure that we all need and deserve is being put at risk by Labor's financial mismanagement. Even former federal resources minister Martin Ferguson admitted that the policies of the Palaszczuk government would raise serious questions in the minds of investors.

At a time when Queensland needs certainty to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, this Palaszczuk Labor government is again demonstrating its financial incompetence. Only an economically incompetent government could introduce urgent legislation to amend royalty arrangements without having determined how the volume measurements for royalty calculations will be made. This is the same government that told resources workers that they needed to reskill, the same government that constantly moved the goal posts on the Carmichael mine and the same government that is still moving the goal posts on the New Acland mine which has pushed Queensland into having the highest gas royalties in this country. Thankfully for Queensland's resources sector and for Queensland as a whole, we will have amendments moved by my colleague, the member for Everton, to guarantee royalties going forward and give that industry the confidence and the stability that it needs to invest.

The Queensland Resources Council CEO, Ian Macfarlane, said—

Given the importance of the resources sector in leading the State in its economic recovery, the QRC welcomes today's announcement by the LNP that it would legislate a 10-year freeze on royalty rates until 2030, because it's exactly what Queensland needs right now.

He went on to say—

A decade of royalty certainty is the shot in the arm the Queensland economy needs as we unite and recover from COVID-19.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 12 August 2020, by the Queensland Resources Council, titled 'Royalty certainty essential to protect Qld economy from COVID-19 impacts' [[1335](#)].

That document highlights how important certainty is for our resources sector. At the moment, that sector is the shining light in terms of getting our state back on its feet. As we recover from the pandemic and its massive impact on Queensland's economy, increasingly we will value the \$5½ billion worth of royalties that flow into the state's coffers not only at this time but also as the state is led out of the devastation that has been wrought by the pandemic.

Mr Hart: Then there's Cross River Rail.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. To put that into perspective, \$5½ billion worth of royalties will be swallowed up by one project in Brisbane. As I often like to say, in North and Central Queensland all we want is our fair share of the pie. With \$5½ billion in royalties flowing into the state coffers, why

shouldn't we have sealed roads? Why shouldn't we have the services that people in the south-east corner of the state take for granted such as medical practitioners, teachers and police officers? I can tell the House that we struggle to attract professionals to live and work in remote and rural areas of Queensland.

Unlike Labor, the LNP has a plan to drag Queensland out of the recession that we currently face. The LNP's 10-year royalty guarantee will not only provide the surety that the resources industry needs in order to grow and invest; once and for all it will acknowledge the immense and irreplaceable role that that industry plays in providing for each and every Queenslanders. The LNP's plan will not only acknowledge the role of the resources industry; it will build on that role by using royalties from the Galilee Basin to increase services and improve infrastructure in regional Queensland.

I wonder what all of the knockers of Adani would say now that they see jobs being rolled out. I was out there the other day. Hundreds and hundreds of jobs have been created off the back of the Carmichael mine project. That is the shot in the arm that we need at this time. That could be carried through to New Acland, which is waiting in the wings for the minister to sign off on stage 3. In that neck of the woods the project will be important in terms of jobs, which have suddenly become so invaluable.

I move to the Queensland Future Fund Bill. The Palaszczuk government has set Queensland on a course for financial difficulties. Unfortunately, those fiscal difficulties will be borne by Queenslanders, especially Queensland's public servants. Over the past five years this government has ripped \$7.4 billion from the future of Queenslanders who have gone above and beyond for our state, especially during the COVID pandemic. Our teachers, police officers, paramedics, health workers, doctors and nurses have seen their super funds used by this government to try to cover its economic incompetence. However, the pain for our nurses and other public servants is not over because this government is planning to syphon another \$1 billion from their super fund, even though the fund surplus has halved in the past year. If ripping money out of their future was not enough, the Palaszczuk government is standing by while reporting requirements on the super fund for the state's public servants are being reduced. I will leave it to the members of that fund to work out why.

Queenslanders who are not public servants have not dodged the raids either. This government has ripped \$5 billion out of government owned corporations. Despite over \$13 billion being ripped from everyday Queenslanders' pockets, we still face a \$17 billion plus blowout in state debt in just seven months. The Palaszczuk government is happy to raid the future of public servants, ignore the need for due diligence and lock in a rate of return for future generations that is less than half of the government debt interest rate. As former federal treasury fiscal group manager Gene Tunny said, the Palaszczuk government's Future Fund is part of a fiscal strategy that is unclear. However, what is clear is that Queenslanders who want a clear fiscal strategy have a simple choice on 31 October this year, which is to elect an LNP government to guarantee a better future for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (4.04 pm): It is always challenging to listen to a lecture on economic and fiscal management from those opposite, because in this debate on these important bills—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order!

Mr PEGG: I speak in favour of these bills. It was really interesting—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all of the interjections from the member for Surfers Paradise, because he was a cabinet minister in a government that raised taxes. Credit ratings were reduced on their watch. They sacked 14,000 public servants and debt and taxes went up.

Mr Sorensen interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take the interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. Of course, they also wanted to put profitable assets up for sale. Forgive me if we on this side of the House are not willing to take lectures on fiscal and economic management from the likes of the member for Burdekin, the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Clayfield, because we well remember what they did.

I do have concerns about the Queensland Future Fund Bill, which I want to put on the record—that has got them quiet. For the establishment of a Debt Retirement Fund, our Queensland Future Fund is the best means to support our current economic plan and to guarantee Queensland's future economic success. It might be news to the member for Burdekin that the Debt Retirement Fund will be under the direct control of the Treasurer. Payments from the Debt Retirement Fund can be made only to reduce debt or for administrative expenses related to the control and management of the fund. The power to

authorise or make payments out of the Debt Retirement Fund is to be limited to the Treasurer only. There are clear safeguards in the bill. Quite clearly, the point of this bill is to grow the fund and use it to reduce debt. It is actually a debt reduction plan.

My concern about the bill relates to the member for Everton getting his hands on the till. If he were to become the treasurer of this state I am sure that he would be dipping into the fund within five minutes. That is my concern in relation to the bill and I place it on the record.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take the interjection from the member for Theodore. I try to be as positive as I can, but with the relentless negativity of those opposite it is a challenge.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will have quiet in the chamber. Member for Stretton, you have the call but you are not helping yourself by taking all of those interjections. I encourage you to concentrate on your address.

Mr PEGG: I will do my best to concentrate, Mr Deputy Speaker. As we are talking about concentration, the member for Burdekin mentioned the LNP's economic plan, which was really interesting. I have spoken about this previously in the House. The LNP's economic plan amounts to 37 pages that contain a whole heap of pictures. It does not even mention trade except for trade unions. It has typos that have yet to be fixed. I say to those opposite: if that is your plan, Queenslanders should be terrified. They should be terrified of that flimsy document, which is full of rhetoric but very light on detail. There are lots of pictures though.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr PEGG: I cannot blame the member for Southern Downs for getting excited. I think he has missed me. The Debt Retirement Fund will support Queensland's debt burden assessment and ultimate credit rating. Credit ratings are important. As I have mentioned, under the stewardship of the member for Clayfield the ratings agencies downgraded or put Queensland on watch. A favourable credit rating is important to Queensland because it minimises the cost of borrowing and ensures the continued willingness of capital markets to lend to the state. As the Debt Retirement Fund grows, we continue to improve the key metric used by these ratings agencies. These bills contain very sensible reforms.

I talked earlier about the LNP's economic plan. What terrifies me, beyond the member for Everton becoming the treasurer of this state—and I am sure it will terrify most Queenslanders—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is all very interesting, but we are debating a bill here. Can we drag the member back to the bill? Maybe he has something to say about it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): It is very broad-ranging but, member for Stretton, address the long title, please.

Mr PEGG: I have not strayed into maple syrup economics yet. I will stay on task. We are talking about this very important Queensland Future Fund Bill, which will make sure we retire debt in Queensland. When all we have from those opposite is a flimsy 37-page economic plan, we have to look at their history. Under the member for Clayfield and his band of merry men we had increased taxes, increased debt, public servants sacked and profitable assets put forward for sale. When we have a plan so flimsy as the LNP puts forward, it terrifies me that history will repeat. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (4.11 pm):** I rise to speak in the cognate debate of the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 and the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020. I will restrict my comments to the Queensland Future Fund Bill because there are some important areas that we need to address.

Let's be clear: this farcical proposal from the Palaszczuk Labor government is nothing more than a political tool designed to trick the Queensland public into believing they are doing something to manage Queensland's ballooning government debt—debt ballooning to more than \$100 billion in the not-too-distant future. It contains a proposal to raid another billion dollars from the employment benefits of public servants like teachers, police and health workers—another billion dollar raid on top of the \$2 billion raid on their defined benefit scheme that we saw in the past; another \$2 billion from suspending employer contributions to the defined benefit scheme; then \$3.4 billion from raiding the long service leave benefits of public servants. That is \$8.4 billion and counting of Queensland public servant employment benefits that supposedly this worker-representative Palaszczuk Labor government has raided and will raid to address its own failures of economic management.

Mr Hart: Where did it go?

Mr MICKELBERG: Good question, member for Burleigh. Where did it go? The other key asset to be contributed to the Future Fund is the titles office, which is supposed to be valued at more than \$4 billion. How the Treasurer arrives at this valuation has me pretty puzzled. I have been playing around over the last day or so with various discounted cash flow valuations, trying to work out how anyone would want to buy a \$51.958 million—call it \$52 million—revenue stream for \$4 billion. I was even more puzzled when I had a look at the valuation of the same assets in New South Wales and in Victoria. If we focus on New South Wales for a minute, their land titles registry was divested by the government for \$2.6 billion, and it had an annual revenue of around \$130 million. An asset with revenue more than 2½ times the Queensland equivalent sold for only 65 per cent of the valuation proposed by the Treasurer. It simply does not stack up.

The only assumption I can make is that the Treasurer has a secret plan to drastically increase land title fees and charges for all Queenslanders—fees and charges like title search fees, mortgage registration fees, discharge of mortgage fees and land transfer fees. These are fees and charges that will disproportionately affect families, small businesses and those who are just trying to get ahead.

An opposition member: Just another tax.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take that interjection: just another tax on top of the nine we have already seen. I call on the Treasurer to be open with Queenslanders. Does the Treasurer have a secret plan to drastically increase government fees and charges again, or is he using creative accounting to mislead Queenslanders?

In relation to the committee submissions on the Future Fund bill, I found the comments that eminent economist Mr Gene Tunny made to the committee most interesting. He said—

While the long-term goal of paying down debt is admirable, the Queensland Future Fund is unnecessary and undesirable. It would lock up funds and reduce the flexibility of the Government to manage its budget and balance sheet in the best interests of Queenslanders.

He also submitted—

The Queensland Future Fund is no substitute for a medium-term fiscal strategy aimed at stabilising and (eventually reducing) the debt-to-revenue and debt-to-GSP ratios. It is still unclear what the Government's current medium-term fiscal strategy is, given a budget update has not been produced since December. I would reiterate the desirability of a budget update being provided as soon as possible, and well before September.

I agree. Queensland is crying out for any fiscal strategy, let alone a medium-term fiscal strategy. The Treasurer, like his two predecessors, likes to take the approach of burying his head in the sand. It is almost like Labor think they can blow the budget and rack up debt at a rapid rate and the LNP will come into government and fix the problem for them. Surely that is not Labor's strategy. Surely no self-respecting government with a ballooning debt issue would ignore that problem.

I know that the shadow Treasurer has a plan to stabilise the debt and to grow our economy so that we can drag ourselves back from the edge of the debt cliff that we are teetering on. It is only the LNP that have a plan to govern for all Queenslanders, to stabilise and pay down debt and to get Queensland working again. The vision of our leader, Deb Frecklington, is to make Queensland Australia's economic powerhouse again, and that is what is needed in order to get the Queensland economy going. It needs to be the best place to get a job and to get ahead. We will implement the LNP's plan to stimulate the economy and to create a decade of secure jobs, get Queenslanders working again and drag Queensland out of the recession it is in. Our plan for a stronger economy and secure jobs is about investing for growth, supercharging the regions, unleashing Queensland industries and securing our children's future.

Only the LNP will build a stronger economy and create a decade of stronger jobs. That is what is needed to get Queensland's debt under control. A plan is what is needed. It is what is lacking from this Palaszczuk Labor government. We have not seen a budget for nearly 16 months. It is absolutely beyond a joke. Queenslanders deserve better. I look forward to an LNP government being able to implement a budget and a fiscal strategy that will get Queensland's debt under control and get Queensland working again in November.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. These two bills show the Palaszczuk government's commitment to planning for Queensland's future. The Future Fund will alleviate the debt burden on future generations of Queenslanders while ensuring our public assets are kept in Queenslanders' hands, and the royalties bill will ensure that Queenslanders get a fair return on

petroleum royalties. These two bills support and guarantee Queensland's economic recovery as we work through these uncertain times. I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering this important legislation.

The Future Fund will ensure responsible management of Queensland's budget by providing funding to reduce Queensland's debt. The fund will be ring-fenced so that funds can only be used to pay down the state's borrowings and cover any other administrative costs associated with the fund. This means we can free up our borrowing capacity to invest in job-creating infrastructure to support Queensland's post-COVID recovery. The Future Fund will also deliver tough new anti-privatisation protections to ensure Queensland's strategic public assets are kept in Queenslanders' hands. This will prevent the LNP privatising our public assets by stealth, like they did in 2014 when they sold off Queensland Motorways. Our strategic assets—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Ms HOWARD: They do not like it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Southern Downs.

Ms HOWARD: Our strategic assets, like power and water infrastructure, are not for sale. Instead, the Future Fund's locked box will protect them from ever being sold off by the LNP. This bill will also provide for transparency, accountability and openness when it comes to the Future Fund's deposits and withdrawals. Any returns on interest and investment held by the fund will go back into the fund to be quarantined so that it can only be used to reduce the state's debt. This is what responsible, prudent budget management looks like.

Unlike the LNP, who eye off our public assets to sell off in order to get a quick buck to pay down debt, the Palaszczuk government—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you have earned yourself a spot on the list. You are now warned.

Ms HOWARD: The Palaszczuk government is providing a sustainable guarantee for our future while keeping public assets in Queenslanders' hands. This will mean for my electorate of Ipswich more capacity for our government to invest in job-boosting infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, public transport and roads. Ipswich, under the last LNP government, did not fare well. There was no investment in infrastructure—zero. They cut \$21 million from West Moreton health's budget and sacked 84 health staff. They scrapped the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which helped unemployed people in Ipswich get back into training and work.

The LNP's austerity strategy of cuts and sell-offs is not a sustainable way to manage a state budget. It is not even a way to govern the state effectively, but it is the only way the LNP knows how to govern since it has no plan or policies to go on—just more cuts and sell-offs while ordinary Queenslanders lose their jobs and businesses.

The Palaszczuk government has a sensible plan to sustainably guarantee Queensland's future to support a jobs-led recovery after COVID-19. We are doing that by establishing the Future Fund, as well as reforming our state's petroleum royalty regime so that Queenslanders can get their fair share of LNG royalties. Queensland's LNG export industry is less than a decade old, but our royalties regime—designed more than 10 years ago—is not suited to Queensland's current gas industry.

The petroleum review, chaired by the Hon. Jay Weatherill, recommended a royalties regime modelled on the volume of gas produced, similar to what we have for the royalty regime for coal. The petroleum review's report conceded that Queensland's 'existing royalty regime lacks transparency, is complex and inequitable, and that Queenslanders are entitled to receive a fair return for the right to extract their valuable non-renewable resources'.

Queensland exports \$16 billion worth of LNG each year and Queenslanders deserve to get an equitable return on this. The volume model recommended by the petroleum review and put forward in this bill presents the best return for Queenslanders and ensures industry pays its fair share for a resource that belongs to Queensland. The Office of State Revenue undertook modelling comparing the volume model against the industry proposed model and showed that, when compared to our current royalty arrangements, average royalties over the nine-year period from 2020 to 2028 would work out to

be about \$94 million per year higher under the volume model, while the industry proposed model would only work out to be about \$36 million per year higher. The volume model is obviously a much better deal for Queenslanders.

Only a Labor Queensland government can reform our petroleum royalties regime in a fair and equitable way that would ensure that Queenslanders get their fair share of returns on LNG. Were the LNP to reform our royalties regime, the returns would end up as profits and bonuses going to the big end of town instead of being invested in vital public infrastructure that Queenslanders need. With COVID-19 impacting Queensland's economy, our investments need to be guided by a steady hand in support of Queensland's economic recovery. The Palaszczuk government's Future Fund and new petroleum royalties regime will help do just that. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. By way of background, on 14 July 2020 the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Cameron Dick, introduced the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 into the Legislative Assembly. In accordance with standing order 137, the bill was declared urgent and referred to the Economic and Governance Committee for consideration. This does not seem like something that is necessarily urgent even if this government were capable of doing any future planning. It is laughable that the title of one of the bills is the Future Fund. Nothing about what this government does is planning for the future. In the 11-plus years that I have been in this House, I have seen debacle after debacle involving those opposite.

The stated principal policy objectives of the bill are to: establish a Queensland Future Fund under an act of parliament, replicating as far as possible the legislative model set up by the New South Wales Generations Fund Act 2018; and establish the first Queensland Future Fund and the Queensland Debt Retirement Fund. That is laughable too, is it not—Debt Retirement Fund? Whilst we are talking about a blowout of something like \$17 billion going forward to this time next year, I would say that it is going to be more like \$27 billion by the time these guys are finished.

Mr Hart: What would you know? You are only a financial planner!

Mr CRANDON: That is right. I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh. I would say we are going to be at around \$110 billion in no time at all. There is going to be revision after revision by this government between now and September when we are meant to get some sort of update from the government.

The other stated objectives are to: enable establishment of the Queensland Future Fund and provide for the ongoing administration of the Queensland Future Fund; and to provide an additional guarantee of the state's defined benefit liabilities. Is that not scary with markets the way they are? We are talking about the state's defined benefit liabilities. Last time I looked, about 50,000 people were in the defined benefit scheme. I would not like to be the last man standing in that scheme! Whether or not there is going to be any money left for them to pick up, I am not sure. The last couple of thousand people are going to be saying, 'Please, Sir, can I have my pension?' The way these guys have been dipping into that fund, it is concerning. One would not want to be going on long service leave either in the distant future because there is a question mark over whether or not there will be any money in the fund available to pay for that.

It has been almost nine months since the Palaszczuk Labor government's former treasurer, Jackie Trad, announced her intention to establish a Queensland Future Fund. That was nine months ago and now it is an urgent bill—amazing. This bill is simply—and I take these comments from those of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—handing in the member for South Brisbane's homework and wearing this \$17 billion debt blowout on top of that.

The announcement was made in a desperate attempt to provide a distraction to the soaring debt, lower growth and higher unemployment forecasts. We had the worst unemployment statistics over time of any state in Australia. We have the worst record as far as bankruptcies are concerned. This is all pre COVID. What is it going to be like going forward if those opposite finish up in government? How on earth are they going to fix this problem? There is only one government that can fix this problem, one government that has an economic plan for the future of this state that is going to work and that is a Deb Frecklington-led LNP government on 1 November.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.28 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Queensland's Future Fund will deliver tough new anti-privatisation protections to ensure Queensland's strategic assets are kept in public hands as part of the Palaszczuk government's plan to reduce debt and recover from the economic damage wrought worldwide by COVID-19.

Treasury had identified opportunities for the fund to hold non-cash investment such as commercial land and unregulated infrastructure. Importantly, strategic assets such as commercial power or water infrastructure will be put into this new 'locked box' to protect them from being privatised by those opposite. The inclusion of an anti-privatisation locked box removes the risk of the LNP trying to justify a sell-off of assets that are already helping the state offset its net debt position.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Order! Member for Clayfield, the member is not taking your interjections.

Ms LAUGA: Assets placed in the fund that are deemed to be strategic assets will be placed in a unit trust and, by law, can only be sold or traded with other state government entities. Queenslanders can rest easy knowing that there will be no benefit from privatising these strategic assets and that they will be protected by law. Now more than ever, as we deliver our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs, we must protect our assets and get them working hard for Queensland's future.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you have just had your chance. Let the member for Keppel have a chance.

Ms LAUGA: The Queensland Future Fund was announced to be seeded with surplus funds from the defined benefit fund.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, next time you will be on a warning.

Ms LAUGA: I am pleased that the Treasurer has also confirmed that the defined benefit fund is still in surplus despite harsh global economic conditions due to COVID-19.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms LAUGA: This bill will ensure that the Queensland Future Fund includes a rock solid guarantee that the defined benefit scheme will remain in surplus. In fact, Queensland will continue to be the only jurisdiction with a fully funded scheme. This bill will provide the government the opportunity to ensure that the defined benefit superannuation liabilities are guaranteed—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your previous direction to the member for Coomera about his interjections. I note that he just made a number of other interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. I will run the House from this particular chair. I do not need direction from you. There is no point of order.

Ms LAUGA: This bill will provide the government the opportunity to ensure that the defined benefit superannuation liabilities are guaranteed to remain fully funded. By investing a sensible proportion of that surplus into the Future Fund, we can free up borrowing capacity to invest in job-creating infrastructure to support our economic recovery—an idea that those opposite had not even considered when they were in government. All they chose to do was to cut, sack and sell—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members on my left! The member cannot be heard. I cannot hear the member. Please keep the interjections down. If you want to get on the speaking list, put yourself on the speaking list. I will be warning members shortly.

Ms LAUGA: Under our locked box arrangements, that kind of trade could only occur between Queensland government entities. Regional jobs will also be protected with service level agreements put in place that ensure that there is no impact on any employees who work on these assets. Queenslanders know that only a Labor government can be trusted to keep strategic assets in state hands, and this arrangement will make it much harder for the LNP to undertake a sneaky sell-off.

The challenges ahead are as great as any that Queensland has faced. The government is implementing all possible measures to mitigate the health impacts and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Palaszczuk Labor government is also planning for the future—a future when our economy recovers from the current crisis. Whatever the global economy looks like when we eventually emerge from COVID's shadow, it will be vastly different to what it was before. The government has a strong plan, a credible strategy and a solid commitment to reduce the state's debt burden.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned. You have had several warnings before. You are now officially warned.

Ms LAUGA: It is quite clear that those opposite have no interest whatsoever in hearing about the Queensland government's plan to unite and recover to make sure that we have a strong economic future here in Queensland. They clearly have no interest in listening to what the Queensland Future Fund will do by ring-fencing these assets—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, let the member finish her speech.

Ms LAUGA: The establishment of the Queensland Future Fund will continue Queensland's sensible, accountable response to that uncertainty that is created by COVID-19. It will give Queensland the economic weapons necessary to adapt to whatever we face. The government has a strong plan, a credible strategy and a solid commitment to reduce the state's debt burden. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 being debated cognately. The Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 was introduced into the House on 14 July 2020 by the Hon. Cameron Dick, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. The bill was declared urgent and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

Some of the principle policy objectives are to establish a Queensland Future Fund under an act of parliament, replicating as far as possible the legislative model set up by the NSW Generation Funds Act 2018 and to enable the establishment of other Queensland future funds and provide for the ongoing administration of any Queensland future funds.

The former treasurer Jackie Trad announced the establishment of the \$5 billion Queensland Future Fund in the December 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review. This announcement was used as a distraction by the Palaszczuk government in an attempt to hide its poor financial management of Queensland. The MYFER revealed in December 2019 an additional \$1 billion debt blowout. The review locked in lower economic growth estimates and higher unemployment forecasts.

In another attempt to distract Queenslanders, the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, announced a revised asset allocation for the proposed Future Fund and in the same breath announced a further \$17 billion debt blowout in seven months. The ever-growing billions of debt just roll off the tongue so easily with this Palaszczuk government.

Only two submissions were received—one from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union supporting the bill and one from Gene Tunny, Queensland economist and former Commonwealth Treasury manager, stating that it was 'unnecessary and undesirable' and further to this that 'it is unclear what the government's current medium-term fiscal strategy is'.

Since becoming Premier in 2015 Anastacia Palaszczuk has repeatedly demonstrated to all and sundry Labor's reckless economic core principles—higher tax, wasteful government spending and shameless raiding of public servant employment benefits. This is the Premier's proud record over the past five years: \$2 billion from the Public Service superannuation, \$2 billion from suspending employer contributions to Public Service superannuation and \$3.4 billion from raiding the long service leave benefits of public servants. This is an appalling record.

Public servants should be concerned. Not only has Labor raided and mismanaged their hard-earned retirement savings; now the State Actuary's reporting requirements for a fund's surplus will be every three years. This government continues to claim that it is open, accountable and transparent. It has had three treasurers in five years, each more fiscally incompetent than the other. What more is there to say?

The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 was introduced into the House on 16 July and also declared urgent and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. In the 2019 budget, former treasurer Jackie Trad advised that the government would 'review the design of Queensland's current petroleum royalty regime to ensure greater certainty and equity for royalty payers, while providing an appropriate return to the state'.

The announcement of the royalty review, which led to the development of this bill, occurred on the same day as the Palaszczuk Labor government's scandal ridden former treasurer Jackie Trad affirmed a 25 per cent increase in gas royalty rates, ripping another \$476 million from the Queensland economy, without a word to any of the resource companies. So much for being a consultative government!

At the time of the announcement, the 25 per cent gas tax was met with widespread condemnation, with the CEO of the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association, Andrew McConville, stating—

To increase a cost right at a time when we need growth and investment, it just makes very little sense and it is extremely disappointing.

This is another example of the Palaszczuk government treating the resource industry as a cash cow while providing little to no support for industry. The review, chaired by former Labor premier for South Australia Jay Weatherill, made a recommendation to adopt a volume model to replace the wellhead value regime for CSG and consideration of this volume model for all petroleum.

On 8 June 2020, Treasurer Cameron Dick announced that the model based on the volume of gas reproduced would replace the existing petroleum royalty regime and would apply to all petroleum produced in Queensland inclusive of LNG, coal seam gas and oil. The government further announced that there would be tiered rates, with lower royalties for domestic gas and higher royalties for export LNG. These petroleum royalties would be frozen for five years.

There were 16 submissions on this bill from resource companies and industry associations, one submission from a manufacturer and one submission from the University of Queensland. None of the industry associations QRC, APPEA or AMEC opposed the bill, with the position of the individual resource companies varying depending on whether or not they would benefit from the new model. Incitec Pivot was supportive of the new royalty model, which levies a lower royalty on domestic gas. The University of Queensland opposed the bill, stating that the implementation of the legislation should be delayed while the industry deals with the ongoing uncertainty caused by coronavirus. During the public hearing on the bill the university suggested that the new model is not necessarily global best practice.

This government introduced urgent legislation to amend royalties without determining how the volume measurements for royalty calculations would be made—something you would think would be a priority. It has been more than a year since these changes were announced, and still this government has failed to develop underlying royalty measurement guidelines or release any economic modelling on the potential impact a new royalty regime could have on industry or government revenue. Premier Palaszczuk has been relentless with her anti-jobs attack on the resources sector and her obstructionist mindset. Let none of us forget Jackie Trad's comment when the proposed royalty changes were announced, telling the resource communities of Queensland they would need to re-skill.

It does not matter whether it is the constant shifting of the goalposts on a decision for the Adani project or the continued refusal to support New Acland stage 3, which would create over 650 new jobs and inject \$7 billion into the Queensland economy, Premier Palaszczuk has made it clear to all Queenslanders that she does not support Queensland resource jobs or regional development. Is it any wonder that under this government—many years prior to any thoughts of coronavirus—Queensland had the nation's highest unemployment, the most bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence?

An LNP government led by Deb Frecklington has a resolute plan to invigorate the economy and create jobs to haul Queensland out of this recession and get our great state working again. The LNP is moving amendments to this bill to legislate a 10-year royalty guarantee to provide royalty certainty, meaning more jobs and more royalties through more investment. This will be done by opening up new resource projects as a major new economic driver for Queensland and by investing in new infrastructure to create more jobs, which will in turn stimulate Queensland's failing economy due to the mismanagement of this Palaszczuk government.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the cognate debate on the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 and the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020. Both bills were referred to the Economics and Governance Committee, and I acknowledge the work of the committee and the committee secretariat.

The Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 will deliver tough new anti-privatisation protections which will provide that certain Queensland assets are kept in public hands. Unlike those opposite, we want to ensure that state owned assets stay that way. The previous government managed to decimate that sector, particularly the services sector, in my electorate. This will ensure that strategic assets such as commercial power or water infrastructure, which contribute to the Debt Retirement Fund, will be put into a 'locked box' to protect them from being privatised by the LNP, which is so important at this time as we respond to a global health emergency and financial crisis. It is something that we need to do as we unite and recover. While the assets are in this locked box they can only be sold or traded with other

state government entities. Jobs will also be protected, with service level agreements put in place to ensure there is no impact on any employees who work on or at these assets. These publicly owned assets will work as hard as they can for Queensland taxpayers and will grow with future investment.

The Palaszczuk Labor government values public services, again unlike those opposite who so cruelly simply removed so many services from my community of Lytton. This list is so long, but I will list a few of them: Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, Wynnum Hospital, TASQ, CAMRA, TAFE, Child Safety, Department of Housing and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. The list goes on and on. We had so many employees ripped out of our community and it impacted our economy. I could not imagine returning to a government similar to that, particularly during this health pandemic and global financial crisis. That is the legacy of the LNP government. My community is recovering only because of the great work of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill will introduce a modern royalty arrangement, and the volume model proposed will apply to all petroleum produced in Queensland. It falls into three broad categories: LNG, which is produced by three major exporters Santos, Shell and APLNG; coal seam gas, which is sold domestically or used as input to LNG projects; and oil and condensate, which is sold by the barrel. The benefits of the volume model are its equity, simplicity and transparency. For example, one gigajoule of gas is the same regardless of which producer drills for it. The bill also encourages efficient, low-cost producers and produces greater certainty of royalty revenue for industry and government. These are sensible reforms by the Palaszczuk Labor government, and I commend the cognate Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 and the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.46 pm): There was a famous UK Prime Minister who said, ‘The problem with socialism and Labor is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.’ I think that is something we need to remind ourselves of in this Queensland parliament. In my contribution to this debate I would like to highlight the rushed nature of this whole scheme. Both bills being discussed in this debate were presented to the House as urgent, and now we are seeing a cognate debate. The House has limited time to discuss the issues, and a cognate debate at that, so neither bill will receive individual consideration. Any urgency has been manufactured solely by the Queensland ALP and its breathtaking level of financial mismanagement.

As the third Labor government Treasurer, the member for Woodridge seems to be following firmly in the trail blazed by his predecessor, the member for South Brisbane. Prior to standing down, the member for South Brisbane announced she would establish a Queensland Future Fund. This was announced as she presented Queensland with grim news at the December 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review. No doubt it was meant to distract from the revelation of the extra billions of dollars of debt on top of the last state budget six months prior, and this was still before anybody heard of COVID-19. As a distraction, it was brilliant. It sounded like Labor was finally going to do something about reining in its reckless spending and repaying some of that debt. It sounded important and it sounded decisive. At the same time the former treasurer also announced the Service Priority Review Office, which was going to find \$1.365 billion in savings.

Mrs Frecklington: How did that go?

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. It is now defunct. The Treasurer, Cameron Dick, is now in charge of selling the same old three-bean trick. He has dusted off their proposed Future Fund with one hand, while on the other he revealed that Labor’s debt is now increasing—blowing out by billions in seven months since former treasurer Trad’s MYFER. When you listen to Labor’s media conference—

Mr Krause: How many billions?

Mr MILLAR: I will take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. I think it is \$17 billion now. When you listen to Labor’s media conferences you must always listen to the changes in wording. These are always significant, always manipulative and always deliberate.

The Treasurer had a long list of things he did not know at the 9 July 2020 media conference on the *Today* show. He did not know Queensland’s debt level or how many public servants he had or what savings the now cancelled Service Priority Review Office had managed to find. He did not even know what size the Queensland Future Fund would be, but he said it would be ‘at least’ \$5 billion—as in at least as big as the former treasurer’s. He has breathlessly stated that the Future Fund will ring-fence Queensland’s assets so withdrawals can only be used to pay down debt borrowings and any administrative expenses associated with that.

I do not know how much the Treasurer knows about fencing, but maybe he has not understood what ring-fencing is, which I know a lot about. The wild dog fencing in my electorate of Gregory is an excellent example of ring-fencing, and I do thank the Premier for the additional funds. However, I must point out to the Treasurer that the aim is to separate the herd from the predator. You ring-fence the valuable sheep so the killer dogs cannot get in. The aim is not to leave the predator inside the ring fence with the sheep.

The Queensland Future Fund is no ring fence against a Labor government—which is the predator—which has already taken \$2 billion from Public Service superannuation; \$2 billion from suspending employer contributions to public servant superannuation, which is confusingly not called wage theft; \$3.4 billion from the long service leave benefits of public servants; and, last but not least, \$5 billion that was ripped out of the government owned corporations. The predator is still inside the fence.

To finish off, the Treasurer's official media release told the world proudly that, in addition to ring-fencing Queensland's assets, the Queensland Future Fund would also be a locked box which would remove the risk of 'the LNP trying to justify a sell-off of assets'. This locking in of future governments was pioneered by Labor's Wayne Swan at the federal level, so even though Wayne got turfed out, along with Kevin Rudd, his debt bombs are still inflicting shrapnel wounds on taxpayers at the federal level.

The reason this bit of spin deserves to be laughed at is that the only political party that has ever sold off Queensland assets is the Queensland Labor Party, and they did that slyly without any consultation. When the LNP wanted to sell assets to pay down Anna Bligh's debt, we were honest enough to take it to an election, to put it in front of the people and be honest with the people. The Queensland people voted against it and that is that. For the Treasurer to pretend otherwise is utterly dishonest. Perhaps the Future Fund is actually ring-fencing the predator in with the flock. After all, Labor is recklessly pursuing a further \$1 billion raid on the defined benefit scheme's so-called surplus. It is doing so despite the fact that the coronavirus pandemic has affected financial markets negatively and that will have affected the surplus negatively. Despite this obvious possibility, Labor still intends to raid it before the State Actuary has been able to update the future deficit probability modelling.

What is going in the ring-fenced lock box? It will include the Treasurer's dubious investment in Virgin airlines, an investment in the industry most troubled by the pandemic, an investment already showing poor returns in lost Queensland jobs and fewer Queensland flights. In addition, there will be the Queensland government Titles Registry. The Treasurer has said that is worth around \$4 billion. The Cross River Rail precincts are also included at an unproven value of \$160 million and the defined benefit superannuation scheme—which, as I said, we await an updated value on.

Labor's economic mismanagement is starting to attain legendary proportions, so it is no surprise to find that, under the Treasurer's model, it is estimated that these ring-fenced assets will deliver a 1.3 per cent return on asset value. That is less than half the government's debt interest rate—half. That is less than half at a time when ratings agencies are muttering about government credit ratings and when the Queensland government debt must be squarely in their sights. The Bligh Labor government lost our AAA rating, so we pay higher interest than other governments. We must all hope that this Labor government does not see us tumble further.

I move now to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. This was another bright idea of the former treasurer, Jackie Trad, which shocked the industry when it was announced but gave a nice contract to old mate Jay Weatherill to conduct a review. While the review recommended changing the basis for calculating royalties from a wellhead model to a volumetric model, Labor has failed to publicly release any modelling to show that the new regime will be to Queensland's benefit—nice work, Jay; I hope you have got that cheque—nor has it released any modelling of the impact of the scheme on the gas and petroleum industry, so we do not know if it risks killing the golden goose. The Weatherill review was announced on the same day Treasurer Trad declared a 25 per cent increase in gas royalties, pushing Queensland into having the highest royalty rates in the nation. We are the home of the resources industry in Australia and we have the highest royalty rates in the nation.

Labor's former federal resources minister Martin Ferguson, whom I do respect—Martin is a person whom you do respect—said that Queensland Labor's decision would 'probably raise serious questions in the minds of investors about sovereign risk'. I concur with Martin Ferguson. Even though he was on the other side of politics, I do believe he absolutely understood the resources industry and he continues to understand it. Clearly, no-one had told Martin about how economically illiterate Queensland Labor is.

After all that, we are now debating a so-called urgent bill to amend the royalty arrangements for gas and petroleum so that royalties will indeed be tied to the volumes produced. But guess what? We are being asked to pass this law without knowing how the volumes will be measured. Clearly, you have to measure the volume in order to calculate the royalties owed, but this Labor government has failed to develop any measurement guidelines or protocol. Why was Jay Weatherill paid at all? Why was a Labor mate paid when we have no way forward?

Is it any wonder that we now rank below African resource nations as a preferred destination for investment in resource development? This is Queensland. The Bowen Basin of the 1960s and 1970s was important and it developed our resources industry, but now we are ranked below an African resources nation. Western Australia is the one to look at, but this is absolutely disturbing and I say that as the member for Gregory, which is the home of the Bowen Basin. We are now ranked below an African resources nation.

In 2012, the LNP government ensured royalty stability by committing that coal royalties would not be increased until the 2021-22 financial year. We gave some certainty to the resources industry. By comparison, Labor's promise for a five-year freeze provides no certainty for resource projects because it is not even in this bill. This means that, when they panic about the unpaid debts again, the Treasurer can turn around and hike the royalties yet again. This scares me and I can tell the House that this is not a good promise for Queensland's future.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill and the Queensland Future Fund Bill. For many years, Queensland has been the envy of other states with our fully funded defined benefit superannuation scheme. New South Wales is working towards having a fully funded scheme by 2030, and Victoria is targeting full funding by 2035. Despite being ahead of the curve here, the state has not been receiving the full benefit of the surplus when it comes to our credit rating assessment, so this bill will create the Debt Retirement Fund. It will provide a mechanism for credit rating agencies to take quarantined liquid investments into account when undertaking their ratings assessment. At the moment, these funds are not taken into account which means we are not actually receiving the full benefit of us being the only state to have a fully funded scheme. To deliver even greater protection, the bill will give a guarantee that the state's defined benefit liabilities will continue to be fully funded. This is to be measured at least every three years as part of the State Actuary's process for investigating and reporting on the QSuper scheme in line with APRA and industry standards.

I will move briefly to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. The 2019 budget announced a review of our petroleum royalty arrangements. The volume model proposed by the review will apply to all petroleum produced in Queensland which falls into three broad categories—LNG, coal seam gas, and oil and condensate which is sold by the barrel. In relation to this applying to LNG, this was an industry set up by a state Labor government—an entirely new export industry set up by Labor which has delivered billions in investment across the state, an industry which will deliver billions in royalties to fund our schools and hospitals over the coming decades. While the Liberal-National government in New South Wales missed the boat on gas and LNG, we got the job done. If the Nationals were in power in Queensland in the late 2000s, you can bet the industry would not be delivering the level of jobs and economic benefits that it is doing right now.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr MELLISH: They say they love the resources industry, just not in their own electorate, as the member for Nanango well knows.

I go back to the Queensland Future Fund Bill. This bill ensures that the legislative protections of the defined benefit scheme are as strong as possible. This basically means that a future LNP government would have a harder time accessing these funds to pay off their mega spending and mega unfunded promises over the coming months. In terms of the debt reduction retirement fund, we are modelling the legislative structure on the NSW Generations Funds Act 2018.

What is the alternative approach to debt reduction? In 2013 the federal LNP promised a budget surplus in each and every year. They have not delivered a single one. We of course remember their pre-emptive 'Back in Black' messaging and merchandise last year, claiming a budget surplus before they actually had one. Campbell Newman did the same. He promised a budget surplus in each and every year. Gross debt federally was \$684 billion at the end of 2019-20 and is tipped to be almost \$852 billion at the end of 2020-21. In 2013 it was \$257 billion.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mellish, adjourned.

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to implement the LNP's Plan to Get Queensland Working:

- (a) no new or increased taxes to boost business confidence and create jobs;
- (b) build and own the visionary New Bradfield Scheme;
- (c) build a second M1 to get people home safer and sooner;
- (d) air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland because cool kids are smart kids;
- (e) break Ergon's monopoly and introduce retail price competition for electricity into regional Queensland allowing regional Queenslanders access to the same deals as South-East Queensland saving households around \$300 a year;
- (f) clear elective surgery wait lists by partnering with the private sector so Queenslanders get the surgeries they need on time;
- (g) build dams. The first stage of our water security plan is to get shovel-ready the Nullinga Dam, the Urannah Dam and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam;
- (h) fix Paradise Dam instead of ripping down a dam in drought;
- (i) set up a Queensland Infrastructure Fund with royalties from the Galilee Basin;
- (j) stop Labor's wasteful spending;
- (k) introduce a public sex offender register to help parents protect their kids from serious sexual offenders;
- (l) reducing water prices for Sunwater irrigators by almost 20 per cent per year from next year;
- (m) fast-tracking shovel-ready projects across South-East Queensland through our \$1 billion congestion-busting program to stimulate the economy; and
- (n) appoint 60 new police in both Cairns and Townsville over the next four years to crack down on crime.

Right now in Queensland we need to get Queensland working again. Members could ask: why is that? It is because after five years of the incompetent Palaszczuk government—we have had five years of economic mismanagement—Queensland has now been hit with the worst economic crisis in almost 90 years. Where do the Palaszczuk government sit? They sit flying completely blind through the worst economic crisis in Queensland's history.

Unfortunately, we have the new Treasurer in Queensland who is unable or unwilling to even provide Queenslanders with the confidence and the certainty of a state budget. Apparently, the only state in the nation that will not hand down a full budget this year is Queensland. What does that tell us?

Mr Millar: What are you hiding from?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Gregory because what the government is hiding is its economic incompetence. They have no budget, which means no economic plan to get Queensland out of this recession. There is absolutely no plan to get Queensland out of this recession.

A government member: Sixty-four times.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What does the LNP have? We have an economic plan. It is the LNP that is actually out there pushing the policies, talking about major infrastructure projects, talking about delivering a budget within the first 100 days. It is the LNP that has the plan to get Queensland working again. We have a government with their head so far in the sand the only number they seem to care about is 64, but they have no clue about a budget at all. They have absolutely no care for a budget.

Before coronavirus where was Queensland? Queensland had, on average, the highest unemployment rate in the nation, the lowest business confidence, the highest number of bankruptcies, all under the financial incompetence of the Palaszczuk government. No wonder the Treasurer refuses to hand down a full budget this year. The LNP have already committed to no new taxes because the LNP know that we must give confidence to businesses. Why? Because businesses employ people. It is only the LNP that has a plan for jobs across Queensland.

That is why I have already announced—over 12 months ago now—the big, bold visionary plan, which is the New Bradfield Scheme, creating tens of thousands of jobs, opening up a huge tract of farming land larger than the size of Tasmania. Imagine the produce that we could export around the world—clean, green, beautiful produce coming right out of Queensland. Who are the team to deliver that? It will be the LNP to get Queensland working again.

That is only just to start with—the dams. We have already made announcements around Nullinga, Urannah, Rookwood Weir, Emu Swamp Dam and raising Burdekin Falls Dam. It is us on this side of the House who are interested in water. Why? Because we know that water means jobs. If we add water, it means people can grow more and they can employ more. That is why the LNP announced last week or the week before that in the Burdekin we will adopt the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendations and slash prices by up to 20 per cent for irrigators who get their water through Sunwater. Again, it is only the LNP that has a plan to provide jobs in regional Queensland. In fact, it is only the LNP that will make it easier to get Queensland working again. It is only the LNP that will drag Queensland out of this recession.

I cannot believe that the new Treasurer of Queensland has determined to run Queensland so far into the ground with, on average, the highest unemployment rate in the nation, the lowest business confidence and the highest number of bankruptcies. Yet all the Palaszczuk government ministers are interested in is playing politics with people's lives and livelihoods throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

It is also the LNP that have a plan on crime and tackling those issues in North Queensland. Only the LNP will get Queensland working again.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.05 pm): It is very difficult to engage in a debate, opposing as I do the motion, and address the serial falsehoods that the member for Nanango is responsible for. Let us look at bankruptcies. If the LNP want to talk about bankruptcies, let us talk about bankruptcies during the Newman government when, I remind the House, the member for Nanango was the assistant treasurer. Under the LNP, 2,000 more businesses went bankrupt in a single year. Under the LNP Queensland saw, on average, 1,000 more bankruptcies every year relative to the latest data that has come out during the worst pandemic in a century.

Let us talk about unemployment. Let us see what happened under the LNP. Before COVID, the Palaszczuk Labor government had created 250,000 jobs. Under the LNP, during the entire period the member for Nanango was the assistant Treasurer, what did they create? They created 28,700 jobs in the entire period they were in government. That is 150,000 created by us before COVID compared to 28,700—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Woodridge. Member for Coomera, your interjections aren't being taken. I see that you have also been given a warning. You will now leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 5.06 pm.

Mr DICK: Let us talk about full-time jobs: 120,000 full-time jobs were created in Queensland under the Labor government before COVID. What did those opposite create? They created 8,400. During three years in government they created 8,400 jobs. They dropped the anvil of austerity on Queensland when we did not have a pandemic. How could anybody in this state possibly trust anything the member for Nanango says?

In this motion we see the LNP going from tragedy to farce. Look at the member for Everton, the hapless deputy. Compared to the member for Everton, Joan Sheldon looks like Paul Keating. It is impossible to believe a single thing they say because they do not and cannot budget or say how they are going to pay for what they have promised. They have announced \$23 billion—\$15 billion on the new, old, fake Bradfield scheme, or whatever they want to call it, and \$8 billion in unfunded promises. Then we hear from the member for Everton, 'We're not going to spend more than revenue.' They said, 'Expenses will not rise higher than revenue. We're not going to borrow any more.' When every jurisdiction in the country is borrowing, they cannot do it without cutting, sacking and selling.

Mrs Frecklington: Just repeat what you just said about Bradfield so we can print it.

Mr DICK: I do not care. I say to the LNP: why are they not honest for once? Why are they not up-front with people and say they have to cut, sack and sell to fund \$23 billion in promises? There is the Leader of the Opposition sprinkling the fairy dust all around fantasy island. They have gone from Makepeace Island to fantasy island. It is a fantasy to think they can fund \$23 billion in promises without increasing debt—and that is what the member for Everton has said: they are not going to increase expenses over revenue when revenue has collapsed. It is a complete fantasy.

They are going to build a second M1 when they never spent one cent on it when they were in government. How can anyone believe these people? They are going to air-condition every state school in Queensland, which is a bit of a backdown from air-conditioning every school. Do honourable members remember when the Leader of the Opposition said that in her budget reply? How many years ago? I do not know—two years? It is not any better since. Everyone on the backbench knows it.

The deputy leader might laugh, but we are 2½ months from an election and members of the backbench know that they have a flawed leadership team. This is the most incompetent LNP leadership team in a generation. The member might laugh it off. The member for Callide did not laugh it off last night when he voted against his leader. He had so much confidence in the leadership position of his party that he voted against them. This is a party that wants to form government in 2½ months but cannot even vote as a united team. It has been said before and I will say it consistently until 31 October: if you cannot govern your own party, you sure as heck cannot govern Queensland. That has been demonstrated time and time again.

Those opposite have a flawed, reckless position on the budget. The Leader of the Opposition took a flawed and reckless position when she personally attacked the Premier about what she wears. This is someone whose judgement cannot be trusted by Queenslanders. Those opposite will be absolutely reckless with the Queensland economy. If they are going to make promises worth \$23 billion, they need to stump up with a way to fund them. Otherwise it is just hot air and is meaningless to every Queenslander.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Yes, Queensland, Australia and indeed the world are in the midst of a dreadful health pandemic and, yes, it has created economic challenges for every state and nation around the world, but in Queensland those economic challenges are magnified because of Labor's incompetence and five years of mismanagement. Before COVID, Queensland had the average worst unemployment rate in the nation, the highest number of bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence.

Now, more than ever, Queensland needs a leader. Queensland needs a government that has a vision for economic growth, a plan to stimulate the economy and a plan to drag Queensland out of recession and create a decade of secure jobs. In Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango and Leader of the Opposition, and in the LNP the people of Queensland will have that leader and that government. Deb has a vision for Queensland to make us an economic powerhouse again—the best place to get a job, to get ahead and to raise a family.

I turn to some of the LNP's already announced plans. I will focus on those that particularly pertain to the portfolio of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning. As the leader said, there will be no new or increased taxes. Why? Because that will boost business confidence and create jobs. We are not afraid of the 'D' word, dams. We will build them, starting with the visionary New Bradfield Scheme. We also will make sure that we have shovel-ready the Nullinga Dam and the Urannah Dam. We will raise Burdekin Falls Dam. We will make sure that Rookwood Weir gets built and that Emu Swamp Dam at Stanthorpe gets built. We also will fix up dams—dams like Paradise—instead of ripping them down in the middle of a drought. We will look to the future by setting up the Queensland Infrastructure Fund with royalties received by opening up the Galilee Basin. Again, we will not be afraid to get this state rolling and working again.

Like we always have to do, we will stop Labor's wasteful spending. They cannot help it; they do it every time. It is LNP governments that have to clean up their mess. We will also invest in infrastructure—infrastructure that will lead to economic growth. We will build a second M1 to get people on the Gold Coast home safer and sooner. We will fast-track shovel-ready projects across South-East Queensland through our \$1 billion congestion-busting program to stimulate the economy—like investing \$100 million to upgrade Cleveland-Redland Bay Road through Thornlands and into Redland Bay in the seat of Redlands.

We will deliver more park-and-ride facilities for Gold Coast commuters at Nerang in the electorate of Gaven. We will make \$25 million available for new on-ramps and off-ramps on the M1, supporting electorates like Theodore and Coomera. We will spend \$90 million to build an overpass at the intersection of Gympie Road and Beams Road at Carseldine. Anyone from the Sunshine Coast, like me, knows that is where you come down the highway and then grind to a halt. Under Deb Frecklington, the LNP will sort that out. We have committed \$245 million for a new bridge over the Brisbane River on the Centenary Motorway and, most importantly, \$35 million on the Sunshine Coast to build the Bells Creek arterial. We will get people moving again. We will get them to work and home sooner and safer.

Yes, we are in a pandemic, but that will end. Queensland needs a leader who offers a vision, plans and projects to get Queensland out of recession. There is only one leader, Deb Frecklington, and only one party, the LNP, that can provide the economic leadership that Queensland needs.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.15 pm): I am truly shocked by what the Leader of the Opposition's motion suggests for schools within my community, but I should not be particularly surprised given the LNP's track record in education. Of course, it was the party that closed down schools, sacked school nurses, cut \$40 million from the school transport assistance scheme and changed the formula for calculating teacher numbers in schools—this meant a cut of more than 500 teachers—and the list goes on.

Now those opposite have the nerve to come into this chamber and move a motion calling for our government to implement the LNP's plan on air-conditioning state schools. Being interested, I decided to take a quick look at the Leader of the Opposition's Deb 2020 website to see what the LNP's supposed plan is. The website shows that the LNP wants every public school classroom air-conditioned in Queensland by 2028. The LNP wants every public state school classroom air-conditioned eight years away. Under the LNP's plan, there are children who will start high school next year and never experience an air-conditioned classroom before they graduate. In stark contrast, our government will air-condition every state school classroom, staffroom and library throughout Queensland by June 2022.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I suggest that those groaning look at the member's website.

We of course will also take over the maintenance and replacement costs to take pressure off our hardworking P&Cs—another element not included in the LNP's plan. To ensure that we hit our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, we are installing over 190,000 solar panels on school rooftops to completely offset the energy usage and to support local tradies within our communities. This is already being rolled out, with panels already installed at Nerang State School, Worongary State School, Gaven State School and Pacific Pines State High School. Park Lake, Nerang State High School and William Duncan are in phase 2.

We have the runs on the board when it comes to delivering for our schools and upgrading our roads. I remind the Leader of the Opposition in relation to part (c) of this motion of the LNP's track record. Not only did they not contribute a single new dollar to the existing M1; they actually blocked planning for the second M1, just like they cut Cross River Rail. Both projects would be much further advanced right now if the LNP had not cut them when last in power.

Let us be clear: the Palaszczuk government is delivering the M1 upgrades. We are delivering Cross River Rail, which includes three new train stations for the Gold Coast. While the member for Coomera talks about us fast-tracking this project, I remind the member that his side of politics did not even support this project. We have gazetted the Coomera Connector corridor and have started the business case with the federal government. In fact, as part of this necessary planning we have been working on the environmental impact statement, which is with the federal government right now—something the LNP was too lazy to bother even starting.

This motion is nothing but a desperate attempt by the opposition to remain relevant while we on this side of the chamber and our Premier are focused on continuing our strong health response to this global pandemic and delivering our economic recovery plan to create jobs. We are focused on the health outcomes for Queenslanders, and that is why we contributed \$250 million for an elective surgery blitz to treat patients who had to wait longer as a result of this pandemic. I again remind the Leader of the Opposition of their track record when it comes to health. Those opposite sacked over 4,000 health staff, including 1,800 nurses.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Order, members. You do not need to yell across the chamber. I am struggling to hear the speaker on their feet as it is.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite do not like their history. It was in fact 1,800 nurses who were sacked, many of whom are residents on the Gold Coast who remember the track record of those opposite to cut, sack and sell. I remind those opposite of their track record. We will continue to deliver our strong economic plan. I oppose the member's motion.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.20 pm): Let us have another history lesson. It was Labor that closed 26 schools. It was Labor that sold Queensland Rail, Queensland forests and a range of ports and airports, and yet still it could not manage the books. Still it raised taxes in this state to record levels and put its sticky little fingers into people's pockets saying, 'We've spent all that money after we

flogged off the assets, but we still need to put our hands into the pockets of Queenslanders.' We have seen another \$3 billion ripped out by this lazy Labor government. It has never seen a dollar in somebody else's pocket that it did not want to steal, and that is its plan for Queensland. Those opposite do have an economic plan for Queensland, and it is called tax, tax and tax and to waste the money that they collect. How can we have any confidence that Labor has a plan for the future given the economic crisis facing this state when the Treasurer did not even know the debt levels in this state?

Mrs Frecklington: It's pretty embarrassing.

Ms SIMPSON: It is very embarrassing—\$90 billion worth of reasons why Queenslanders cannot trust this Labor government, \$90 billion worth of reasons why Queenslanders know that this incompetent mob that sold assets, wasted money and imposed record levels of tax cannot even be honest with Queenslanders about the level of debt. Do they have any plan for Queensland? Of course not. Labor's waste and failure has been on steroids again lately with the Cross River hole—that bottomless pit where it will not even tell people the truth with regard to another budget blowout. However, leaked documents show that due to its bungle there could be another billion-dollar cost to that project. Those opposite should release all of the figures. We have seen the leaked documents where the experts, including those from Queensland Rail and others, were saying that there are other alternatives that had cost benefits—

Mrs Frecklington: Engineering safety.

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, engineering safety. The potential cost of what this Labor government did in ignoring the experts could add an extra billion dollars, but what is a billion dollars here or there when we already have \$90 billion worth of debt, and that was before COVID? Now those opposite are talking about \$100 billion post COVID. Queenslanders have a magnificent health staff, and here is cheers to those who have been on the front line keeping Queenslanders safe because they are the real heroes—the doctors, the nurses, the many people who have been doing an outstanding job. They are the ones whom we should be cheering on. As well as lives to save we have livelihoods to save, and doing that requires an economic rebuild. That is why under an LNP government we have a plan to achieve the jobs and the economic growth that has to occur in order to bring Queenslanders through this crisis after COVID with all of the debt and all of the disaster of the mismanagement that leaden the saddlebags of this incompetent, lazy, wasteful Labor government.

We have to have a change into the future with those who know how to manage and it cannot be done the same way under a Labor government. Leopards will not change their spots with regard to wasting Queenslanders' money. Over \$1 billion was wasted on the Health payroll disaster and now we learn that as much as a billion dollars could be wasted in terms of blowouts with Cross River Rail. However, it will probably be many billions of dollars because that is the way that this mob mismanages Queenslanders' funds. About 1,000 kilometres of highway could be built on the Bruce Highway with a billion dollars. How many hospitals? How many schools? That amount of money could build many, many, many more. We need the Bruce Highway upgrades and in my electorate we need the Sunshine Motorway upgrades. We need infrastructure built to not only drive the economy but also carry us into the future.

The LNP has a plan of no new or increased taxes when this lazy, incompetent, wasteful Labor government will not give that commitment. It used some weasel words where it said, 'We won't put pressure on parts of people's budgets,' but it would not give a clear commitment to no new or increased taxes because it is the Labor way—waste the people's money and then come after more after an election because those opposite cannot tell the truth. They could not honestly spend a dollar well if their lives depended on it. The LNP has a plan for no new or increased taxes, managing the people's money correctly, building the dams that are needed, building the roads that are needed and ensuring that we fast-track shovel-ready projects to get Queensland working again.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.25 pm): This motion gives me the opportunity to draw to the House's attention the opposition's complete lack of understanding of water in this state—complete lack of understanding. Let me explain. Firstly, it failed to understand the Paradise Dam inquiry terms of reference. It compounded its own mistakes by displaying, in the media for everyone to see, that it had no comprehension of the original terms of reference. Secondly, the opposition freely admitted to the Speaker that it did not understand an expert report into Paradise Dam. Thirdly, we are now seeing that it failed to understand the Queensland Competition Authority pricing report. That is one, two, three: those opposite have failed to understand water in this state. One would have thought that members of the opposition would at least

have a basic grasp or a basic comprehension of water policy in this state—at least a basic grasp—but they do not. It is a shambles. They do not understand water policy. They cannot be trusted on water policy. They cannot even add up. They said that they would build hundreds of dams last time around and, as I said this morning, they built minus one.

Those opposite cannot be trusted on Paradise Dam. Paradise Dam is foremost a community safety issue. There are three priorities on Paradise Dam—three priorities: one, community safety; two, community safety; and, three, community safety. It is clear that community safety is not a priority of those opposite and it is an absolute disgrace that community safety is not a priority of members representing that community. A commission of inquiry and the publicly available independent technical reports confirm the potential risk of major flooding if there is another extreme weather event like 2013. In fact, the inquiry went further, saying that the dam was at risk of overturning. The experts say that reducing the volume of water in the dam reduces pressure on the dam wall and creates additional time for the dam to fill in an extreme weather event, adding extra time for community evacuations.

The independent judicial inquiry concluded that Sunwater is taking a reasonable position to carry out the essential works, particularly for a public body operating a dam that is upstream of a residential community. Meanwhile, Sunwater and Building Queensland are undertaking further testing. This testing will inform Building Queensland advice to the government on long-term options. Regardless of the final decision the government makes, let me rule out once and for all any decommissioning of Paradise Dam. Paradise Dam will continue to underpin economic prosperity in Bundaberg and the surrounding region for generations to come.

Moving on to the next reckless LNP thought bubble, I refer to regional electricity—or 'electicity'—competition. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland has the energy trifecta, and members have heard me say this before—the lowest average prices on the Australian eastern seaboard, a reliable supply, and a planned transition to a renewable future. The Palaszczuk government is subsidising regional electricity prices by almost half a billion dollars this year. Our affordable energy plan has been putting downward pressure on electricity prices for three years because of dividends from our publicly owned energy businesses. Prices in regional Queensland have fallen three years in a row and now—

Mr Saunders: Ask Russell and Mary!

Dr LYNHAM: Russell and Mary—exactly—three years in a row; they are enjoying the benefits.

Those three years represent savings of \$600 for a regional household and a \$1,000 saving for a small business. We have done this by keeping our assets in public hands—the hands of Queensland families. These are assets that the LNP would sell given half a chance. The LNP policy is simply to take that half a billion dollar subsidy from families and give it to overseas companies and hope and pray those overseas companies will pass it on.

Next time that Queensland families are looking for their \$200 or their \$50 asset dividend on their bill they will have to call a CEO in Switzerland or China or a foreign call centre to try to get that money. They will have an overseas phone number that goes to an answering machine somewhere overseas. The dividends will be funding flash offices in Sydney instead of helping Queensland households and businesses. It is hypocritical for the LNP to be talking about power prices after they went up 43 per cent when it was in government. In conclusion, the Palaszczuk Labor government is a safe pair of hands and has a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. In contrast, the LNP is—

(Time expired)

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.30 pm): The two highest priorities of any government is the safety and security of its citizens and to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can prosper, and on these highest priorities Labor has failed across the board, systemically, profoundly and unforgivably. Being able to work without living in fear of being a victim of crime is paramount to the stability and growth of a civilised society, a flourishing economy and is fundamental to our way of life. Under Labor Queensland is failing and will continue to fail.

I have said before and I will continue to say that over 20 years of policing has taught me three basic principles: our people must be protected, criminals must be punished and our police must be provided with what they need to get that job done. We need effective laws that enable police to find, arrest and convict criminals and we need enough police to enforce these laws. We must get Queensland working again. We must believe that a safe and prosperous Queensland is achievable and is foreseeable. Queensland will not and cannot move forward under Labor. Just last month while travelling around the state we heard alarming stories from communities that felt so helpless in their fight

against crime they have resorted to patrolling their streets themselves, vigilante groups that work through the night to protect their neighbourhood from criminals. It is a sad indictment on any government when its citizens no longer trust it to keep them safe.

Townsville and Far North Queensland communities are in the grip of an unprecedented crime epidemic. In Townsville robberies have increased by 165 per cent, armed robbery up 179 per cent and unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 110 per cent. In Cairns robbery has increased by 94 per cent, armed robbery up 74 per cent and unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 80 per cent. They are not the kinds of crimes that are confined to some shady underworld; these are crimes being committed against everyday people in everyday suburbs every day. The LNP will restore law and order so our people and our communities can get back to what they should be focusing on: working hard, raising a family and getting ahead, not policing their own neighbourhoods.

Crime statistics are not the only damning evidence that prove Labor is soft on crime and has the wrong priorities. As a percentage of the state budget they are spending less on law enforcement than was the average for the LNP—in fact, \$234 million less per year. Over five years \$1.173 billion less has been spent on law and order as a percentage of the Queensland budget. In addition to that, when the LNP was in government we had an average of 245 officers per 100,000 people. Under Labor we now have 233 officers per 100,000 people. That is 610 fewer officers across Queensland. The thin blue line has never been thinner. That is why, as part of our plan to crack down on crime, the LNP will appoint 60 new police officers in Cairns and 60 new police officers in Townsville, sending a strong message to wannabe criminals that they will get caught and they will be punished. The LNP will give our police tough laws and the resources they need to stop crime and provide safer communities across Queensland.

To properly protect our communities we need to protect the building blocks of those communities—our families—and we must effectively protect our most vulnerable Queenslanders—our children. I have seen the aftermath of child sex abuse and the impact it has on victims, their families and our communities. Earlier this year I was approached by a group of school parents in my electorate who are horrified to find that a convicted paedophile was not just living next to their children's school but he was hosting kids parties at his home. When they contacted the local police to report this suspicious behaviour they were alarmed to learn that it is illegal for police to tell them or the school if he was a known high-risk paedophile. Labor's current plan to protect the community from sex offenders is an honesty system—a bit like their border policy. It is outrageous. They rely on the honesty and integrity of upstanding, law-abiding paedophiles living in our communities to report online any changes in their circumstances, like, for example, they are now living beside a school and hosting pool parties for local kids.

The system is broken and that is why the LNP government will introduce a public child sex offender register, giving every parent an effective tool to protect their children from paedophiles. What we are facing as a state is an urgent need to restore law and order and rebalance the scales of justice. Police are tearing their hair out because of this soft-on-crime Labor government and the lack of resources they are providing police that prevent them from doing their job. The only way to fix Queensland's crime crisis is to vote for the LNP.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.35 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. The motion we are debating clearly demonstrates how out of touch the LNP is and how it is continuing to fail the people who live in regional Queensland. This morning we heard them complaining about potential job losses from Virgin despite the fact that they opposed the Queensland government doing anything to save the airline.

Mrs Frecklington: Is the Assistant Treasurer working on that budget?

Mrs GILBERT: Mr Deputy Speaker, do you remember when you were a high school principal that there was that bunch of mean girls who thought if you were mean you were a good leader? Wasn't it shameful? There will be a much larger number of jobs that will be saved in Queensland because of the support of the airline by the Palaszczuk government. The successful bidder, Bain Capital, has made that clear. If Virgin were to collapse it would be a disaster for regional Queensland, including my own community of Mackay, yet that would have occurred if the LNP had been in government. Without Virgin operating their larger planes there is very limited opportunity for air freight in and out of Mackay.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is not talking to the motion that is before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Mackay, I will give you a little latitude.

Mrs GILBERT: Thank you. I will talk about the Virgin part of the motion. We do need to have Virgin and Virgin jobs in Mackay. Local company Ultra Coral had to drive their coral exports to Brisbane in the back of a ute because there is a 24-hour turnaround which could not be achieved if Virgin does not operate in regional Queensland. We need to have Virgin operating in regional Queensland so that our businesses can survive, let alone dream to thrive. Those opposite did nothing to help keep that airline afloat. The mining sector was also required to charter 13 flights out of Mackay. We need those larger airlines like Virgin and we need to have those jobs that go with it. Those opposite do not get regional Queensland. They are happy to throw regional Queensland under the bus because they are just thinking about the south-east corner.

This motion continues the proud LNP tradition of providing false hope, of promising one thing before the election and delivering something very different after it. It is easy to promise things that you have no intention of delivering and that you do not know how to deliver; you simply refuse to reveal how those commitments will be funded. It is reasonable to question how serious they are about delivering them. They say that the best—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Maroochydore.

Mrs GILBERT: Oh dear, the girls are at it! No matter what the LNP might say of their intentions, the proof of what they do can be drawn from what they have done. The list of their promises contained in this motion have all the credibility of the Campbell Newman promise that public servants had nothing to fear. However, some aspects of the motion have some merit, mainly because they are copied from the work that we are already doing such as air-conditioning classrooms which has been completed in nearly 400 schools, including in every school north of Gladstone, which of course means every school in my electorate of Mackay, and reducing electricity prices. Under those opposite electricity prices went up, up, up.

The difference is that our plans are properly developed, funded and, in many instances, underway. Who remembers those opposite doing a song and dance about the Mackay showgrounds upgrade not being started when we had already cut the ribbon? They do not know what is going on in regional Queensland. They need to get on the page. I oppose the motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.41 pm): Two things have surprised me in this term of government. One is Treasurer Dick becoming the Treasurer. We know he auditioned for 2½ years, but his lacklustre performance as Treasurer has really surprised me. The second surprise is finding out in the past 60 seconds that the member for Mackay is the Assistant Treasurer of the state of Queensland. That would come as a surprise to many members of the House. I have just been told that she is actually the Assistant Treasurer of Queensland. I have spent the last few minutes getting the wet lettuce leaf off my face, put there by the member for Mackay. The big hard-hitter that they put up to debate the motion is the Assistant Treasurer of Queensland. What a load of rot she speaks! I went on a parliamentary trade delegation to China with the member for Mackay and other honourable colleagues.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly not speaking to the motion. I ask him to come back to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! I understand the member's point of order. I will let the member develop his argument at this point. I have the motion in front of me and I will be making sure that he does stick to it.

Mr BLEIJIE: In the debate on the motion, the Assistant Treasurer just spoke about memories. I went on a trade mission to China with the member and I vividly remember her getting a selfie with a statue of Chairman Mao. I thought, 'She will rue the day she got a selfie with Chairman Mao of communist China.'

Mr Mander: It was a badge of honour.

Mr BLEIJIE: It would be a badge of honour. The member for Miller interjected before. This morning and yesterday in the chamber we were talking about the \$1 billion blowout for Cross River Rail. He stood up and, with his hand on his heart, said, 'This is about jobs.' The problem with the Labor Party in Queensland is that a \$1 billion blowout is no issue for them because they say it is under the guise of jobs. They can waste as much Queensland taxpayer money as possible under the guise of jobs, even for the biggest blowouts.

The big question is this: how do you blow out a budget of \$1 billion and then say that it is going to be contained in the same budget that was originally produced at \$5.4 billion? Is this Labor economics? How do you produce the same product for \$5.4 billion despite a \$1 billion blowout? It does

not make sense. Something has to give. Something has to change. Minister Jones has been passed Cross River Rail by former treasurer Trad who was passed the project by the former minister Mark Bailey who wrecked Cross River Rail. Now Minister Jones has to deal with it. Oh my goodness!

The other day the Treasurer did a little stunt where he pulled out a \$1 note and said, 'This is the first dollar bill I ever made.' Rubbish! As if any Labor member would not have spent the first dollar they made. It was so fresh that it must have been straight from the mint. As if Treasurer Dick would have kept the first dollar bill that he ever made. In that contribution he said that as the new Treasurer of Queensland he now understands that every dollar counts. I wish he had that view when he was the justice minister and SPER debt hit nearly \$1 billion. He did not seem to worry about every dollar when he was the justice minister responsible for SPER. Now he is the Treasurer and he has the SPER debt and what do we see? It has blown out completely!

Only the LNP has plans in place. The motion speaks for itself. It is a shame that we can only put 250 words into the motion because if we detailed the LNP's full plan—you can locate it on Deb2020—there would be thousands of words. One needs only ask the Labor Party because they keep copying our plans. The member for Mackay, the Assistant Treasurer, talked about projects and what the LNP is copying. The other day the Premier was with Minister Hinchliffe, talking about the LNP copying a project. She had the electorate completely wrong, she had the road completely wrong and she got mixed up with road, rail and air. That shows the state of Queensland.

This is the highest taxing state with the highest debt and the highest unemployment—even before coronavirus hit. Those are the problems that we have in Queensland and the Labor Party cannot be trusted to fix them. The Labor Party will not go to the election talking about those issues; they will talk about COVID-19. In this election, for the Labor Party everything will be about coronavirus: 'Hasn't the Premier done a wonderful job?' We say to the people of Queensland: do not look at the past five months; look at the past five years and you will see what the Labor Party is. Even when we come out of coronavirus we will have the highest unemployment and the highest debt. If people want real change and real money in their pockets, they have to vote for the LNP on 31 October. Real change only comes with the LNP.

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.46 pm): It is lovely to follow the member for Kawana. We know that when they do not have anything to say they just make personal attacks. I listened intently and for 4½ minutes the member for Kawana made personal attacks on members of this side and spoke about the actual motion for only 30 seconds. It shows how much faith he has in the motion when all he does is make personal attacks. It is all about the personal attacks when they have nothing.

I oppose the motion, which is deceptive and downright irresponsible. In the past five years in Queensland only one government has a track record on delivering water infrastructure and security, and that is the Palaszczuk government. Since 2017 we have committed \$1.2 billion to water infrastructure across the state, supporting almost 2,300 jobs in regional Queensland. In fact, in my backyard this government has put up \$410 million for the Haughton pipeline duplication. We built stage 1 at a cost of \$215 million. After the federal government said that they would fully fund it, what happened? They could not stump up!

Mr Harper: They walked away.

Mr STEWART: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa: they walked away. Phillip Thompson went missing in action and failed every one of my constituents. We now have to pick up the bill. We are funding stage 2 of the water pipeline because the federal LNP government could not deliver on its promise.

There is another \$14.53 million in planned works for the Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement Project. In fact, we have contributed \$16.5 million for the feasibility study to raise the wall of the Burdekin Falls Dam. Members may remember that that was announced when parliament was sitting in Townsville and everyone came to our great part of the earth. Now it has been made a coordinated project, which shows how serious we are. We are getting on with the job, not just talking about it.

In contrast, in their chaotic three years in government what did the LNP do with the Burdekin Falls Dam? Zero! They did absolutely nothing. That is endemic to the LNP. As the Minister for Natural Resources said in the chamber this very morning—

Dr Lynham: What a great bloke.

Mr STEWART: What a great bloke; I take that interjection from the minister—they have short arms and deep pockets when it comes to funding water infrastructure. That seems to be occurring in Central Queensland where the LNP has failed to meet its funding promise on Rookwood Weir.

In the meantime, the Palaszczuk government is getting on and building our own with \$176 million, creating jobs and opportunities for local businesses. We cannot wait for those hollow promises. We have to get in and do the job the LNP cannot do.

As for Bradfield type schemes, my North Queensland caucus colleagues and I have been discussing this extensively with the Minister for Natural Resources. Any Bradfield style scheme starts with water storage in the north and that is well and truly underway, as we have heard. There are three business cases happening into major water infrastructure in the north—into raising the Burdekin Falls Dam, into Hells Gates Dam and into Big Rocks Weir. Urannah Dam has also been declared a coordinated project to reduce red tape.

How can you trust people like the LNP welsers who do not deliver on their promises? Let us not forget their shocking track record when it comes to child sex offenders. With reduced reporting and monitoring requirements for convicted offenders, this is the party that has no credibility. Under the Palaszczuk government, Queensland has the toughest sex offender reporting regime in the nation. Their whereabouts, their movements and their details are all known to police. Those reportable offenders are required to comply with strict, rigid and robust conditions. The Australian Institute of Criminology found that ‘public sex offender registers do not reduce recidivism’. This government will always listen to and support the experts—unlike those opposite, who cannot even support our police. What happened when the LNP was in office? Some 110 senior police were gone—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEWART: They do not like it. Here they go! Some 300 police personnel were gone, police and firearms training was reduced and they forced the police to buy their own body worn cameras. The member for Ninderry stands up and says that we need to make sure police have all the resources they need to do their job. What happened under the LNP? They told them that they needed to buy their own. What a shame. They reneged on promises to provide \$20 million for extra police and training to patrol safe night out precincts. In 2014—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the opposition leader’s motion. Let there be no doubt that the upcoming election on 31 October will not be about COVID. It will be about economic recovery—not just from what COVID has wreaked on us in the last five months but also what has happened in the last five years. Queenslanders will be asked: who do you have confidence in with regard to navigating our way out of the economic recession that is upon us at the moment? How can you have confidence in a government that could not manage the economy pre COVID and is trying to convince everybody that it can manage the economy post COVID?

Why would you invest in this state when it takes eight years to get approval for a mine, or whatever else it might be? Why would you invest in this state when there have been nine new or increased taxes put on businesses, with this government having no idea of the cascading effect that has on small business and, of course, consumers themselves? Why would you invest in this state when the treasurer of the day assures business that there will be no increase in royalties and then three or four weeks later, when the budget comes down, there has been an increase in royalties?

Queenslanders are looking for competent government. They are looking for people who can manage the economy.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft and member for Whitsunday, you are both warned under the standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MANDER: This will be about confidence and competence. How can you have confidence when you have a Treasurer—the third treasurer—who has proven that he is not across his brief, who has proven that he is not capable of working with figures? In the short time that he has been Treasurer, it has been nothing short of an embarrassment for our state. The Treasurer did not know the debt level in that infamous Karl Stefanovic breakfast interview.

The Treasurer comes in here and talks about \$3 billion worth of savings. One of the bad things about being the last speaker in a debate is that other speakers pinch your lines, but I have to repeat it. The Treasurer had an epiphany that ‘every dollar now matters’—as if it did not matter in the past! He proved that with his announcement about savings, which was an admission of all the things this

government has done wrong in the last five years. Think of the money they have wasted! We will be reminding Queenslanders that 93 per cent of the \$101 billion debt we are heading to was racked up prior to COVID.

We have the Treasurer coming in here and admitting that we need to stop Public Service growth and that the fiscal principle they have of making sure that the growth of the Public Service does not exceed the population growth now needs to be addressed, without knowing the number of public servants. He talked about the fact that we have too many consultants. What are those consultants doing? They are doing the jobs that public servants should be doing. He talked about the fact that we have too many public servants at the executive level and that we need to get rid of some of those. He talked about the fact that the IT programs have gone over budget, so we need to stop those. He talked about the fact that we have spent too much money on glossy advertising. Well, you would not know that from looking at the TV over the last couple of weeks or months. Millions of dollars is being spent on government advertising which is propaganda for this government. There was also the infamous statement about the number of social media accounts around, which must be contributing so much to our state debt.

This is all about who has a plan for the future. The Leader of the Opposition has announced a bold plan not for one year and not for two years but for the next decade. Let it be on the record that the Treasurer today did not call it the 'New Bradfield Scheme'; he called it the 'fake Bradfield Scheme'. Let that be on the record. That will stop them duplicating our program at least, you would think, with the Treasurer denouncing it that way. This is a program that has a vision for the future—a vision to invest for growth, supercharge the regions and unleash Queensland industries so that we can secure our children's future. It is only the LNP that will get Queensland working again.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.56 pm): In a press conference on 25 June, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'Once again I want to start talking about the borders and the need for Annastacia Palaszczuk to get the borders opened.' The Leader of the Opposition also said, 'It is safe to open the borders.' That same day, Victoria recorded 33 new cases. The next day it was 30.

Mr Mander: The day that you announced the opening of the borders. It was 10 July, wasn't it?

Mr BAILEY: I will take that interjection. It was 'open the borders'—plural, to every state. That was LNP policy that threatened this state. You cannot talk about the economy in Queensland without talking about the pandemic and managing the pandemic. This government has managed the pandemic well. It is a day-by-day proposition, but it has managed it well because we have a Premier and a Chief Health Officer who listen to the health advice, who put Queenslanders first; a Premier who stands up to the big gang-up that was going on for a month, where the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister, Clive Palmer, Pauline Hanson and a certain media empire all ganged up and tried to bully and intimidate our Premier and our state into opening all of our borders. What would have happened? We would have seen a dire health situation. It is the foresight and the strength of the Premier that has saved our economy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those shrill voices on the other side of the chamber need to start thinking about what good policy and good leadership are about. It is about trust. This election will be about trust, I can assure you of that. Queenslanders will trust this government because we got the big calls right when people needed it the most, when people's lives were at stake. We do not sit here squawking and interjecting; we make the right decisions. That is what leadership is about. That is what saving our economy is about. That is what getting people into jobs is about.

To be lectured to by those opposite when their record is 43 per cent power price increases, growth that dropped to 0.7 per cent, unemployment that surged to 7.1 per cent—no pandemic, just sacking 14,000 people—the ordering of trains from overseas that were not disability compliant and the cutting of the Cross River Rail project, the Sumners Road project and other road projects all over the state. They did build 1 William Street for themselves while telling everyone to tighten their belts. They cut train drivers by 48. They did not get a single renewable energy project going in three years.

No wonder they lost the biggest majority in political history in only three years. They are incompetent. They are lazy and indolent. What we see in this motion is a good example of that. Let us look at their energy policy. Their energy policy is going to increase prices again. Forty-three per cent was not enough in the three years under the LNP. They want to pick the eyes out of the profitable parts of a huge network and give that to the private sector so others pay more.

Forget about the M1. Not a single dollar was spent on the M1 in three years under the LNP. Four upgrades have been fully funded by this government. Two are complete and two much bigger ones are underway. With dams it is minus one for the Newman government and two for this government. Actions speak louder than words. A second M1 was blocked and stopped from being proceeded with by the LNP when in government. We have gazetted the corridor. We have done the consultation. We have the business case going. When it comes to trust, infrastructure, investment and jobs, this government is what Queenslanders will trust at the election this year.

We have a billion dollar stimulus program for roads on top of four out of five record infrastructure spends. Another billion dollars is fully funded and identified—and not by those opposite. They have made \$23 billion worth of promises already, and ticking. This is the Newman model—promise the world to everybody, get into government and then implement the real motion—(a), (b), (c). The LNP's actual economic plan is very simple—(a) is cut, (b) is sack and (c) is sell. That is what they want to do.

Who can forget the member for Burleigh's billboard—'Open the borders'. No doubt that was backed by the Leader of the Opposition. We all know that billboard.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not to be waved around, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: The economic incompetency of those opposite put Queenslanders in peril. Fortunately we have had a government that has listened to the health advice and led this state at a time when people's lives were genuinely at risk. We did not want to see a second wave in this state. That is what we are working to prevent. We will keep having strong leadership with this Premier, with this Chief Health Officer and with a government that understands what real leadership is about.

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

AYES, 42:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—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, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.

QUEENSLAND FUTURE FUND BILL

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 2002, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.08 pm), continuing: Federally, long before COVID-19 was on the horizon, the LNP more than doubled debt. It will be a trillion dollars before we know it—a quadrupling of what they inherited. At a state level we have turned the corner from the Campbell Newman budget deficits and now we have a strong plan to unite and recover from COVID-19.

As always, the LNP talk the talk but do not walk the walk. They simultaneously want to cut the Public Service and also somehow stimulate the economy. I had to check my ears today, hearing some on the other side calling on us to provide more stimulus for the economy. They say they hate debt, but all they want to do is rack it up. They are overnight Keynesian, but I suspect there is not much logic behind their change of heart. They probably think Milton Friedman is a winery they visited in Margaret

River, but maybe they are saltwater economists after all. They do like a nice getaway on the Noosa River, it seems. They are economic dunces and they are a risk to the Queensland economy. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Both of these bills were introduced less than a month ago and have been through an incredibly rushed inquiry process. We would think from the government's cavalier approach to consulting on and legislating these bills that they are not as significant bills as they are. They have huge implications for Queenslanders. I want to shine a bit of light on what they enact and the values that I believe they embody.

The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill does not increase royalties, by the Treasurer's own admission, although it does remove a variety of deductions. It basically switches to a dollar per gigajoule method for gas royalties with the dollar value varying depending on the price of gas. The Future Fund bill sets up a Future Fund in a similar model to other states around Australia, and its first role is to quarantine funding to reduce the state's debt. Given the enormous concessions that still flow to the mining industry in Queensland and the need to fund the COVID-19 recovery that actually helps ordinary people, these reforms are a huge missed opportunity.

Queenslanders have suffered a decade of lost mining revenue. Between 2010 and 2020 mining corporations exported over \$480 billion worth of coal, minerals and LNG, paying only seven per cent of that in royalties. Rather than going towards schools, hospitals and public infrastructure, billions of dollars went into the pockets of multinational mining corporations. These are resources that should belong to every Queenslanders and that is the principle the Greens are taking to this election.

Our plan will raise an extra \$14 billion a year from coal, LNG and minerals. The royalty rate for fossil fuels should be a flat 35 per cent, with royalties for base and precious metals and bauxite raised to a flat 20 per cent. We want to abolish all government subsidies to the coal and LNG industry and end royalty deals like the one that it appears is still being negotiated behind closed doors with Adani. Both major parties want to continue funnelling profits to their big coal and gas donors, while health and education remain chronically underfunded and while ordinary Queenslanders do it tough.

In a comprehensive report, the Australia Institute found that in the five years following the 2008-09 financial year the Queensland government spent \$9.5 billion on subsidies for the mining industry, largely eroding any royalties taken in that time. Mr Deputy Speaker, do you want to know where Queensland's budget hole is? I think I have found it. They have given it away to their mates in the fossil fuel industry. If we had fair royalty rates over the last four years, this government would have at least an extra \$55 billion for hospitals, schools and public infrastructure—11 times the size of the Future Fund's seed funds. We could invest in the new industries and manufacturing we need to create hundreds of thousands of good steady jobs in Queensland.

I spoke about just this issue in my adjournment speech last night. At this election the Greens are offering Queenslanders a clear choice: do you want this wealth to go into the pockets of a few mining CEOs or to fund the things we all need to live a good life? This year's crisis, and especially the recovery from COVID-19, have made this choice a stark one.

In the same month, Labor gave a royalty freeze to mining companies and a wage freeze to public servants. During record high unemployment and in the middle of a recession, the government ripped \$500 million from our economy via ordinary working people's bank accounts. These included some of the lowest paid people in the Public Service—people who would have been spending their wages in their local community. Instead, what do you think those mining billionaires are doing with their extra cash from the royalty freeze—earning interest? We do not know. It is about time ordinary people got their fair share. It is about time we used our extraordinary wealth for the things we all need like publicly owned essential services, health and education.

The Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill is a missed opportunity to do just that. This is the alternative the Greens are presenting at this election and it is a stark contrast to Labor and the LNP. While I will not be opposing these bills today, it is important for me to note once again that the Greens and I will continue pushing for more for Queenslanders and for less for mining billionaires now and after the election on 31 October.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. I am disappointed that the government has proceeded with a cognate debate on these bills because both bills are significant in content. All Queenslanders need the opportunity to go through them in fine detail, but they have been quite rushed. We will probably see again another gag in this parliament on these bills.

Perhaps the reason why the government does not want to have a full and frank debate and have every MP speak in this House might have a lot to do with the Premier's third and latest Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, dusting off the former member for South Brisbane's dodgy Future Fund during the same press conference where he announced Labor's skyrocketing—

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks in relation to 'dodgy' offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member has taken offence to your remarks and has asked for them to be withdrawn.

Ms LEAHY: I withdraw. Perhaps the problem was that the Treasurer dusted off the Future Fund during the same press conference where he announced Labor's skyrocketing \$100 billion debt—a \$17 billion blowout in seven months. I remind the House that, when Paul Keating and Labor were booted out of office, Labor left the nation's debt at \$96 billion. It took years to pay down this debt, with the population of the nation paying it back.

Queenslanders are now saddled with a debt skyrocketing above Paul Keating's debt—to \$100 billion. There are thousands of kilometres of roads that will not be sealed in this state, there are new hospitals that will not be built, and there are doctors and nurses who will not be hired because taxpayers' funds will have to be spent on paying the interest bill on \$100 billion of Labor's debt.

This Labor government has failed to provide Queenslanders with economic leadership that Queensland needs in these troubled times. Under Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk we have seen \$4 billion of new taxes. About the only tax that has not come into Queensland is death duties. We have seen \$100 billion in state debt, which is growing by the minute, the most bankruptcies in the nation and a record number of unemployed Queenslanders. More than 200,000 Queenslanders are unemployed. Queensland now has the longest unemployment queue in our state's history. During an unprecedented economic crisis, the Labor government has failed to manage Queensland's economy.

Anastacia Palaszczuk was the last premier to announce an economic stimulus package in response to the coronavirus, yet she was the first and only premier to cancel her government's budget. With no budget, the Palaszczuk Labor government has no plan for the state's economic recovery. No budget means Labor is flying blind through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century.

Businesses in this state must be looking at this Labor government saying, 'What is going on? Why is there no budget?' They are constantly managing their budgets to manage the shocks of COVID. Labor's anti-business agenda has seen private sector investment plunge from \$207 billion under the LNP to just \$128 billion in the last three years. That is a fall of some 38 per cent.

Under Labor, Queensland lost its AAA credit rating in February 2009, meaning Queenslanders are still paying more for debt than New South Wales or Victoria. Contrast this to the LNP who, with Deb Frecklington as leader, have a vision to make Queensland Australia's economic powerhouse again—the best place to get a job and the best place to get ahead.

The LNP has committed to no new taxes and a 10-year royalty guarantee which will give businesses certainty to grow, invest and employ Queenslanders. The LNP has committed to deliver a budget within the first 100 days of forming government to provide certainty and transparency for all Queenslanders and to implement our plan to get Queensland working again. It should be noted that local governments in Queensland have done their budgets; however, the state Labor government has not.

The LNP will cut red tape and ensure faster payments to Queensland businesses—once again giving businesses a reason to invest and employ in Queensland and boosting business confidence. The LNP have a plan, we have a vision and we have the commitment to deliver good economic management for Queenslanders to prosper.

I will now turn to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. What is disappointing about this legislation is that the royalty review that led to the development of this bill was announced on the same day that the Labor government declared a 25 per cent increase in gas royalty rates, ripping another \$476 million from the Queensland economy last year. That royalty revenue was destined for pet projects in the electorate of South Brisbane. Now we hear about the cost blowouts on this pet project—

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I found those remarks personally offensive. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has asked for a withdrawal. I did not hear the particular personal dimension of those remarks, but the member has asked for a withdrawal. On that basis the member should withdraw.

Ms LEAHY: I withdraw. Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The royalty revenue was directed to pet projects in Brisbane, and now there are cost blowouts on this pet project of up to \$900 million. No wonder Labor jacks up the royalties overnight on the gas industry, because they cannot manage money and they cannot manage their pet projects in Brisbane. This overnight royalty increase sent the wrong message to the gas producers in my electorate. It did nothing for business confidence, it did nothing for investment and it did nothing for local roads or local jobs.

During last year's budget debate both myself and the member for Everton asked the former Treasurer what modelling was done on the price of domestic gas following the 25 per cent royalty increase. We did not receive an answer. Even Labor's former federal resources minister, the Hon. Martin Ferguson, said the Palaszczuk Labor government's decision was going to effectively increase the price of gas and probably raise serious concerns and questions in the minds of investors about sovereign risk. Labor's 25 per cent gas hike has pushed Queensland into having the highest royalties in the nation.

I would like the minister to address some of the questions and concerns that have been outlined in the submissions of some of the companies that operate in my electorate. Arrow Energy raised that, given the departure from the established wellhead value model with an implementation date of 1 October, they believe it is prudent that a penalty amnesty for four quarters is required. This would allow companies to make the necessary changes to fulfil the new model requirements. I do speak with Arrow regularly and I would like to hear the minister's response in relation to that proposal. Shell QGC submitted that the introduction of the proposed volumetric model will retrospectively change the long-established royalty model under which significant investment commitments in Queensland have been made by the industry.

Stable regulatory regimes are vital to investment decisions, and Shell QGC sought and obtained an up-front agreement as to the appropriate calculation of gas royalties for LNG feed gas prior to committing to over \$20 billion of investments in the QGC LNG project in 2010. This change now comes around six years into the project, which expects to operate over 20 years. Texas-Tickalara Holdings, which employs staff in Thargomindah, submitted that the uncertainty around the royalty regime has meant they have been unable to provide potential investors with a reliable economic model. These proposed changes are having a discernible, chilling effect on the availability of capital needed to advance the development of Queensland's petroleum resources, which in turn has a negative effect on the outcomes that the Office of State Revenue and the government generally are trying to achieve.

Hence, the LNP is moving amendments to this bill to legislate a 10-year royalty guarantee to provide royalty certainty, meaning more jobs and more royalties through more investment. Labor's promise of a five-year freeze provides no long-term certainty for resource projects, particularly when the measure is not even included within the bill's legislation, providing the opportunity for Anastacia Palaszczuk and her Labor government to hike the royalties yet again.

This Labor government has a pattern of uncertainty in the approval of major resource projects in Queensland. For instance, just remember Adani and now look at what New Acland is going through. Only the LNP will provide certainty with their 10-year royalty guarantee, meaning more jobs and investment through that guarantee. Only a Deb Frecklington led state LNP government will start work on opening up new resource projects as major new economic drivers for Queensland, investing in new infrastructure to create more jobs and stimulate the economy with a guarantee of a 10-year royalty freeze.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. In doing so, I put on record my gratitude for the finalisation of these bills and their presentation in this House by the government. Firstly I will direct my comments in relation to the Future Fund legislation and then I will turn to the royalty legislation.

The Future Fund proposed in this legislation is indicative of the type of future focused policy and reform that Labor governments in this state are renowned for. When we established the defined benefit scheme some 30 years ago we did not know at the time that it would be such an incredible financial asset for the state, but it is the case that we have significant holdings within the defined benefit scheme. Every single public servant with a defined benefit pension has their pension guaranteed and locked away, invested wisely by QIC. That is the type of future focused ideas that have cemented the financial security of this state, and here tonight we see that replicated in the Future Fund legislation.

When I first publicly committed to this idea last year, we very much were looking at what New South Wales had done in relation to the establishment of their future fund. I do note with some interest that those opposite do not seem to be in a position where they can bring themselves to criticise the future fund as was established in New South Wales by a Liberal Treasurer and the LNP government there. Ironically, just because Labor does something similar they find that it is open for ridicule and criticism. I think it cuts both ways, quite frankly.

There is no doubt that Queensland is blessed—and thankfully, it is blessed because the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in 2015—with strong government owned corporations. The corporatisation of utility businesses in this state was a Goss government initiative which has produced incredible outcomes in terms of dividends back to our state—dividends that would have been monetised and privatised by those opposite if they had won the 2015 election and, undoubtedly, the 2017 election. The Future Fund not only will be an incredibly important part of our debt payment strategy going forward but also is a mechanism that will be recognised by the ratings agencies as an offset for our increasing debt levels, which are more important now than ever before as we unite and recover for jobs after COVID. The other element to this bill, which has always been in the original design, is another legislated guarantee for the defined benefit scheme, and I welcome the continuation of that initiative.

I would now like to turn to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. There are many members in this House who may not recall this because it happened in 2012 during the inaugural budget of the Campbell Newman LNP government. After commitments were given before the election that there would be no movement in royalties, royalties were hiked up. The LNP in their first budget not only announced the sacking of 14,000 Queensland workers but turned around and hiked up royalties by a significant amount. I recall reading very interesting leaked minutes from the QRC then, and they did not have a lot of good things to say about the Newman LNP government and their blindsiding of the resources industry in relation to royalty hikes. Let's be very clear about the LNP's track record in this matter. For the LNP to come in here and claim that they are going to deliver a decade-long guarantee around royalty increases is laughable. Do not listen to what they say: look at what they did in government. While they distracted Queenslanders by sacking 14,000 fellow Queensland workers, they hiked up royalties without any consultation.

In terms of gas petroleum royalties in this state, it is a crowning success of former Labor governments that we have established the LNG CSG industry in Queensland, and I think that is resoundingly acknowledged by industry right across Australia. Queensland is one of the most stable and secure environments in which to invest if you are a gas company, and let's be absolutely clear about that. We allow gas exploration, gas development and extraction, and for 10 years we have acknowledged the huge investment that industry has put in in terms of establishing the industry, establishing the pipes, establishing the network and infrastructure. We have had the wellhead value model of royalties in this state around gas. It was time to change that framework so we could guarantee that Queenslanders—who own this resource—were getting the benefit of its extraction and its commercialisation.

Mr Nicholls: This sounds like a familiar argument to me.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. If he is referring to the contribution from the member for Maiwar, I must say that I saw a lot of people on that side of the House looking very uncomfortable with the member for Maiwar's contribution about a \$55 billion royalty hike in this state. I also think it was going through their minds that after the next election they will have not only the member for Maiwar but perhaps even more like him because of their preference deal with the Greens political party. I find it ironic that on the one hand the LNP are saying, 'We guarantee a 10-year mining royalty freeze,' but on the other hand they are going to preference the political party that wants to hike it up and collect another \$55 billion out of the resources sector.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: They do not like it, do they?

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for Gregory will cease interjecting.

Ms TRAD: Let me be really clear here. There is one party that is supporting the ambition of getting another \$55 billion out of the resources sector, and that is the Liberal National Party of Queensland.

Mr Millar interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: In conclusion, I note that those opposite are getting very hot under the collar. Whenever we mention the preference deal between the Greens political party and the Liberal National Party—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Gregory will leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 6.30 pm.

Ms TRAD: I can see that the member for Clayfield is champing at the bit to rise in his seat. I think he is very grateful now that he is going to do the rebuttal.

Let us be clear. On this issue—on the economic management of our state, on having a focus on the future, on ensuring that we keep assets in public hands and that we use those assets to the best endeavours of paying down debt, growing our state and building the infrastructure—it is only the Australian Labor Party that has a track record here. Those opposite would cut, sack and sell at the first opportunity, and we know that because that is what they did the last time they were in government.

If we had a Future Fund when those opposite were last in government, I can guarantee that the member for Clayfield would have likely raided the Future Fund to pay for a Strong Choices campaign. That is what they would have used the Future Fund for. This is great Labor legislation. This is great reformist, future focused legislation and I commend both bills to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.33 pm): I was beginning to regret for a moment or two allowing the member for South Brisbane to have the floor. In the end, I am actually glad I had the opportunity to listen to her contribution because it reminded me of so many good things—like the fact that in 2012 most of the Labor Party could not be bothered to deliver a budget reply speech. We came in here and we waited for them. I think the then member for Ipswich, Mr Berry, was standing up and, Mr Deputy Speaker Robinson, you may recall this quite well. All of a sudden there was silence. There was no member from the Labor Party in the chamber—they were not even here—so I stood up and I said, ‘Thank you very much. We will close the budget. Obviously the Labor Party do not care about the 2012 budget.’

Where was the member for South Brisbane? Where was the member for Inala? Where was the then member for Mackay? Where were the other members whom I cannot remember? They were not anywhere to be seen; they were not fighting for their side of politics. It was one of the most abject failures of political representation I have ever seen. They could not even be bothered to turn up to deliver a budget reply speech. That is how much the member for South Brisbane and the member for Inala cared about getting on the record back in 2012.

I interjected before when the member for South Brisbane was talking about the increase in the petroleum royalty. The line she used when I said, ‘I’ve heard this before,’ was the exact line the Newman LNP government used when it increased royalties on coal—and we did increase royalties on coal. We make no apology about that because, at a time when coal companies were getting \$340 or \$350 a tonne for coal, the people of Queensland as the suppliers of that resource deserved to get a better return on their resource. It was progressive and it only kicked in at certain levels. As the price got higher, it was only reasonable to expect that the companies that got the benefit from processing and selling that coal—the super profits they were receiving at that time—paid a fraction more to the people of Queensland as we went about repairing the budget deficits and the budget black hole we were left with by the then Labor Party.

At that time, we had to write down revenues by over \$5 billion because their projections of income growth were so wildly inaccurate. They projected 14 per cent year on year revenue growth in respect of transfer duties in the middle of a GFC. They had not saved for a rainy day. They had sold assets. When they sold the assets, what did they do with the money? They did not pay down debt because the debt kept increasing. When we came into office debt was projected to exceed \$100 billion, as I am sure people here know and as I remember quite clearly. The Labor Party said, ‘No, you’re making those numbers up. It will never happen. It will never reach \$100 billion under Labor.’ What is the latest projection? It is over \$100 billion. It is stratospheric debt incurred by the Labor Party.

The Queensland Future Fund Bill is a hoax. It is a hoax in the same way as the Queensland Future Growth Fund of the Beattie government was a hoax. We have seen this before. This is not even a new trick because we have seen it all before. In 2006 the Beattie government set up the Queensland Future Growth Fund and the object of that fund was to provide funding for initiatives or infrastructure for the benefit of Queensland. Does that sound familiar? Some examples of initiatives were developing new technologies for mitigating climate change and infrastructure relating to water or energy supply—

and here is the killer, because I heard this mentioned by a number of people—but they could only do it with the approval of the Treasurer, so there was complete oversight of it, for things benefiting Queensland other than initiatives or infrastructure.

Where did the money for that come from? Where was the seed money? It came from these sales: Allgas distribution to APA Group for \$514 million, Sun Retail electricity retailing business to Origin Energy for \$1.2 billion, Sun Gas energy retailing business to AGL Energy for \$71 million, and Powerdirect Australia to AGL Energy for \$1.226 billion. They were selling assets into the Queensland Future Growth Fund for all of those purposes. That was the money that the Beattie-Bligh government put into those funds. Who was here at that time? We had the member for Inala; the member for Cooper; the member for Woodridge, who was the former member for Greenslopes; and the member for McConnel, who came after the then member for Brisbane Central, Peter Beattie, resigned. They were all party to it. What were the funds to be used for? Here are a couple of doozy announcements. A press release from 26 April 2006 said—

And as part of our new Queensland Future Growth Fund announced yesterday we will help fund two new dams and two new weir projects. This includes the dam in the Mary River catchment—

That went so well. How much did that end up costing the state of Queensland? It was \$600 million by the time we managed to extract ourselves from that particular piece of genius. It goes on—

In addition on the Fitzroy River in Central Queensland we will raise the Eden Bann weir—

and—wait for it—more than a decade and a half later—

and build a new weir at Rookwood.

We are still waiting for the Rookwood Weir a decade and a half after it was promised by Peter Beattie. He was good at this. He went on to say, 'Raising the Eden Bann Weir on the Fitzroy River and building a new Rookwood Weir in Queensland.' He did not say it once and he did not say it twice; he said it half a dozen times.

It is a sham and it is a hoax in the same way that the Queensland Future Growth Fund set up by the Beattie government in 2006 was a hoax. It will not protect this government from the loss of a credit rating, either. It was the Bligh government that lost the AAA credit rating in 2009 after all of those asset sales, after setting up the Queensland Future Growth Fund, after making all the promises—and there was the \$300 million that went into clean coal technology. We are still waiting for a result on that. Just ask CS Energy how it went. It is a hoax because it does not pay down one red cent of debt, it does not identify one asset to be transferred and it assumes no losses. However, each of those assets transferred into the fund generates an income that is currently being used to pay for the services that Queenslanders use. That is the central argument that the Labor Party have always used. They have always used it.

They say, 'We have to hang on to them because of the revenue we use'—they spend it three times every year but nonetheless it does produce some degree of revenue that the people of Queensland use and it weakens the balance sheet of the GOCs from whom those assets are being transferred. If Powerlink has an unregulated asset to supply power to a mine—and I note the member for Keppel could not even tell us what an unregulated asset is—and it goes off the balance sheet, that is the big income producer. It is not limited by regulation; that is a commercial agreement. It goes off the balance sheet of the GOC and goes into the Queensland Future Growth Fund. This is GOCs that have already been weakened because in 2016 the then treasurer regeared them—that is, he told them to go and borrow more against their assets, already weakening their balance sheet, and then gave instructions to certain of those corporations to pay 100 per cent of their dividends, leaving them with no money to invest in future assets that they needed. It is a sleight of hand; it is designed to obscure the true state of the finances.

The comparison is often made with New South Wales and its generations fund. There are some very significant differences between the two. New South Wales has not lost its AAA credit rating. New South Wales seeded its future generations fund with \$3 billion from a balance sheet transfer—money it had—and \$7 billion from their leasing activities. They also appointed a board to govern it and that board is led by Glenn Stevens, the former head of the Reserve Bank of Australia. It also holds a community component that spends the funds via direct community engagement and voting on future spending. It is completely different. The reason the New South Wales one works is that it is run by a coalition government that understands financial principles, has not lost its AAA credit rating, puts in place the proper governance procedures and makes sure the money gets spent for the right purposes—not because the Treasurer gets an itch on the inside of his strides and decides he wants to go and spend some money somewhere.

The reason it has to be a locked box—and it is funny when they talk about the locked box—is that the ALP has form: they promise one thing and do another. Who can forget in 2009 they said, ‘We won’t sell assets.’ Then they came back in and in the first budget what did they do? They sold the lot off. We asked the then transport minister, the former member for Ipswich, if QR was for sale and she said no. Later that day, guess what? QR was on the chopping block. Go for it!

It is a hoax. It should be seen as a hoax. It is nothing but a fudge from an incompetent Labor government.

(Time expired)

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of these bills before us tonight. I want to commend the Treasurer for bringing on these bills. As he said earlier today, Queensland faces challenges that, aside from wartime, have not been seen in 100 years. They are challenges that require determined, considered and prudent responses and decisive leadership—exactly the thing we have seen in Queensland under our Premier. I want to thank the Premier, the health minister, the Treasurer and all of our cabinet for the leadership they have shown.

As we have heard today, a central part of this bill is the Debt Retirement Fund. As we have heard, this is a special account that will only be used to reduce debt. I do agree that it does show credit agencies, markets and financial leaders that we do have this strong plan to reduce debt. I think that also reflects our unite and recover plan. Unite and recover will get the economy back on track and get Queenslanders back into work in more jobs and in more industries. Under this plan, as we have heard, we will see a \$6 million investment in industry, infrastructure and innovation. That will keep people in jobs and ensure Queensland recovers as quickly as possible. The Future Fund, the Debt Retirement Fund and the royalties reform will provide a bedrock for this plan.

Until today we have not heard too much from the LNP about debt. Today we saw a few of the parrots speaking up about it; they said we were incapable of managing debt, debt blowout et cetera. Every time they said that, I kept thinking: what does the LNP say at a federal level? I will return honourable members to what the Treasurer said today about what the federal finance minister, Mathias Cormann, said a few weeks ago. He said, ‘You ask about debt. I ask you: what is the alternative?’ This was from their own colleagues down in Canberra.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order, members!

Mr WHITING: We have heard enough mansplaining from the other side today. I do not want to hear any more. The fact is that most of the LNP do not want to talk about the debt. They know that since the federal LNP was elected net debt has doubled. It went from \$174 billion to \$354 billion. They doubled it, and that was before COVID-19. Not only that, I will remind them of their own track record. The Newman government increased debt by \$15.2 billion. Under the Newman government, Queensland went from the lowest general government net debt in the country at negative \$3.2 billion to \$11.2 billion. I have said it before over the years that pumping up debt is in the DNA of the LNP.

I also welcome the anti-privatisation provisions of this bill. The strategic assets such as commercial power or water infrastructure will be put into a locked box to stop the LNP from ever trying to sell the family silver again. They always stand on their high horse and say that we were the ones that sold the assets, but I will point out to them—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those on my left—

Mr Batt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, I was warning while you were continuing to interject. I will have to start warning members soon.

Mr WHITING: I will point out that the LNP sold more than \$10 billion worth of assets under Campbell Newman. I have an *Australian Financial Review* article here and I will read out some of the assets. They sold \$10.7 billion worth of assets: Queensland Motorways, \$7.1 billion in April 2014; sell down of rail operator Aurizon, \$2.3 billion; sold a stake in the South Australian electricity supplier, \$500 million—and I like this one—sale of seven office buildings, \$562 million in April 2013; sold off the Supreme Court and District Court sites, \$63 million; South Brisbane TAFE to Metro Property Group, \$22 million; Kangaroo Point site to the Banyan Tree, \$15 million.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr WHITING: We will be hearing them at various points in the future saying, 'You sold the assets,' and we will keep pointing out that, according to the figures, the assets sold by them amounted to \$10.7 billion.

The bills before us will be a bedrock in our recovery in the years to come. It is absolutely essential that if we keep protecting the health of Queenslanders we keep building our economy. We need to keep reforms like the royalty reforms coming. I think we have proven over the last few months that it is only the ALP who will keep Queensland safe.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.49 pm): I rise today to speak in the cognate debate on the Queensland Future Fund Bill and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. Turning first to the Queensland Future Fund Bill, a better name for this bill would be the 'Creative Accounting Bill' because, as the member for Clayfield aptly pointed out, it is a hoax. This bill is nothing but a billion dollar raid of the superannuation of Queensland public servants to try to convince voters that Labor is actually doing something about this state's ballooning debt. The 'Creative Accounting Bill'—sorry, the Queensland Future Fund Bill was introduced on 14 July 2020 and declared an urgent bill.

The former treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, first announced the establishment of the \$5 billion Queensland Future Fund Bill in the December 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review before being dumped from cabinet. The announcement was nothing more than a feeble attempt to distract Queenslanders from Labor's poor economic management. The Mid Year Fiscal Economic Review revealed an additional \$1 billion debt blowout—this is before COVID-19—and locked in lower economic growth and higher unemployment forecasts. Similar to the last distraction, the new Labor Treasurer, Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, announced a revised asset allocation for the proposed Future Fund. During the same press conference, he confirmed a further \$17 billion debt blowout in seven months.

Labor has no credibility when it comes to economic management. This bill does nothing more than hand in the member for South Brisbane's homework nearly nine months late and with Queenslanders saddled with an additional \$17 billion in debt. Even before the coronavirus pandemic began, Labor had put Queensland's economy in the worst possible position. The December 2019 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review revealed that, under Labor, Queensland's key economic indicators were the worst in the country. This is before COVID. Queensland had the nation's highest unemployment, the most debt, the highest amount of bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence. Sadly, today we know that those indicators are even worse. Labor has no plan to drag Queensland out of a recession. Instead, it is trying to pretend this is not happening by introducing this creative accounting bill.

In one of only two submissions to the bill, Queensland economist and former Commonwealth Treasury manager Gene Tunny did not support the bill, stating that it was unnecessary and undesirable. In his submission, Mr Tunny questioned the government's fiscal management, outlining that it is still unclear what the government's current medium-term fiscal strategy is. Well, those of us in the LNP know what the Labor government's medium-term fiscal strategy is. It is nothing. It has no fiscal strategy for Queensland.

I now turn to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. A better name for this bill would be the 'Standover Bill'. This is another bill the Palaszczuk Labor government has rushed to declare urgent after it was introduced on 16 July 2020. In 2019 the member for South Brisbane announced that the Palaszczuk Labor government would review the design of Queensland's current petroleum royalty regime before appointing her mate the former Labor premier of South Australia to chair the review. This is Labor trying to keep its mates relevant.

Labor's review recommended adoption of a volume model to replace the current wellhead value regime for CSG and further consideration of the volume model for all petroleum. In response to the report, the then treasurer announced that the existing petroleum royalty regime, which levies royalties on the value of gas at the wellhead less certain deductions, would be replaced with a model based on the volume of gas produced. The volume model proposes tiered rates, with lower royalties for domestic gas and higher royalties for export LNG. Labor also announced that the proposed rates and the benchmarks for petroleum royalties would be frozen for five years. The volume model proposed by the review will apply to all petroleum produced in Queensland—LNG, coal seam gas, oil and condensate.

Only the economically illiterate Palaszczuk Labor government could introduce urgent legislation to amend royalty arrangements without having determined the volume measurements for the royalty calculations and how they would be made. Even though the member for South Brisbane announced

changes to the royalty arrangements more than a year ago, Labor has failed to develop the underlying royalty management guidelines or even to publicly release economic modelling on the impact that new royalty regime would have on industry and government revenue.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's anti-jobs attack on the Queensland resources sector has been relentless over the past five years. Queenslanders will not forget the member for South Brisbane first announcing the proposed royalty changes contained in the bill when she told Queensland resource communities to reskill. The Palaszczuk Labor government has made it abundantly clear that it does not support jobs in the Queensland resources sector, whether it was the constant shifting of the goalposts on Adani or the continued refusal to back New Acland. The failings of both these bills speak to the economic mismanagement that comes with a Labor government.

As the member for Warrego aptly pointed out, the Palaszczuk Labor government was the last to announce an economic stimulus package but the Premier was the first and only Premier not to deliver a budget. No budget means that Labor is flying blind through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century. It has no plan on how it will drive growth to get Queensland working again. No budget means no plan. I know that is doubly true for my electorate. Labor has absolutely no plan to generate economic growth and jobs on the southern Gold Coast. Because Labor cannot manage the economy, Queensland has more than 200,000 people unemployed—a record number of people without jobs. We know that this number will only continue to grow. In my electorate, I know that people have plenty of fears as they now are unable to work and are worried they will lose their jobs due to the Premier's border bubble bungles.

Labor's anti-business agenda has seen private sector investment plunge. It was at \$207 billion under the LNP. In just the last three years it has plunged to \$128 billion, a fall of 38 per cent. Less investment means fewer jobs. More Queenslanders will be out of work if investment continues to fall under Labor.

Only one party can provide the economic leadership that Queensland needs. Only the LNP has a clear plan to drag Queensland out of this recession and a clear vision to get Queensland working again. The LNP will make Queensland Australia's economic powerhouse again—the best place to get a job, get ahead and raise a family. An LNP government will implement our economic plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs, get Queenslanders working again and drag us out of this recession.

The foundations of the LNP's plan for a stronger economy and secure jobs are to invest for growth and to supercharge the regions, unleashing Queensland's industry and securing our children's future. Our bold plan is to build infrastructure that will benefit my electorate of Currumbin, including the second M1 and the drought-busting New Bradfield Scheme; deliver our \$1 billion congestion-busting fund; slash elective surgery wait list times; and improve education results, which will secure Queensland's future for this generation and many generations to come. The LNP has also committed to no new taxes and a 10-year royalty guarantee. This will give businesses the certainty to invest, to grow and to employ Queenslanders. While the Labor Party continues to drive up unemployment, to drive up debt and to grind the Queensland economy to a halt, the LNP will deliver on our economic plan to get Queensland working again.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.58 pm): I rise to speak briefly in support of the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020. For many years and for many reasons, Queensland has been the envy of all the other states. Certainly one of these reasons is our fully funded defined benefit superannuation scheme. New South Wales is working towards having a fully funded superannuation scheme by 2030. Victoria is targeting full funding by 2035. Despite our highly enviable position, the state has not been receiving the full benefit of the surplus when it comes to our credit rating assessment.

The Debt Retirement Fund provides the mechanism for credit rating agencies to take quarantined liquid investment into account when undertaking their assessment. It is not dissimilar in the household budget when managing finances to a bank seeing your savings or your equity in a home when evaluating your assets and your capacity to service a debt. The value of the Debt Retirement Fund would be netted off against the debt of the state to support the credit rating assessments. As the Debt Retirement Fund grows, we can continue to improve the key metric used by these rating agencies.

As I said, this legislation ensures that Queensland's strong balance sheet receives the recognition that it has long deserved and this is not dissimilar to a bank seeing savings. I always want to liken these things to a household budget because that puts it in terms that most of us can understand. When evaluating assets, you look at not just your savings and not just what is in the bank account but what you have in equity. This bill does that so we get the credit we deserve.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms PUGH: It is sort of like the Barefoot Investor, as the member for Buderim says, and I know that he is a big fan of those books.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast Council, Light Rail

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.00 pm): The Sunshine Coast Council has commenced a multimillion dollar feasibility study for light rail on the Sunshine Coast. Council has progressed this through to the preliminary business case, with a final version due for completion now. The state government has gifted \$7.5 million of taxpayer dollars to the council to develop the detailed business case for the final stage of the proposed light rail network.

Many within the community, along with myself, have long held concerns about this project. There has been little to no public consultation to date. In fact, the last community consultation occurred back in 2014, well before the new 2017 South East Queensland Regional Plan established different criteria with regard to population growth and infill targets. The fact is that council has not been up-front with the community about what this mass transit system means for changes to land usage along the proposed light rail corridor, particularly on Nicklin Way. Residents have a right to know that this plan could potentially see wall-to-wall high-rise development from Maroochydore to Caloundra. Existing homes and businesses will be displaced, with the land resumed by council and potentially gifted to foreign developers.

In the 13-kilometre stretch from Maroochydore to Kawana, the business case calls for a capacity increase from 11,209 dwellings to 50,751 dwellings. It estimates a population increase from 23,222 to over 100,000 people, so we are talking about a five-times increase in population just along that stretch. Such is the concern from residents that the Mass Transit Action Group, MTAG, has been formed to force council into greater consultation around the light rail and associated development. Two of the founding members, Kate Harvey and Tracey Goodwin-McDonald, are leading the charge to help educate the community on how this development will impact local residents and are simply asking the council to consult with the community before it progresses to a detailed business case. I commend division 4 councillor Joe Natoli for publicly voicing his serious concerns about wall-to-wall high-density development along the corridor. What we are asking the Sunshine Coast Council to do is simply put a pause on progressing with a final detailed business case until it has properly consulted with the community.

With regard to another matter, I want to express my serious concern over matters with respect to accountability in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. On 22 February 2020 the *Sunshine Coast Daily* published an article about former CEO Michael Whittaker and his resignation from the CEO position. The article says that Mr Whittaker resigned from the position on Thursday, citing health reasons, a day after the *Sunshine Coast Daily* asked questions about an ongoing investigation into bullying allegations in the organisation.

Two councillors at the time voted against the extension of Mr Whittaker's appointment. Serious concerns relate to this report. The Crime and Corruption Commission of Queensland was involved in this. There is a secret report floating around the Sunshine Coast Regional Council somewhere. The Sunshine Coast Council has not released it. The question is: did the mayor know about the report? Does he have the report? He knows about the CCC investigation, and I table copies of *Sunshine Coast Daily* articles about the CEO's resignation and an article titled 'Lid lifted on CEO contract'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 22 February 2020, titled 'Lid lifted on CEO contract' [\[1336\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 25 February 2020, titled 'CEO resignation: Mayor reveals issues raised a year ago' [\[1337\]](#).

What due diligence did the Sunshine Coast Council do with respect to its CEO appointments? These are serious questions that the mayor and the council still have to answer.

(Time expired)

Waterford Electorate

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.03 pm): Thousands of Queensland small businesses have benefited from our first round of COVID adaptation grants which have allowed so many small businesses to keep their doors open through the crisis. One of those businesses in my electorate is Extraction Artisan Coffee in Slacks Creek. It is one of over 900 recipients of grants in Logan. Extraction epitomises the strength and resilience of our community. It is going to use the grant to hire a local artist to help it promote the wholesale side of its business and paint a new mural. Murals are what Extraction is famous for, so that is great news. I call on everyone in Waterford to make sure that they grab a coffee from Extraction.

Speaking of local businesses, we have partnered with Go1, an international online training company based at Underwood in Logan. In a world first, it is helping to deliver free online training to Queensland businesses and jobseekers. Our 'Netflix for training' is giving employers, operators and jobseekers access to over 400 free online courses—courses on everything from how to write a CV to customer engagement to business leadership.

Speaking of skills, one of my favourite schools—Mabel Park State High School—launched its beauty salon Inspire in 2019 which has been a great success. Not only do students gain a fantastic qualification; Principal Mick Hornby says that local businesses have such a high demand for qualified beauticians that they want to hire students before they have even finished their course.

Skilling programs like this are what make Queensland a national leader in VET in schools. While we are maintaining a strong focus on VET in schools, we are also ensuring that we continue to help Queenslanders back to work. Back to Work has helped tens of thousands of Queenslanders gain meaningful employment and, now with a \$70 million extension, businesses can hire an eligible apprentice and trainee while receiving a \$20,000 boost. Thanks to this program, Logan business Mine Signs has hired two apprentices, Gemma and Braden, while also helping the business purchase new equipment. Owner Carl Merz said that the grant had given it the opportunity to grow its business.

We continue to invest a record amount in infrastructure to futureproof Queensland. Stage 2 of the M1 upgrade is well underway, supporting over 700 Queensland jobs. With regard to the Kingston Butter Factory, I was very pleased to join the Minister for Local Government and the mayor of Logan to announce a \$6.5 million investment to transform the butter factory into a world-class performing arts and cultural precinct. As I said on the day, Logan is one of the most diverse communities in this country and it does deserve its own world-class performing arts centre. The upgrade from our COVID Works for Queensland program is supporting 150 local jobs. As Queensland continues to recover post COVID, we are continuing to invest in the programs that back Queenslanders because only through this can we truly kick-start our economy and get Queensland and Logan back on track.

Clayfield Electorate, Albion Railway Station

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.06 pm): Recent revelations about delays, cost overruns and questionable decision-making surrounding Labor's Cross River Rail project come as no surprise to residents in the Clayfield electorate. Today I want to highlight another failure of the Palaszczuk Labor government when it comes to train services and rail infrastructure in the Clayfield electorate. Three years ago in 2017 the transport minister and Labor's candidate for Clayfield promised \$17.4 million for accessibility upgrades at the Albion Railway Station. It was in fact part of a package of upgrades including East Ipswich, Cannon Hill, Fairfield, Buranda and Loganlea. Then in March 2018 Minister Bailey trumpeted the supersizing of Albion Railway Station in a media release, a copy of which I table.

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 23 March 2018, titled 'Rail revolution: Albion station to be supersized' [[1338](#)].

Claiming credit for a \$750 million redevelopment of the precinct, the minister highlighted that the redevelopment 'included an upgrade to transport facilities and access to the Albion train station'. The developers would, said Mr Bailey—

... work with the state to design improved Disability Discrimination Act 1992 ... compliant access to Albion Train Station and construct ...

As his supersized media statement blathered on, Mr Bailey triumphantly pronounced—

Construction on the accessibility upgrade is also expected to start in late 2019.

Like the government's 'rail fail', like its inability to manage the design of the New Generation Rollingstock as well as the problems with Cross River Rail, the Albion station accessibility upgrade has come well and truly off the rails. Despite Labor's promises and three years to get going, despite the

misleading statements in the transport department's *Disability service plan progress report* for 2018-19 that the project is underway and despite QTRIP funding of \$11.8 million over two years from 2019 to 2021—and I table both of those documents—nothing has happened at the Albion station except more parking problems and greater inconvenience for commuters.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2019-20 to 2022-23, titled 'State Network' [1339].

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Disability Service Plan Progress Report 2018-19, titled 'Department Specific Actions' [1340].

It is in fact a supersized broken promise from the Labor government and the Labor candidate. Imagine then my surprise that my local Labor opponent—the same fellow—has now started a campaign to get Woolloowin station on the accessibility upgrade program. Having failed to deliver on an election promise made three years ago, my opponent now wants another chance to make and then break another promise.

Perhaps he can explain to voters why his promise of three years ago has not been delivered. What is the delay? What happened to the start date of late 2019? Where is the \$17.4 million promised three years ago? Why is he flip-flopping around on this issue? When it comes to public transport in Clayfield Labor cannot be believed and only an LNP government will get public transport working again in Clayfield.

Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (7.09 pm): Trouts Road corridor, north-west corridor, north-west expressway—they all mean one thing to me: a huge freeway through the northern suburbs of Brisbane. I want to clarify a few issues for the fine constituents of the electorates of Stafford, Everton and Aspley. Just the other week the member for Everton was attempting to hide behind a mail-out sent by him to the affected residents. It said 'nothing to see here. Don't you worry about that. Look the other way.'

No mail-out can allay the justifiable fears of the residents of Everton, Aspley and Stafford. Let me explain why. Here are some quotes from the member for Everton's neighbour, the candidate for Aspley, Amanda Cooper, president of the expressway fan club. An article reports Amanda Cooper saying—

... the road would not only ease traffic congestion on Gympie Rd and South Pine Rd, but clear-up the notorious Beams ... roads intersection ...

In the article she states that it—that is, the expressway—was 'the last roll of the dice to deal with traffic congestion for the northern suburbs'. Obviously the north-west expressway is LNP policy. No leaflet can hide the member for Everton from that.

Secondly, why would two layers of LNP government be spending \$10 million on a study unless it was to be used? This is the study by the LNP council and the LNP federal government. I quote the member for Everton, 'The growing volume of north-south traffic on the city's western flank requires a bolder solution,' and he hoped to develop this with council and federal governments. Yes, the same pro expressway governments. Note that the member for Everton is not working with the state government, the only level of government who opposes an expressway.

Thirdly, why is the study being released after the state government election and not before it? Why? What are you trying to hide, Amanda Cooper? What are you trying to hide, member for Everton? I will tell members what they are trying to hide: a dirty great expressway proposed through the heart of Aspley, Stafford and Everton. Member for Everton, there is not a leaflet big enough for you to hide behind on this issue.

Warrego Highway

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (7.12 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about a very important issue for my community. On 5 September last year I paid tribute to the 53 people who had lost their lives since 2001 on the Warrego Highway. I also gave an undertaking to the family and friends of those victims that I would not stop fighting for the improvements that we need. To those wonderful people who have suffered so much and to my community, I reinforce that undertaking.

Since 2010 traffic data shows an increase of 30.4 per cent. Put simply, on traffic data of 18,000 movements a day there is an increase of 5,500 vehicles on that road. That is not an increase of 5,500 vehicles over the entire day but during peak hours. It has decreased the safe opportunity to cross the road by 80 per cent. That is unsafe. Our community are sending people out to cross that highway and they are taking their lives into their own hands. We are wanting money spent on this road.

Fortunately the federal government has come to our aid through Roads of Strategic Importance funding. Sixty million dollars of federal funding has been put on the table and all we are asking for is \$15 million from this state government. Our community has had enough. We want to see these roads and our community safe. Spending millions of dollars on roads in Brisbane to get home 10 minutes earlier does not cut it. When our community leave home and cross that highway they take their life into their hands.

I thank Scott Buchholz, our federal member, who has secured that money. I have called on the minister time and time again to bring forward that state funding. The federal department of infrastructure has said it will bring forward funding when the state is ready. The only people who are listening to my calls are the LNP. Our leader, Deb Frecklington, and our shadow minister, Steve Minnikin, are listening. On behalf of my community I ask the state government for this \$15 million. It is sensible money well spent. It will make our roads safer and it will see my community protected. I thank you for the opportunity to bring this to the attention of the House.

Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Response

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.15 pm): I congratulate the Minister for Health, the Chief Health Officer and the Premier for leading the state through the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Queenslanders perhaps look at Victoria and say we were lucky, but what I say is that it is not luck. We are not in the Victorian situation because this government has made the right choices. The ALP rejected the cut, sack and sell approach from the LNP and built up the public health unit after losing 177 people under the LNP. I will repeat that: we built up the public health unit after 177 people were lost under the LNP. We built up our pathology labs, which means quicker results for Queenslanders, after 69 pathologists were sacked by the LNP. Let me repeat that: we built up our pathology labs after 69 pathologists were sacked by the LNP.

It clearly was not luck that the biggest decision made by the Minister for Health and the Premier was to listen to the advice of the Chief Health Officer and put her advice at the centre of our response. That shows great judgement. All of our health system, all of our government's response, is directed by that advice and the Premier's leadership—no jostling and no egos, which is very different to what we see in the LNP, who I note were not averse to stooping to criticise the Chief Health Officer when they wanted to.

During this time of the pandemic we have seen leadership dysfunction from the LNP in the parliament and in the party as well. Many Queenslanders say to me, 'Can you imagine what it would have been like if they were in charge?' For example, the member for Everton and the member for Kawana blundering around making pronouncements as they did last time. You would see ministers taking action based on a leadership contest and not the best health outcome. We know that we would have seen the borders swung open allowing anyone from Victoria to come up.

Let me reiterate that the Leader of the Opposition called 64 times for the border to be swung open at a time when COVID-19 was spreading silently through the Victorian population. The Leader of the Opposition would have put out the welcome mat. It displays her lack of judgement. It is not luck that has put Queenslanders in this position; it is the decisions of the Premier and this government. Every Queenslanders is thankful that the LNP was not in charge during this pandemic.

North Queensland First

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (7.18 pm): The last thing we need in Central, North and Far North Queensland in the wake of coronavirus is an economic recovery that starts in South-East Queensland. As the leader of North Queensland First and the member for Whitsunday, that is my fear if we have either of the two major parties running the show here in George Street.

There is no doubt that the two major parties continue to be more on the nose the further into the tropics you go. Certainly a good example of that came today when the Labor candidate for Whitsunday laid down his guns and pulled out of the race. Where are their candidates for Burdekin and Mirani? Perhaps they are in a mangrove swamp at Shoalwater Bay. We do know that they are in hiding.

North Queensland First will give the people of Central, North and Far North Queensland plenty of choice at the forthcoming state election. There is no doubt that a lot of people do not follow politics, but it is a contest of ideas, policies and programs. We believe we are unveiling programs and policies that will press buttons with people, underpinned by our \$6 billion Real Royalties for Regions Program that will be funded by existing mining royalties. From my travels across Central, North and Far North Queensland I have no doubt that people believe that money is being wasted and is being spent

predominantly in the south-east corner. Our \$6 billion Real Royalties for Regions Program, which is 12 times more than Campbell Newman and the LNP gave us when they were last in office, will provide \$1 billion for our Building the North capital works program.

In my own electorate, if we have the balance of power we will commit \$19½ million to a new justice precinct in Proserpine, incorporating a new police station and courthouse; \$10 million for new fire and ambulance stations in Mackay's Northern Beaches; \$8½ million for the Airlie Beach cultural centre, working with the private sector to achieve that; \$6½ million to deliver the north Australia maritime college—I know that is music to the ears of Leo Rodriguez and the team from the Whitsunday Sailing Club; \$5 million for a new fire station at Cannonvale; and for the Airlie Beach community in the heart of the reef, \$50 million for a new Cannon Valley P-12 state college. We have unveiled other programs, including our \$2 billion Roads to Recovery Program. I can advise the House that we have earmarked \$400 million for a \$1 billion project to finally flood-proof the Goorganga Plains south of Proserpine and provide a dual carriageway between the O'Connell River and Proserpine itself.

There is no doubt that we cannot achieve that unless we secure the balance of power. I say to the good people of Whitsunday and, more broadly, Central, North and Far North Queensland: ditch the major parties. They are bad news for us. They are bad news for families, farmers and everyday people. You need to put North Queensland first.

Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Response

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.21 pm): In June 1919 in Longreach, my great-grandfather died of the effects of the Spanish flu. That pandemic wreaked havoc across the globe and in Western Queensland Bill Heckenberg's death at the age of 33 left a widow and six children, including my grandmother. Their lives were forever changed. Bill was one of 21 souls who died of influenza in Longreach alone and hundreds more were hospitalised in that relatively small community.

One hundred years on, in the face of another deadly pandemic, this government has worked incredibly hard to tackle the novel coronavirus and protect Queenslanders, especially the most vulnerable, all the while preparing to restart our economy. We need not look to the past to see the benefits of our actions. We can make direct overseas comparisons. For example, like Queensland Norway has a population of five million. Norway has experienced 9,648 COVID cases and 256 deaths. Ireland, with 4.9 million people, has had 27,000 cases and 1,772 deaths. Through our timely and effective action, and with the support and cooperation of Queenslanders, so far we have avoided such terrible statistics.

We have remained tough on our borders, enforced draconian health directives and began a mass public education program on the dangers of COVID-19 and how individuals can prevent its spread. The government worked quickly to flatten the curve, listening to the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, on the borders and so many other issues. Meanwhile, during the midst of a pandemic the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite began a political campaign to open the borders. Rather than listen to the experts, the Leader of the Opposition was more focused on political pointscoring than the lives of Queenslanders. In essence, the 31 October election will be about the experience of our team and the risk of those opposite. This election will also determine our state's economic recovery.

It is only members on this side of the House who support a plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. For example, recently I met with a handful of local small businesses that have received support under the Palaszczuk government's \$100 million Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program. For their commitment and determination, I thank Jeanine from the Coffee Club Sandgate, Jim from newsXpress Sandgate, Toby from Anita East Medispa, Rhonda from Hello World Travel and Ti from Three Wise Monkeys at Bracken Ridge. Thank you for sharing your experiences with me. I am glad to hear that your businesses will benefit from the government's unite and recover plan.

In 80 days the people of Queensland will exercise their solemn right and responsibility to freely elect this assembly and, in turn, the next government of Queensland. It is time that we take the right choice—

(Time expired)

Toowoomba North Electorate

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to talk about a great P&C that I look forward to working with—that is, the Wilsonton State High School P&C. In the past the community and I have had great success working together to get a great sports hall. As the school has grown, traffic

management problems have developed at the front of the school. A lot of kids trying to cross the road get trapped by the lights. We need a scramble crossing and a safe zone. I commit to working very hard with the community to make a safe environment for the kids to get to and from school.

There is also a great P&C at Fairview Heights State School where traffic management and parking is become an increasing issue as the council has put stronger restrictions on street parking. That problem must be solved. I will be representing them and working hard to ensure that we have better parking for all of the community so that the kids can be picked up safely from that school.

There are lots of things going on in my electorate. In the suburb of Blue Mountain Heights, the people who live in Skyline Drive and other areas now find themselves exposed to the Second Range Crossing and the terrible noise coming from the G brakes of vehicles that are running above the legal limit. I commit to working with that community to ensure that we solve the problem on the second range crossing, which has destroyed the peace and quiet that they had. Operators are running vehicles that are too loud and they have to be stopped.

The New Acland coalmine will deliver jobs and economic opportunities to people in our region, but this government continually hesitates on the project. Labor has no stomach for providing those jobs and opportunities for my community. I will be working hard to make sure that those jobs and opportunities exist for the people of my region going forward.

The Boundary Street connection will take a great deal of pressure off the community of Highfields, off the New England Highway. We need a business case. We need to ensure that we protect the corridor so that we have a future opportunity to build a road there and bust the congestion as it builds. A little problem that we have on the New England Highway is with the bike path. You cannot get off the highway and safely onto Hi Winds Road and a couple of other roads. When trucks turn, they stick out into the highway because they cannot cross the bike path. They have to give way. It is a really dangerous situation.

Those are local problems in my area. As a strong local voice for my community, I will make sure that we deliver solutions for the community going forward. It is unacceptable that people have to deal with dangerous road crossings when trying to get home.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.27 pm): When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Queensland, the Palaszczuk government and the Chief Health Officer asked Queenslanders to work together. In the community I represent we certainly rose to that occasion. We complied with the restrictions, we washed our hands, we sanitised and when needed we got tested to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. It is because of that sort of response, which has occurred statewide, that we have been able to refocus on delivering for Queensland. It was not easy. Across the globe economies have taken a hit. Any relief that we can provide to households will not only support them but also aid Queensland's economic recovery.

That is why the Palaszczuk government is providing direct relief to household budgets by continuing to reduce the cost of electricity. Up to \$250 is being wiped off power bills for all Queensland households—\$200 in May and another \$50 in savings due this September. That support for households is going a long way in the community that I represent. Last night I spoke to a couple of locals, Angela and Leigh, who told me that that relief came at just the right time and helped their household get through the pandemic. They realised that the only reason the Palaszczuk government can provide that relief is that the community of Springwood voted to elect a Palaszczuk government that would stop the electricity sell-off.

Let us make no mistake: if the LNP were in government, their cuts to health would have left us unprepared for the pandemic—horribly unprepared. Their sale of electricity assets would have meant higher power bills and a higher cost of living. They wanted to privatise the lot, right down to the poles and wires. However, Queenslanders backed the Palaszczuk government to stop the sell-off and to end increasing power prices that soared by 43 per cent during the LNP's term, and they backed the Palaszczuk government to deliver an economic plan.

This election is again shaping up as a choice for Queenslanders on who they trust with their health and who they trust with the Queensland economy. Once again it appears that the LNP is developing a secret plan to sell assets. There is only one way they will be able to fill their budget black hole and that is by cutting, sacking and selling. Of course, we know what they did to the doctors and nurses last time. Certainly the people I represent are not going to stand for that.

In this election there is a clear choice between a government that is delivering better schools, a government that is delivering better hospitals, a government that is delivering jobs for locals and, of course, a government that is delivering cheaper power bills and savings for Queensland households or a Frecklington LNP government that will open the borders, cut frontline health services and, of course, as we know, sell off Queensland assets.

The House adjourned at 7.31 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, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson