



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

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## THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

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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

#### Constitutionality of Appropriation Bills



**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (9.31 am): I wish to raise a matter concerning the Constitution of Queensland as well as the powers, rights and immunities of this House—matters I believe render legislation unconstitutional and incapable of remedy and requiring the appropriation bills to be withdrawn. I ask the House to bear with me as I take people through a complex matter in as short a time as possible and I will, of course, be writing to you with greater detail, Mr Speaker.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right, in terms of the magnitude of the allegation here I would like to hear what the member has to say.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Section 26C(1) of the Constitution of Queensland requires annual appropriation bills to be referred to portfolio committees for examination in public. It also requires those bills to be accompanied by tabled documents that explain both the appropriation and the estimates of expenditure. Annual appropriation bills are defined in the Constitution as being bills that appropriate funds for a financial year. Standing orders also put in place procedures for the consideration of appropriation bills. Standing orders say that after being read a second time the annual appropriation bill stands referred to the portfolio committees for investigation and report. Subsequent standing orders deal with the processes for committee examination.

The bills introduced by the Treasurer on Tuesday are annual appropriation bills. Each bill purports to authorise the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020. It is clear there will be no referral of these bills to portfolio committees for examination. There has been no necessary associated documentation that explains the appropriation or any estimates of expenditure. This is a breach of the Constitution of Queensland in my submission. It is clear there will be no referral of expenditure as required under the standing orders and no provision for reporting back.

This, in my submission, is a serious contempt by the Treasurer of this parliament. The issue of parliamentary scrutiny of appropriation is so fundamental that I ask that this matter be immediately referred to the Ethics Committee. I also submit, Mr Speaker, that, in your role as the guardian of the rights, powers and immunities of this place, you must also immediately consider the failure of the Treasurer and the government to comply with section 26C of the Constitution and the apparent failure to comply with standing orders to determine whether the appropriation bills currently being considered can be considered and legally passed by the House. It would be invidious if His Excellency the Governor were asked to sign a bill that had not complied with the explicit processes set out in the Constitution.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, I have given you a degree of indulgence. I ask that you write to me on this matter.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Indeed, I was just coming to that. I table a document detailing my arguments about this matter in full. I have written to you this morning enclosing those documents formally about this matter, and I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Detailed explanation (for tabling)' [[1591](#)].


**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Clayfield.

### Constitutionality of Appropriation Bills

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.34 am): On a matter of privilege suddenly arising, I can confirm to the House that the advice the government has received is that these are not annual appropriation bills and the government has legal advice to the effect that they can be passed by the Legislative Assembly.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Treasurer. I will consider both the member for Clayfield's submission and the advice that the Treasurer has just provided to the House in coming to a conclusion on the matter.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 15 July 2020, the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the member for Everton deliberately misled the House on 14 July 2020. The matter relates to a statement made by the member for Everton during the motion on the business program. The member for Everton said—

... we did mention 64 times that the borders should be opened as per the program the Premier originally put out ... The Premier listened to our advice and opened the borders on 10 July as their business principles actually stated.

I sought further information from the member for Everton about the allegation made against him in accordance with standing order 269(5). I have considered the material put forward by the Treasurer and the member for Everton and am of the opinion that there is an arguable case that the statement is factually incorrect. While the opposition did call for the borders to be opened 64 times, these 64 times were not all with respect to the 10 July opening. Rather, there was evidence put forward that calls were made by the opposition to open the border earlier, on 1 July. However, I note that the member for Everton last night made an apology and withdrawal in the House. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.


**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence regarding the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP [[1592](#)].

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Reports


 **Mr SPEAKER:** I table report No. 26 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *Annual report 2019-20*. I also table report No. 27 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *Annual reports of former committees 2019-20*. I commend the reports to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 26, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2019-20 [[1593](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 27, 56th Parliament—Annual Reports of Former Committees 2019-20 [[1594](#)].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Local Government Association of Queensland and Queensland Parliament, Mutual Access Agreement

 **Mr SPEAKER:** The Queensland parliament and the Local Government Association of Queensland have come to a mutual access agreement. This agreement will allow participating regional and rural councils to access facilities of the Queensland parliament for meetings with state government decision-makers and other business they have in Brisbane. This agreement will also allow members of parliament to utilise the facilities of participating councils to meet with constituents.

The formal signing of this agreement will take place this afternoon when I host the LGAQ Chief Executive Officer, Greg Hallam, at the parliament. I am excited that we have found a solution to the tyranny of distance which has made life difficult for MPs who must cater for constituents in communities which are sometimes hundreds of kilometres apart. As Speaker, I want to make parliament work better for regional communities. I am pleased that the LGAQ was a willing partner in this innovative solution, and I thank the LGAQ for its work towards this agreement.

## School Group Tour



**Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Aspley State School in the electorate of Aspley.

## PETITION

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

### Cairns, Hospital and Health Precinct

**Mr Healy**, from 1,205 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to the Cairns University Hospital project and to build the Cairns Health Innovation Precinct within 2022-25 [[1595](#)].

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation (Hon. Jones)—

[1596](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation (Hon. Jones), to an ePetition (3271-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 6,063 petitioners, requesting the House to establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate plans for residential and associated development on land and waters in the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area

[1597](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation (Hon. Jones), to an ePetition (3335-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,152 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track construction of the Pimpama Railway Station

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

[1598](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3389-20) presented by the member for Maroochydore, Ms Simpson, from 1,951 requesting the House to scrap the proposed M2M cycleway at Alexandra Headland; keep carparks east of Alexandra Parade; improve foot paths for cyclists and pedestrians; consult fully with all beach user groups; and improve the natural environment with better landscaping rather than metal fences

[1599](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3392-20) presented by the member for Caloundra, Mr McArdle, and an ePetition (3372-20) sponsored by the member for Caloundra, Mr McArdle, from 111 and 617 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to install 40 km flashing-light signage combined with pedestrian crossings at Caloundra City Private School

[1600](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3393-20) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (3364-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 654 and 252 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to not proceed with the Department of Transport and Main Roads proposal dated May 2020 to turn the main street of historic Logan Village into four-lanes and to develop an alternative in consultation with the community.

[1601](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3300-20) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 447 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise and partnership with local government to share repair works to the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge at Upper Coomera

[1602](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3274-20) sponsored by the member for Maryborough, Mr Saunders, from 365 petitioners, requesting the House to configure the traffic lights and other road infrastructure at the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road and Serenity Drive/Drury Lane intersection to allow all possible turns and traffic direction

[1603](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3345-20) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 236 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise safety upgrades to fix the dangerous intersections at Tamborine Oxenford Road and Michigan Drive; and Tamborine Oxenford Road into Georgina Street, Oxenford

[1604](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3369-20) sponsored by the member for Southport, Mr Molhoek, from 210 petitioners, requesting the House to revoke the current policy restricting driving schools from being able to book their own students for tests

[1605](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3357-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 192 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the recommendations of the review of the repairable write off scheme in Queensland and fast track their implementation

[1606](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3312-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 382 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the currently proposed northern section of the Coomera Connector project from maps until a final decision is made regarding the route

[1607](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3371-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,076 petitioners, requesting the House to alter overtaking lanes, reduce the speed limit and investigate additional wildlife safety solutions for the Kuranda Range Road section of the Kennedy Highway, Kuranda

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

[1608](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3365-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 900 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Department of Housing lease on Atira at 33 Glen Road, Toowong is not extended beyond January 2021

Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Hon. Fentiman)—

[1609](#) Response from the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3376-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 498 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise competency of student's skills and relax the 100-day paid day requirement of the school-based traineeship due to COVID-19 related delays and return to the 50-day requirement to enable all students to finish their traineeships

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

[1610](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3352-20) sponsored by the member for Currumbin, Mrs Gerber, from 1,047 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a full Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken before the installation of 6.2 metre light poles on the Oceanway adjacent to the beach between Tugun and Bilinga


[1611](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to a paper petition (3390-20) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3359-20) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 620 and 831 petitioners respective, requesting the House to build and administer a free 24 hour Tyre Inflation Facility at Rainbow Beach to service Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service customers' requirements

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

[1612](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3362-20) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,194 petitioners, requesting the House to implement all resources available to stop hooning in the Northern Gold Coast


## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In good news today, I can report that Queensland has recorded zero new coronavirus cases overnight. That is the kind of news we all look forward to. It means that the total number of active cases in Queensland is now 27. The total number of cases recorded in Queensland remains at 1,143.

Overnight, 10,140 further tests were undertaken and that brings Queensland to a significant milestone. We have now tested one million Queenslanders. That is further testament to the extraordinary response by Queenslanders to battling this virus. I want to congratulate and thank Queenslanders for their continuing good work in confronting the pandemic, but at the same time I urge people to keep getting tested and, importantly, remain vigilant. If you are sick, stay at home and get tested. Continue to keep up social distancing. We must continue to meet the threat of COVID-19 head-on. We must remember to care for each other, and if we continue to do that we will get through this.

### Renewable Energy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Last month I unveiled Queensland's economic recovery plan at CEDA's State of the State address. The six key priorities of that plan—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, it was booked out. The six key priorities of that plan are clear: safeguard Queenslanders' health, back small business, making it for Queensland, build Queensland's infrastructure, grow our regions and invest in skills. It is a plan that will support 55,000 jobs over the next year through direct infrastructure investment and by unlocking private investment, and it builds on our immediate response that has supported businesses to keep 334,000 Queenslanders in jobs. Our plan includes investing in traditional infrastructure and supporting the renewables industry because that supports jobs.

As part of that plan, I announced \$145 million to unlock three Queensland renewable energy zones across Queensland—North Queensland, Central Queensland and South-West Queensland. These zones will coordinate and foster renewable development in the most suitable areas of Queensland by supporting the delivery of transmission infrastructure. As well, these zones will attract



industrial energy users to create more jobs in regional Queensland. This initiative, as well as the \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund announced by the Treasurer this week, will drive the next phase of renewable energy investment in Queensland to drive our economic recovery.

Today I can announce that we are calling on renewable energy project proponents to throw their hats in the ring and join our renewable revolution. Registrations of interest are now open for the next two weeks for potential renewable energy generation and storage projects as part of our \$145 million renewable energy zones commitment. I encourage all renewable generators including wind, solar and green hydro as well as renewable storage projects to come forward and show how they could play a role in Queensland's renewable revolution. That revolution has seen 41 large-scale renewable energy projects launched in Queensland since 2015, representing around \$7.8 billion in investment and 6,500 construction jobs. Queensland is an energy powerhouse and we have an economic plan for post-COVID recovery, and an affordable and reliable energy supply underpins that plan.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Burleigh, I would not be interjecting if I were you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier.

**Mr Hart:** Such a bully.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Looking forward to going to Burleigh quite often over the next few months. Looking forward to it!

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mudgeeraba as well maybe!

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And Nanango. I am going to Nanango too, hopefully.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Your travel plans are really not my concern.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We have been to Cairns, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Are you inviting me?


**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Premier. I will make the travel arrangements.

### **Economic Recovery, Reef Catchments**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): Queensland's economic recovery plan is directly supporting 55,000 jobs over the next year, and there is more to come as we roll out another \$3 billion in initiatives. As part of that plan, we announced a \$10 million Reef Assist jobs program to deliver 130 nature based jobs in the reef catchment areas of regional Queensland.

Today I am pleased to announce the successful 11 projects in partnership with local governments and natural resource management organisations. The Wet Tropics Management Authority, NQ Dry Tropics and the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council will deliver five projects providing training and over 50 job opportunities through landscape restoration, restoring critically endangered species habitat and remediation works. In addition, almost 50 jobs will be generated by the Jaragun NRM, Reef Catchments NRM and Terrain NRM; Douglas Shire Council will deliver four projects that repair and restore riparian areas and two projects from the Townsville City Council; and Reef Catchments NRM will generate around 25 jobs by growing conservation and nature based tourism. We can continue to deliver our economic plan and create jobs because of our strong health response. As Queensland recovers from the impacts of COVID, we are committed to continuing to invest in projects that create job opportunities right across the state.

### **Veterans**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): While we continue to traverse a path through a once-in-a-generation pandemic and its fallout, we cannot forget the challenges faced and achievements celebrated by an inspirational and revered group of


Queenslanders who will always be heroes to our nation. The very reason we live in a free and just democracy is due in large part to Australia's veterans. They have faced seemingly insurmountable odds, suffered terrible hardship and dug deep. Queensland continues to honour our veterans with a range of memorials and monuments supported by the Queensland Veterans' Memorial Grants Program, which was established in 2018 and has since helped build and save 28 projects across our great state.

My government has awarded more than \$530,000 to community organisations to restore, preserve and create war memorials under this important program and I have now approved the fourth and final round of grants to projects under the program. Thirteen recipients will share in more than \$230,000 to fund community memorials honouring veterans. One of these projects to gain funding, the Cunnamulla War Memorial Fountain, was built in 1924 and is the focal point of the town's commemorative events but has not worked for 15 years. The grant awarded to the Cunnamulla community will allow the fountain to be stripped back to its original finish, limewashed and restored to its full working order. In addition, \$300,000 over three years has been provided to the Anzac Day Trust for support services for veterans.

In another demonstration of my government's commitment to our ex-service men and women, 610 veterans have been successfully placed in Queensland public sector roles through the veterans employment pathway program between July 2018 and July 2020. My government now has a dedicated office for veterans in Ipswich. This office leads whole-of-government coordination on veterans' matters and enables veterans' organisations to engage more closely with the Queensland government. The Queensland veterans portal has been established to assist ex-ADF personnel to access veteran and family specific support services as well as the wider community.

The Queensland government is investing \$4.3 million towards The Oasis Townsville to provide a supportive environment for veterans transitioning into the Townsville community. We have implemented half-price public transport for veterans by expanding the discount to the 19,000 Department of Veterans' Affairs white card holders in Queensland under the age of 64, and in April this year the Queensland government provided a \$1 million grant to Legacy to provide ongoing support during the COVID-19 pandemic. My government not only acknowledges, supports and honours the efforts and sacrifices of our inspirational veterans; but also values their ongoing role and contribution to our wonderful community.

### Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.46 am): When you are a health minister during a pandemic, I can assure you that zero days are the very best days—and today is a 'zero new cases of COVID-19 in Queensland' day. This morning I am proud to report that we recorded our one millionth test for this disease. That is a remarkable achievement. It took almost six months to reach 500,000 tests but only took six weeks for us to double that and reach the magic million mark.

Many Queenslanders have risen to the challenge of this pandemic. We have seen unbelievable support from members of the community, whether that is keeping us safe by staying home and getting tested or even joining our Care Army to care for vulnerable Queenslanders. But our best line of defence has always been our hardworking healthcare workers. They have put themselves between us and this deadly disease. They have done incredible amounts of testing and cared for Queenslanders who became ill. Their outstanding work is the reason we have prevented much greater devastation in our state.

I have the great privilege of meeting and talking with our healthcare workers every single day. Right across the state I have seen firsthand the dedication and commitment they have to keeping their communities safe. I have also seen the frustrations, the exhaustion, the weight of this, frankly, scary task, but I know Queenslanders appreciate all that they have done for us. They know that if it was not for our healthcare workers on the front line we may well be in the same position as the United States or Italy, with devastating first waves and even worse second and even third waves of infections, destroying people's health and their livelihoods, overwhelming their health systems and devastating their economies. Our strong health response is the only reason we are in a position now to get on with our plan for economic recovery. The foundation of our plan to get people back to work and businesses open again is our health response.

I want to thank our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, for her tireless efforts this year to keep Queenslanders safe. I also want to thank all of the staff in all of the teams that have supported her. Just recently we added a specialist healthcare unit to assist people with medical transfers.


Queensland's Specialist COVID-19 Health Care Support Service has so far fielded over 423 calls. They are helping to coordinate the care of the almost 1,000 interstate patients our hospitals treat every single week.

To show our appreciation for the amazing work of our health heroes I am pleased to announce that the Queensland government will celebrate their efforts with a special Health Heroes Week. I am also pleased to announce that, as part of Health Heroes Week, Queensland health workers will get two days COVID pandemic recognition leave. This is for our hardworking doctors, nurses, public health teams, ambos, pathology workers and health professionals and the support staff who help them do their jobs like cleaners and kitchen staff so they can spend two extra days with their families after such a busy year.

We will invite Queenslanders to say thank you to our health heroes across a dedicated week of celebrations for their efforts. The Queensland government will organise events and activities so every Queenslander can participate in thanking our health heroes. I would urge all members to participate and encourage their communities to get involved too.

Finally, today is R U OK?Day and I would urge all members to take just a few minutes to check in on someone they might be concerned about.

### Queensland Economy, Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering on its economic recovery plan from COVID-19. A cornerstone of that plan is our commitment to delivering public infrastructure to improve the lives of Queenslanders and to back Queensland jobs.

The Palaszczuk government is doing the heavy lifting by continuing to plan and deliver its capital program. This includes additional stimulus to help the economy weather the impacts of the pandemic. There is no doubt that the challenge before us is immense. The size of the global recession induced by COVID-19 has not been seen since the Second World War or, in some countries, since the Great Depression. The lesson that all governments have likely taken from these crises is one of reconstruction. Governments must rebuild out of this crisis by restoring the health of our people, reinvigorating our public services and rebuilding our physical structures.

Infrastructure is integral to our Unite and Recover Economic Recovery Plan and it underpins what we value as Queenslanders. It creates jobs, it fosters cohesion and connection, it advances our productivity and it improves our way of life. Infrastructure investment creates an environment where businesses can be confident to operate, invest and take on new workers, which will be crucial as the recovery from COVID-19 continues. Investing and supporting productivity-enhancing infrastructure is a key element of the Palaszczuk government's economic strategy and is integral to the COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

Our government has guaranteed a record \$51.8 billion capital works program over the next four years. In the current financial year alone our investment in infrastructure will directly support 44,000 jobs. These are the Queenslanders responsible for rebuilding our state, providing the schools, hospitals, police stations, fire stations, roads, railways, community centres, art galleries and footpaths that millions of Queenslanders depend upon. Our investment will support thousands more indirect jobs and encourage the growth of businesses across Queensland through improved connectivity, unlocking private sector investment and efficient delivery of government services.

We are rolling out infrastructure in all corners of Queensland, with 60 per cent of our government's capital program this financial year being delivered outside Greater Brisbane. The Palaszczuk government has always valued public infrastructure. Over the previous and current financial years, we will deliver \$1.3 billion more in infrastructure projects than we promised at the last budget.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.


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

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: we do not cut infrastructure. This financial year we are on track to deliver a program 114 per cent the size of the program identified in last year's budget. This is \$1.9 billion more in projects to back jobs and rebuild our state as part of our economic recovery plan. As the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review confirms, the capital program under our government has grown every year since we were elected in 2015, supporting thousands of jobs directly and indirectly around the state.

In each of the three years before 2015 capital spending was cut. When you cut infrastructure spending not only do you allow public roads and buildings to fall into disrepair but you also wear down the public foundations of a decent modern society. More than ever at this crucial juncture in our state's history the Palaszczuk Labor government is resolute in its commitment to build a better society for the people of Queensland.

### Tourism Industry, Infrastructure

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.54 am): We are the only side of politics with a plan to rebuild Queensland's economy and safeguard local jobs. Tourism is the cornerstone of any strong Queensland economy and will be vital to the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery strategy. Today I can confirm that the Palaszczuk government is investing more in the recovery of our tourism industry than any other state government in Australia. We have committed more than half a billion dollars towards the recovery of this sector because we know how important it is to the future of our state.

For decades consecutive governments have talked about the importance of tourism infrastructure, but we are the first government in Queensland's history to walk the walk. Today I am proud to announce that by next year the Palaszczuk government will have delivered 100 tourism infrastructure projects with the private sector throughout the state. We listened to the industry before the last election when they advised us that they wanted to see how we could develop more new experiences across Queensland.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** My goodness! That is why I am so proud to be part of a government that has listened to the industry and delivered. I would like to table this for the shadow minister. This is what governments do: we have delivered \$400 million worth of projects—100 projects across Queensland. I will hand in the homework for you, mate.

*Tabled paper:* Map titled '100 new tourism experiences' depicting tourism investments in Queensland [\[1613\]](#).

We now have close to \$400 million in new investments being delivered with the private sector right across Queensland and we will crack 100 new experiences that will come online at exactly the time we need them most to rebuild the tourism industry and the economy. From the \$40 million Wangetti Trail in the Far North to the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane development—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Stalled.

**Ms JONES:**—Australia's first ever underwater hotel on the Great Barrier Reef—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Private sector.

**Ms JONES:** Can you just listen, mate—just once? Queensland's first ecotourism experience in a national park, in the Scenic Rim—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** If the interjection was interesting and clever, I would take it.


**Mr Dick:** He's never been either of those.

**Ms JONES:** No, neither of those.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Minister, your comments will come through the chair. I am listening.

**Ms JONES:** That is because you care about tourism, Mr Speaker. We are delivering Australia's first underwater hotel, on the Great Barrier Reef, and Queensland's first ecotourism experience in a national park, in the Scenic Rim. These are being delivered by a Labor government. He talked about it a lot; there was a lot of talking back then. There is also Australia's first fully glass bottom bridge, at the Cobbold Gorge in the outback. We understand that to rebuild we must build. We will continue to invest in major infrastructure to deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan and safeguard jobs in the Sunshine State.

### Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): One of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proudest legacies is its record investment in transport and roads. This legacy can be seen across our vast state, whether it is Cape York, Coolangatta or Cleveland Redland Bay Road. Driving west one can see the sweeping viaduct flying over the Toowoomba Range—the

\$1.6 billion Toowoomba bypass, built by 800 local workers. One can see the Greg Sutherland Bridge that opened last weekend as part of the new \$497 million Mackay Ring Road, where 1,800 local workers were inducted on site. One can see our \$2.3 billion M1 upgrades, upgrading interchanges, adding capacity, busting congestion in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, supporting more than 2,000 jobs.

Between Brisbane and Gympie more than \$3.5 million is locked in for major Bruce Highway and rail upgrades to support growing Sunshine Coast communities. Cairns and Rockhampton are experiencing road construction booms with major upgrades underway at the northern and southern ends of those cities. The \$1 billion Rockhampton Ring Road will be one of the largest projects in Queensland's history when it starts in 2022, creating close to 800 Central Queensland jobs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is driving investment in Cape York as well, sealing the wild road to Weipa. Bruce Highway works between Townsville and Ayr at the Houghton River are supporting 544 local jobs along a 13-kilometre worksite. We will start building stage 5 of the Townsville Ring Road next year, as well as continuing Bruce Highway upgrades north of the city, with 560 jobs, after we have already built Townsville Ring Road stage 4 and Riverway Drive. More than \$1 billion is committed to the Warrego Highway, west of Brisbane, with many safety improvements already delivered west of Toowoomba.


Since April the Palaszczuk Labor government has announced a further \$1 billion in road stimulus funding, creating another 1,000 jobs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of our economic plan for recovery. The vast majority of those 100 projects being delivered will support regional jobs and improve safety on rural and regional roads such as the \$35 million Lawrie Street upgrade in Gracemere that is starting later this year, strongly advocated for by the member for Rockhampton.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in Queensland's publicly owned ports, which we will keep in public ownership. We completed the \$127 million Cairns Shipping Development Project and work on the \$193 million Townsville Channel Upgrade Project, which was majority funded by this government, is well advanced, supporting 120 more Townsville jobs, to allow much larger ships to go straight into North Queensland. Those projects, along with our increased investment in the Mount Isa rail line to support our North West Minerals Province, will build better supply chain productivity and boost trade at our ports.

Public transport has enjoyed record investment under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Before COVID-19 we had back-to-back years of record public transport patronage. Queensland Rail is delivering more weekly services than ever before, with record recruitment of train drivers and guards. We have built heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera and duplicated that section and, of course, the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 2 was built in record time before the games. Works on stage 3, from Burleigh to Broadbeach, has already started. Cross River Rail will transform South-East Queensland's rail network and we are also upgrading train stations, expanding park-and-rides and rolling out a smart ticketing solution for the whole public transport system right across Queensland.

This proud record has been achieved without selling public assets. Queensland has been the best state in terms of managing the COVID pandemic and has been one of the best economically. Thanks to strong economic leadership from the Premier, major projects supporting thousands of Queensland jobs are coming online now when they are most needed. However, we cannot afford to lose momentum. Our economic plan builds on the Premier's strong, steady and consistent leadership throughout the pandemic to unite, recover and rebuild our economy to create the jobs that Queenslanders need.

### Apprenticeships

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.01 am): A little over a year ago the Palaszczuk government announced the free apprenticeships for under-21s initiative. That \$32 million investment was about one thing: taking away the cost of training for a young person to get a ticket to a trade. I am pleased to report that, one year on, more than 21,000 Queenslanders have been supported through this program. That is a fantastic result and we are well ahead of our goal of supporting 60,000 free apprentices by 2023. Investing in skills and training will be absolutely crucial to our economic recovery. The program is supporting thousands of young people into careers in key industry areas including construction, engineering, hospitality and manufacturing.


Across the state when I have visited TAFE campuses and local businesses I have met many young Queenslanders who are on their way to a bright career for free thanks to this program. Recently, I visited Buywood Furniture in Alderley where I met Ethan and Bryn. They love the hands-on skills they

are learning at that 130-year-old Brisbane family business. In Bundaberg I met young engineering apprentice Kurt, who said that he was able to use the money saved on training to purchase more tools. Ethan, Bryn and Kurt are just some of the many young Queenslanders undertaking one of 139 free apprenticeship qualifications on offer in the industries where we know there will be jobs.

As we continue to rebuild our economy we will need skilled workers to help Queensland get going. That is why investing in skills is one of the pillars of our economic recovery plan to unite and recover. Our free apprenticeships program backs local businesses by removing the cost of training for taking on a young apprentice or trainee. Not only does this help the business to grow but it also provides fantastic career opportunities for young Queenslanders.

We know economic conditions are incredibly tough and that is why we want to give Queenslanders the opportunity to skill and train for the jobs now and in the future. Now more than ever, our free apprenticeships and free TAFE initiatives are crucial in helping young Queenslanders to find their dream job and build a successful career.

### Energy Industry


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.03 am): Our publicly owned energy companies continue to play a vital role in Queensland's economic strategy for recovery. They are integral to our energy trifecta: the lowest average power prices on the eastern seaboard, reliable supply and a smooth transition to a renewable future, which supports Queensland businesses and industries as they seek to recover and create jobs again. In 2020-21, Powerlink, Ergon, Energex, CS Energy, Stanwell and CleanCo will support more than 3,900 jobs through their combined capital works investment of nearly \$1.8 billion.

Next month Stanwell will start a \$39.7 million overhaul to upgrade the Tarong North Power Station near Kingaroy. The two-month overhaul of Tarong North will support 520 jobs: 440 short-term contractors and 80 existing employees. Of course, the other workers bring all the flow-on benefits to local accommodation and hospitality providers, as well as the transport industry.


That is also happening in Central Queensland, where I know the accommodation providers in Rocky are still enjoying the benefits of the \$50 million overhaul at Stanwell Power Station. At Biloela, CS Energy is partway through a \$60 million overhaul at Callide Power Station, supporting another 200 jobs. Powerlink Queensland's transmission crews are on the ground in Rockhampton doing a \$49 million upgrade to the Bouldercombe Substation. The Bouldercombe Substation works will support approximately 112 jobs and further secure critical power supply to Rockhampton's CBD area.

CleanCo Queensland is generating jobs in the Far North. Cairns engineering company North Queensland Engineering is working on the \$3.3 million overhaul of the Kareeya Hydroelectric Power Station and a \$1.5 million upgrade is also underway on the Tully River weir bridge, supporting up to 16 jobs. At Mackay, Ergon Energy's new \$29.2 million Mackay City Substation is taking shape. This critical project is supporting around 70 jobs and will ensure reliable supply for more than 4,500 customers. Queenslanders' publicly owned energy assets are helping to deliver Queensland's plan to unite and recover from COVID-19.

### Stafford Electorate, Representation

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.06 am): On another matter, I would like to advise the House that I will not be recontesting the 31 October election. I will be speaking further about this later today. It has become very clear to me that I cannot maintain my medical registration as a doctor and give 100 per cent to this job. The people of Stafford and, indeed, Queensland deserve 100 per cent.

### Care Army


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.06 am): Queensland's economic recovery plan has been made possible only because of the incredible health response to the pandemic by Queenslanders across the state. One of the most powerful displays of support can be seen in the Care Army. Last week I was delighted to represent the Premier at the Care Army Governor's Reception. At that reception Queenslanders who signed up to the Care Army to help our seniors were honoured by the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC.

Our Care Army is indeed a special group. They are volunteers from all walks of life and from across all parts of our state who put their hands up to help Queenslanders during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Care Army was created with a focus on assisting seniors who did not have an existing support network of family, friends or neighbours nearby to help them. The response was so overwhelming that Care Army volunteers were able to extend their support to other individuals, families and communities that needed a helping hand. In fact, more than 28,000 Queenslanders signed up to become a Care Army volunteer. That is a truly remarkable effort.

However, that is not surprising given our proud history of Queenslanders rolling up their sleeves and helping their communities following natural disasters and severe weather events. It is also not surprising when we consider we have approximately 714,000 volunteers right across our state. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Volunteering Queensland, the state's peak volunteering body, which managed the registration process and worked with NGOs to place volunteers where they were needed. Thousands of members of the Care Army have been linked with organisations in their local areas and assisted with a range of tasks, including helping seniors with their grocery shopping, delivering medications and helping older Queenslanders use technology to connect with family and friends.

At the Governor's reception, I was delighted to meet with Vicky Meyer from IFYS, which has been supporting homeless people on the Sunshine Coast during the pandemic, including operating a homelessness hub at the Sunshine Coast Stadium. Around 60 of our Care Army volunteers have been working with IFYS, helping provide homeless and vulnerable local people with meals and access to support services. In an absolutely magnificent effort, more than 300 local people have been assisted through more than 405 hours of service delivery and around 7,625 meals have been provided. The Sunshine Coast Stadium operated for eight weeks over May and June. IFYS is now focusing on helping these clients to transition to life off the streets into stable housing and employment and continuing to operate a community kitchen. Since the start of this homeless response, 86 households have been assisted into long-term housing outcomes. Wherever they were stationed, whatever tasks they performed, the members of our Care Army have done a magnificent job to those who needed it, and for that I thank them.

### Child Protection

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): The fiscal and economic update delivered by the Treasurer this week was critically important to Queenslanders to know that the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong economic plan will see Queensland's post-COVID rebound almost twice as strong as the Australian average. It is fantastic news for all of us but particularly so for vulnerable families who are under increasing pressure from the financial uncertainty of the pandemic.

The safety and wellbeing of our children has always been one of the highest priorities of the Palaszczuk government. We have invested \$1.3 billion this year alone to make Queensland's child protection and family support system as strong and resilient as it can be for the safety of the state's most vulnerable children. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk government has added an extra 500 frontline child safety staff to help bring down average case loads for individual child safety workers from the LNP's average of 21 to 18.1 or below, and we have held those average case loads at 18 for the 10th consecutive quarter. We know that across Queensland demand can vary, even within one child safety service centre, which is why I have been very pleased to be working closely with the Together union to implement a new workload management system so it can be as equitable as possible across the state.

Our child safety staff are faced with increasing demand and complexity every single day. We take a call every four minutes about a child suspected of being at risk of harm including relating to the growing prevalence of ice, with an average of 39 per cent of kids being taken into care having one or both parents addicted to this terrible drug. COVID-19 has created a perfect storm for children at risk, with economic pressures on families only increasing the risk of harm. Despite this, we are making up ground. Some 94 per cent of the most urgent investigations are now getting underway within 24 hours—our best result since the recording of data began in the 2008-09 financial year; we have seen the 10th consecutive quarter of stabilising of growth of First Nation children coming into care; child safety officers are working with vulnerable families earlier and more intensively to improve outcomes for children, with over 156,000 inquiries to our early intervention services for families; we have increased the number of foster carers by 17 per cent since 2015; and our vacancy rate for frontline officers is at four per cent.

The death of any child is a tragedy. Of the 58 children known to Child Safety who died in the 2018-19 financial year—and when we say ‘known’, that can often mean that we knew them when they were first admitted to hospital near the point of death—around half of those children died from accident or disease. However, we leave no stone unturned when it comes to how we can improve our systems to prevent further harm to children. It is why we hold ourselves accountable to the recommendations of the Child Death Review Panel, whose reports we publish every year despite the LNP repealing the legislation requiring government to do so at a time when the annual child death figures were in their 70s and 80s. We leave no stone unturned.

I want to thank our frontline child safety officers, who are confronted with the most challenging and complex and sometimes depraved situations imaginable. Their commitment to and their compassion for the safety of children is absolutely magnificent. As we near the end of this term, I want to say to every one of those people that it has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as their minister.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn to a date and a time to be fixed by Mr Speaker in consultation with the government of the state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D’ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended for this day’s sitting to enable members retiring from the parliament at this election to make valedictory speeches of no more than 10 minutes each from 1 pm to 2 pm today with no questions to be put nor divisions called, unless a motion is moved by the Leader the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Member for Whitsunday

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (10.15 am): ‘R U OK?’ I have not always been okay in this place, and it is largely because of my former LNP colleagues. I want to advise the House here today of what has happened in the past because it is in the public interest. Before Campbell Newman was booted out of office, I was summoned to a meeting with the then premier in this building—in A31, to be precise—and at that meeting were the then premier, the then deputy premier and the then chief of staff to the then premier. They frogmarched me up for a drug test against my wishes in the city of Brisbane.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, I want to give you some guidance. As a former mental health minister, I can appreciate what you are seeking to achieve by making a statement. However, personal explanations are generally about matters of a contemporary nature, not of an historical nature. If you have something that you wish to talk about in terms of your current arrangement, I am happy to hear your personal explanation. Other than that, we will not be going down a path of years gone by.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I appreciate your guidance, Mr Speaker. That being the case, I would like to talk about the life of the 56th Parliament on this the final sitting day of the 56th Parliament.


**Mr SPEAKER:** It is not an opportunity to speak, member. It is a matter of making a personal explanation, and that is where we will hear you. Apart from that, there are other forums to make statements to the House.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.



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

### Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.18 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Health Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's 2019-20 annual report No. 41.

*Tabled paper:* Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 41, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2019-20 [[1614](#)].

I have been very humbled to chair this committee over this term of government. This report provides a summary of what was yet another very busy year for the health committee. Our work in 2019-20 included 106 hours of evidence from 452 witnesses, at 38 public hearings and briefings; inquiries into two bills, being the Health Transparency Bill 2019 and the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019; oversight of the health complaints management system; a public works inquiry into the Wynnum and Mermaid Waters ambulance station projects; a substantial investigation into the closure of the Earle Haven residential aged-care facility, conducted with counsel assisting; the completion of the inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care; and, for the first time, we asked Queenslanders their views on voluntary assisted dying. We also tabled 20 reports and papers, making a total of 121 recommendations to this House.

I thank all members of the health committee—the members for Maiwar, Nicklin, Lytton and Rockhampton—but I want to put on record the contribution of our deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, who attended his final meeting as a committee member on Monday. We have both been on the health committee for five years. It has been a long five years. We might not agree on everything, but we always try to find a compromise. I thank the deputy chair.


This House would not function so effectively without the contribution of its committees. Committee work can be time consuming but can also be some of the most rewarding work we get to do as members. Committee members sacrifice a lot of their own time to do this work on top of their electorate and other duties in this House, and often at some considerable personal cost to their home life. I thank the entire secretariat for their amazing support and work to get our reports completed.

Finally, I would like to clarify that I only mentioned my former career as a paramedic and ambulance officer 17 times during the committee's public meetings this year, not at every hearing as some members have alleged. They will hear more of that today. I commend this report to the House.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

#### Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.20 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to Sarah's tragic case as reported this morning. Sarah applied for an exemption so she could get back to Brisbane to say goodbye to her father, but by the time it was granted her father had passed. Sarah has been told that she cannot leave quarantine to go to his funeral at 2 pm today because her border pass was given to see her dad in hospital, not to go to a funeral. Will the Premier now show some compassion and allow Sarah to say goodbye to her dad?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. We are in extraordinary times at the moment. No-one likes the fact that we are in a global pandemic. No-one likes to hear these tragic personal stories. I do not like to hear them. You do not like to hear them, Leader of the Opposition. No-one in this House likes to hear them. The public do not like to hear them. Tragically, families have been prevented from going and seeing their loved ones right across the country. This is not unique to Queensland.

Let me say very clearly: I do not make these individual decisions. They are made by the Chief Health Officer.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth and Treasurer, take your conversation outside. I want to hear the Premier's response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am very disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition would come in here and ask about very personal and sensitive issues when—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, when the Leader of the Opposition knows that it is not my decision. Secondly, let me say this very clearly—

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nicklin will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will not be bullied and nor will I be intimidated by the Prime Minister of this country who contacted me this morning—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I made it very clear that it is not my decision and that I would pass the information onto the Chief Health Officer. It is the Chief Health Officer's decision to make.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Prime Minister said to me at the time that he had not gone public, but I knew that he would go public. This is a very distressing time. My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: did anyone from the Prime Minister's office contact the Leader of the Opposition? We know everything is coordinated these days. To use the personal tragedy of this family is disgusting.

**Mr Bleijie:** The Premier is not the victim here.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Kawana, it is R U OK? Day today. That is exactly what you are—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The people of Queensland know what the LNP is like. They know their true colours. They saw what it was like when they were in government and the member for Kawana was one of the chief headkickers. He continues to be instrumental in the strategy of those opposite.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is absolutely tragic. The Chief Health Officer makes these decisions as the Chief Health Officer should.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is to the Premier. I table a letter that Sarah sent to the Premier on Tuesday this week after her request for an exemption to go to her dad's funeral today was denied. The letter states—

My dad is dead & you made me fight to see him, but it was too late, and now you won't let me go to his funeral or see my devastated 11 year old sister.

Will the Premier now order Sarah's matter to be urgently investigated?

*Tabled paper.* Letter, undated, from 'Sarah' to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, regarding exemption from quarantine [1615].

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said very clearly, it is a matter for the Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer has all the details and the Chief Health Officer makes all the decisions. I made it very clear that these are awful times that everyone has to go through—every single person. There have been over 600 deaths in Victoria—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Everton, you are skating on thin ice. The Premier is being responsive to the question as asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** During this pandemic there have been over 700 tragic deaths in Victoria. Some 700 families have lost loved ones. I am quite sure somewhere along the line there have been people who have not been able to attend funerals. Around the world we have seen bodies being buried in pits, where no families have been able to say goodbye. This is a world pandemic. This is not the time to carry on like this.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is a time when every single person in this House should be working together. These politics of division are disgusting and disgraceful. The people of Queensland will see through every single one of you and what you are seeking to do, which is to divide and put these tragic situations front and centre.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cooper will cease her interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Nothing has changed from the Campbell Newman days. Nothing has changed with those opposite. Nothing will change in the future. Every single one of them should hang their heads in shame.

### **Regional Queensland, Infrastructure**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how Queensland's economic recovery plan, including our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee, is helping regional communities like Townsville recover from the global COVID-19 pandemic?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. We cannot have a strong economic response unless we are dealing with the health response. Let me say very clearly that I never thought in my lifetime that I would have to deal with a pandemic. Every single day it is tough. Every single day everyone on my side of the House is fighting to keep people alive. That is what we are fighting to do. Then we are fighting to get people back into work and people back into jobs. That is what a Labor government does.

We rebuilt an adolescent centre because the LNP cut it. They did not care about people then. They did not care when three young people lost their lives. We rebuilt that centre and now it is saving lives. Everything we are doing in this House is about saving Queenslanders' lives from a pandemic that no-one asked for. You did not ask for it, Mr Speaker. I did not ask for it. No-one knew that we would be dealing with this. We have to deal with it with the best advice we have.

That is why I accept the advice of Dr Jeannette Young. Dr Young and the specialist care unit we have set up are processing hundreds and hundreds of applications. These are very personal applications. It does not matter what it comes to—whether it is child safety or something else—the opposition will seek to use individual cases, and it is disgusting. It is absolutely disgusting. Queenslanders should see through that.

Everyone has lost people in this life. It is dreadful. I have lost Tim Mulherin. He was a good friend of mine and of many people in this House as well. Everyone feels it when there is a tragic death, but it is absolutely not acceptable for the Leader of the Opposition to do what she is doing today. A coordinated campaign with the Prime Minister's office is disgusting and it is demeaning.

I commend the Department of Health and the Chief Health Officer for processing—what was it, Deputy Premier?—a thousand people a week.

**Dr Miles:** A thousand a week.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** A thousand people a week are coming to Queensland from New South Wales hospitals. We are doing the best we possibly can in a pandemic—in a pandemic! I would hope that the Prime Minister would work in a cooperative manner with everyone across this country. This divisiveness and these fights and this intimidation and this bullying is the worst I have ever seen in my lifetime.

### **Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions**

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Last week the government had to write to interstate health authorities to clarify the process for emergency transfers across the border. Does the Premier now regret her cruel comments that Queensland hospitals are for Queenslanders and for the confusion that the comment caused?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Deputy Premier wrote to his counterpart. They have a very good working relationship when it comes to dealing with those different issues.

### **Redlands Electorate, Health Services**

**Ms RICHARDS:** 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 access to health care for people in my electorate and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Redlands for her question and for her ongoing advocacy for health care in the Redlands. The member for Redlands, along with the members for Capalaba, Springwood and Lytton, has been passionate for more and better health services in that community. That is why I was really pleased to join with them to announce the \$62 million investment in stage 1 of the Redland Hospital expansion that will deliver a new 32-bed ward as well as, finally, a six-bed intensive care unit.

We also announced at the same time that we would put \$6 million aside for the planning for stage 2. That is a clear indication of our ongoing commitment to invest in that hospital off the back of an ED expansion recently completed, a birthing suite, refurbishment recently completed and, of course, our announcement of a \$50 million investment in a multistorey car park—all very significant investments in the Redland Hospital. In the process of just stage 1, we will create 179 local jobs. It is proof that our plan to unite and recover—our plan to invest and to create jobs in Queensland—can create the jobs as well as deliver more new and better hospitals. We are getting on with the job of delivering better health care.

It might surprise some members in this House to know that building hospitals is an expense. Employing people is an expense. When those opposite say that they will fund \$23 billion of promises by cutting expenses, they mean that they will cut hospitals like the Redland Hospital expansion. They mean that they will cut staff from our hospitals, just like they did last time. Health is a third of the budget. They cannot cut \$23 billion in expenses without cutting health care—the very health services that have kept Queenslanders safe throughout this pandemic.

It is time for those opposite to fess up. Which of those expenses will be cut? Will it be stage 2 of the Redland Hospital? Will it be the nurses who work at the Redland Hospital? Maybe it will be the midwives who work in the birthing suite whose numbers they cut last time, or the public health units that they cut last time, or the pathology services that they cut last time, or the Chief Health Officer's staff whose numbers they cut last time. That is what expenses are. When the opposition say that they are going to fund \$23 billion of promises by cutting expenses, they mean that they are going to cut our health heroes and they are going to cut our hospitals, just like they did last time.

### **Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney clarify the status of item 6 on the *Notice Paper*, the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2020, and the Labor government's plan to send journalists to jail for doing their job reporting the news?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. The government has made it very clear and has made public statements that we are no longer progressing this bill.

### **Economic Recovery**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the government's unite and recover plan is assisting recovery of the Queensland economy. Is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Aspley for his question and for his interest in the Queensland economy. COVID-19 has delivered a hammer blow to the world economy and Australia is now in recession. As painful as it is, the 5.9 per cent contraction in the Queensland economy in the June quarter is a better result than in New South Wales and Victoria, where the economies have contracted by around 8.5 per cent, and in other parts of the world, with economic output dropping 10 per cent in the US and by a staggering 20 per cent in the United Kingdom.

Because we have contained the virus, our economy is continuing to recover. In July, retail sales increased in Queensland by five per cent, house approvals are up 17.2 per cent, new housing loans are up 16 per cent, jobs are up 5.8 per cent since mid-April, and consumer sentiment is up 18 per cent in September. Because the COVID curve in Queensland has been suppressed, the economic curve has been revived.

I am asked by the honourable member about alternative approaches. Last Monday the member for Everton came clean on how he would stabilise debt and fund \$23 billion in election commitments. What a chilling admission. As I said yesterday, we have seen this horror movie before. The LNP talked about stabilising debt in their 2012 budget, a budget that no Queenslanders has ever forgotten and from which some have never recovered. At the time, Campbell Newman told this House, 'This will be a budget to stabilise the growth in debt.' The then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, told this House that the LNP's budget was a plan to 'stabilise Queensland debt'. The then treasurer revealed his plan to stabilise debt: 'Today I can confirm the total number of FTEs to be lost in 2011-13 will be 14,000.' On 13 September 2012, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, told this House that the LNP's first budget 'put Queensland on a course to stabilise debt'.

When the LNP say 'stabilise', they mean cut, they mean sack, they mean sell. If you give them a chance, they will do it again—and this time it will be worse. They have \$23 billion in cuts to find, cuts to the services that Queenslanders rely on—cuts like the Barrett Adolescent Centre, which was shut down by the LNP and replaced by the Palaszczuk Labor government; cuts to health including 4,400 health workers and around 1,800 nurses and midwives; cuts to education, to family services, to transport and to industry attraction to the cities, to the suburbs and to the regions.

No-one should be under any illusion in our state that \$23 billion in cuts should the LNP form government will have severe and long-lasting impacts on our state, on our community and on our people. In her own words, the Leader of the Opposition is again seeking to 'stabilise' debt. After 1,000 days in the job, it is time for the Leader of the Opposition to set out the cuts the LNP will make to pay the bill this time.

*(Time expired)*

### **Grosvenor Mine Explosion, Report**

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The minister has received the interim report of the inquiry into the Grosvenor mine explosion disaster. Will the minister immediately table this important report so Queenslanders can know the truth about this tragic incident at a Queensland workplace?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Burdekin for the question. Monday last week the board of inquiry delivered to the Queensland government the interim report into this serious accident at the Grosvenor mine. I take this opportunity to thank the board for their forensic and their very considered work. I also want to take the opportunity to inform the House that I have written to board members seeking their advice on certain matters contained within the board of inquiry response. I am sure that all members of the House understand the need to proceed in a manner that does not prejudice any potential future prosecutions, and I know that the member for Burdekin would agree with that as well. I am awaiting a response from the board which will then inform my decision on the release of the interim report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to call out some unfortunately quite reckless statements by the member for Burdekin. The board's expert deliberations will be far more effective than the parliamentary inquiry we often hear the member for Burdekin wants. It is appropriate that experts in law and mining hazards are the ones to examine this incident and others, not politicians.

Furthermore, the member would be fully aware there are concurrent investigations underway into the Grosvenor incident. His comments while the inquiry is underway are at best reckless and at worst borderline negligent. To suggest that somehow this is some sort of political ploy is reflective of the opposition's flippant and opportunistic approach to the safety of Queensland mine workers. Our government will consider and act on the evidence based recommendations of the board of inquiry rather than any electioneering of those opposite. As I have said before, I respect the board of inquiry and its members and I respect mine workers and their families. It is time the member for Burdekin did the same.

### **Queensland Economy, Infrastructure**

**Ms LINARD:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's strategy to rebuild Queensland's economy by delivering major infrastructure projects?

**Ms JONES:** As the honourable member knows, we are the only side that has a plan to unite Queensland's economy and move our economy forward given the pandemic we are all facing. May I firstly acknowledge the leadership of our Premier during this pandemic which has kept Queenslanders

safe and enabled construction projects like Cross River Rail to continue throughout this pandemic. More than \$4 million a day is being pumped into our local economy through the pay packets of workers who are working on that project because we have had such a strong health response.

It is not only the workers who go to work onsite every day but also all of the Queensland businesses that have benefited from the packages of works we have been letting throughout this process. In fact, I can advise the House today of a significant milestone: more than 400 Queensland contractors have now shared in more than \$370 million worth of contracts on the Cross River Rail project. This investment, which was cut and scrapped by those opposite when they were in government, could not have come at a better time for our economy. The fact that we made the decision to push ahead with this construction project is keeping hundreds of families in work and hundreds of pay packets going home.

**Mr Bleijie:** All the eggs in one basket. Imagine how many more could be kept in work if the government did a few other jobs.

**Ms JONES:** I take whatever mumblings are happening over there, but can I say this—

**Mrs Frecklington:** We are actually not today, Kate. We are giving you a free run.

**Ms JONES:** Okay. Well, that is great.

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

**Ms JONES:** We might be acknowledging that milestone, but the milestone that Dan Andrews is fronting the cameras on at 11 o'clock today is the fact that more than 700 Victorians have now died because of coronavirus. Contrast this with Queensland, where we have had only six deaths, five of whom I believe were associated with the *Ruby Princess*. That is the Queensland we are living in today. That is the Queensland where I know my nanna is safe. That is the Queensland where I know my children are safe, and they are safe because of the strong leadership of our Premier and Deputy Premier. I do not know what fantasy land those opposite are living in if they cannot see the reality of the grief of Victorian families who have now buried over 700 of their citizens. My brother is in lockdown with a brand new baby that no-one in the family has seen. That is the reality of Victoria.

**Mrs Frecklington:** This is a question about infrastructure.

**Ms JONES:** Mr Speaker, they do not like it. I would want to change the subject if I were you too.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister will put her comments through the chair.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Keep talking.

**Ms JONES:** I will.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms JONES:** On the last day of parliament you owe it to the people of Queensland to tell them your plan.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I asked that comments come through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

### Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. Because the Labor government did not give a border exemption to an expert technician to repair part of the only gas pipeline into Brisbane, supply was reduced and spot prices spiked from \$4 to nearly the market cap of \$400. Can the Premier explain why Labor's priorities are celebrities and AFL players and their entourages instead of experts to maintain energy security and energy costs for Queensland businesses?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I do not have details about that. If you want to forward it to my office, I will ask the minister to get back to you.

### North Queensland, Road and Transport Infrastructure

**Mr STEWART:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's \$1.5 billion roads and transport program in North Queensland and how it is creating jobs as part of Queensland's economic plan for recovery?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Townsville for the question. The member has been a very strong advocate for his community, as are the members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra. It is good to have a question. I have only had one question from my shadow since 2018, so the interest in my portfolio is appreciated.

We have seen a huge investment in Townsville under this government, yet we are seeing more. The Palaszczuk government has awarded the contract to build the \$230 million Townsville Ring Road stage 5. It is great to see a ring-road built by Labor governments. In addition to that, I am pleased to advise that shovels have hit the ground on early works at the \$107 million Townsville northern intersection upgrades. Both of those projects mean 560 North Queensland jobs, which is fantastic news for their economy.

The Townsville Ring Road stage 5 was a Palaszczuk government election commitment. We eventually got the federal government on board in 2019 after 12 months of lobbying by the three Palaszczuk government MPs in Townsville. The project will complete the four-laning of the 22-kilometre ring-road, while the northern project will duplicate 5.2 kilometres of the Bruce Highway and upgrade the Black River Bridge.

Since 2015 it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has built ring-road stage 4, Riverway Drive and \$790 million in road upgrades. These new projects are part of a \$1.5 billion pipeline of North Queensland road and transport upgrades, supporting 1,400 North Queensland jobs over the next four years. This pipeline of projects is possible because Queenslanders have stepped up to help manage the health impacts of this global pandemic with the strong leadership of the Premier.

Contrast that to those opposite, who crowed about cutting \$1.6 billion in Queensland roads when they were in government, sacked 700 RoadTek workers and sacked 14,000 Queenslanders. North Queenslanders will never forget that another person sacked Townsville workers: Clive Palmer. Now the LNP is reportedly striking a dirty preference deal with Clive Palmer. They cut, they sack, they sell, and now they are doing dirty deals with Clive Palmer. It is in their DNA. They tried to sell off the Townsville port. They tried to sell off the Mount Isa rail line. They wasted money—\$30 million—and now they are running a defeated Newman government MP as their candidate in Townsville. They recycle Newman government era MPs. They recycled the member for Broadwater. They recycled him, and he is now back with 60,000 cars being dumped on the Gold Coast Highway after he cut and ran from Townsville. He is too scared to run against the member for Mundingburra again, and he left for a safe seat on the Gold Coast.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, member for Glass House and member for Broadwater, you are all warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** We back Townsville all the way with the stadium, Riverway Drive, berth upgrades, port channel upgrades and Bruce Highway upgrades. We back infrastructure and jobs—not the cuts of those opposite, not dirty deals with Clive Palmer and not running away from Townsville to the Gold Coast.

*(Time expired)*

### **Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions**

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier had time to meet with AFL officials and talk to boxing promoters but washes her hands of Sarah's case and other gut-wrenching cases blaming the Chief Health Officer. Why does the Premier have one rule for celebrities and sports stars but a young girl from Queensland cannot go to her dad's funeral?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, your question contains inferences regarding the Premier. I ask that you rephrase your question or I will ask the next questioner to ask their question.

**Ms BATES:** The Premier has had time to meet with AFL officials and talk to boxing promoters but washes her hands of Sarah's case. Why does the Premier have one rule for celebrities and sports stars but a young girl from Queensland cannot go to her dad's funeral?

### **Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order**

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question is ruled out of order.

### **Works for Queensland**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is to the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister update the House on how the Works for Queensland program is delivering for regional Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. At least allow the minister to rise to his feet to answer the question before interjecting.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question and for his great support for Works for Queensland and what it is doing in Central Queensland. Queensland is in a unique position, as economies and health authorities across the world continue to grapple with the fallout from the pandemic. Queensland's strong health response means we are now in a prime position to respond with the Palaszczuk government's equally strong economic plan—a plan we are already rolling out. Feeding into that plan is our signature job-creating \$600 million Works for Queensland program. Those of us who sit on this side of the House know how vitally important it is for people living in regional Queensland to have access to infrastructure, services and facilities that are right for them. That is why we empower local governments to decide on the things that are important to their communities and allow them to get on with the job of delivering.

Works for Queensland has delivered in spades in regional Queensland. For example, there have been more than 2,000 projects and over 20,000 jobs created and supported so far across the first three rounds of Works for Queensland—every one of those has been in the regions. In relation to the Rockhampton Regional Council, I can advise the member that some 37 projects worth more than \$27 million and supporting almost 750 jobs have been delivered. An extra \$6.4 million for an upgrade at Rockhampton airport, including another 57 jobs, is on the way from the extra \$200 million Works for Queensland round in response to the pandemic that has supported our economic recovery and is part of this government's plan.

Works for Queensland has delivered across regional Queensland. When I had the opportunity yesterday to meet with South Burnett's mayor, Brett Otto, he had nothing but good things to say about our Works for Queensland programs and how brilliantly they were working for his region. They have delivered some 67 projects worth \$13.145 million and nearly 70 jobs—including works around the Kingaroy Town Hall, where I know there are a few parking issues—with another 30 jobs on the way. He even gave me a letter from the Murgon Business & Development Association thanking me for the wonderful new footpath in the CBD funded through Works for Queensland. The mayor also thanked the Premier for staying calm and considered in the face of calls to open our borders. He is happy to see them stay shut. His community knows they need to stay shut. Given this sentiment in the LNP heartland, it is amazing that members on the other side do not understand that. They need to support Works for Queensland, but they would cut it because it is part of their cut, sack and sell agenda.

*(Time expired)*

### **Vegetation Management and Reef Regulations**

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Premier. In the last five years, one in 10 residents of regional Queensland have moved away. Given the need for jobs in rural and regional Queensland, we need to facilitate economic development in these areas through new agriculture and by allowing landholders to sustainably manage their vegetation. Will the Premier please repeal the overly complex and ineffective legislation in the Vegetation Management Act and scrap the proposed reef regulations to help kickstart the Queensland economy?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer to both of those questions is no. I will say to the honourable member that one of our key planks of our economic recovery is about the regions and focusing on growing our regions. We understand how important that is as part of our economic recovery and also how important agriculture is. As I have said in this House, resources and agriculture have been the stabilisers of the Queensland economy. The Premier of Western Australia and I often talk about how our resources sector and jobs have been able to continue because of the strong health response, and part of that strong health response is the border controls we have in place.

As I said in this House earlier, these are very difficult decisions but these are decisions that are keeping Queenslanders safe. Tragically, we have had six people who have passed away due to COVID—five of those from cruise ships. Every single person is a valued person to me. We need to think about what Victoria is going through at the moment, with over 700 deaths. The impact those families would be feeling is absolutely horrific.

These are tough times. Each and every day, the burden of that falls on my shoulders in terms of how we are responding to the health crisis and how we are responding to the economic crisis. My job is to ensure that we get people back into work as quickly and safely as possible, but people cannot go into work if they go into lockdown. What we have seen in Victoria is families having been kept apart. Minister Jones was just telling me that relatives in her family cannot go and see their new baby—



**Ms Jones:** Two kilometres away.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They are two kilometres away—because they are in lockdown. The economic impact of that on the Victorian economy is huge. I do not want to see that happen in Queensland. I absolutely applaud the work that the mayors have been doing. They have been in constant phone hook-ups with us during this whole process. I want to thank members of my team who have been working so constructively each and every day in their own local communities giving people the most up-to-date information.

As I said, these are extraordinary and unprecedented times. As we continue through our path to recovery, there are people out there who have lost their jobs and that is why our economic recovery plan is about getting people back into work. Some of those jobs are going to be different. I cannot put all of those pieces into the puzzle at the moment, but we will get there if we work together and are united and focused in our recovery, not divided. I say to the members of the opposition that we want to work with you. We do not want to work against you; we want to work with you during this pandemic. It is absolutely disappointing—

*(Time expired)*

### Cooler Cleaner Schools Program

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's Cooler Cleaner Schools Program and whether she is aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for her question. It is a timely one because this government gets on with the job when we make promises. After hearing the Premier just now, can I say thank goodness that Queenslanders have a Premier like Annastacia Palaszczuk who has their back. Our air-conditioned classrooms are being enjoyed by schoolchildren who are able to go to school. They are not closed like they are in other states. They are open and we are air-conditioning them, with 437 schools having been air-conditioned since our program was announced. Schoolchildren are in those classrooms because we have kept Queenslanders safe.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Those opposite can yell all they want.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms GRACE:** They think they are going to yell themselves into government—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Gympie, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms GRACE:** Let me tell those opposite that it takes more than yelling across the chamber and it takes more than bullying and intimidation of a Premier who has stood up for the people of Queensland for them to win government. The manner in which they carry on is a disgrace—each and every one of them. If we had gone with those opposite, borders would be open and schools would be closed, like they are all around the world and like they are in Victoria.

Members opposite were willing to open our borders and let COVID-19 into this state. We have stood firm. We have taken the medical advice. We have done what is right for Queenslanders and we have kept them safe, and we will continue to do so.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Gregory and member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms GRACE:** When you look at our policy and when you look at what we have been doing, this Premier has worked relentlessly

**Mrs Frecklington:** What is that policy?

**Ms GRACE:** You do not want to hear it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister will put her comments through the chair.

**Ms GRACE:** The member for Nanango does not want to hear what the policy is. I ask them: what is their policy? We know what their policy is. It is to open the borders. Let them all in. Open them all and they will air-condition just classrooms in 2028. The member for Mansfield was right in asking that question.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Buderim, I am sure you know what I am about to say. I think you have topped the tally for the term. Under standing order 253A, I ask you to leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 11.00 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let's calm things down a little bit, members.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Back to yours.

**Ms GRACE:** Back to mine all right. There he goes, the member for Buderim. He thinks he can yell across the chamber and bully us. It does not work. We will not be intimidated. The member for Mansfield was right in asking that question because five of her eight schools have already had their air conditioning completed, and we are getting on with the job.

When we look at alternative policies, there are not any from those opposite. They are going to air-condition classrooms by 2028—and it is just classrooms. We are doing libraries and staffrooms at the same time. When we look at the Greens, they are more interested in funnelling electorate money from Clayfield and Stafford into McConnel. I have seen an email which states that they were pressured by Kirsten Lovejoy into funnelling those funds.

At the end of the day we have students enjoying their classrooms because of this Premier and this government. Those opposite are not fit to govern.

*(Time expired)*

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Advertising**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The CCIQ says Labor's economic recovery plan lacks detail, yet the Labor government is promoting itself with a massive taxpayer funded marketing campaign. Will the Premier tell Queenslanders how much of their money is being spent, and will this glitzy marketing campaign continue during caretaker mode?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Broadwater for the question. Of course, there are caretaker conventions and those guidelines will be followed. Let me say this: there is no way in the world that this government, my government, will spend anywhere near the hundred million dollars of taxpayers' funds that they wasted on Strong Choices. That is right. This one here, about the asset sales—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—that is it. Whilst I am on my feet let me say this, as I wanted to put it on the record—and I will have something more to say later about the member for Mundingburra. I say thank you to the member for Mundingburra for winning that election in 2015 because you defeated Mr Crisafulli.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier—through the chair.

### **Community Safety**

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister provide the House with any alternative plans for keeping Queenslanders safe?

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you to the member for Cook for the great question and for being a strong advocate for community safety in her electorate. What a great electorate it is and what a great lot of police and Corrective Services we have in the electorate of Cook.

We have a very proud record of delivering for community safety in Queensland. It is a record when we look at the books around our commitment to the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services. There are over 12,000 police in Queensland—a record. For the first time ever there are more than 12,000 police in Queensland—an extra 600 officers put on since we formed government. Our commitment goes further than that, because we properly fund the Queensland Police Service. We properly fund their activities. That is important because we always have to look at what the other side do, not what they say. When they are in government what do they do? They slash and burn. They cut, sack and sell. Even the police are not safe from them.

**Mrs Frecklington:** The minister didn't even make a minute on Labor policy. No wonder crime is out of control.

**Mr RYAN:** The member for Nanango interjects, but she was sitting around the CBRC table ticking off all the budget cuts for the Queensland Police Service. We may as well nickname her the 'Sweeney Todd' of Queensland politics because she gets in there and she slashes, cuts and burns. We cannot take her seriously. We cannot take the LNP seriously when it comes to community safety. If they had taken community safety seriously, they would have properly funded the Queensland Police Service. All we have to do is look at what they did when they were in government. They put such pressure on the budget of the Queensland Police Service that what had to happen? The Queensland Police Service had to sack 110 police officers. We put on officers; they sack officers. What they also had to do was cut training. They cut firearms training. They wanted to sell the academy. They did not properly fund equipment for our police, so our police had to buy their own body worn cameras.

Our government has a very proud record when it comes to supporting the Queensland Police Service. It is a record which stands on its own two feet. Their record of course is to cut, slash and burn. Of course, they had secret plans—secret plans to sell off our prisons and secret plans to sell off watch houses. Imagine that! If the LNP came back into power, they would dust off the Campbell Newman playbook, which is about cutting, sacking and selling. Our prisons would be sold off, our watch houses would be sold off and the Queensland Police Service, once again, would be put under budget pressure.

Our government is committed to community safety. We are committed to the Queensland Police Service. We fund them well. We support them. We give them extra officers. We give them extra resources. The plan of those opposite is to cut, slash and burn. It is their secret plan and it is the only way they will be able to pay for their election commitments.

*(Time expired)*

### **Shark Control Program**

**Mr PERRETT:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Given the government received a report in September 2019, 356 days ago, that Queensland's shark patrol program would be bolstered by highly effective aerial detection systems to maximise the likelihood of detecting dangerous sharks in areas including the Gold Coast, why did the Labor government fail to act on this report?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said yesterday in the chamber, this is an absolute tragedy and something that we have not seen on Gold Coast beaches for over 60 years. For many years we have had the drum lines and the shark net controls in place. I can even remember earlier this year there were calls to have them removed. We stood steadfast and we did not remove them from Gold Coast beaches.

I know that the mayor has been speaking with the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. They are looking at further enhancements that can happen along our beaches, especially as we enter into the September school holidays and summer. Once again, on behalf of all members of this House, my heart goes out to the family of the man who was tragically taken the other day in the most horrific of circumstances. I read those reports about people having been on the beach and witnessing it. Those memories will stay with them forever as well as the ambulance officers who dealt with—

**Dr Miles:** And the surf lifesavers.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and the surf lifesavers. Any improvements that we can make for our protection we will. Human safety always comes first. I am quite sure that the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries will continue the liaison both with the mayor and with the community.

### **Social Housing**

**Mr POWER:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is creating jobs and supporting vulnerable Queenslanders by building social housing, and also is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. The Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan is squarely focused on supporting construction workers in this state. Nearly 240,000 Queenslanders go to work every day in the Queensland construction industry. We on this side of the House are absolutely committed to creating jobs for them. We know what the alternative policy is: opened borders and closed construction sites.

Our plan for Queensland's economic recovery will help keep tradies in work, investing in more social housing. In fact, this year alone over \$500 million was invested into social housing capital infrastructure. We will commence 685 new social homes this year. That is boosted through the \$247 million Housing Construction Jobs Program, accelerated through the Premier's \$100 million Works for Tradies program. That will support 1,500 extra construction jobs each and every year.

We are also working in partnership with the community sector—unlike those opposite, who in office went to war with the community housing sector. We have unlocked \$2 billion in equity for the community housing sector. I am pleased to advise the House that the top five initiatives under Partnering for Growth are delivering 923 additional social houses already, supporting 1,200 construction jobs in this state. The next stage of the Palaszczuk government's 10-year Housing Strategy will build thousands more homes for vulnerable Queenslanders, supporting construction jobs across the state.

We know that the LNP's housing plan for Queensland means just one thing: cuts and fewer homes for vulnerable Queenslanders. We know that they need to pay for their \$23 billion black hole, which means less social housing and fewer jobs for construction workers. We do not have to look far to see the LNP's plan for Queenslanders—Housing 2020. They are probably so lazy they will not even change the date on it! It had a plan to crush social housing construction by 90 per cent, down to 70 homes a year. In Logan, since we have been elected we have already delivered 387 homes.

We know that the LNP is cruel. Queenslanders will never forget its cruellest act: putting a tax on Queenslanders in social housing. It put a tax on disabled people in social housing in Queensland—on their carers allowance, on their mobility allowance and on their pension supplement. IT put a tax on their pharmaceutical allowance, the very money that those disabled Queenslanders were supposed to use to buy life-saving medicine. That is what you get with the LNP: cruelty, cutting, sacking and selling.

### **Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why former Cricket Australia and now Golf Australia CEO James Sutherland and his family were given an exemption to skip mandated government hotel quarantine to stay in the AFL VIP bubble but doctors who help hundreds of patients in my electorate have not been able to get an exemption and move backwards and forwards across the border to provide vital local medical services?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to look into that question. My understanding is that as doctors are medical professionals they are allowed an exemption. I will follow that up with the Chief Health Officer to get more advice. If the member can give the details to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, he will respond directly to her.

### **Rural Fire Service**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for the Rural Fire Service and if he is aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank the member for Keppel for her outstanding advocacy for not only the RFS but also Fire and Rescue as well as SES in her area. The area around the Keppel electorate has been a very busy operational area.

We have been working very hard with rural fire brigades across this state to deliver new trucks which are built right here in Queensland, creating 150 jobs as we unite and recover from COVID-19. Since 2015 we have fast-tracked delivery of 330 new rural fire trucks, including 11 new appliances to the brigade in the Keppel area, worth over \$1.7 million. All of these trucks are built here on the Sunshine Coast and at Crows Nest, representing the biggest investment in the firefighting fleet in over 20 years, with the Palaszczuk government delivering an average of 60 new trucks every single year. When the LNP were in government they delivered a measly 68 trucks across their entire term of government. We have delivered 330; they delivered 68. Members can do the numbers.

I find it galling that members of the LNP have been running around this state spreading rumours about the budget for the Rural Fire Service decreasing. Our brave volunteers deserve so much better than this shameless politicking from those opposite. As I announced on Tuesday, Yellow Ribbon Day, the budget for the Rural Fire Service for this financial year is \$47.1 million. It is up from the \$40.8 million last year and it is a whopping 33 per cent higher than the amount in the LNP's last budget. Members

should not just take it from me. *CQ News* recently published an article fact-checking LNP claims and stated that Labor is not spending less on the RFS this year than last year. I table that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper.* Media article, dated 27 August 2020, titled 'Fact check: LNP says Labor is cutting RFS funding—is it?' [\[1616\]](#).

I note that this article was published before we announced this year's funding of \$47.1 million. This includes operating expenses, more new appliances and capital expenses as well as helping out brigades with things like fuel and maintenance, which the LNP refused to fund when in government. The LNP should stop running around the state scaremongering about the RFS budget and come clean with Queenslanders about their abysmal track record when it comes to rural fire brigades.

While we are in caretaker mode and out electioneering, our brave men and women from QFES—our staff, volunteers and senior officers—will be out there on the front line managing fires and potentially even cyclones. I pay tribute to each and every one of them. I thank them for their service on behalf of this government. We have their back—unlike those opposite, who simply will have to find \$23 billion of cuts to fund their promises.

### Garnaut, Prof. R

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Premier. In 2008 when he was designing Labor's carbon tax, Ross Garnaut said that Queensland farmers should stop producing beef and sheep and instead farm kangaroos. How out of touch is the Labor government that it now wants Ross Garnaut to come up with Labor's pale imitation of the LNP's visionary plan to build the New Bradfield Scheme?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Ross Garnaut is a very respected man.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. At least we have a plan for the New Bradfield. We have a committee. Those opposite have promised \$15 billion. Where is the money coming from? What are you going to cut? Who are you going to sack? What are you going to sell?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We actually need to know the truth. It is about time the opposition came clean with Queensland and told us its plans.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are already on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.17 am.*

### TAFE

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for TAFE and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Gaven for her question. She is an incredibly strong supporter of TAFE, as are all members on this side of the House. We back our TAFEs and we back our apprentices and trainees. We have a plan for Queensland which is all about investing in skills and training. We have invested more than \$105 million in upgrading TAFE campuses right around across Queensland: \$31 million in Pimlico; \$7 million in Toowoomba; \$21 million in Ashmore on the Gold Coast; \$7 million in Southport; \$15 million at the Mount Gravatt campus; \$15 million in Cairns; and \$10 million at Alexandra Hills. These projects are not only delivering the infrastructure that future generations will need in their trades; they are also delivering jobs on the ground right now. We want Queenslanders to be able to access high-quality training facilities.

It seems that we are not the only ones proud of our investment. Last week the member for Southport visited the Ashmore TAFE to check out part of our \$21 million upgrade. The member for Southport said in a Facebook post—I am happy to table the Facebook post—that he was pleased the Ashmore TAFE developments were occurring as well as upgrades to the Southport campus.

*Tabled paper.* Extract, undated, from the Twitter account of the member for Southport, Mr Rob Molhoek MP, regarding TAFE Queensland [\[1617\]](#).

The member finished the post with the LNP's election slogan. Where was the member for Southport in the last government? He was an assistant minister when the Leader of the Opposition was assistant minister to the premier when they sacked TAFE teachers and when they went to sell off our TAFE campuses. Those opposite are happy to be out there singing our praises for investing in TAFE campuses, but when they were in government their record on TAFE was appalling.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** They have \$23 billion in promises—

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 11.19 am.*

**Ms FENTIMAN:** With \$23 billion in promises, what are those opposite going to cut?

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Are they going to sell off our TAFE campuses again? Are they going to sack our hardworking TAFE teachers? Do our TAFE teachers have something to worry about? Everyone was told last time that public servants had nothing to worry about. We know that cutting, sacking and selling is in their DNA. We know that our TAFEs are going to be sold off again.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** We know that our TAFE teachers are in trouble.

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


**Ms FENTIMAN:** It is absolutely appalling that those on the other side go to our TAFE campuses, where we are spending millions of dollars upgrading them for Queenslanders, and try to claim it as their initiative when in fact their record is the opposite. They sold off our TAFE campuses. They scrapped Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. They sacked TAFE teachers. They have no plan for the economy except for cutting, sacking and selling.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Constitutionality of Appropriation Bills

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (11.20 am): I rise to make a ministerial statement and, in doing so, address the issue raised by the member for Clayfield in relation to the constitutionality of the appropriation bills currently before the House. I note that you have agreed to consider the matter, Mr Speaker, and I offer this contribution to assist you in your deliberations.


I am advised that the bills are constitutionally valid as the Constitution of Queensland Act permits the introduction of special appropriation bills to authorise the expenditure of money from the Consolidated Fund other than for a full financial year—for example, for part of a year or standing appropriation. Subsection 26C(3) of the Constitution of Queensland defines an 'annual appropriation act' as an act that appropriates an amount from the Consolidated Fund for departments of government or the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for a financial year.

The Appropriation Bill currently before parliament is not an annual appropriation act as it does not seek an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the full 2020-21 financial year. Although the level of interim supply sought is based on 2019-20, I am advised that this does not represent the current estimates of total appropriation required for 2020-21. The government has set out its projected fiscal aggregates through the published *COVID-19 fiscal and economic review*, which I released on Monday, 7 September.

The annual appropriation bill for 2020-21 will be introduced as part of the 2020-21 budget, which the government, if returned, has announced will be delivered in the week commencing 30 November. Explanatory notes have been provided for the appropriation bills. They cover both the 2019-20 supplementary appropriation and the 2020-21 interim supply. I am surprised by the submission made by the member for Clayfield given that the member for Clayfield himself introduced bills for supplementary appropriations into the House when he served as the Queensland treasurer.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.22 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That so much of standing and sessional orders be immediately suspended to allow the member for Whitsunday to make a statement to the Legislative Assembly of no longer than eight minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

### Member for Whitsunday

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—NQF) (11.23 am): I appreciate the indulgence of Her Majesty's parliament here this morning. I want to recap what I said earlier today, and that is going back to the former LNP government I was summoned to a meeting in A31 and in that room was then premier Campbell Newman, the then deputy premier Jeff Seeney and the then chief of staff to the then premier Ben Myers. It was made very clear to me that they wanted me to undergo a drug test against my wishes. As far as I was concerned at the time, there was no rhyme or reason for that. I have never, ever, ever had a cigarette in my life, let alone anything else. I used to go and buy the cigarettes for my grandmother and she later died of leukaemia. She introduced me to Rugby League and anyone who knows me knows how important that is to me, so I never touched anything—not even a cigarette. They did not believe me. They refused to believe me and I was frogmarched up the street by the member for Mermaid Beach to go and undergo this test against my will.

I walked up Albert Street this week to relive and bury some of those demons of what had happened. I knew what the result would be—negative. Guess where the results were sent? How cute is this? They were sent to the then member for Moggill, Dr Flegg. Dr Flegg took the results so he could interpret them. I was never concerned about the outcome or the results; I just had to cop it sweet, didn't I, because I was under no illusions that over here in A31 if I did not do what they wanted me to do—with all that intimidation—I would have to walk the plank? I am okay. I might be a bit tired, but I am okay and this stuff needs to be off my chest before we all pack up here tonight. The LNP has great form here—my old mates. They have done whatever they could to bury me, and I refuse to submit. It is no secret that I will always speak out, and many people did not like it.

I stand by the comments I made in the chamber some time ago about that vexatious complaint from a woman I have never met, remembering there was never a police phone call to me, and that matter was put to rest well and truly in March this year. I will not go over old ground there, but I want to remind all honourable members that the LNP leadership team took the word of someone who would be best described as someone being from the loony left—loves the hippies, the greenies, the WWF and does not believe in children being vaccinated. We know this because we had the evidence to take the matter further. The leadership team of the LNP, including the member for Nanango, took the word of this woman from Victoria over mine. They wanted us out the door, perhaps fearful of a leadership spill at some stage down the track. They did not care if it was true—not at all—and they did not even go to Victoria to investigate.

This brings me to what has also happened in the 56th Parliament. I am of the view that the opposition office has previously employed a known sex pest. It knew about it. The member for Nanango knew about it. The chief of staff knew about it. I believe the member for Everton knew about it. The LNP hierarchy knew about it, and they did nothing.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments extremely offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, the member has asked for those comments to be withdrawn.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker, and I appreciate your guidance once more. The top brass in the LNP did nothing about it—nothing at all. This person, I believe, actually managed the social media accounts at that time of the member for Nanango—it was not just a 'Neville Nobody'—and eventually they succumbed to that pressure to get rid of this person. Do members know where he

bobbed up, as I understand? It is in the public interest that I tell everyone this. He bobbed up apparently with Councillor David McLachlan at the Brisbane City Council—a safe haven. How is that for jobs for the boys? There are going to be a lot of people gunning for me after today, but I could not care less.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** And I hear the interjection from the member for Kawana. He wants to tell the truth, coming in here and making up stories.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** You pipe down, member for Everton. You pipe down.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** You go back to your old whistle.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday, you will direct your comments through the chair. I understand the sensitivity of the statement being made, but members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. I will sum up by saying that I will be writing to the appropriate authorities about these matters because it is in the public interest that I do so and the truth be known. Thank you, Mr Speaker.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 9 September (see p. 2348), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.29 am), continuing: Before coronavirus Queensland had the highest unemployment rate, the largest government debt, the lowest business confidence and highest bankruptcies in the nation because this Labor government had no economic plan. They still have no economic plan. No budget means no plan going forward. Instead of a 1,000-page budget all we have seen delivered this week is a 41-page glossy brochure. That comes under the umbrella of a record 234,000 Queenslanders who are out of work because this government has not managed the Queensland economy. Labor's \$18 billion single-year debt blowout will lead to another 72,000 Queenslanders losing their jobs this year. That should be ringing alarm bells the length and breadth of Queensland.

The financial statements provided by the Treasurer on Monday were not just a continuation of Labor's business as usual approach that had given Queensland the nation's highest unemployment, most bankruptcies and lowest business confidence prior to the coronavirus, it was an attempt to deceive Queenslanders ahead of the state election. This Appropriation Bill is seeking another \$1.114 billion to cover budget blowouts from across a number of government departments. Undoubtedly, this Palaszczuk Labor government will try to claim that this latest budget blowout was due to the health crisis, but the fact is that the Treasurer appropriated \$3.181 billion in additional funds in April this year through the Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020. Notably, the Department of Health is not one of the 13 department budget blowouts, nor is the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Over the life of this Palaszczuk government more than \$5 billion has had to be appropriated to cover unforeseen expenditure due to Labor's consistent fiscal management failures.

The LNP is going into the upcoming election on the back of a solid plan for this state, a plan to boost business confidence to attract more investment, to create more jobs, to improve government efficiency and to end Labor's wasteful spending. This is a lazy government. This is a government that reduces a once-proud state's budgetary process to a document the size of a supermarket catalogue. What is worse is that due to their own laziness Queensland's key industries are being let down and Queensland's workers are being let down.

There is a clear choice at the upcoming election between this incompetent Labor government and an LNP government that has a clear vision, a commitment to generate the jobs and the economic stimulus this state needs. I cannot wait until 31 October this year when we can start that job of getting this state back on its feet.



 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.32 am): I rise today to support and give my contribution to the appropriation bills 2020. It is interesting following the member for Burdekin. He wants to talk about laziness and incompetence. This is a man who has done nothing for jobs in North Queensland. I will unpack that a little further in my contribution. It is clear that due to our swift actions and listening to the Chief Health Officer, who has guided our health response in dealing with the global pandemic that is COVID-19 which world-wide has caused the deaths—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** There is nothing funny about death. Over 800,000 people have been infected and died and over 20 million people have been infected. Our early work has placed us in a position to have an economic response and thank God for the Labor government which restored and invested in our nurses—1,800 nurses were sacked under the LNP—restored the 300 police that the LNP cut during its time in office and boosted our paramedic response. Queensland should never forget what the LNP did by sacking 14,000 people. We restored those public health officials who are doing the testing in the fever clinics and the contact tracing. You think this is funny?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Through the chair, please, member for Thuringowa.

**Mr HARPER:** Those on the other side might laugh and think that a global pandemic is funny, but we do not. It is our early health response that has guided us in our economic response.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, you are on a warning.

**Mr HARPER:** That early response has required leadership and certainty for the millions in Queensland and, by God, we are getting that in spades from the Premier and her cabinet. I place on record my thanks to the Premier and the Treasurer who have committed to but also outlined a future budget to steer us out of COVID-19.

**An opposition member:** You won't be here.

**Mr HARPER:** I take the interjection. I have heard that before from someone else who sat beside me. He is not here. Keep it up. I note the national budget has been delayed and that other states and territories are not providing their budgets until we know the state of the national economy and what that means to our great state of Queensland.

After the shameful performance we have seen from the federal government in not allocating Queensland its fair share of GST, one questions why the federal government do not apply GST to major infrastructure projects like the Snowy hydro scheme yet in Queensland they determined that the Haughton water pipeline stage 2 in Townsville, which would deliver a desperately needed 1,000 jobs, would attract a GST payment of \$156 million. Why did the federal member for Herbert lie to the people of Townsville? Phillip Thompson MP promised the people of Townsville that the federal government would deliver on its promise to fully fund stage 2, but it was this government that fully funded stage 1.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe unparliamentary language was used.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Thuringowa, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr HARPER:** I withdraw. Members, did we hear a single word from the member for Burdekin? No! It was silence as usual. This infrastructure project will affect his community. He did not stand up for the jobs that will be created in delivering this infrastructure project to provide water security. We have now spent \$400 million on this project. The member for Burdekin has not said a word. He is lazy and incompetent. He has not done anything for the Haughton water pipeline. He did not fight to get the funding from the federal government. There was silence as usual and he should be ashamed.

We were let down not only by the federal LNP but also this rabble opposite, the rudderless state LNP, more interested in opening borders and infighting than standing up for Queensland. We have now proudly funded \$400 million for that pipeline stage 1 and 2 because that is what a Labor government does. We are building job-generating infrastructure. It was left to us to fully fund stage 2 because we know how important jobs are right now during COVID-19 to our community of Townsville.

Let me get on to what I do best in Thuringowa and talk about delivering roads, such as stage 5 of the Townsville Ring Road. Today it was announced that local tenders will build that road that the Treasurer committed funding to. That was in 2018. We have had to wait for a federal election for them to get on board, but it will deliver important jobs. This infrastructure project will run through the heart of Thuringowa. I know that the people of Thuringowa will appreciate the jobs that come with it. That is a

\$230 million project that will duplicate the final stage of the ring-road and help deliver an amazing \$500 million residential development, Elements North Queensland, which will help boost more local jobs for tradies. This project includes the on and off ramps which I fought for to improve connectivity off Beck Drive to the Townsville Ring Road which will help get people to the three major employers of Townsville: James Cook University, Lavarack Barracks and the Townsville University Hospital.


I saved the best for last: I want to talk about my vision for delivering stage 2 of the infamous Riverway Drive. It was through hard work and strong advocacy that I got the funding for stage 1 of Riverway Drive. I thank the member for South Brisbane who helped get that funding, which was vital in delivering jobs. Unlike the former LNP member, Sam Cox, I did not have to put up a billboard on Riverway Drive saying, 'We will build it—but we'll have to sell the port'. There was a gun to the head of the people of Townsville and Thuringowa, but they did not fall for it. They backed a Labor government to deliver it and it was delivered under a Labor government.

I pledge that I will deliver stage 2 of Riverway Drive, which is a project that I have already started. Last year we committed \$700,000 for the planning. I intend to advocate strongly for the people of Thuringowa during our economic recovery to build more job-generating infrastructure, which has been a catalyst for private development. That is what Labor governments do: we deliver. Riverway Drive stage 1 has been a catalyst for private investment and is supporting hundreds of jobs right now. In fact, I think we are going to see fuel wars on Riverway Drive. We used to have two garages and now we have four. I have not seen Mobile or Liberty in Townsville for a long time. Small businesses are starting to invest because we have built infrastructure and that is fantastic. More small businesses opening up in Townsville means more jobs for locals. I will not stop there.

Under the Treasurer we have a clear vision to push for advanced manufacturing. The battery manufacturing plant at Calcium is where Drivelt is situated. I will continue to advocate for that. We have invested money in the North West Minerals Province, CopperString, Kidston hydro, the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam and Drivelt. With Minister Bailey we just turned the sod on the \$5 million project to get onto that site. Locally, we will deliver infrastructure for schools in Thuringowa such as Heatley Secondary College, which is undergoing a \$12 million upgrade right now, supporting hundreds of tradie jobs. That is what we need during COVID-19.

I am also very proud to see the Kirwan Ambulance Station almost complete. I look forward to opening that station in coming months. I admit that I have a bit of a bias towards Emergency Services. We have opened up the Rural Fire Brigade station at Round Mountain, just off Riverway Drive, and a new police station facility. That is what local members do: they back their community, they listen and they deliver. What we saw under the LNP was a complete failure. I have a clear vision for my community. I will continue to lead and help us unite and recover as we emerge from COVID-19.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I remind members of those currently on a warning. They are the members for Nicklin, Kawana, Cooper, Southern Downs, Broadwater, Glass House, Burleigh, Everton, Gympie, Buderim, Gregory and Maroochydore.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.42 am): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills. As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, normally I would be afforded 20 minutes to speak on these bills. Appropriation bills are among the most important bills that come before us. They should be scrutinised. Unfortunately, because these bills have not been scrutinised, I have less time to speak on them.

What is an appropriation bill? It is the government's plan for how it will spend the money of the people of Queensland. This government has shamefully hidden that plan from the people in whose pockets it has its hands. Imagine that you were in a bit of financial difficulty at home. You go to your boss and you say, 'Boss, I've decided that you are going to give me a pay rise. This is how much the pay rise will be. I understand that I need this money because I have been wasting money and I have not put anything aside for a rainy day. I have not been cautious with my spending. Look, all of that might be my fault, but what needs to happen now is that you need to pay me extra money.' I think the boss would likely say, 'What exactly is it for?' The people of Queensland should be asking, what exactly is this money for? That would be our normal process. But in this case the government is saying, 'I'd love to tell you, but that's a secret. I don't want to discuss that. You just give me the extra money. That's how it's going to work.' That is where we have arrived at with this bill.

The government has guillotined debate in this place. It has used commercial-in-confidence to hide many things, including how much we paid for the AFL to come to Queensland. It will be a great celebration, but how much did we pay? The people of Queensland should know that and the same goes for other celebrity events that we are hosting. But they are hiding not just that. Now they are hiding

what they are doing with the money generally. Where is it going? In this place scrutiny around both legislation and, in particular, finances is becoming an embarrassment to the democracy of Queensland. The fourth estate should be holding this government to account and there are some who are. However, there are others who are looking for jobs, because they know that their colleagues are being paid very well to spin-doctor the Premier's latest media thought. We find ourselves in a situation where the parliament is being controlled. It is being dictated terms. Debate is being curtailed. Supply is being demanded without explanation. We have a parliament where the ministerial budget is out of control. We are a long way from what the Fitzgerald inquiry recommended as a balance, which was to make sure that the opposition is well resourced to do its job.

Let us look at how we have arrived here. There have been 11,287 days since the 1989 election when Goss came to power. As at 31 October 2020, 9,376 of those days will have been under a Labor government and 1,908 of those days will have been under a coalition government. Labour will have been in office for five times longer and yet somehow everything that is wrong with Queensland is our fault. It is the LNP's fault. That is what Labor would have us believe. That then begs the question: if you have been in power five times longer than the other side of politics, you must be incompetent or useless if you are unable to manage the economy. The question then becomes: are you incompetent, are you useless or are you hiding the truth from the people of Queensland?

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am reasonably patient, Mr Deputy Speaker, but I ask you to bring the speaker back to the bill on relevance. We do not need a history lesson here today.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Toowoomba North, these types of debates generally do allow for very wide latitude. I will continue to allow that, but I will also continue to listen carefully to your contribution. I would like to see it being somewhat relevant to the purpose of this debate.

**Mr WATTS:** I can understand why those on the other side would not want to have a discussion about how the Queensland budget has come to be in such a mess. However, these appropriation bills directly relate to that mess, which was created over the 9,376 days that Labor has been in government. That is the first point.

The next point is that these appropriation bills relate to the sneakiness of this government. They relate to their sneakiness in taking money off taxpayers while saying, 'But we don't want to discuss it.' They could be up-front and say that they have some issues and that they need the money to run government—we all know that. They could say, 'This is what the tax is for. This is what we will take the money for. This is what we will do with the money.' Instead, like a pickpocket in the middle of night, they walk up to you as you are walking through town and put their hand in your pocket and grab your money, and they will not discuss how they will spend that money. They want to hide that from the people of Queensland obviously because they are embarrassed. Labor, I can understand, should be embarrassed. The premier at the time said—

The simple fact is that we have a \$14 billion hole in our budget bottom line caused by the worst global recession in our lifetime.

That was a statement trying to bring some fear into the 2009 election by the then Labor premier. Shortly after the election, even though she denied it before the election, she put her hand in the pockets of the people of Queensland and withdrew the fuel subsidy. This allowed them to collect an extra \$2.4 billion over four years, but the budget was still in trouble. What did Labor do? Let's have a look at the record over the 9,376 days.

They sold Sun Retail for \$1.2 billion. I wonder what it is worth today. They sold Sun Gas for \$75 million. I wonder what it would be worth today. I wonder if these budget appropriations are there to buy it back at some new inflated price. Powerdirect was sold for \$1.2 billion. Golden Casket was sold for \$530 million. I wonder if there is a plan to buy back these assets that were sold by Labor. Is there a plan to buy the gas assets and Entertrade, sold for \$268 million? I bet it is worth more than \$268 million now. Wind energy assets were sold for \$460 million. I have looked through the papers but I cannot see it there. I am not sure if they are planning on buying it back, or if it would be worth more or less than it was sold for by Labor. The Brisbane Airport, probably doing it pretty tough now, was sold for \$289 million. I wonder what it would be worth now. I wonder if these appropriations are to buy it back. I have not seen what they are for, so it would be very difficult to know. The Cairns Airport was sold. Who sold the assets in Queensland? The Labor government sold the assets in Queensland. The Cairns and Mackay airports were sold for \$738 million. I wonder what they are worth today, even in the middle of a global pandemic.

Our Premier today becomes a member of cabinet. She would not sell assets, would she? I am not sure if she is planning to buy them back with the money out of this Appropriation Bill. The forestry plantations sold for \$600 million. The Premier is sitting at the cabinet table. Is the plan to buy them back with this appropriation? The Port of Brisbane was sold for \$2.1 billion. I wonder what it is worth today. I wonder how much of this appropriation would be required to purchase it back today.

'Queensland Rail is not for sale.' We have been told and lectured, 'Don't listen to what they say; look at what they do.' These are the facts of what was done. Queensland Rail was not for sale. Now it is gone! It was sold for \$4 billion. I wonder what it would be worth today. I wonder if these appropriation bills are here to purchase it back. We read media speculation that Abbot Point might be a great investment because coal is going to be required for decades to come. It was sold, when Annastacia Palaszczuk was sitting at the cabinet table, for \$1.8 billion. Government members have the hide to come in here and talk about selling assets. We know who sold the assets because it is firmly recorded by history. I wonder if these appropriations will be used to purchase them back at a greater price than the people of Queensland sold them for under Labor in the first place.

We hear a lot about the road network and the lack of investment in the road network. What happened to the \$3 billion Labor received from selling Queensland Motorways? Was it reinvested in a second M1? Oh, no, that is right: it was used to pay down debt—sorry, no, that is right, debt went up as these assets were sold.

This Appropriation Bill is a sham. It is a pickpocket in the middle of the night with his hand in the pockets of Queensland taxpayers at the time they can least afford it. The government is putting its hand in and saying, 'Nothing to see here. Look over there. We need a distraction over there. We will put on an AFL grand final so you are not watching closely while I take your money and spend it as I please and potentially sell your assets while I am doing it. I promise I will not do that, but don't listen to what I say; look at what I do.' That is what happened. That is the history of Queensland. I can understand that the member for Ferny Grove would not like that history. I would be embarrassed, too, if I was the member for Ferny Grove.

What do we see here? Instead of 1,000 pages explaining carefully the investment plan that will be made on behalf of the people of Queensland, this government is lurching and infighting as it prepares for an election, squandering its money on making sure everybody knows the slogan that will be used in the campaign. It is not calling for a long election campaign. We heard yesterday that postal ballots will happen early, but we will not be in caretaker mode. People will be able to apply for their postal vote and we are not even in caretaker mode. The Premier could make it a longer election campaign, but 'No, I want to grasp onto power.'

This government is interested in protecting the ruling elite. It does not want scrutiny of its legislation in this place. It does not want scrutiny of its financials by the people of Queensland. We were elected to be the opposition. Our job is to make sure that the voices of the Queensland people are heard in this place, yet we are silenced, gagged and guillotined by this government. Our job is to make sure that when the government sneaks up behind the people of Queensland in the middle of the night and lifts their wallet out of their back pocket we are there to check what they are going to do with the money. However, we are not able to do that because the power of this arrogant ruling Labor elite is preventing this parliament from doing its job. The government should be ashamed.

I remember when there were going to be 14 ministers opposite us here because they were going to save a fortune for the people of Queensland. It did not last long. 'Don't look at what they say; look at what they do.' They are the words that have been spoken and these are the facts.


Some 9,376 days of Labor government versus 1,907 days of a coalition government—that is how we got in this mess. Secrecy, deceit, hiding, lack of scrutiny and lack of due process will not fix Queensland. The only thing that will fix Queensland is a party that has some vision, a party that has a desire to get Queensland working again, a party that wants to supercharge the regions, a party that wants to make sure Queensland is safe for our children and a party that wants to invest in growth. We should not be investing money in assets that are not going to give us a decent return, save some social infrastructure that we definitely need such as the Toowoomba hospital. We need to make sure that taxpayers' money is spent carefully.

The best way to ensure it will be spent carefully is to use the disinfectant of sunlight on the elite as they try to pick the pockets of the people of Queensland. That is what is required in this place. That is what the Labor government are afraid of. That is what they do not want to have. They do not want to have scrutiny. They do not want to have a debate. They do not want to discuss their legislation. They want to hijack this process so that they can retain power, and they will make the people of Queensland

pay for it. That is what this Labor government would do. That is what they have done and that is what they will continue to do. I believe that the people of Queensland will not be hoodwinked by this government's fear campaign.

We rightly should be concerned about the health pandemic, but that is not a reason to not have a vision and a future for our children here in Queensland. That is not a reason to corrupt the process of this parliament. That is not a reason to bring legislation in here, make it urgent and not have the scrutiny. We all knew when the election was going to be held. We have known it all year. There was no reason for this process to be rushed.

I am sure that the Treasurer, as incompetent as he is, would have known that they were going to need to procure some more money, so it would not have been difficult for him to bring this appropriation bill forward earlier and have the proper scrutiny and let the people of Queensland know and understand how their money is going to be spent and what this government is going to do. That is not the nature of this government. They want to hide, they want to deceive, they want to grasp onto power, they want to reward their mates and they want to go and have pictures taken with celebrities, but they do not want to look after people who are ill or dying or look after families who are separated. That is not what they want to do. Shame on them!

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2020. When it comes to Central Queensland I could talk about some of the key initiatives like the \$90 million for jobs and skills training or the \$267 million for the Building Boost or the \$500 million in electricity and water bill relief, but I would like to provide a couple of practical examples of our government's plan and the economic recovery that is happening in my electorate.

The Palaszczuk government announced in May this year that we will invest \$35 million to upgrade the Lawrie Street bottleneck in Gracemere, with this project supporting 56 local jobs. The fixing of Lawrie Street has been a priority for me and my community. This announcement means that we will be able to duplicate the road, upgrade the bridge, overhaul the existing intersections and upgrade the crossing, which I am sure school parents will be pleased about.


I am proud that we have been able to come up with a solution to the congestion. At the time we also released the concept vision for the region's \$1 billion ring-road project, supporting more than 800 jobs. The upgrade joins a record \$23 billion, 21,500 job pipeline of transport and road upgrades across Queensland as the state continues its COVID-19 recovery plan.

In and around Rockhampton there is currently more than \$1 billion in investment in roads and transport. For example, there is \$158 million for the Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade and \$75 million for the Capricorn Highway duplication, supporting local businesses and more than 1,000 jobs. This investment into Central Queensland is a vote of confidence in our community and will play a crucial role in supporting jobs into the future.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting Paul Hubburd and his wife, Fiona, from a local Rockhampton company, Cirrus Ag. Cirrus Ag is investing almost \$2.5 million to introduce automated manufacturing production techniques to enhance the quality of its products and reduce Queensland's reliance on interstate resources. The herbicide manufacturer was awarded \$914,000 from round 3 of the Queensland government's Made in Queensland grants program to increase local production processes. Made in Queensland provides matched funding to Queensland manufacturers looking to increase international competitiveness, adopt innovative processes and technologies and create high-skilled jobs of the future.

The project will improve supply chain control which will reduce production, freight and logistics costs and open up export opportunities. Paul said adopting the latest automated granular manufacturing technology for the end-to-end production of products will drive innovation, reduce costs, increase job security for regional employees and create eight new local jobs. It was also great to see construction of their new warehouse underway, with local firm the Shed Company doing the work.

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government which is committed to the ongoing transformation of the state's manufacturing industry as it transitions to advanced manufacturing. I note the jobs this will create. This is just another example of how we are delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery from COVID-19 and building our state back even better. We are supporting Queensland businesses through various assistance programs. That is what a good Labor government does. This is in stark contrast to the LNP's DNA of cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.03 pm): It is a great disappointment to me that I have to rise to speak in the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill 2020 when the bills have not been referred to the Economic and Governance Committee, of which I am a

member and which several other members of the House who have spoken in the debate are. It quite clearly makes it very difficult to properly investigate the expenditure overruns from the 2019-20 budget which this Appropriation Bill is all about.

It is so disappointing that on the last sitting day of the 56th Parliament we have to deal with the scramble for money by this Labor government so it can put in place financial matters before the election on 31 October. This is the typical Achilles heel of the Palaszczuk Labor government which is hopeless in its financial management of the state. They cannot manage their own finances. They should not be governing Queensland because they cannot manage their own finances.

We see that clearly with the Appropriation Bill coming before the parliament late. Earlier in the week we had a Clayton's budget in the form of a MYFER which we will be discussing tomorrow in the Economics and Governance Committee. It is a 41-page glossy document that basically says we are going to be another \$4 billion in the hole. That is on top of the other moneys that have gone in the hole. It is classic Labor pea and thimble trickery to try to hide their financial incompetence coming into the 31 October election. I have no doubt that they are very fearful of ratings agency Standard & Poor's downgrading our current, what I understand to be, AA-plus rating. That tells everybody in the community before the 31 October election that this government is hopeless at running the finances of Queensland.

The Appropriation Bill that has been served up to us to debate today without being able to make full inquiries of the public servants expending these moneys on behalf of Queenslanders is another embarrassment. I would like to know where the Department of Education spent the extra \$432 million in 2019-20. Was it on air conditioning? Was it on extra schools? I am flying blind on those matters given this bill was brought before the parliament at the death of the 56th Parliament.

It is an embarrassment. On 31 October, if Queenslanders are interested in a government that will go forward with full accountability and transparency, with a plan for economic betterment rather than just implementing more taxes, grabbing more money or going into more debt, which has been the case with this state government—we now have well over \$100 billion in debt and it is not all to do with coronavirus, it was well on the way before coronavirus hit—they have a choice. The coronavirus has added to it obviously.

We are all aware of the border closures and how that has affected business and will in the longer term if this keeps going. That is why Prime Minister Morrison, as mentioned by the Premier herself this morning, is crying out for life in Queensland to go back to a semblance of normality so the economic damage when we come through coronavirus will not be as catastrophic as currently predicted. We have seen some horrendous figures in terms of unemployment in Queensland. They are saying that another 72,000 people will be unemployed before Christmas. These numbers are horrific for Queensland's economy. We have a record 234,000 people currently out of work because Labor cannot manage the economy. There will be another 72,000 people unemployed before Christmas.

What we are going to see is a debilitated Queensland economy that can only survive or have a chance of going forward with an LNP government following the 31 October election. An LNP government would right all the problems in this Appropriation Bill. The former treasurer said that we would have a budget in April. That was wiped away so they could hide the financial incompetence of the Palaszczuk Labor government behind the coronavirus smokescreen.

I feel sorry for Queenslanders, but we will do our best as a government to put Queensland back on track by approving job-creating projects such as the Adani and Acland mines. Jobs will be the saviour of the Queensland economy. We will not have the social and union-building agenda that this current Palaszczuk Labor government has put forward to Queenslanders as an excuse during the last five years of governing Queensland for racking up debt on debt on debt as they turn Queensland, which should be the pride of Australia, into a basket case, with the highest unemployment figures and the highest debt around Australia.

They have been trying to hide Queensland from Australia and have been creating havoc, except for those global superstars they like to associate themselves with and take selfies with around the place. I love Tom Hanks, but I love the people of Queensland more. People of Queensland are suffering, whereas the Tom Hanks of the world get special treatment, as does the AFL and all of their favourite people that they like to be seen with in the media. This particular government concentrates on them rather than looking after Queenslanders and their financial interests. That is seen by the fact that the biggest project in Queensland is not in North Queensland, where they need jobs badly. I am sure that the member for Burdekin will talk about that further.


**Mr Last** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** Several times. Jobs would be the highest priority in North Queensland. Instead, we have a \$5 billion pork barrel in the electorate of South Brisbane for a Cross River Rail that they are now spending hundreds and thousands of dollars advertising right across Queensland, telling people that it is an important project because no-one knows anything about it. It is the biggest white elephant. They have put all of their eggs in one basket and nobody knows anything about it. That is why they are advertising Cross River Rail left, right and centre.

They are the sorts of financial failings that will see this Palaszczuk Labor government held to account for on 31 October, despite any matters that they try to hide through not bringing down a budget until a month after the election—which is ridiculous. Why they could not bring down a budget a month before the election needs to be explained. We have literally thousands of public servants. I am sure there is a pretty machine out there that could put budget documents together, but no. We are hiding our financial realities until after the election (a) so that we do not get a downgrade which would send the loudest message possible to Queenslanders; and (b) so that we do not frighten the horses come election day to see what absolutely hopeless financial managers Labor are. I do not blame them personally for it because none of them have been in business at all. They have all come from their union backgrounds and from offices of old party hacks. Maybe the member for Toohey has a bit of experience. I do not blame them for being incompetent.

The fact of the matter is that they should not be in government and claim that they know how to run a budget to keep the Queensland economy ticking over and to make sure Queenslanders will be safe, particularly in tourism areas. I refer to the fabulous Gold Coast, my backyard, in terms of the importance of tourism on the Gold Coast. Whilst we are holding up reasonably well because of our domestic tourists, it is still a nightmare for people coming across the border. Can you imagine how difficult it is for the good folks of Cairns and Barron River and those areas in the north who are hoping to see tourists go to their areas? I hope that they understand that they have an opportunity on 31 October to let the government know what they think of the government's approach to tourism and that they can fix that approach by changing the government. I am quite confident that that will be the case come 31 October.

The fact that the former treasurer appropriated \$3.1 billion in additional funds in April and they have come back to explain how they have spent another \$1.1 billion on top of that again in the 2019-20 budget tells us how incompetent they are and how they do not deserve a four-year term. We cannot afford a four-year term of financial incompetence. I cannot wait for the next 50 days or so to pass so that we can put Queensland back on track.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.15 pm): I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020. The Palaszczuk government wasted no time when it came to protecting Queenslanders in the face of this global pandemic. This state Labor government acted swiftly and decisively to strengthen our health system to prepare and build service capacity not just in my electorate of Cook but in communities right throughout the state. In the Cook electorate fever clinics were set up at multiple sites and hospitals and the vast network of primary healthcare centres worked in collaboration with the local disaster management group throughout the electorate. My communities stood up to work in partnership with the Queensland state government to develop local plans to get communities COVID ready and implement local strategies to mitigate risks of COVID-19 entering communities in Cook.

I want to commend and thank our Premier for all of her hard work. While our Premier stood up for the health of Queenslanders and was working hard on our health response to flatten the curve, the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP were calling for the borders to open. I am glad that we did not listen to the Leader of the Opposition or the LNP because, if we did, we would not be in any position to talk economic recovery today. It is the strong leadership of our Premier and the Palaszczuk Labor government that has put Queensland on the road to recovery by making strong health decisions on the border and starting to deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan.

There is no doubt that the economy is taking a hard hit with COVID-19 and right now our communities need certainty. They need more than lip-service from those opposite. They need a government with a solid economic recovery plan to get us through these challenging times. This government is getting on with the job of helping communities unite and recover because we want to protect jobs. We want to keep people in jobs. Most importantly, we want to keep dollars in the pockets of families.

Local councils in my electorate benefited from \$22.5 million in COVID-19 Works for Queensland grants for shovel-ready projects, from the Torres Strait Islands to Cape York, to Mareeba shire and to the Douglas shire. This demonstrates the government's strong commitment to supporting communities

no matter where you live. Works for Queensland has always been widely received by my local councils. The new COVID-19 Works for Queensland funds highlight this government's commitment to support the local economy.

I can confidently say that the decisions made by this government to support communities in my electorate through these challenging economic times are seen at the community level. Whether it is replacing the roof and electrical upgrades at the community canteen and continuing refurbishment at the arts and cultural centre in Kowanyama or the development of the cultural precinct and upgrades to the football field in Lockhart or the installation of smart water meters across the Douglas shire and upgrades at the Port Douglas wastewater treatment plant, these are only a few examples of the 14 councils in my electorate who received COVID-19 Works for Queensland funds to support shovel-ready projects and sustain local jobs in regional and remote communities.

That is not all. The Queensland government recently announced over \$9.7 million for schools in the Cook electorate to go towards a mix of upgrades and new projects. In Cape York, Aurukun State School will receive \$220,000 to create better teaching walls in the teaching block, replace windows and create cross-flow ventilation across the upper classrooms. Cooktown State School will receive \$136,000 for the upgrade of the prep playground, and the Hope Vale campus of Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy will receive \$340,000 for a new amenities block.

Those are not all of the schools in the Cook electorate. The Kowanyama State School, Lockhart River State School, Mossman State High School, Mossman State School, Wonga Beach State School and Tagai State College in the Torres Strait, with upgrades at its Malu Kiwai, Mer, Poruma and Saibai Island campuses, will all benefit from critical investments to build and refurbish vital infrastructure and support local jobs.

For big projects like the Wangetti Trail, construction was brought forward by six months to create jobs. We are investing \$3.5 million into the Mareeba Industrial Park expansion, stage 3, which will make heavy industrial zoned land available for large-scale development. When it comes to roads, we announced \$313 million to accelerate work on local roads, including: the Peninsula Development Road, the Kennedy Highway and the Bourke Development Road in my electorate. When I see all of the road activity in my electorate I know that we are supporting families, putting food on the table and roofs over people's heads.

In relation to Small Business Adaptation Grants, 140 small businesses in the Cook electorate have been successful in winning more than \$1.2 million in grants as part of the Palaszczuk government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. I had the pleasure of visiting some of these small businesses: Just Jase Hair, the Sorella Hair & Beauty Studio in Mareeba and the Driftwood Cafe in Cooktown. It is clear that the Palaszczuk government's stimulus support package is providing much needed funds for small businesses to keep them afloat through these tough economic times.


The electricity rebate of \$500 million to provide relief for households and small businesses with electricity and water bills is another example of how this government is working to support households and businesses throughout my electorate. Our Land Restoration Fund, \$43 million for five projects, will create over 300 jobs.

COVID-19 is putting a lot of pressure on families and, as such, incidents of domestic and family violence were on the increase. This government recognised the impact of COVID-19 on breaking families and, with the Commonwealth government, injected vital funds into community organisations to provide intervention support for vulnerable families. I am pleased that 10 community organisations in my electorate were successful recipients of domestic and family violence funds.

I had the opportunity to speak directly with Cooktown District Community Centre manager Kaz Price and Mura Kosker Sorority about the amazing work they do to support vulnerable families. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong plan to unite and recover the state's economy. Queensland's plan for economic recovery is well and truly underway, and together we will get through these challenging times. I commend the bills to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Before I go to the next speaker I would like to welcome college school captains from Redlands in the electorate of Oodgeroo. Welcome to the chamber.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.22 pm): As I outlined in the matter of privilege I raised in the House this morning, I have substantial doubts about the way the government has introduced this legislation, about its constitutional validity and about the way the standing orders of this House that are normally applied in relation to annual appropriation bills have been dealt with.



The history of parliament is indeed the history of the parliament's control of the untrammelled power of, firstly, kings and queens; and, secondly, the executive. The Magna Carta was sealed in 1215 on the basis that King John wanted to demand more and more money from his barons to fight unpopular wars in France. King Charles I had to bring the Long Parliament together in order to secure funding so he could govern. The British civil wars of the mid-17th century were primarily fought around the primacy of the king and the control of the king's spending by parliament. The Glorious Revolution, which has a direct impact on this House, saw William of Orange appointed to the throne of the United Kingdom and ceding control of finances to the parliament. If we reflect on the American Revolution against the then British, the war cry and the catchcry was, 'No taxation without representation.'

These long-established provisions have never, never been questioned in this place. The control of the parliament and the right to examine both the expenditures and the appropriation is an essential part of what parliaments do. In fact, it may well be considered to be the foundation for parliaments being formed in the first place. This government, with this bill and with its arrogance, seeks to overturn almost 800 years of history, specific provisions in the Constitution of Queensland and specific provisions in part 6, chapter 30 of the standing orders.

I listened to the Treasurer's ministerial statement a little while ago. He came into this House and blindly asserted that he has advice that the bills are not annual appropriation bills despite the explicit words of the Constitution—the Constitution explicitly provides that bills presented are annual bills—and despite the explicit words of the bills themselves. The long title to the 2020 bill says—

An Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund ... for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020

If that is not an appropriation for an annual amount, then I struggle to work out what is. It says, 'for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020'. There can be no question that this amount and these bills are annual appropriation bills. In fact, the amount that is being appropriated would tell you that they are annual appropriation bills because, together with the funding that was sought in the 2019 Appropriation Bill, the total amount the government is seeking authority to spend between now and 30 June next year is just short of \$57 billion. That sounds like an annual budget to me. That is the total amount.

The Treasurer may come in here and say, 'Well, if we are re-elected'—God forbid the Labor Party is re-elected—I intend to bring in another set of appropriation bills—to deliver another budget. At the beginning of this year the then treasurer said, 'I expect to bring in a budget in April.' In April the then treasurer said, 'We're going to have no budget this year, but we'll have a midyear economic "forecasty review thing."' Then the former treasurer got the 'royal order of the boot' and the new Treasurer came in and, after a bit of pressure and a bit of aggravation about there being no budget, he said, 'I'll introduce the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review.' In doing so he said, 'I think I might bring a budget down in late November or December.' In the space of nine months we have had two treasurers, two assistant treasurers and three positions on the budget. Clearly this government cannot be trusted to do what they say because they cannot hold a position from breakfast to lunch to dinner. Over nine months we have had three budget positions, two treasurers and two undersecretaries, and the people of Queensland are no wiser.

I also heard the Treasurer, in his usual slightly backhanded way, say that I should understand more because as treasurer I introduced supplementary appropriation bills. Anyone with any history in this place—and I would have thought that the former member for Greenslopes, now the member for Woodridge and Treasurer—would have some memory of the fact that it was a Labor government that sought to put supplementary appropriation bills into budget bills so they would only be examined 18 months after the money was spent. I commend to the now Treasurer the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee report No. 102, which actually investigates the probity of that action and the reasons for it.

It was the LNP government that reintroduced the accountability mechanism that saw a separate supplementary Appropriation Bill for unforeseen expenditure brought into this House so that the people of Queensland could know where the extra money was spent. We undid what was done by the Bligh Labor governments, of which the Treasurer was a member. We undid their patently transparent attempts to reduce scrutiny of legislation and the expenditure and actions of executive government.

I am not quibbling about unforeseen supplementary expenditure being supported by a separate bill; that is entirely proper. This notion of some sort of fanciful, interim supply appropriation bill—a creature not known to the Constitution of Queensland, a creature not known to the Financial Accountability Act, a creature not known to the standing orders of this parliament—has no place here

and it should not be used by the Treasurer to try to conceal from the people of Queensland the proper appropriations and estimates of expenditure, as it has been this time around. The explanatory notes are full of sophistry and misinformation. For example, on page 2 it says—

The Appropriation Act 2019 ... included \$27,349,450,000 of interim supply—

I went to section 3 of the Appropriation Act 2019 and there is no mention of 'interim supply'. There is simply 'supply'—meaning supply for the financial year beginning 1 July 2020. The explanatory notes then went on to say—

The intention was that this amount would provide sufficient supply for agencies to continue the ... operations of government until the Appropriation Bill for 2020-21 received assent.

The intention was for an annual appropriation bill at that time to be brought down in April that year, according to the then treasurer. It was quite clearly the case that it was intended to deliver annual supply for the year beginning 1 July 2020. Anything else is purely and simply an attempt by a government that is functioning—if you can call it functioning—at a level where it wants to hide its mismanagement and ineptitude from the people of Queensland.

These appropriation bills are a sign of the disarray, despair and desperation of a government stumbling from one catastrophe to another. They highlight that this government has only one plan—to borrow, to beg and to tax. It is a government with no fiscal plan and with a budget in a shambles, with its third treasurer in three years, its third Under Treasurer in three years and its sixth debt repayment plan in five years. It has yet another fiscal deficit as well as an operating deficit, not to mention a cash deficit as revealed in the Consolidated Fund Financial Report. On every metric that governments are measured, this government is going backwards and spending more than it earns and doing it hand over fist. It has operating deficits of almost \$6 billion last financial year and \$8 billion for the current year.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, please wait. Member for McConnel, you will get a turn. Member for Aspley, you are very close to your turn.


**Mr NICHOLLS:** It has operating deficits of almost \$6 billion last financial year and \$8 billion for the current year. Fiscal deficits continue, with \$2.1 billion in 2018-19, \$9.3 billion in 2019-20, and \$13 billion projected for 2020-21. There is no explanation of where that money is going and no consideration of other factors. For example, will the Treasurer advise the House of the impact on GST collections? There is a shrinking pool of GST. Victoria will be getting more of it. When that happens, Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australia and other states will get less of it. Where are the projections for that hit to income?

Queensland's total debt—the amount Queenslanders are on the hook for across all operations of government, businesses, government owned corporations, everything—is heading to more than \$102 billion. The net worth of the state has gone backwards, the net debt has ballooned and the rivers of gold from coal royalties, which have covered the financial ineptitude of this government, are now running a lot dryer. Like a falling tide, they are exposing the nakedness of this government's plans.

Total borrowings as a percentage of revenue have blown out to 108 per cent of revenue for the first time ever in Queensland. Expenses as a percentage of gross state product have increased, and Labor is still yet to be able to show any capacity to control the expenses growth, and most of that occurred last financial year. They have gone from \$50 billion just five years ago to over \$64 billion next financial year. Borrowings as a percentage of state product have reached decade highs of 159 per cent. That is a 50 per cent increase just last year. It is not as if this government has not raised taxes. A quick look at the consolidated fund report shows that the Department of Environment and Science is richer to the tune of almost a quarter of a billion dollars as at 30 June 2020. The waste tax means revenue for that one department alone has increased from \$6.9 million a year ago to almost \$252 million this year. That is a quarter of a billion dollars of waste levy, but that is only part of the process because this government refuses to be held accountable.

The effect of this bill if it is passed is that we will be authorising this government to spend more money of Queenslanders, to tax them more and to beg, borrow and steal more from Queenslanders without one iota of scrutiny and without the opportunity for the estimates committees to be held in public as they are mandated to be in the Constitution of Queensland and in the standing orders. It is entirely appropriate that governments are responsible when they make policy decisions that restrict entire sectors of the economy, as have been made in this case.

When the government says 'thou shalt not open' to entire swathes of the economy, it must step up—I have no argument with that—but that does not mean the processes of government and financial accountability should be abandoned. The excuse of COVID-19 is no excuse for poor financial planning and not having a proper scrutiny of expenses and accountability to the people of Queensland. In fact, I would argue that in a time of emergency the need for scrutiny is even greater. Not only has this government failed in its financial management and failed in its fiscal principles; it has also failed to be accountable not only to this place but to the people of Queensland. It is shameful.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak on the cognate debate for the Appropriation Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020. In reflecting on the contribution of the member for Clayfield—a former treasurer, and a failed treasurer at that, and Campbell Newman's right-hand man—

**Ms Pease:** Failed leader. Don't forget that.

**Ms LAUGA:** Failed leader as well; there is a long list there. He was Campbell Newman's right-hand man. In his 15-minute contribution in this place, he completely ignored the fact that we are experiencing a global pandemic where hundreds of thousands of people have died—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Clayfield, you have had your turn. It is the member for Keppel who now has the call.

**Ms LAUGA:** Hundreds of thousands of people have died, millions of people have been infected and economies around the world are in turmoil, but I do not think the former treasurer and former leader of the LNP even mentioned the words 'COVID' or 'pandemic' in his entire 15-minute contribution.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Grace:** It's like it's not happening.

**Ms LAUGA:** That is right. I take that interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Keppel, I encourage you to address your comments through the chair instead of across the chamber. To those on my left I say that I held order in the House during the last contribution and I ask that it happen again.

**Ms LAUGA:** In that entire contribution of the member for Clayfield there was not one mention of the pandemic, not one mention of COVID-19, not one mention of—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. I quite clearly said it in the last part of my contribution. I take offence. I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Keppel—

**Ms LAUGA:** I withdraw. Even if it was only mentioned once in the entire 15-minute contribution—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When you withdraw you do not then start with 'but'. You withdraw unreservedly. Do you withdraw?

**Ms LAUGA:** I withdraw. It is almost like those opposite are completely ignoring the fact that there is a global pandemic happening at the moment. It reminds me of that RACQ ad with the woman in the backyard with the sheet on a clothesline. She asked, 'What charter boat?' It is like those opposite are running around saying, 'What pandemic? What pandemic is going on? What economic turmoil is being caused right now?' It is completely crazy. Those opposite want to whinge and they want to whine. They are so negative. They are talking down the Queensland economy.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, you have made your contribution.

**Ms LAUGA:** Those opposite need to get on board because we are getting Queensland back on track. We are getting Queenslanders back to work. Queensland is doing so well. Our forecast economic rebound is almost twice as strong as the Australian average, but we do not hear those opposite talking about that.

**Ms Pease:** They don't want to know about that.

**Ms LAUGA:** They do not want to know about that. Global economies are doing it tough and Queensland is not immune. As a result of the hard work by Queenslanders, we are the best performing state in response to the global pandemic in Australia. Central Queensland, the patch that I represent in this place, has been so strong this year. Not only have we all banded together to contain the spread of

COVID-19 in Central Queensland, but I have also been witnessing local people helping each other, supporting the vulnerable and immune suppressed in our community and doing our best to support local businesses by buying locally.

Central Queenslanders are tough. Whether it be floods, cyclones, bushfires or global pandemics, we know how to plan for, respond to and recover from disasters. I take this opportunity to thank the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service, including the CEO, Steve Williamson; the chairman of the board, Paul Bell; and members of the executive and board. Importantly, I also thank the nurses, assistant nurses, doctors, surgeons, allied health professionals, community and public health officers including the unsung heroes, our contact tracers, the cleaners, the wardies, pathology staff, cooks, laundry staff and everyone who has rolled up their sleeves and worked so hard together to contain the spread of this virus in our community. When the case was diagnosed at the North Rockhampton Nursing Centre it became the epicentre of COVID-19 in Queensland. Because of the brilliant work done by all the staff there, the staff at the Rocky hospital, the Mater, Hillcrest and the QAS, everyone was able to keep our most vulnerable elderly residents safe.

We know that the best way to shield our economy right now is to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to keep Queenslanders as safe and as healthy as possible. It is only because of this strong response that Queensland can put the pedal to the metal and get our economy back on track. That is why the Premier and this government have been so strong in ensuring that Queenslanders have been kept as safe as possible. We know that things are tough for Queenslanders right now right across the state. It is only the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and Labor that have a plan for economic recovery that will not hurt Queenslanders by cutting services, sacking workers and selling assets.


I note that *Unite & Recover: Queensland's economic recovery plan* is a great document that really outlines all of the ways in which the Queensland government is going to work together with Queenslanders to bounce back from this global pandemic. I love page 29 in particular which outlines how Dobinsons Spring & Suspension, a local North Rockhampton manufacturer, has been awarded over \$580,000 through a Made in Queensland round 2 grant towards a \$1.2 million project to introduce state-of-the-art cold coiling processing capabilities. The director, Mr Glen Dobinson, said the grant has helped the company get through these trying times and become more cost-effective while expanding their product range. They were able to put on three new full-time workers and they expect to create a total of 12 new jobs in the region over the next five years. That is a perfect example of how we are supporting manufacturers in Queensland to bounce back from this global pandemic, create jobs and support our local economy.

The Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and Queensland Labor's plan for economic recovery is simple: supporting, protecting and creating jobs is our No. 1 priority. We will do that by investing in building and construction projects across our state, particularly in our regions. Take roads, for example. More than 1,500 jobs will be supported by a \$1.4 billion road-building boom in Central Queensland being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I speak of projects like the Rockhampton Ring Road, the northern access upgrade and the Yeppoon and Rockhampton roads upgrade which are all part of that package. Importantly, there is also the \$14.3 million 42-bed detox and rehab centre, which is important for supporting people with drug and alcohol problems to get the treatment they need.

We are helping small businesses in Queensland; we are giving them the support they need to recover quicker and stronger. I have visited dozens of small businesses in my electorate recently who have taken advantage of the Palaszczuk government's Small Business Adaptation Grant. Take Jacinta Perry at Boost Juice Rockhampton, who was awarded the grant to pay some rent. In the case of Daryl and Nat at Wilson's Farm Fresh Fruit & Veg, a digital business upgrade has been installed at their farm at Nankin as well as an upgrade to their ordering system. Loretta Simpson at Lyn-Jelle Crafts in Emu Park has used the grant to pay their electricity bill. Also through this recovery plan we will buy more goods and materials locally and ensure that Queensland businesses, from small to large, play an even bigger role in our economic recovery.

By investing in Queensland's manufacturing industry we can also ensure that Queenslanders use and buy more goods and services made right here in Queensland. Queensland's manufacturing industry employs over 165,000 people and it is incredibly important to the Central Queensland region. The manufacturing industry employs about seven per cent of the state's workforce and contributes about \$20 billion per annum to the state's economy.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has put Queensland on the road to recovery by making strong health decisions on the border and starting to deliver Queensland's economic recovery plan. The member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, and the LNP cannot be trusted with our recovery. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise today to speak to the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 and the Appropriation Bill 2020. I am a member of the Economics and Governance Committee which, sadly, will not get to scrutinise this expenditure before this House considers it. I pay tribute to the deputy chair, who was the first, last, only and best mayor of the Albert shire. He likes me to mention that in every speech related to our committee.

A couple of speakers on this side of the House have raised this point, but the debt Queensland is being burdened with under this Labor government is out of control. The announcement that it is expected to reach \$102 billion is absolutely staggering. Our economy is in a frighteningly weak position as we head further into this recession and that will only mean it will take longer for Queensland to recover. Even the government's Productivity Commission—once flaunted by them as being independent but, as we heard this week, that will no longer be—pointed out the government's failings in one of its most recent pieces of research work, *Building economic resilience in Queensland*. That report states—

In the last five years, Queensland has experienced an employment-to-population ratio well below its pre-GFC peak levels, slipping below the national average for the first time since the early 1990s.

This bill itself is to fund the \$1.114 billion of unforeseen expenditure of 13 departments in the 2019-20 financial year, although we have no detail at all on any of this spending. Given this is pretty well in line with other years of Labor's overspend, they cannot blame this on COVID. The parliament already approved the \$3.181 billion in April through the COVID appropriation bill to deal with, primarily, the health response. Last year the overspend itself was \$1.397 billion, the year before it was around half a billion dollars and the year before that it was \$2.273 billion. This mismanagement of the hard-earned dollars of Queenslanders is not acceptable and we cannot keep going this way.

There is nothing to be released through this, apart from the 41 pages we received on Monday on debt and, of course, this bill, other than the many light-on-detail ads we see across our newspapers and social media. The other day I think I even saw one on a bus stop in my area. We are in the dark not only about how this government thinks it will get us out of COVID-19 but also about the devastating position our economy was in before it hit. This year we have no QTRIP or Service Delivery Statements—absolutely no detail. Queenslanders are none the wiser about the government's plans or about any of the specifics of what their money was spent on in the past year. The figure within this bill is \$1.114 billion. That figure means something. It is not something for us just to sign off on; it has an impact on every Queenslanders we represent.

In Bonney, we had the highest unemployment on the Gold Coast before COVID hit. Obviously, it is now worse. Those who have lost jobs or are at risk of losing their jobs because they cannot continue in them due to the border closure—I am hearing many stories of this—are absolutely terrified. What hope do we offer them? What will be available to them when our economy is this weak and there is such a low level of business confidence? The Productivity Commission report I referred to earlier summarised it well. It states—

A return to pre-crisis economic growth will leave the economy running below its potential, limiting growth in the living standards of Queenslanders.

Perhaps this is why the commission is no longer independent and why it is being brought within Treasury. This government does not like to hear criticism, and when it does it silences it, shifts the goalposts, goes on the attack or blames an LNP administration that left office almost six years ago. At the time of its establishment the then treasurer stated—


... the resulting recommendations will contribute to the development of new policies aimed at boosting economic growth and delivering higher living standards for all Queenslanders.

Yet when the commission does its job—to report on how well the government is doing at delivering this—and when the government does not like the answer it gets, it takes away the commission's independence.

We call for sensible investment, not overspending like this, particularly when there is no detail. In my electorate of Bonney, covering the best parts of the Gold Coast, we need more police. We need upgrades to our ageing school facilities. We need jobs created through a fully realised Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct to diversify our job market and to welcome in investors. We need a second M1. After six years of this government, we do not even have a business case for this. We need a way to get the growing population of Gold Coasters moving easily between suburbs without jumping on a National Highway to go anywhere and a plan that considers the local residents living alongside it. We need to improve our public transport systems and access to them. It is essential in our growing city

and it is the only way we will not be stuck with years of congestion in terms of managing growth sustainably. We need a state contribution to the highly congested Brisbane Road-Captain Cook Drive-Pine Ridge Road intersection, for which the Gold Coast council has money on the table.

As my colleagues do, I understand that we are in a global pandemic and that that will be a hit to our economy, but we were in such a fragile position before COVID hit that we have an even longer road ahead to recover. The LNP is ready to get Queensland working again. Our fiscal principles are clear. We will strive to be the lowest taxing government in the nation by guaranteeing no new taxes and a 10-year royalty freeze. We will target fiscal balances across the economic cycle by limiting general government expenditure to less than revenue. We will stabilise and begin repaying Labor's debt with a target of regaining the state's AAA credit rating. We will set improved standards in public service delivery and accountability across the whole of Queensland. We will build the job-creating infrastructure Queensland needs to boost state growth and improve productivity. Only the LNP can truly help Queensland recover from this pandemic and get Queensland working again.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (12.53 pm): Strong borders equals a strong economy. The world has been shaken by the global COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impact upon our economy, health and lives. We are facing some of the strongest global economic headwinds in living memory, and our state is not immune. We have a strong plan for economic recovery—a plan that ensures we can unite and recover, creating jobs and investing in our communities. We have a plan to invest in job-creating infrastructure, back small Queensland businesses, kickstart our manufacturing industry and support jobs by buying locally.

Queensland entered this crisis with stronger economic and population growth than the rest of Australia and improving labour market conditions. More than 250,000 jobs have been created since January 2015 and the trend unemployment rate had fallen to 5.7 per cent. We acted swiftly in response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst senior members opposite were calling COVID-19 a scare campaign, we were rolling out our health and economic response.

Whilst others were minimising the potential health risks, we were delivering a \$1.2 billion health package including expanded fever clinics, boosted emergency department capacity, acute care services and increased assistance for regional and remote communities. We have been rolling out payroll tax relief of almost a billion dollars, almost \$200 million for small business adaptation grants, \$400 million in support for commercial and retail tenants, and much more. Let us not forget that we have exempted JobKeeper recipients from payroll tax calculations, something the federal government has not done for income tax calculations.

Locally, many small businesses in my area on the north side have benefited. I hosted a small business forum—I thank the Minister for Small Business for jointly hosting my forum—and a northside jobs forum at the Geebung Bowls Club. Many small businesses I have visited have received some of our grants, helping them to keep going and also adapt to changing circumstances.

We are rolling out great projects to keep locals in jobs on the north side—hundreds of jobs. We have a capital program of works locally at the Beams Road overpass. We have the Northside Indoor Sports Centre, which employs dozens of workers. We have new jobs in Zillmere, whereas those opposite cut jobs in Zillmere and sacked over 50 people with the closure of the QFleet workshop and the shutting down of the SDS warehouse. We are bringing back jobs to Zillmere and back to the Aspley electorate.

We lack big-scale federal investment. We have a few projects on the horizon, but Linkfield Road is a perfect example. Almost two years ago the Prime Minister stood on the border of Bridgeman Downs, Carseldine and Bald Hills and promised to fix this intersection. Of the \$100 million, guess how much they have actually delivered to the state. They have delivered only \$6 million. We are doing the heavy lifting on infrastructure, local projects and jobs. When we commit to a project, we give a starting date. The Beams Road rail overpass will start in 2021. The Carseldine park-and-ride upgrade is underway, the Geebung park-and-ride is underway, Aspley State High School's new sports hall and arts centre is underway, and the Northside Indoor Sports Centre is underway. We are delivering jobs now, not in the future.

Bizarrely, yesterday I heard the member for Burleigh say that there is little investment in his electorate apart from the billions of dollars for projects such as light rail. He actually listed light rail but said that there is not much apart from that. The opposition clearly thinks big infrastructure projects fall from the sky. I suppose when the only major project in the term of government of those opposite was a nicer building for its ministers, it is hard to work out where infrastructure funding actually comes from. Big infrastructure funding comes from Queensland Labor. We build and they cut.

Bizarrely, in response to the CFER the opposition blamed us for the low population growth forecast for the next year. In a media release the Leader of the Opposition said—

Queensland's population growth rate is forecast to be just 0.75% this financial year, which is barely more than half of what it was forecast to be at the end of last year ...

The Leader of the Opposition might not have noticed that the Prime Minister has put substantial restrictions on our international borders. She was probably too busy calling for the state borders to open to notice. I am sure that if the Leader of the Opposition were in charge she would be happily ferrying southerners across the border to pump up our interstate migration figures. We have seen a reduction in key revenues of over \$6.7 billion from payroll tax, royalties for coal and gas and GST payments over two years. What do those opposite do? They criticise us for falling population growth. At the very least, they need a lesson in the birds and the bees and where population growth actually comes from in a western democracy.


We entered this crisis in a strong fiscal position. We were on track to deliver our fifth consecutive surplus. Compare that to the LNP in Queensland and federally. The Newman government of course broke its own budget surplus promises. We still are waiting for the 2013 budget surplus from those opposite. Tony Abbott promised a budget surplus in the first year of office. Seven years later, we are still waiting for a federal budget surplus. They printed the 'back in black' mugs and T-shirts. A forecast surplus is not a surplus.

We are getting on with the job. We have an additional \$500 million for the renewable energy fund. We are also providing an additional \$500 million to establish the Backing Queensland Business Investment Fund to power commercial enterprise in Queensland. We grow the economy; those opposite cut it. The LNP has to tell Queenslanders who, what, where and how much it intends to cut to fund the \$23 billion in unfunded election commitments.

Queensland's GSP is forecast to grow by 3¼ per cent in the calendar year 2020-21 compared to an RBA forecast of Australia's GDP to grow by two per cent. This follows a forecast 2½ per cent fall in Queensland's GSP in calendar year 2020 compared to an RBA forecast of a four per cent fall in Australia's GDP. We are outperforming other states. I commend the bills to the House. Strong borders equals a stronger local economy.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mellish, adjourned.

## VALEDICTORY

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (1.00 pm): I would firstly like to acknowledge my fellow colleagues the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Caloundra, who are retiring. Together, they have a combined 27 years of service as state representatives. They are both true Queensland champions who are focused on the needs and aspirations of those they serve—two true gentlemen who will be missed by all in the parliament. I wish to acknowledge Minister O'Rourke and Minister Lynham and the two other members who retired this year, Jann Stuckey and Jo Miller, and thank them also for their service to Queensland. Another Queensland champion is Deb Frecklington, and I sincerely thank her for her leadership and support. I also thank all of my LNP colleagues. It has been terrific to get to know you all and to work towards delivering a better government for Queensland. I would also like to thank all of the parliamentary staff. You are truly an amazing group of people and I will miss you all.

Not a single day goes by when I do not count my many blessings nor take for granted the huge honour it has been to serve the people of the wonderful Pumicestone electorate. Making the decision not to recontest my seat was a difficult choice but a choice that needed to be made. There are many demands in this job that take us away from our family which mean that we cannot always be there for our loved ones when they need us most. For this reason only, I made the decision to put my family's needs first and foremost, to be there to support my ageing parents and to ensure that I can give back to them what they have given to me throughout my lifetime—unconditional love and support.

I am so proud to leave a mark on the Pumicestone electorate. It is a beautiful, diverse, vibrant and caring community with a very loud and proud voice. Some of this can be attributed to having the oldest neighbourhood in Queensland in my electorate—people who have worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, raised their families and have now found the perfect place to pull up stumps and retire. Many have endured hard knocks in life and they are also a wise bunch who have the right to be served well. I hope I have given them the attention that they rightly deserve.

My electorate of Pumicestone is served by many groups and organisations that make the community an even better place to live. There are thousands of volunteer hours being put in each week by very fine men and women—enormous human energy and spirit that makes Pumicestone great. To the wonderful service clubs like Rotary, Lions, Bribie Island and Beachmere RSL subbranches, my dear Bribie Island Vietnam Veterans Association, VMR Bribie Island, BANG, the dynamic Neighbourhood Watch groups, progress associations, our wonderful Men's Sheds, Meals on Wheels, historical societies, sporting groups and interest groups like the Bribie Island Orchid Society and the Bribie and Beachmere U3As, we are spoilt for choice because people keep these groups alive for the benefit of all. If I had the time I would name and thank them all, but I can assure them of my continued support in our wonderful community.

During my term as state member I have seen opportunities lost by the Labor government to serve the people of Pumicestone well. A good example of this has been the upgrade of Bribie Island Road. Shovels have only just hit the ground on one of the Moreton region's most dangerous intersections at Old Toorbul Point Road. Four years ago when Labor's Rick Williams was the member, he stood beside the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and announced state funding for this upgrade.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mrs WILSON:** Four years, Deb, but nothing has eventuated past the hoopla of an announcement, so the state funding for this project has sat idle for the past four years. Nothing progressed until three months out from the election. Let me take you back to mid-2018 when the federal government sent a \$20 million lifeline to Bribie Island Road. All that needed to be done was the government needed to get off its backside and do the project proposal to get the funding on the road to make it safer for our commuters so they could get home faster. Again, the Palaszczuk Labor government delayed doing the paperwork as long as it could to finally get this funding on the ground just three months out from the election. The cynic in me sees a pattern here and, indeed, so do the residents of my electorate.

My approach to the role as the state member for Pumicestone from the very get-go has always been to work with my community to achieve outcomes, and those that we have achieved together we celebrated together. We are a tight-knit bunch in Pumicestone and we care very deeply for our environment, our older citizens and our future generations to come. We do not ask a great deal, but when we do it is important. Each year when I have written to the Premier, the Treasurer and relevant ministers about funding being made available in the annual budget for our needs, it was not to grandstand but to make sure that our community was seen as a priority. I cannot begin to express my disappointment at each year having my electorate cast aside from its fair share of state funding for major road infrastructure upgrades and health service needs. The small wins we have had over this term have been hard fought and I am happy to be remembered for fighting for the pelicans of Bribie Island Bridge and ridding our shores of shellfish pillagers. I am happy to be remembered for fighting long and hard for much needed road upgrades on Beachmere—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mrs WILSON:** I will take that interjection—and Bribie road and I am more than happy to be remembered for fighting for better health services for the residents of Bribie Island who have had no access whatsoever to urgent after-hours medical care. With the oldest neighbourhood in Queensland, it is beyond belief that access to after-hours urgent care is not readily available. I was very pleased to see the member for Longman's recent announcement of a three-year trial of urgent after-hours medical care on Bribie.

Whilst I am on my way out, I am comforted to know that the LNP has a solid, honest and caring candidate in Fiona Gaske. She is intelligent, experienced and, above all, has forged strong bonds with the wonderful Pumicestone community. She is absolutely no fly in. Fiona has shifted her entire family to Pumicestone in pursuit of a great life for her two young children and her hardworking husband, Andrew. Together, they have made Pumicestone their home and it is great to see Fiona being so well received by the electorate. I truly wish her well.

There are a few people I must acknowledge, starting with my electorate office team—Sally and Paris. The job of an electorate officer is a tough gig. Sally and Paris will say it is a rewarding job, but I know just how much they give of themselves, and they give above and beyond the call of duty. Sally has been with me from the start and I thank her for her guidance, calm and reassuring demeanour and her breadth of knowledge along with her unrelenting care for the people of Pumicestone. Likewise, Paris is always available to help community groups. She goes out of her way to ensure residents in need get the assistance they need. Not a week has gone by when I have not received a call or an email




from constituents to pass on their thanks to Paris and Sally. They are truly a great team and I am truly so grateful to have worked with them to make Pumicestone a better place. I was also very fortunate to have Daniel Downes work with me for the first year and I would like to thank him also.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my 2017 campaign team and the many volunteers who assisted me during that time. I want to thank my family and friends—my sons Bryce, Jack, Daniel, Matthew and Stephen and my daughter-in-law Chantelle, who have sacrificed not having their mother on tap but have made me very proud. Without their encouragement, I could not have done this job. To my husband, Steve, I love you. Thank you for your support, good humour and keeping me on the level. To my parents and my in-laws, thank you for your love and support. I look so forward to spending a lot more time with you all. In closing, in my maiden speech I quoted the renowned modern poet Maya Angelou, who said—

I've learnt that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I hope my greatest legacy as the state member for Pumicestone has been to honour this—  
#lovepumicestone.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (1.09 pm): I will start by acknowledging Simone Wilson, Ted Sorensen—or Ted 'Bull—' Sorensen of Hervey Bay—and Ministers Lynham and O'Rourke for the contributions they have made to this parliament. They will all be sorely missed. I acknowledge my wife, Judy. Everybody knows Judy; she is married to me. I am the downside of the relationship. I also want to acknowledge Samantha and her partner Alex, Joshua, and our brand spanking new grandchild Rafael, who is just over seven months of age. To you, the future is yours. You can make of me what you wilt. I also want to acknowledge all those throughout the years who have helped me in the election campaigns: those who walked the streets, stuffed the envelopes, did the prepolls, were at the polling booths and also the count thereafter. Never forget that we would never be here without them. We stand on their shoulders for the great work that they have done for us.

I want to acknowledge the people of Caloundra because they have had the faith to put me into this place for the past six election campaigns. It has not always been easy. There have been some tough contests, even within my own party, but at the end of the day they have found in me the person they wanted to stand for them within this House. I want to thank the LNP party as well. I say that because of this: we have our differences, and so it should be—so families should have disagreements—but at the end of the day the LNP brand got us over the line, got us preselected, into the House, made us a minister, and maybe will get us to government under Deb Frecklington on 31 October. I want to thank the media. A true democracy needs a robust media to keep us on our toes, otherwise we become North Korea, we become Russia, where the media is trundled under the jackboot of those who are in control. Without the media we would not have the robust system we have here today. Though sometimes we bear the brunt of their ire, thank God they are here to keep us on the straight and narrow.

I was asked recently when someone saw my corflute, 'Is that your grandson?' As is my wont, I pulled out late last night the Queensland Parliamentary Record of the 53rd Parliament 2009-12. Thumbing through the photos I came across a young chap, the member for Mulgrave, who joined in 2009.

**Mr Stevens:** With hair!

**Mr McARDLE:** I take the interjection. Shall we say a coverage. The member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan—a very young looking Mark Ryan—and even then old, the member for Mermaid Beach. The member for Mermaid Beach, sad to say, has not improved with age. In fact, the only person photographed in the document that maintained a sense of beautification was Neil Laurie. There is a bald point to be made in relation to that issue. I do want to thank Neil, however, because Neil became Clerk of the Parliament in 2003. He is an exceptional constitutional lawyer. He is also a friend of everybody in this chamber, whether you believe it or not. You can always go to him to seek advice and he will give you that advice open and honest. Neil, I thank you and I will miss you sincerely.

I would have been here 16 years and nine months when 1 November this year rolls around. Can I say to the members of this House on both sides and the crossbenches that it has been an enormous privilege. I have enjoyed every minute—the bloodletting, and the good times as well—because this is a House of robust debate. This is a House where we can let our philosophical base loose. What good is a chamber of this nature if we are tied to simple words without the emotions carrying through them to the outcome that we want.

Since 1860 there have been 1,285 members of this House—this and the other House down the corridor. Think about that. How many million people have lived in Queensland since then to now and only 1,285 people have been selected. That is an honour. That is a privilege. I say never forget that. One thing that I have learnt is this: the letters M and P after your name open so many doors. Mark McArdle would never have walked through a hundredth of those doors without those letters after my name. Think about it: the scientists, the artists, the writers, the politicians that you have met because of M and P after your name. I think that is a good perspective. At the end of the day never forget that M and P is not owned by you. It is owned by the electorate. At some point in time you will give it back or they will take it back. The privilege extends to the fact that they give you the right to be a member of parliament and to experience the wonders of the people that interact with you as an MP as you go up the ladder—shadow minister, minister, Premier et cetera. Never forget that.

I could talk about a lot of people that I have known in this House, but one stands out: Lawrence Springborg. I would love to have been in this chamber to hear him talk back in 2017 about what he thought and what he had gone through because he is an honourable man. I think that is acknowledged. He is a man who gave his all for the party, for the parliament and the people of Queensland and he is sorely missed. He is one person who I think would have made an excellent Premier. I think he had the interests of Queensland at heart and I believe members on both sides of the chamber may accept was worthy of at least a run at that on his principles alone.

The other person I want to make comment about is John-Paul Langbroek. I sat thinking about John-Paul last night and the words that kept going over and over in my mind were ‘what if’, ‘what if’, ‘what if’. Those in the know understand what I am talking about.

**Mr Bleijie:** I have no idea.

**Mr McARDLE:** That surprises me, member for Kawana. What I would like to say is this: politics is a battle of philosophies, of ideas and ideals and it is the battle that you have with your opponent to convince the people you represent and the state or the nation that you should be given the opportunity to put that into effect. Menzies made that quite clear. So did Whitlam. So did Hawke. So did Keating. So did Howard and Costello. It is a long tradition. It is a battle about ideas, philosophies and ideals.

We are now in COVID-19 and we could well be for a lengthy period of time to come, even post a vaccine being established. We in this state have been able to push back in relation to the health issues, but the economy is the biggest challenge we face. I remember that I met Deb Frecklington in the 2011-12 campaign on a Saturday morning at a breakfast. I got to know her slowly over time. I have come to the conclusion that she is a woman with conviction, that she is a woman with ideals, that she is a woman with compassion and she has gathered around her a team of dedicated men and women who have a blueprint to establish Queensland going forward. I say to you, Deb, I wish you the very best on 31 October. You have done the yards with Tim Mander and the bloke behind you. I believe that in 2020, come 1 November we will have an LNP government led by Deb Frecklington because we have ‘thousands’ of people supporting you going forward. Mr Speaker, I thank you indeed and, as they say in America, McArdle signing off.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Caloundra. Whilst I get the last say, the right person won the ballot for Speaker. I thank you for your service to the parliament and the executive as well.



**Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (1.20 pm): I did not mean to get emotional today.

**Mrs Frecklington:** They sold the assets!

**Mr SORENSEN:** Do not worry; I will get to that. As I have said in this place before, Hervey Bay is one of the best electorates in Queensland and I am very humbled for the support that I have enjoyed from many people over the years. I thank everybody in this place for their support as well. When I first came into this place I sat in the seat next to this one, but I could not sit there today because of COVID. Jarrod Bleijie sat on one side of me and Tracy Davis sat on the other side of me. I do not know if I coached Jarrod a bit. Sometimes I would egg him on a little. I hope that did not affect him in any way—did it?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I thank Jarrod for his friendship over many years. We have had a lot of fun together. I acknowledge my colleague Ray Stevens. We have had a lot of fun together too. We were nicknamed Piglet and Pooh Bear—

**Mr Stevens:** I was Tigger. Plucka was Pooh Bear.

**Mr SORENSEN:** That is right. We were called that by a journo who used to sit in the gallery and text us all the time. We have had some fun together.

As most members of this parliament would know, it is a real privilege to represent your electorate, which I have done for a couple of generations, just about. I was first in local government. I went into the general store at Nikenbah and saw Jeff Keen. I always blame him for getting me into politics. Jeff said, 'We need somebody like you on the council.' I went home to the wife and said, 'I'm going to run for council.' She said, 'What the hell do you want to do that for?' I looked at her and I said, 'To win—what d'ya think?' She said, 'Well, you'd better go and tell your brother what you're going to do.' He did not think that I was going to win either. That was in 1994. I won that council election. At the second election I again won as a councillor and became the deputy mayor.

In 2000 I ran for and became the mayor for Hervey Bay. That was a real privilege. It was at the time of the Olympics and I was able to attend events and make speeches. It was fantastic because the Olympic torch travelled up through Fraser Island to River Heads and went north from there. It was a real privilege to be the mayor of the city at that time. I think as mayor you do a lot more than you do in here.

**Mr Last:** No!

**Mr SORENSEN:** I disagree. I have been thinking of some of my achievements and I must say that it is sad to see that Virgin will not fly into Hervey Bay from Sydney. We built the airport and lengthened the runway, which I think was one the greatest things that I ever did, because aviation connects families. It was great for people to be able to fly from Sydney straight into Hervey Bay to connect with their families. It was a real privilege to be a part of that.

After that I got a bit peeved off with the ALP guy who was representing Hervey Bay at that time. I thought, 'If you're going to open your mouth you might as well put your body behind it', so I ran for state politics. On the night that they were doing the count, I lost the first booth. The media were saying that Hervey Bay had been won again by the ALP, but by the end of the night I had 51-point-something per cent of the primary votes. That made me really happy because I knew I did not have to rely on preferences to get over the line.

That was a great achievement and I want to thank a lot of people who have supported me all the way, especially my wife. She is at home watching on the television. She stood behind me all the way. If there is one thing that we are going to do it is to catch up with some of our kids, some of our grandchildren and some of our great grandchildren. I think that is why I am leaving. Being in public life you do neglect your children a lot and most members would know that. We have a couple of great grandchildren we have not yet seen. It will be great to catch up with them.

I thank my staff who are in the gallery today, Paula and Deb. Paula has been with me for the 11½ years that I have been in this job and Deb has been with me for eight years. Michael worked with me for the first three years and then retired. Being the oldest person in this House is not the best reputation to have, I do not think.

**An opposition member:** I thought Ray was.

**Mr SORENSEN:** No, I beat Ray by one month. Dale Fehlhaber has been a huge help to me. She comes in every Friday morning to do the photocopying for all of the charitable organisations around the place. It has been great to have her support. I thank Steve Baker, my campaign manager, and my election volunteers. There are so many of them. The old *Maryborough Chronicle* called them Ted's Army. We always had heaps of people at the polling booths, which was really fantastic. I want to thank all of those people for all of the help that they have given me over the years. They have always stuck with me. It has been great to have that support behind me.

I want to mention Norma Hannant, who was one of the greatest people you could ever have working on a polling booth. Nobody argued with Norma, I can tell you. If she wanted that spot, she got that spot. Other people I want to acknowledge include David Lee, Eddie Frost and John Norris who is nearly 90 and still stands at the polling booth for me. Wayne Fehlhaber has also been a huge support.

From the LNP family I have been very privileged to have the support of Warren and Lyn Truss. Warren was the Deputy Prime Minister for a while. I thank Keith Pitt, who was the local federal member, and Llew O'Brien, who was the federal member for Wide Bay. I acknowledge Paul Neville. Paul was one of the greatest guys you could ever come across. He was one of the funniest guys you could ever meet. There are a lot of other people I would like to mention.


There is always some humour to be found around this place. I will never forget Rachel Nolan saying, 'Queensland Rail is not for sale!' At the very next sitting, Andrew Fraser hopped up and said, 'We're selling the rail.' This pamphlet was sent out by the Labor Party at that time. It is titled 'Queensland assets sale—The Myths vs The Facts'. One of its myths is 'Privatisation leads to job losses' and it goes on to say, 'The government cannot grow these businesses ...'. I have never forgotten that. I dug that pamphlet out the other day. The last thing that I really want to say is: who sold the assets? Labor sold the assets! I table those two documents.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland's Assets' [1618].

*Tabled paper:* Brochure titled 'Queensland assets sale: The myths vs the facts' [1619].

Mr Speaker, I thank you for not kicking me out of parliament. There were a few times when you could have, so thanks a lot for that. I appreciate you being the Speaker of the House for this term. I congratulate you and wish you all the best for the future. I wish everyone here today all the very best for the future.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Hervey Bay, for your contribution to the parliament.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (1.30 pm): Today I rise to give my valedictory speech. I share this day with the members for Pumicestone, Caloundra and Hervey Bay and my colleague Dr Lynham. I thank you for your service to Queenslanders.

As a second term minister and after 5½ years in this House, delivering this speech could not be more different from when I delivered my maiden speech in May 2015. To be frank, at that time I did not know what I had gotten myself into. Being a politician was never an aspiration of mine. As a working mother of two teenagers, I had never spent a night away from my family, and as an early childhood educator I was passionate about all children. I was passionate about the opportunities that a quality early years education provides. Because of this passion I chose to represent my fellow educators, to improve working conditions and remuneration. I wanted to see the professionalisation of the sector to truly reflect the importance of the work early years educators actually do.

Politics was not a career path that I had ever considered, so you can imagine my surprise when I was encouraged to nominate as a candidate for Mundingburra in 2014. This came with the understanding that it would be an opportunity to see if politics could, maybe in the future, be something that would help me further workers' rights and help create a fair and just community. When nominating for Mundingburra I was told, 'We need some more real people in government because real people bring with them a different way of thinking when it comes to decision-making.' I can assure you that I had absolutely no expectation at that time that I would be successful, that perhaps in three or six years time I might have an opportunity of winning a seat in parliament. You can imagine my shock when I won the seat of Mundingburra, and overnight I was a politician. Before I knew it, I was on a plane down to Brisbane, leaving my family for the first of what was to become many times. Within days I was a minister and the roller-coaster ride really started to move. While you could never have convinced me back then that the times of wanting to get off the ride in the early days would disappear and that the joy of the ride would emerge, that is exactly what has happened.

Interestingly, the main challenges I had in the early days, and even to this day, were because of the reason people supported me initially: I was a real person. At the time I did not really understand exactly what that meant, because aren't we all real people? Over time, pretty quickly in fact, I learned that in politics there are many aspects that are not real. Judgement by a large number of people who do not really know you, from the media to opposition parties and members of the community, was really hard for me, because the way to push through all that noise of opinion, that most in the House have to do, is to come out swinging and come out loud, and that is not me. By now, a lot of you know me and know that that will never be me. Much to my staff and colleagues' dismay, I have always refused to make personal attacks on my political opponents. My rule has always been 'policy yes, personal no'.

Because of who I am, wanting to be in front of the camera is not me, wanting to be put in positions of verbal conflict is not me, wanting to be away from my family for even a day is not me. None of these things is the real me. What I want to say to anyone who wants all types of real people to enter politics is that you have to expect that they will not always fit the mould and we should always accept them for who they are and what they bring.

To people, particularly women, who want to get involved in politics but might be put off by the theatre and the sometimes brutality in what you may see and hear, believe me, there is absolutely a place for you. What I discovered that allowed me to be the real me in this place is that, behind the

headlines, there are some amazing people who become politicians for all the right reasons and, secondly, that you are in an incredible position of privilege where there are so many opportunities to work hard on things that will make things better for people, for our community—so many opportunities to find connections with people and to work together to solve problems.

As a local MP, the real work I have had the privilege to be a part of has seen a stadium, water pipeline, hospital, education, roads and social infrastructure all delivered for the people of Townsville and North Queensland. I am also proud of being able to deliver the Townsville Women's Centre and The Oasis. These are important pieces of community infrastructure.

As a minister, I have had the enormous privilege of being the Minister for Disability Services for over five years. I am proud of this government's role in giving 82,000 Queenslanders with disability choice and control over their lives through the NDIS and building an all-abilities plan to make sure that Queensland is an inclusive place to live. I want to shamelessly take this opportunity to say that there is still a long way to go before people with disability are included in our community and in an inclusive and respectful way. The Commonwealth government wanting to contract out NDIS assessments should send a shiver up the spine of all who believe in the potential of the NDIS, and I will be fighting this issue until my last day as minister and beyond.

On a broader level, the work that has been done around the isolation, the loneliness, the exclusion and the trauma that many people with disabilities still experience needs to be continued by government and community alike. Being able to work alongside Queenslanders with disability, I have been humbled to witness the strength, creativeness, kindness and struggles that people with disability have. At the end of the day, I ask each and every one of you here: if you have the opportunity, always consider Queenslanders with disability and then go one step further and ask people with disability to have input into policy creation. Moving into the future, the best thing that we can do and that the disability sector can do is make sure that people with disability shape public policy and broader decisions that directly affect them. I would like to thank each and every Queenslanders with disability that I have met, each and every carer, family member and friend. Indeed, I would like to thank each and every stakeholder from across the state, from peak organisations to the local community centres and organisations. I have been so fortunate to meet you all and I thank you for your incredible work.

I would also like to thank all those in the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, in particular Director-General Clare O'Connor, Paul O'Driscoll, Max Wise, Leata Nolan, Casey Bloom, Liz Bianchi, Emma Knudsen and Matthew Nye. I thank them all for that attention to detail, for their commitment to excellence in public service and for delivering real outcomes for people with disabilities, seniors and the community.

I would like to thank my parliamentary colleagues. The friendships that we have built will last a lifetime. In particular, I would like to thank the Premier. Her support and friendship has meant the world. During my battle with breast cancer to the decision to retire from this place, she has been nothing but supportive, and her commitment to the values of a fair and just society where everyone's life is important has always been there. To be honest, I would not want to be part of any other government. Premier, I thank you for the strong and passionate person that you are.


To the people of Mundingburra: I thank you for the trust you have put in me and I will always be humbled by that. To the staff of my electorate office, Shari Fabbro and Kelly Wilson, who I think are watching from Townsville: the care and service you give to each and every constituent has made me so proud, and your friendship means more than I can say and will last forever.

To my ministerial staff I say many, many thanks, in particular to my chief of staff, Carolyn Nicholas, and my senior media adviser, Ben Mulcahy. We have been together through thick and thin. Together we have worked tirelessly to deliver for Queenslanders with disability, for our seniors and for our communities as a whole. At times it has been rough and rugged, but I would not change it for the world. To all of you: you are so much more than friends; you will forever be a part of my family.

To my family, to my mum and dad, to my husband, Lewis, and to my children, Hannah and Riley: I thank you for your ongoing support and for all the sacrifices you have made that have allowed me to do my job. I love you with all my heart and I am thoroughly looking forward to spending so much more time with you.

I would like to finish off by wishing all of my colleagues the best of luck in the upcoming election. I will be doing everything in my power to make sure a Palaszczuk government is re-elected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister, for your contribution to the parliament and to the people of Queensland.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (1.40 pm): I rise to further elaborate on my statement this morning. As Barack Obama said, ‘Don’t get involved ... Fight for a seat at the table.’ That is exactly what I did. I entered this House with a goal to achieve. There was no voice for the people in my care over many years. The numbers just kept growing—broken faces, broken victims of trauma, domestic violence and alcohol fuelled violence.

My team at the hospital was under immense pressure to keep the waiting lists low, but we just had nowhere to go. The numbers kept rising. An ambulance was simply parked at Fortitude Valley, waiting like a cab at the airport to ferry the latest victims to the emergency department. No more. The simple solution was just to decrease trading hours. It was as simple as that. We decreased trading hours by just two hours. That is essentially the most effective thing we did. The violence decreased. It did all around the world and it did here in Brisbane. It decreased by just decreasing trading hours. That ambulance in the Valley is no longer there because it is not needed any more, and that was before COVID-19. Many people in health and community care have offered their congratulations to this government for its initiatives. None was accepted more warmly than the words of a leading hotel representative who a year ago said to me, ‘I admit it. You were right, Anthony. It worked.’

Human beings have an innate strength: the ability to care. Even when we may be down and battered or do not want to care, we invariably do. I cared about the victims of needless violence and this government acted. We acted on alcohol-fuelled violence. We acted on domestic violence. We acted on bullying. As Coretta Scott King said—

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassion of its members.

We still have a long road to tread but vast steps are being taken and the distance between us and a more caring community is lessening. It has been my simple goal to make the place a safer, more caring world. That is how I measure every one of my achievements.

I stand proudly on my record in leading the greatest reforms of mine health and safety in this state in two decades. Pneumoconiosis, tragic mine accidents, families losing loved ones—more than anything in politics, that has affected me. I wept, I gathered strength and I resolved that as a government we were going to fix this. The implementation of the Monash report recommendations has us well on the road to stamping out black lung. The Brady review and the current board of inquiry will help stem the insidious cycle of tragedy in our resources workplaces.

I have seen firsthand over the past five years how important strong, organised worker representation is to the safety and health of workers. I acknowledge the work of my good friend Steve Baker of the Australian Workers’ Union and Stephen Smyth from the CFMMEU in the resources sector and thank them for their support in furthering worker protections. I truly believe that one of the greatest remaining threats to the health and safety of resources workers is casualisation of the workforce. I encourage these unions in their efforts to hold back this encroaching tide. I further acknowledge Gary O’Halloran from the Plumbers Union, Peter Biagini from the TWU, Chris Gazenbeek my good friend from the SDA and the ETU’s Peter Ong. They are all strong worker representatives who hold paramount the health and safety of their members and indeed all workers.

I also acknowledge the industry leaders with whom I have worked closely: the late Michael Roche and Ian Macfarlane of the Queensland Resources Council; Allan Dingle and Stuart Armitage from the Queensland Farmers’ Federation; Georgie Somerset and Grant Maudsley from AgForce; and the leaders of the many renewable energy agencies. Also in the resources sector, I would like to particularly thank Mayor Ann Baker—a strong representative of her community. I would also like to thank Tony McGrady, a former minister for mines. He was a great mentor to me and a strong leader in Mount Isa and for his community.

I leave at a time when the world is progressing through a pandemic. I am very proud to have played a role in keeping the resources sector strong and resilient through this crisis. As I move back to medicine, I can commit to this House that if I am required to roll up my sleeves as a doctor to assist with the pandemic, then I will without hesitation. COVID-19 has hit us all in our own way. My good friend and namesake Anthony Lynham in the UK lost his eldest son to COVID-19, leaving behind a very young family. One of my sons, Rohan, and my daughter-in-law, Suzie, and my grandchildren, Audrey and Lewis, live in New Zealand. Lewis is nine months old. I have not seen him. I have not cuddled him. I am yet to meet him. I join everyone in wishing that this thing were over.

As everyone in this chamber knows, not only do we serve the people of Queensland, but our families serve the people of Queensland too. To my dear wife, Pam, I owe you so much and I thank you with all my heart for supporting me in this very busy life. To my four boys I say that I am proud of

you. My eldest, Brayton, is a teacher for the deaf. Rohan is a doctor in anaesthesia training. Sean is a police officer in Barcaldine. Eamon works in IT. To my daughters-in-law, Tenille and Suzie, and my grandchildren, Darcy, Ivy, Audrey and Lewis—thank you, and I look forward to seeing more of you.

I would also like to thank a raft of people for their support. These include my caucus colleagues. I would like to thank the Leader of the House, Yvette D'Ath, Speaker Curtis Pitt, Jackie Trad and particularly the Premier. I share Coralee's thoughts on the Premier. We have such a great Premier. We are lucky to have such a great team. I point out those people because when I came in in 2014 those people were with me. We were sitting over there. The LNP came right the way around the chamber. I made the eight into nine. It was a baptism of fire that I will never ever forget. It taught me so much. It taught me how to put armour on.

**Ms Jones:** Instead of gloves.

**Dr LYNHAM:** That is right. I would like to thank my past and current electorate staff: Susan, Janet, Greg and Darcy. I would particularly like to thank my very first electorate officer, Helena. When you are first elected you have no idea what goes on. Helena was a great and sincere guide for me. I would like to thank my past and current senior ministerial staff: Simon, Woody, Adrian—my chiefs of staff—and Jan. Hardworking Jan has been my media advisor from start to finish. She has done terrific work. I thank my other hardworking ministerial staff.

I would of course like to thank the Stafford community and the ALP branch members of Stafford. I particularly thank my campaign managers, Dan Keating and Terry Sullivan. I would also like to thank the Sullivan family for all they have done for me. They have done a lot since 2015. I thank Terry, Trish and Jimmy.

We all remember the heady days of the 2014 by-election campaign. That was absolutely incredible. That was soon followed by elections in 2015 and 2017. I recall in 2015 and 2017 the press saying I was going to resign. Even six months after I had started they said I was going to resign. Finally they got it right but for the wrong reasons, I must point out. I would also like to thank the professional government employees and senior executives of departments and government owned corporations in my portfolio and James Purtill who has been my director-general from day one.

I would like to thank particularly the good people of Cherbourg—the very good people of Cherbourg.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Hear, hear! They are very good people.


**Dr LYNHAM:** I know the opposition has a role there. They welcomed Pam and I into their community. We spent weekends in Cherbourg with the community. I went as frequently as I could. They are a wonderful, vibrant, resilient community.

Although I am not recontesting the election, I will continue to serve the people of Stafford until they elect my replacement. I will be honoured to continue to serve as Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in the Palaszczuk government until a new minister is sworn in after 31 October.

Six years in limited practise is a long time for a surgeon. During this time I have continued my long-running volunteer efforts by volunteering for Brisbane's Aboriginal and Torres Islander Community Health Service and also working in Papua New Guinea. Virtually for my entire adult life I have been a doctor. Since the change in medical registration regulations in 2016—I remember it well: 1 October 2016 medical registration requirements changed—it has been increasingly obvious that I cannot give 100 per cent to this very busy job and maintain my registration. I had to make a choice—a very, very, very difficult choice.

I have achieved what I came here to do. I am eternally thankful for the opportunity to be able to do that. It is now time to return to my first career to assist where I can including in the pandemic now upon us. I leave you with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'What lies behind us and lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Minister Lynham, for your service over the past two terms.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (1.53 pm): Mr Speaker—I have already won my first bet because my husband thought I would cry by just saying 'Mr Speaker'. Mr Speaker, I rise to inform the House that last night I advised the Premier that I will not be contesting the upcoming state election. As I am sure all honourable members can appreciate, this has been a very difficult decision for me and my family.

It has been an absolute honour to serve the people of my local community as their state member. I am proud of what we have been able to deliver in my time since I was first preselected by the great Australian Labor Party in 2005 to contest the electorate of Ashgrove 15 years ago. Successfully elected in 2006, with the honourable Premier, I was the first woman and the youngest person to represent Ashgrove in the Queensland parliament. At the time I recall there was a lot of talk, both within the party and outside the party, about whether a young single woman in her twenties could actually win the seat. That feels like a lifetime ago when we see how many women are in the parliament today.

Of course, a lot of things have changed since then. The electorate is now Cooper and represents more inner-city suburbs including Paddington, Red Hill, Kelvin Grove, Newmarket, more of Bardon and Suncorp Stadium. I mention the stadium because I had the great honour of being there for the official opening in 2003 when I worked for Robert Swarten, who is in the gallery here today. It would be remiss of me not to say that it was delivered on time and on budget.

I am now married with two children, Thomas and Grace, who are also here, as is my husband, Paul. Tommy has his own page in the history books too. When I gave birth to him during a sitting week some 10 years ago, he became the first and remains the only child born to a female minister in Queensland. I also hope this changes in the future. Being the first, we did not have any precedent about maternity leave and I ended up working up to the day that Tom was born.

I still owe the Premier, who generously did my estimates hearing that year as well as her own. In actual fact, it is the Premier and the Treasurer who brought on that early birth. After an arduous cabinet meeting when I had to get five of my last cabinet submissions through, the Premier and the Treasurer suggested that we should go to the Pancake Manor. I may have eaten too many pancakes. Needless to say, I went to caucus that afternoon and Robert Swarten said, 'You look crook, love.' Tommy decided to come that night. You took your time though, Tom!

I have had the privilege to serve under three premiers and as a minister for eight years. I am truly grateful for all that I have learned and for the many opportunities I have had to work with such a diverse range of people from right across Queensland—but it has not all been smooth sailing. There was the 2012 drubbing with the lessons from that time still ringing loudly in all of our ears. Queenslanders, of course, never get it wrong. At that election, we on this side of the House learned the truth the hard way.

On a personal level, the 2012 election—when I was up against Campbell Newman and a very well resourced LNP machine that of course was determined to ensure the election of a leader they had chosen from outside the parliament—was tough for me, for my family and for my local supporters. I had the humbling experience of losing, but that loss strengthened my resolve to win back the trust of my local community, the people in my area, and it has been a true honour and privilege to represent them. That victory happened three years later in 2015, when I became only the second challenger in Queensland's history to unseat a sitting premier.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Hear, hear!

**Ms JONES:** Yes. We are not doing that again any time soon, Premier. I will be eternally grateful that my grandfather, a true believer who was dying of cancer throughout the 2015 election, hung on to see that victory. Of course talking about granddad would get me!

The wider story of that election should serve as an important lesson to all of us. In 2015, the people of Queensland spoke clearly again about the kind of government they wanted—or, more accurately, the kind of government they did not want. History was made again with the election of the first Palaszczuk Labor government that was formed.

On a personal note, I had assured my husband, Paul, that when Annastacia, the then leader of the opposition, came to see me about running against Campbell Newman in 2014 there was absolutely no possible way that we were going to form government. As the local member in opposition, it would be totally manageable with our then four-year-old son and 10-month-old daughter. As they say, the rest is history.

Representing the Labor Party in this parliament will remain one of the proudest achievements in my life. My mother's personal sacrifices raising my brothers and I shaped me and has taught me that government policy matters and government decisions matter, especially if you do not have the safety net of your own house.

The decisions we make around the cabinet table and here in parliament every day either make it harder or a little bit easier for a young girl such as I was—someone who was never going to rely on the old school tie to open up doors but nevertheless dreamt big to improve their circumstances through education, hard work and determination. This, of course, is the Labor way.



Labor believes that every child deserves a chance. It is Labor governments that have consistently worked to level the playing field for women to serve in parliament, in senior executive positions and on boards—even the Parole Board—and achieve real change for the next generation.

**Mrs Frecklington:** I am sure he is missing that.

**Ms JONES:** It is still me, Deb.

I am proud that our local community is now more livable and has better services than when I was first elected. As the local member I have lobbied hard for upgrades to local schools and sporting clubs, including: a new hall at The Gap State School; the \$12 million state-of-the-art STEM centre at The Gap State High School; and the \$6 million sports hall at Kelvin Grove State College, my old high school. It was also Coralee's old high school and the member for Townsville's old high school. Maybe they did have something there. I should not have discounted the tie so readily!

I also successfully championed for the ambulance station to be built in our community. It was a proud day when I joined Judy Spence to open the newly upgraded police station at The Gap which had been closed down by the Borbidge government. I joined the then disability services minister—now our Premier—when we officially opened the newly built Ashgrove Respite Centre, providing much needed support to local families with children with a disability.

I have been deeply honoured to have served as a minister in the Queensland government in numerous portfolios since 2009. I am assured by Andrew Fraser, who is also here, that I beat him as the youngest minister in Queensland history too—just by a few days—and Lawrence, while we are at it. No-one has broken it yet—just saying. I was fortunate to lead Queensland's tourism industry through record highs, and in more recent times I supported the industry during an all-time low. I thank Daniel Gschwind, who is here today on behalf of the industry. As I announced in the House this morning, we partnered with the private sector to deliver 100 new tourism experiences that will come online in the next 12 months just at the time we need a real shot in the arm.

During my time in education I was very proud to convene a task force to lead the reform of Queensland's new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system, and I thank everybody from all sectors of education who worked collectively together to provide a much better and fairer system of education for the next generation of Queenslanders. We also delivered Queensland's first autism and reading hub and secured funding for 30 new school halls throughout the state. If there are children out there like me, I think the school hall is where I had my happiest memories singing and dancing—you know, do what you do—very professionally.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** You can! I think you might dance better than me, Jarrod. I did win the Irish dancing national championship though.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Still competitive.

**Ms JONES:** Yes, correct. I am sure that, with the Premier, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games are something that we will remember throughout our lives. It was a major highlight for all of us. It has been a very rewarding and humbling journey for me with all the highs and lows political life can throw at you.

I would like to thank everyone who has guided me and influenced me along the way. Thank you to all of the volunteers, the local branch members and supporters who have stood shoulder to shoulder with me for five elections; to my husband and my family, who have been there for my children when I have not—I hope I can make it up to you; to my colleagues for their friendship and support; to all the business and community leaders with whom I have worked throughout the years; and to my team—thank you. We did good.

Honestly, I have been very privileged to work with a team that I have known for many years, including people I worked with in Schwarto's office, other people I have worked with for 20 years and Matt Jutson, whom I have known since high school. Jack, you can never have too many birthdays—I hope I taught you that—and it is five o'clock somewhere. I trust that many of the friendships I have forged in public life endure into the next chapter of my life.

Thank you to all the parliamentary staff who work so tirelessly for us. I have also known many of them since I was 21. Angie, you have seen me trotting out of here for many, many years. It was a bit more stressful when I was working for Robert.

The fourth estate does not always get a lot of praise on the floor of this chamber, but accountability to the people who elect us remains the cornerstone of representative democracy. The media gallery's scrutiny and analysis of the decisions we make in this place are critical to the robustness of the system we all believe in and have a duty to uphold. Most of the time, Steven, you did. That was a joke too. It turns out you are all pretty important to us.

Of course I also want to thank the Premier. It is her leadership that has ensured Queensland remains one of the safest places in the country—and in the world—during the coronavirus pandemic. Even in the face of relentless pressure, orchestrated attacks and downright bullying online, she has remained steadfast in her decision to keep Queenslanders safe—to keep my family safe. Unlike other states, this has allowed us to start rebuilding our economy. I genuinely thank her for her courage during one of the most difficult years our state has ever faced.

This election will be tough and every vote will have to be earned. I pledge to you, Premier, and all government members here today that I will work as hard as ever until 6 pm on 31 October to ensure the people of Cooper continue to have a strong voice in a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government. I will continue to serve as a minister very proudly in the Premier's team.

I leave here with no regrets and I am excited about the future. I truly hope that my time in public life has broken down a few more barriers for women in politics, making it that little bit easier for the next generation. I hope that I have inspired another little girl who was just like me with big dreams to believe in herself, back herself, and know that if you set your mind to it you can achieve anything.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I will take the opportunity to say thank you for your service to the people of Queensland and to the parliament.

**Ms JONES:** I thought you were going to warn me!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Well, it would not be the first time.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.05 pm): When the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, said that Queensland hospitals are for Queensland patients, it was one of the most un-Australian things I have ever heard. It will haunt her every day for the next 51 days right up until election day on 31 October. So much for, 'We're all in this together.' So much for the rhetoric about uniting and recovering.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, I appreciate there is well-wishing going on, but we do need to hear the member who is on her feet.

**Ms BATES:** It is an us-against-them mentality, and Queenslanders have seen right through it. The Premier's politicisation of the pandemic, particularly around interstate borders, has lacked compassion and shown that the true priorities of the Labor government are about getting re-elected—not protecting lives and livelihoods through a global pandemic. Queenslanders must be kept safe to protect lives and livelihoods; no-one disputes that. The LNP has always said that border controls are not 'set and forget' and we support strong action on borders because we cannot risk a second wave, but the same rules should apply to everyone. There should not be special treatment for those who own a superyacht, play or coach football, or if you are a Hollywood celebrity.

Queenslanders who have had to travel interstate for lifesaving surgery should be given exemptions to quarantine at home, particularly when it is recommended by medical advice from the likes of one of Australia's leading neurosurgeons, Dr Charlie Teo. Sadly, these exemption requests by ordinary Queenslanders have been refused, but there has been special treatment for the rich and famous. How can you justify telling a 39-year-old Queensland father who is dying of cancer that his four young kids from New South Wales cannot all come and see him at the same time and say goodbye because they live across the border, when special treatment is given to Melbourne AFL VIPs and Hollywood celebrities. It is heartless, it is cruel, and it lacks common decency. Sadly, that is just one of many examples of how people have been denied access to loved one's funerals, to see their dying relatives or to access lifesaving surgery.


The Premier needs to ensure the exemption system is applied consistently and there is compassion from Queenslanders who are recovering from life-saving surgery. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk rolled out the red carpet for AFL players, officials and their families while everyday

Australians with critical medical conditions have been ignored or rejected. It is time for common sense, consistency and compassion—not special deals for sporting stars and celebrities. It seems that under the Palaszczuk Labor government there is one rule for the rich and another for everyone else.

My heart goes out to people like Mark and his family, or Jane Brown on the Sunshine Coast, or Sarah, a Queenslander living in Canberra who missed saying goodbye to her father who recently passed away after she was stuck in mandated government quarantine. Meanwhile, two builders from Melbourne were recently allowed to come to Queensland to build a boxing ring. The priorities of the Palaszczuk Labor government are all wrong—

*(Time expired)*

### **O'Rourke, Mrs C; Lynham, Dr A; Jones, Ms K**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.08 pm): I rise to thank the three ministers who have announced their retirement today. On behalf of the government, I say to Coralee that we wish you all the very best for your future. The member for Mundingburra is honestly one of the nicest people you will ever meet. She has a strong commitment to her family and her community, and her passion for disability services has been first class. We wish the member for Mundingburra all the very best for her future. She has delivered a lot for Townsville with the trio up there. Every time she walks into Townsville stadium, she can hold her head up high because of the work she has done and committed to that project. We know that the minister has gone through her own personal battle with breast cancer but she has stood strong and continued to work and she is an inspiration to me and to everyone in this House.

I pay tribute to Dr Anthony Lynham, or as we call him 'The good doctor'. Very rarely do you meet a person who comes in here purely to change policy. When Anthony came in here, he made us nine in opposition—and can I tell you that No. 9 meant so much. We became good friends. I know that he sacrificed a very good career to come in here, but he pursued policy. He can hold his head high knowing that the lives of Queenslanders are better because of the work he has done to curb alcohol fuelled violence in this state. We would not have Rheinmetall if it were not for Dr Anthony Lynham, who I sent overseas to Germany. He told me it was a tough assignment but he delivered and came back. His passion and commitment for the mining and resources sector, for energy and for water—three huge portfolios which would usually be carried by three different ministers—shows his intelligence. I also take this opportunity to thank his family and all of his staff for everything they have done.

I turn to my good friend Kate Jones, minister and member for Cooper. Kate and I reminisced last night that we were elected into this House 14 years ago yesterday. Kate and I became good friends. I think she will always go down in history as the Campbell slayer. Never before have we seen such a great night than when Kate was able to stand up there and say she had reclaimed the seat of Ashgrove. She was the minister for the Commonwealth Games, and as we said it was the best Commonwealth Games ever. She has delivered so much, but I did admire most her passion for education because she knows that education changes lives. When Kate was minister, her first son Tom was born. In fact Kate has been a minister and working in government whilst her children have been young. I wish her all the very best for her future, as I do Anthony and Coralee. On behalf of the Labor government, we wish you all the very best for your futures.

*(Time expired)*

### **Queensland Border Closure, Exemptions**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.12 pm): It is a few minutes past two o'clock and I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to Sarah Caisip and her family. Unfortunately, Sarah's sad case is not unique. Jane Cadzow's 87-year-old mum is gravely ill in Queensland and Jane lives on the outskirts of Canberra. As we all know, somehow Canberra is strangely designated a COVID-19 hotspot so Jane is barred from entering Queensland in her mother's hour of need. On 31 August Jane applied for an exemption with a letter from her mother's doctor. Jane tells me she is fed up with the Palaszczuk Labor government's double standards. In her email yesterday she said—

I urge Anastacia Palaszczuk and the members of her government to reconsider their priorities and rediscover their humanity. Hosting AFL grand finals and campaigning for re-election is surely not as important as behaving with decency and compassion to the Queenslanders who most need their help.

I acknowledge the member for Moggill who raised this matter first thing this morning with the health minister's office.

Tina Merriman who lives in Canberra applied for a border exemption on 18 August to come to Queensland to provide care for her sister in Queensland. Tina contacted the COVID hotline but has heard nothing of her exemption request. Canberra has had no COVID-19 cases in more than 60 days. In fact, it has an outstanding record that more than satisfies the Chief Health Officer's definition of 28 days straight with no COVID cases. I can tell the House why the ACT has been declared a hotspot by this Labor government. It is all about keeping the coalition Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, and our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, out of Queensland during the election campaign. This Palaszczuk Labor government has no consistency and no compassion for families who need to be with their loved ones in their time of need.


We also have the case of doctors who cannot get exemptions on time. The community of Lightning Ridge had their medical services disrupted because the doctor who travels from Queensland to provide the three-week locum service did not get his exemption in a timely manner. I table an email received today from another doctor in a similar situation.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'We are all in this together' [1620].

There is a further case of Patricia Jones of Charleville who is 71 years of age. Patricia is at risk of losing her independence and ability to live at home on her own because of the disruption that has occurred to the ophthalmology services in Roma. I am advised that the September Roma clinic has been filled by a locum this month because the regular specialist could not get a border exemption. This is one of the largest satellite clinics in the state doing on average 50-plus operations and 100 clinic consultations. I am greatly concerned that the October clinic will be further disrupted and patients like Patricia will not get their surgery. The public of Queensland deserve better than the politically motivated actions of this Labor government that are heartless on families. This government is hopeless on compassion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Aspley, I wish to inform members that joining us in the public gallery today is the former member for Mansfield, Mr Ian Walker. Welcome back.

### Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.15 pm): I would briefly like to echo the Premier's sentiments about three great ministers from our side who have made fantastic contributions. Two weeks ago tomorrow my colleague the member for Sandgate and I turned the sod on the additional 170 extra car parks at Carseldine train station. This is a great program in and of itself but, importantly, it is the first stage of the Beams Road rail overpass project. With the help of locals, I launched a community petition to build support for the project, I secured funding for a feasibility study, I launched the business case and I locked in funding from all levels of government. I took up the fight to get this dangerous level crossing removed. This is a project that the LNP ignored for years but we are delivering. They ignored overwhelming community sentiment and they ignored independent economic analysis.

In 2012 Deloitte undertook a cost-benefit analysis for the Newman government. The secret report, which was never released publicly, lists an overpass at Beams Road as having the highest benefit cost ratio of 21 surveyed level crossing removals in South-East Queensland, yet the Newman government sat on the report and the LNP ignored the project. When I became the candidate for Aspley in 2017, I set about changing that. I secured an election commitment for a \$400,000 feasibility study—a commitment I note the LNP did not match.

Following the feasibility study, all available feedback channels showed that most people just wanted the crossing fixed. In the 2019 budget, I secured \$5 million for the business case and pre-construction works. This then culminated in June this year when the Treasurer joined the member for Sandgate and me to announce enough funding to get this project built. There was \$128 million which, when combined with council and federal government contributions, is enough to get this project done. Work will start in 2021.


The Department of Transport and Main Roads are consulting further with locals on the design of the project. I encourage locals to visit the website, give them a call or drop into one of four public consultation sessions that they are hosting. This is in contrast to the LNP, which did not release the secret report on Beams Road and did not commit any funding to this important project. I encourage the community to have their say on the preferred design. Even now, the opposition is playing catch-up.

As mentioned before, in addition to the rail overpass, we are delivering a commuter car park plan which includes 170 additional car parks at the Carseldine rail station and upgrades to the surrounding road network. I will continue to work hard to deliver the Beams Road level crossing upgrade because

the area cannot afford to have this project put at risk by a future LNP government. They have a history of cutting funding to road projects, sacking workers and selling off Queensland's assets. This project is part of Queensland's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. It will deliver much needed construction jobs for locals as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds of people will be employed on this project, putting food on the table for northside families. This is on top of existing great local wins we have got, such as the Northside Indoor Sports Centre, which will soon be open, and the Jabiru Community College, which is right next door and is actually in the old home of the SDS which the LNP shut down and thereby sacked about 50 workers on the north side. We are delivering jobs and we are delivering certainty.

*(Time expired)*

### Sunshine Coast, Public Transport

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.18 pm): I table a letter that I wrote to the transport minister six months ago asking for information regarding the strategic plans for public transport on the Sunshine Coast.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 28 February 2020, from the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the Sunshine Coast Public Transport Network [\[1621\]](#).


In that request for a briefing and in the information I outlined, it is quite clear that I was saying we should work together to ensure we have the opportunity across the federal, state and local government areas to plan that in the public sphere. I wanted us to work together and get that on the public record. What did I receive back from the transport minister? Nothing, zip, not even a squirrel, except for a Twitter which only came last week when he was trying to claim he was on top of public transport while accusing others politically. That is really disappointing.

If we are to have a better public transport system on the Sunshine Coast we all have to work together—federal, state and local governments. The Minister for Transport's lack of respect in not even answering that correspondence sends a message that he does not care about public transport and building a better system, certainly not on the Sunshine Coast. We in the LNP team do. It is about working together.

I am delighted that as a result of working with our federal colleagues we have seen a record amount of money spent on the Bruce Highway locally and we have also seen contributions to the duplication of the rail line. That is why we are fighting for a better integrated transport system where there are no secrets—there are no secret plans. We have seen criticism of our local council not bringing people along with regard to density in their local area. I believe that the best option is that the community is fully engaged and fully involved with all the information up-front. In that way there are no nasty surprises down the track. The best system that moves people in all the areas of transport—bus, road and rail—has to be integrated. There have to be open books and we have to bring the community along with us. Their voice has to be heard rather than them finding out about the unintended consequences of bad planning and secret agendas.

It is unfortunate that the state Labor government has been playing that game, too, and we have seen it in many areas. They have raised taxes by \$4 billion, yet in their first term they cut the statewide infrastructure spend by \$3 billion. That break in the pipeline of works has been felt throughout our economy. Before COVID, we had the worst small business confidence in the nation here in Queensland. This great state was let down by an incompetent Labor government. We had the worst unemployment figures in the nation, and it goes on. We in the LNP have a plan to rebuild the economy. COVID has struck a blow that needs competency and economic management that only the LNP can deliver.

### Queensland Ambulance Service

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): Given this is my last contribution during this term of government, I wish to set the record straight on a few things that some people in this House and the *Courier-Mail's* Steven Wardill seem to have a recent interest in, such as my former career as a critical care paramedic with the Queensland Ambulance Service. I have a very proud history in the QAS, starting in 1990. I continued my honorary service during the first term of government, only stepping down given the enormous workload of the health committee, which I proudly chair. However, when COVID-19 came along there was a national calling for more nurses and paramedics from agencies and services. I wanted to do more for my community of Thuringowa and not waste 28 years of clinical service. In March this year, with the support of the Premier and the health minister, I did reapply to the

QAS as an honorary ambulance officer at the Kirwan station. I went through the entire reapplication process, including a medical. I table the letter QAS provided me informing me of my successful appointment as an honorary ambulance officer at Kirwan station, dated 17 May 2020.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 May 2020, from Senior HR Consultant, Townsville Local Ambulance Service Network, Ms Sallyanne Lawson, regarding the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, being engaged as an honorary ambulance officer [1622].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 March 2020, from the Senior Payroll Officer, Queensland Shared Services, Ms Cheryl Pennington, advising of the employment details for Mr Aaron David Harper [1623].

I also have an application with AHPRA, who recently contacted me regarding my paramedic registration. It provided positive news regarding its progress in recognising my previous 50,079 hours of service. I table that statement of service from QAS and a letter from the QAS medical director, Dr Stephen Rashford supporting me in my aims.


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 8 May 2020, from the QAS Medical Director, Dr Stephen Rashford, regarding Mr Aaron Harper's application for registration as a paramedic [1624].

This has included me passing my annual core skills, which I have recently done. I thank and support the team from the Clinical Support Unit in Townsville. I was pleased to join four of the six newest graduates whom I congratulated on their excellent choice of career. It is part of being a proud local MP that I choose to volunteer and do these things to help my community in great times of need.

I recently completed a shift at Kirwan station, and I know how excited the officers are that they will soon have a new Kirwan Ambulance Station to work in for which I lobbied and worked hard. It will house 60 staff and 10 new ambulances. I look forward to opening that new station. I might have a bias for emergency services, because they are the people out there each day on the front line, and I am proud to be associated with them.

In times of need we have to deliver more to meet demand, like we have done with our police in Townsville. With regard to our hardworking police, it is this government that backs them and the LNP that sacks them. We have delivered 104 additional police, and the LNP sacked over 300 police staff. I want to thank the Kirwan police for last night's effort, Operation Spring Clean, in which there were 12 arrests and 20 charges. I am very proud to remain a part of QAS. I am also proud to be a member of this government that has the back of the people of my community of Thuringowa, whether it is delivering stage 1 of Riverway Drive—and I pledge I will get stage 2 done. I thank the people I have had the pleasure of working with during this term of government.

### **Burleigh Electorate, Crime; Slater, Mr N; Mulherin, Hon. TS**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.24 pm): As a father of three now adult kids who has raised a family in Burleigh and Palm Beach, I can attest to the fact that we have the best schools, the best beaches and the best lifestyle. However, all that is being threatened by Labor's weak position when it comes to crime. I have never received so many calls, emails and Facebook messages reporting break-ins, hooning, car theft and destruction of personal property than I have in the past few months. Many locals are frustrated with the fact that they report many of these criminals only to see them get off with a slap on the wrist.


Just last week I was contacted by the South Coast Netball Association, located in Palm Beach at the Mallawa Drive Sports Complex. They told me that they have been seeing instances of broken beer bottles around the clubhouse, including glass on the courts, plastic chairs around the clubhouse from groups holding gatherings at the club, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights, suspected drug use, broken security lights around the clubhouse and public toilets left in a terrible, disgusting state. They took it upon themselves to hire a private security guard for eight weeks on Friday and Saturday nights. That cost them \$135 a night, in total, \$2,160. They got a pretty good response from having that security guard there. It is very unfortunate they have had to hire this security guard, because the police sometimes are not available; they have to reprioritise their time, and we all know that. This problem exists because the Labor Party is soft on crime. They are soft when it comes to our judiciary. This is leading to problems especially on the Gold Coast. Quite frankly, we need more police on the Gold Coast.

I now turn to the tragic death of Nick Slater on the Gold Coast a few days ago. That is terrible. I have swum around that area. There are known to be sharks in that area. The Queensland government has a Shark Control Program. In fact, 12 months ago, on 20 September last year, the minister for agriculture was given a report titled the *Queensland Shark Control Program: Review of alternative*

*approaches*. The minister has done nothing with that report. That is a terrible outcome, particularly for Nick on the Gold Coast who passed away a few days ago. At the end of the day, the minister needs to stop playing politics with this issue and get on with it.

I would also like to pass on my best wishes to Tim Mulherin's family. He was a wonderful Labor man and somebody whom many members opposite could do well to mirror.

### Ipswich, Waste Facility

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.27 pm): The issue of waste continues to be discussed not only across the Bundamba community but right across Ipswich, Queensland and, indeed, the nation. Locally, there is a proposal by Remondis to build a waste-to-energy facility at its site in Swanbank where it currently operates a landfill facility that generates power using methane capture technology.

Much has changed since Ipswich City Council originally approved waste activities at the site more than 20 years ago. There has, and continues to be, significant population and urban growth through the areas around Swanbank and New Chum. Our community is now a fast-growing urban area and, due to local government development approvals, people in the suburbs of Redbank Plains, Collingwood Park and Ripley are now living in closer proximity than ever before to waste industry activities.


There are significant community concerns about the waste to energy proposal, concerns which I take very seriously. Already there are questions around the proposal's environmental impacts and potential health impacts; and community feedback raised with me to date has been exclusively negative. In June, the Coordinator-General, which is independent of government, declared the proposal a 'coordinated project'. I want to make it very clear that this declaration does not mean the proposal has been approved, nor does not mean it has any endorsement whatsoever from the state government. In fact, under the Palaszczuk government, six coordinated projects have been approved, six have been rejected and 12 are under consideration. It does mean, however, that the project is now subject to the most rigorous assessment available under Queensland law and must go through full public consultation and assessment of the project's environmental, economic and social impacts. Regardless of the outcome of the Coordinator-General process, the project will still need to be approved by Ipswich City Council and meet relevant federal government requirements.

I listened carefully to community feedback and thank everyone who took the time to discuss the project with me. Having taken the time to consult and consider, I believe that there are better options to be explored such as establishing a state-of-the-art recycling facility which would deliver more jobs locally and is a higher order use under the Queensland waste strategy, or relocating the project to a more suitable location away from what is a fast-growing, highly populated urban area. This is a view shared by the members for Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan, and we have written to the Coordinator-General to communicate this. I table a copy of that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 September 2020, from the member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP, the member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP, the member for Bundamba, Mr Lance McCallum MP, and the member for Jordan, Ms Charis Mullen MP, to the Coordinator General, Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation, Ms Toni Power, regarding the proposed Remondis Energy to Waste Facility [\[1625\]](#).

I thank everyone from our community who has taken the time to contact the Coordinator-General. I encourage others who are interested to do the same and to make their views known. I would like to see our community, and Queensland more broadly, become a zero-waste society where waste is avoided, re-used and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

### Lockyer Electorate


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.30 pm): It has been an absolute honour and privilege to be able to represent the 50,000 people of the Lockyer electorate. I am the one person who gets to come here and express their views, and I humbly thank them for electing me in November 2017. On a whiteboard in my office is a question that was written in January 2018: 'What are the people saying around the kitchen table in October 2020?' My answer to that question was, 'He works hard. He does the right thing.' I believe that our team's efforts will produce that conversation around the kitchen table come October.

It has been a privilege but there are a couple of personal tributes and honours that I have felt during that time. One in particular is the strong, personal relationships that I have been able to develop with local, state and federal governments and members on both sides of the House. We have been

able to achieve many things including: school upgrades to classrooms in Laidley, Lowood and Lockyer high; and securing \$14 million of grants for community groups ranging from service clubs, swimming clubs and sporting clubs through to campdraft associations. There is still much more to do. Only the LNP has committed to securing 50,000 megalitres of water for our farmers, \$75 million of upgrades to the Warrego Highway—I thank Scotty Buchholz for getting \$60 million from the feds for that project—and even a lunch room for the workers at Anuha. It is a wonderful honour.

I thank my campaign team and give special thanks to Angie and Julien in my office for all their hard work, honesty and friendship. Lastly, to my wife, Deb, and our families: I thank you for your patience and support. Queensland cannot afford another four years of Labor. Only an LNP Deb Frecklington government will get Queensland working again. I humbly ask the people of Lockyer to give me another opportunity to represent them and to fight for the projects that we need. I will work hard and I will do the right thing.

### **Mulherin, Hon. TS; Space Industry**


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.33 pm): I start by conveying my sincerest condolences to my good friends the Mulherin family on the passing of Tim: to Erin, the love of Tim's life and his best friend; to Declan and his partner, Kirsty—Tim was so proud of his sporting prowess, especially in hockey; to Liam, who has the luck of the Irish—Tim always thought he was more Irish than the Irish; and to Rory, a wonderful young man who Tim used always to think of as the baby. He loved and cherished each and every one of them.

The Palaszczuk government is leading Queensland through the health pandemic and has a plan for economic recovery, because we always have been forward looking with our eye on Queensland's future. Recently, Abbot Point was announced as Queensland's preferred site for a potential space launch facility. We are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland now and in the future. The Labor Palaszczuk government has an \$8 million space strategy that will support economic growth and recovery for Queensland industries. We are continually adding and supporting new industries to our economy, because we know that this is the way of the future.

Why Abbot Point? Because of the clear skies. The launch sites are best placed on a coastline—launching eastward is best, to allow rockets to accelerate with the earth's rotation—in proximity to the equator. The site was identified by PwC Australia as a potential site for orbit rocket launches, and it ticks all of the boxes. The significance of the announcement of the preferred site near Bowen was not missed by students at Mackay's Beaconsfield school. Year 5 students were so excited when I was telling them about it. One young fellow said to me, 'You know, I dream all the time about working in the space industry but my mum keeps saying, "No, you have to move overseas and work at NASA." I'm going home to tell her. I'm going to drive up the road and say to them, "I'm here to work."'

By 2036 the proposal of this new launch site at Abbot Point has the ability to generate up to 6,000 jobs. Students sitting in our schools now are planning their aviation careers to work in regional Queensland. We are delivering for regional Queensland. We know that our world is changing at a rapid rate and that we must be agile and ready to jump on board the next opportunity to grow the jobs of the future. Our apprentices now working so hard in heavy industry in Mackay are the potential workers in the engineering space industry.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Moggill Electorate**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.36 pm): Labor has comprehensively failed Queensland over the past five years. Even before the COVID-19 health pandemic, debt in Queensland was projected to reach \$91.8 billion. Now, debt is projected to reach \$102 billion. Even before the COVID-19 health pandemic, Queensland had Australia's highest unemployment rate, the most number of bankruptcies and the lowest level of business confidence. Now, more than 234,000 Queenslanders are unemployed. Labor has all but given up on the projected 72,000 Queenslanders predicted to lose their jobs in the coming months.

Next month, Queenslanders will finally be able to pass judgement on the abysmal record of the Palaszczuk state Labor government over the past five years—five years of Labor's various accountability and integrity scandals; five years of failing to address roads, active and public transport, and traffic congestion; five years of devastating failures in child safety, failing to protect communities right across Queensland; five years of skyrocketing crime in communities across Queensland; and five years of failing to deliver the vital health and education services that each and every Queenslanders deserves.




There is hope for Queenslanders, including those in the electorate of Moggill and more broadly across the western suburbs of Brisbane. The LNP has great candidates: Lauren Day in Maiwar, Trent Wiseman in Cooper and Roger Hooper in Mount Ommaney. They all understand that the LNP has a comprehensive economic plan to create and protect jobs, stimulate the economy and get Queensland out of this current recession. The LNP's plan will build infrastructure, bust traffic congestion, ease cost-of-living pressures, deliver water security and ensure better health and education services whilst also ensuring a strong commitment to protecting our environment.

The LNP has already announced many exciting commitments for the electorate of Moggill and, more broadly, the western suburbs of Brisbane. It is only the LNP that will deliver the \$25 million safety upgrade to the Kenmore roundabout. The LNP has announced a \$245 million commitment to build a new Centenary Bridge to bust traffic congestion on one of Queensland's most congested motorways and in doing so bust traffic congestion in the western suburbs. There is our free travel for students via \$500 travel vouchers as well as free off-peak travel for seniors on the Citytrain network. The LNP will work with Brisbane City Council to build a footpath for local residents in the electorate of Moggill to provide safer active travel to the Moggill District Sports Park. The LNP will extend the route of the 444 bus to this great sports facility.

The LNP has also announced a \$4 million commitment to a new hall at Kenmore State High School. The LNP will also prioritise referring Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and neighbouring suburbs for additional school infrastructure via a reformed independent schools planning commission. It is only the LNP that understands what is needed for Queensland. It is only the LNP that can get Queensland working again. On 31 October, the people of Queensland need to elect an LNP government.

### **Coronavirus, Economic Recovery; Queensland Border Closure**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer for the economic recovery plan that they have delivered for Queensland. Through this plan we are protecting our health, creating jobs and working together. As we have fought this pandemic we have responded with a \$7 billion package to support businesses, workers and families. I am particularly proud that we have supported 334,000 Queenslanders in work in terms of helping businesses keep them in jobs through small business grants, which have been very popular, \$950 million in payroll tax relief and almost \$1 billion in loans to 7,000 Queensland businesses.


I also want to congratulate the Premier for standing up to the bullies of the LNP. This morning she said that she would not be bullied by the Prime Minister. As Queenslanders can see, she is standing up to the bullies as they try to prise open Queensland's borders—people at the federal level like ministers Hunt, Birmingham and Dutton and the Premier of New South Wales, who keeps thinking that strong borders equals loopy politics. It is very clear that they are launching coordinated attacks that are aimed at opening our borders. They are not doing it to South Australia or to Tasmania. They are doing it to us and that is despicable.

We know that the Queensland LNP wants to throw open the borders, but what Queenslanders find particularly disgraceful is that those opposite are getting others to do their dirty work for them. I say to the LNP: Queenslanders do not support your hopes to see the borders thrown open. Queenslanders do not respect that you are getting others to do your work for you—Queenslanders do not respect that—and the fact that you will not put your name to it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr WHITING:** As the Premier said this morning, and I say this to the LNP: the people will see through you. I say to Queenslanders that we will not be swayed. We will not be intimidated. We will keep Queenslanders safe through strong borders. As I was told early in the pandemic by a constituent, 'If you haven't got your health, you ain't much chop.' We cannot have an economic recovery if we do not have a health recovery. We on this side stand for health and we stand for jobs, and we know that a strong border means a strong economy.

### **Housing Affordability**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.41 pm): Among the issues that Queenslanders want addressed, none has been so consistent and unresolvable as the basic human right to shelter. I am standing here to plea for united action on affordable housing given its major contributing role to homelessness, poor wellbeing, domestic violence and growing insecurity, especially in our COVID recovery. We have made small progress; however, it is not nearly enough, quickly enough. The federal government and CEDA agree that it is an urgency. Even political commentators are on board.

What does it take to finally resolve it? Here is a simple suggestion. We did it 50 years ago and my community has them: yes, demountable villages, much loved by those who live in them. The fact is that with one single stroke of the pen we could deliver fourfold on current efforts for the same price just by taking a leaf from the past and we could get on with creating intentional living projects. Statistics do not reflect the reality of those living under housing stress and duress, as they do not qualify for social housing. Even if they did, we still would not know how many, as we have been advised that Queensland no longer operates a social housing waitlist.

There is also no mechanism to capture those workers seeking community housing which is for those whose wages are insufficient to meet rents or mortgages in high-cost regions such as Noosa, where our key industries of hospitality, aged and disability care are reliant on 457 visa holders to deliver services. This is not part of a sustainable economic plan. Yes, there is funding if you have shovel-ready projects, but when the land is too expensive, as it is in Noosa, where to then? Yes, surplus government land. When you finally locate that land the reviews and processes are extensive, ending up with a list of why we cannot versus how we can. The reasons provided are the same that have led us to this crisis in the first place.

Private-public partnerships have been attempted to address the growing plight of our over-55s women, yet a one-bedder unit would roughly cost \$550,000. If that is affordable, to whom is it affordable? I will say it again: we should be ashamed at all levels of government. We have youngsters, returned service people and those displaced from their jobs due to COVID who would line up for traineeships building fabulous eco designer units, cabins, demountables and tiny homes—intentional community projects designed by those who will live there that can deliver on all fronts in terms of what is being sought, and that is for homes and jobs and wellbeing. For 30 years the same issue has been predominant in my community. I have initiated a project action group, with its inaugural meeting on 29 September, and I look forward to the support of government in what emerges from this. There can be no more excuses, especially in this land of plenty.

### **Redland Hospital; Capalaba Electorate, LNP Candidate**



**Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.44 pm): It is always a pleasure to update the House on what Don is delivering for the good people of Capalaba. Last week there was a huge announcement when the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services came to the Redland Hospital to announce a \$62 million upgrade to that hospital which will deliver an ICU and a new 32-bed ward. An ICU has been debated in Redlands for decades now. The people of Redlands have been calling for this for a long time, and it is only a Labor government that is going to deliver that infrastructure and it has been well received in my local community. But we are not stopping there, because we are also delivering \$6 million for planning work for stage 2 of the hospital. This builds on our announcement about a month ago of \$50 million to build a new seven-level car park.


In this term we have also delivered an expanded emergency ward and maternity unit, which has been getting fantastic feedback from the mothers in my community, with world-class water birthing suites now offered at Redland Hospital. This would not have happened without a Labor government. The LNP has gone to each election without any plans to upgrade Redland Hospital. In fact, we have to go back and look at the LNP's track record when it was in government, because what did it do? It shut down a hospital—Wynnum Hospital. One would think that those opposite would have given Redlands extra infrastructure to allow for the extra patients presenting at Redlands, but there was not a cent. Nothing was built. It just shut a hospital, sacked nurses at Redland Hospital and closed mental health ward beds. It was an absolute disgrace.

We see this happening again. The poor candidate for the LNP has no plans for Capalaba and has no commitments. The leader keeps on driving out to Redlands and past Capalaba to make pork-barrelling promises there. She does not even bother to come back and stop by to have a cup of tea with the LNP candidate. The LNP candidate has not offered any plans or any commitments or any future vision for the people of Capalaba but has instead hid behind lawyers. When I communicated with the community her stance on the borders, she sent me a concerns letter from her lawyers—not one, but two. After the first law firm dropped it like a hot pie, a second law firm picked up the letter and sent it to me. I have not apologised to the LNP candidate because—

**Ms Leahy:** Why don't you apologise to the mayor?

**Mr BROWN:** I have not apologised to her either because she had no legal grounds as well, but they have both been Karens and they have both tried to hide behind lawyers. They will not silence me and the people of Capalaba because I will keep on delivering for them every single day of the week.

### Nicklin Electorate, Infrastructure


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.47 pm): The last three years of this Palaszczuk Labor government have been a slap in the face to the people of Nicklin. The neglect and lack of infrastructure spending in our area while Labor pork-barrels its marginal seats is not good enough for my community. What is disappointing for the people of Nicklin is that this government has stuck its greedy hands in their pockets, pulling out nine new or increased taxes in this term and spending their money on Labor's pet projects. We know that if this government is returned there will be more taxes because that is its only plan. The neglect of Nicklin has gone on for too long and it is time we got our fair share. We had the Nambour Hospital debacle where this government pulled out around 1,500 staff, leaving the hospital bare for years, and promising to have a major refurbishment complete by 2020. The year 2020 is nearly over and it has only just started the redevelopment.

Then there is the Nambour Police Station—promised over three years ago and yet to have a shovel in the ground. We finally got the government to come to the table to discuss the dangerous Elm Street intersections at Cooroy that have been an issue going back many years. It agreed to a community consultation on the project in February last year but now, nearly two years later, there has been absolutely no communication or plan put forward for the community despite several requests by me.

The Cooroy Police Station is a disgrace and needs replacing. We have an ongoing petition on this issue with almost 200 signatures already. The people of Woombye have been let down by this government with the rail stabling yards thrust upon the community. There have been serious issues with noise that were not addressed until I put pressure on the minister in this parliament. Locals' correspondence was ignored for some time before this ongoing issue was finally looked at.

The people of the Sunshine Coast were promised an extra nine daily rail services if they copped the stabling yard, yet they have been provided with only one. The people of Yandina were denied a proper walkway over the bridge into town and safer pedestrian access. The people of Palmwoods have been let down by the government's refusal to look at solutions to the Jubilee Drive-Chevallum Road rail overpass intersection and other pedestrian improvements through town. The people of Mapleton and Kenilworth have been let down by the government continuing to refuse to fix the disgraceful Obi Obi Road, the tourist gateway to our hinterland. Only the LNP cares about the people of Nicklin, and only the election of a Frecklington LNP government in 50 days time will see Nicklin get the infrastructure our community deserves.

### Domestic Violence

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise today to talk about a topic that is really dear to my heart and important to every single member in this place I am sure, and that is domestic violence. I first want to acknowledge the amazing work being done in my community, first by our local Mount Ommaney police led by Peta Comadira, who has the best domestic violence clear-up rates in the local region, and another wonderful local volunteer Hayley K who, as part of her work in the local community centre, sets up emergency accommodation for DV victims. Lisa, another Riverhills local, assists DV victims to navigate court and provides emotional support as well as assisting them with their paperwork.


Something that is equally important is the role that each and every member of our communities plays in assisting to stamp out domestic violence. Suzie Q is a well-known local tradie in my community. She moved to Queensland to escape her violent ex-partner and she has bravely given me permission to share part of her story today. Suze was not content just to get away from her perpetrator; she has dedicated herself in her limited spare time to helping others.

At the onset of COVID Suze had a friend who left a relationship that was defined by coercive control, but she continued to be stalked and harassed by her ex-husband. Suze called me for help and I offered my spare room to her friend for a week while she debugged her house, got new phones for herself and her children and got new locks fitted. As I did not know her or her ex-partner at all I figured she would be quite safe with me. Unfortunately, despite following all of the advice we were given by the domestic violence hotlines, he managed to track her to my house and he showed up the next morning. My husband escorted him out of the yard and thankfully he never came back. The fact that he showed up to a stranger's house and tried to walk in uninvited just shows the mentality of some abusers.

The Palaszczuk government has run a bystander campaign encouraging those members of the community who witness the signs of domestic violence or coercive control to speak up and offer support and help in whatever way they safely can to people experiencing domestic violence. Suze did something really amazing in showing that support to her friend. She said to her really clearly, 'I've been here before. I can see that you're in danger', and, to her credit, her friend listened. She took the help that was offered and she got herself out of a dangerous situation.

Thankfully this story has a happy ending. Suze's friend is now studying as well as working and looking after her gorgeous kids, and she wants to follow in Suze's footsteps and help others like her. Suze, I am so proud of you for being an awesome bystander. Her example of offering help and support over a long period of time and being there to help and step in when she was needed is an inspiration to all of us. I am proud to call you friend. Let us all be bystanders like Suze.


### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.53 pm): Five years under the Palaszczuk Labor government has been a relentless struggle for Queensland farmers, fishers and foresters. Those who live with the consequence of Labor's incompetence and its anti-farmer, anti-region agenda know it. Every Labor member obsessed with their inner-city elitist agenda needs reminding every day what they have done. Under Labor farmers and agriculture have been under constant siege through unfair vegetation and reef laws, blocked new dams, underfunding, biosecurity mismanagement and closing Queensland's agricultural education colleges. Labor demonises them. Minister Furner supported the unilateral closure of licensed armourers and dealers because he did not know farmers used firearms as tools of trade. Minister Furner supported the government's shutdown of the debate on the invasive weeds report. Farmers are expected to do the work of government departments, which allows invasive weeds to get out of control.

Labor's callous decision to close Queensland's agricultural colleges has been devastating. Queensland's unemployment rate is the worst in Australia. Young regional Queenslanders need access to training to get the skills for agricultural jobs. Labor's unfair and unworkable vegetation management laws are strangling development. Farmers are tied up in green tape which stops them managing their farms and creating jobs. Labor's record on biosecurity is abysmal. Minister Furner betrayed farmers by withholding \$5 million promised to tackle prickly acacia. He refused for almost two years to allow Queensland's key industry biosecurity advisory group to meet. Labor fails to protect hardworking farmers from animal activists. Labor broke its promise to reform drought support. Five years were wasted doing nothing and threatening cuts. Labor's only drought plan is to slash \$50 million in drought subsidies and abolish fodder freight payments, but only after the election.

The LNP will help droughtproof the regions with new water infrastructure and dams. Labor is anti-dams. It has not built a dam in the regions for 15 years. The last dam Labor built was Paradise Dam. Instead of building new dams Labor is literally tearing down Paradise Dam, leaving farmers in the Wide Bay Burnett community high and dry. In contrast, the LNP will work with the local community to fix Paradise Dam, not tear it down. Labor refuses to solve unsustainable high water prices and the electricity needed to pump it. The incompetence continues: Minister Furner pulled out shark drum lines with no plan to protect Queenslanders; the minister has neglected our commercial fishing industry; and Labor's botched VMS rollout and unfair regulations will force hundreds of families out of the industry. It is not based on science or fact. It is heartless. Queensland's timber industry remains in limbo despite broken promises from the Premier. A year later and there is still nothing on whether our 25,000 timber workers will have a future under Labor's green agenda to close this sustainable industry.

### **Mount Lindesay Highway**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.57 pm): The backbone of my electorate is the Mount Lindesay Highway with thousands of local residents using the road every day to get to work, get their kids to school and, of course, to get home safely. Recently, the Minister for Main Roads came once again to see the Mount Lindesay Highway. He has been there so many times he probably knows every single patch on it. On this occasion the minister came to see the fantastic four-laning from the Rosia Road to Stoney Camp-Granger Road exits. He did not just come to see the ongoing construction and the jobs being created, he did not just come to see the safe COVID-19 construction; he also came to make a really special announcement. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads announced the construction of the next section of four-laning on the Mount Lindesay Highway, from the Stoney Camp Road interchange to Chambers Flat Road, which will start in the first half of 2021. This project is part of the state government's plan to invest in the Mount Lindesay Highway over 10 years and is jointly funded with the federal government.


This is the largest section of four-lane construction to be built on the Mount Lindesay Highway—four times as long as the last section and, of course, also built by Labor. In fact, the LNP has not built a single section of four-laning on the Mount Lindesay Highway. It means there is now more room to overtake slower moving trucks and divided four-lane roads. It also means a safer journey home. In total, as Minister Bailey said at the time, we have invested \$165 million in improving the Mount Lindesay

Highway and this is the largest investment yet. I will continue to advocate for the community. I will continue to advocate to create safe jobs. I will continue to advocate for projects like this to unite and recover.

The project builds on the four lanes that we are building from Rosia Road, taking them all the way through to the Chambers Flat Road intersection. It connects to the North Maclean service lane and the improved four-lane intersection at Greenback Road. It is also about the four lanes and new northbound bridge between Johanna Street and Camp Cable Road. Those are great projects on the Mount Lindesay Highway and I will continue to fight for them.

Is there an alternative? To look at that, we have to look at what the LNP did on the Mount Lindesay Highway during the three years they were in government plus the four years out from that that they intended to have in their budget. During that time, between Jimboomba and Brisbane, for the most vital and most used section of the Mount Lindesay Highway, they budgeted only \$846,000 to do a treatment on one intersection. At least that would have left them a legacy—not a legacy worth \$165 million but it is at least a legacy. However, it was such a bad design that it has simply disappeared, so there is no legacy whatsoever for the LNP on the Mount Lindesay Highway. We cannot go back to that. We will continue to unite, recover and invest in the Mount Lindesay Highway.

### Glass House Electorate; New Bradfield Scheme


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.00 pm): This will be the fifth election I will have the privilege of contesting for the electorate of Glass House and for the great LNP. Sadly, it will be the first election that I will be contesting without my dear friend Joyce Newton by my side. Today it gives me great pleasure to announce the second recipient of the annual Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary, Ebony King of Glass House Christian College. Ebony wrote a fantastic entry on the importance of the New Bradfield Scheme to the state of Queensland. She has picked up a \$1,000 voucher to spend at Concept IT Systems in Maleny and, should I be fortunate enough to be re-elected, dinner for her and her family here at Parliament House. I want to touch on a couple of the comments that Ebony wrote about in her application for the bursary. She wrote—

Queenslanders would directly benefit from the construction of the scheme. Queensland's regional communities would be secured for the future for good by taking advantage of Asia's massive demand for food. Tens of thousands of jobs and employment opportunities would be created due to the construction and maintenance of the new Bradfield Scheme, as well as having many long term jobs created from the expansion of high-value agriculture, and the increased employment opportunities in regional areas could revive rural communities ... Furthermore, new jobs in hydroelectricity production and management would be made, building Queensland's reputation as a clean, green and sustainable resource state into focus.

It is pretty clear that Ebony gets the importance of the New Bradfield Scheme and I think that the people of Queensland get the importance of the New Bradfield Scheme. It will be only a Deb Frecklington LNP government that delivers it. The LNP and I are here to fight for families, farmers and small businesses. We will do so by being part of a government that values lower taxes, water security, cheaper electricity and fuel, better health and education results and by tackling congestion and road safety.

As the October election fast approaches, I want to again thank the individuals and communities of Glass House for bestowing upon me the honour of being their representative. Together we have delivered a lot, but there is more to do. I want to see critical road infrastructure, such as the roads around Maleny, Steve Irwin Way, Mount Mee Road at Oceanview, Beerburrum Road between Elimbah and Beerburrum and the D'Aguilar Highway, continue to be improved and made safer. We want to keep kids safe, which is why we have already announced that an LNP government will install flashing school zone lights at Mooloolah State School. We want our communities to be healthier, which is why we have already announced \$1 million to help get the Maleny Hydrotherapy Centre up and running—something that was near and dear to Joyce Newton's heart. It will be the first part of the new indoor aquatic centre for the hinterland. It is why I am fighting for funding for organisations such as endED, which is a fantastic hinterland organisation that addresses eating disorders across the state of Queensland. It is only the LNP that can deliver all of that for Glass House and for the state of Queensland.

### Townsville Electorate; Bradfield Scheme

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.03 pm): Firstly I want to put on the record my admiration, appreciation and friendship for Minister Anthony Lynham, Minister Kate Jones and Minister Coralee O'Rourke. It will be sad to see them leave this House. I thank them for their support of the electorate of Townsville. I also acknowledge the three opposition members who are leaving. I hope that they do well in their endeavours into the future.


Last week Townsville welcomed the announcement by Treasurer Dick and Minister Lynham that an independent expert panel chaired by Professor Ross Garnaut will conduct a comprehensive government examination of the Bradfield inland irrigation scheme. The panel's terms of reference include considering the economic benefits to regional communities and agricultural production, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and related recession; opportunities for renewable energy generation, complementary hydroelectric power generation, hydrogen production opportunities and resources sector development; and integrating with complementary infrastructure, including the CopperString project, which is very important to the people of Townsville. Of course, we have already committed \$16.4 million to the project. This is a great announcement that aligns with the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan for Queensland.

The LNP's \$15 billion plan is to take water from North Queensland and funnel it to the south. The people of Townsville want to know how the LNP is going to fund their promise. We know that the LNP do not keep their election promises. During his election campaign, the member for Herbert announced that the LNP would fully fund stage 2 of the Houghton water pipeline. However, when the member was elected the promise of fully funding the project was broken. It became a project of the Palaszczuk government to fully fund stage 2 of the water pipeline through the GST allocation deduction.


How can the people of Townsville believe the LNP when they promise before the election and then do the opposite after the election? Former premier Campbell Newman said, 'No public servant needs to fear me,' but then 14,000 public servants were sacked. Now the LNP are saying that their \$15 billion Bradfield 2.0 plan will see no job losses or new taxes. The people of Townsville know how the LNP will pay for their Bradfield scheme and it is by selling the assets. Just as in 2015, they will want to sell the Port of Townsville, in which the Palaszczuk government has invested \$118 million to widen the channel and increase trade. The LNP will want to sell the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line, in which the Palaszczuk government is investing \$380 million over five years. The LNP will sell Ergon when the Palaszczuk government has invested \$16.4 million in CopperString 2.0 to bring cheaper electricity prices. The people of Townsville will not be foiled by the hollow promises of the LNP.

## CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL

### Order Discharged and Withdrawal

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.07 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That government business order of the day No. 6 be discharged from the *Notice Paper* and withdrawn.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.07 pm): I cannot let this opportunity pass without speaking to this motion. I have been sitting in the chamber all week waiting for the Leader of the House to come in here and say those few little words—that is, they are getting rid of item No. 6 on the *Notice Paper*.

**An opposition member:** What is No. 6?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Item No. 6 on the *Notice Paper* is, of course, the journalists' gag laws with respect to the CCC. Over the years we have seen many Labor ministers investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission. Just as we have seen the Labor government try to nobble this parliament, we have seen them try to silence the CCC in terms of its investigations. Members will recall that at the last sitting the Attorney-General raced in here and made an impassioned plea in an impassioned speech to pass this law. She told us how important these laws are for the people of Queensland. I hear her laughing, but the Attorney-General did that. She made a great introductory speech on how important it was.

**Mrs D'Ath:** Thank you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will give her that. It was well drafted by the department officials. It had gone through cabinet on Monday. The Premier had signed off on the CCC gag laws. The Attorney-General introduced the bill to the House. She told all of us in this place and the journalists how important this law was. She made it an urgent bill. She declared it urgent so that it could be rushed through the committee process. She introduced the bill on the Thursday and said how important it was. On the Friday the Attorney-General put out a statement saying that it was not now a government priority and that they would be withdrawing it.

**An opposition member:** Oops!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: oops! The law was so important on Thursday that it was declared urgent. It had gone through cabinet and through every ministerial department for advice. The Attorney-General presented it to cabinet on the Monday and on the Thursday introduced it and declared it urgent. We opposed the declaration of urgency in this place. We said that these laws went too far. Then the nightly news rightfully smashed the government. Then on Friday, I think at 10.30 in the morning, before the cup of tea, the press release came out that they were abandoning those laws that were so important on Thursday.

The Premier was asked about it at a press conference. The Premier, like she always does, first made out that she did not know what the journalist was talking about—that might be true, actually—but then said, ‘No, no, it is not a priority of the government.’ Less than 24 hours earlier it was the biggest priority of the government, hence they declared it urgent. They were going to ram it through the committee process and then debate the bill.

I have been sitting here all week. I have been telling my colleagues all week. I have not left this chamber, waiting for the Attorney to come in here and utter these words. I saw the Attorney’s face when I walked in earlier. I could see her think, ‘Oh, darn, he’s arrived!’ just before she moved the motion. What a week! What a week in state parliament!

**Mr Minnikin:** What a day!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** What a day in state parliament! What a last week we have had in state parliament. The government: so sensitive to integrity, transparency and accountability; so sensitive to the issues of the member for South Brisbane and the CCC investigations; so sensitive to the CCC and Minister Bailey’s interrogation by the CCC in the first term of the government with the fake email addresses; so sensitive to the Crime and Corruption Commission that it was going to tell journalists in the fourth estate, ‘You are not to publish details of these investigations’—

**Mrs D’ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are now starting to debate the bill, not the motion before the parliament. I ask that the member be brought back to the motion.

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


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, on the point of order raised by the Attorney-General, the motion is suspending item 6 from the *Notice Paper* and I am putting the case as to why it is being suspended from the *Notice Paper*. I am speaking to the merits or otherwise of it being on the *Notice Paper*.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will ask you to be cautious in keeping within the motion, thank you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It will come as no surprise that we will support the government on this motion to delete item 6 from the *Notice Paper*, the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill. That bill seeks put gag clauses on journalists. In fact, it threatens to throw journalists in jail for reporting news, so much do they wanted a cover-up for ministers being before the CCC. The reason I know a lot about this is that while in government we conducted a review of the Crime and Corruption Commission, or the CMC as it was then. The LNP decided not to proceed with these provisions because it would be an attack on the democratic right of journalism in this state. That is why we did not proceed with it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will bring you back to the motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We will support the Attorney-General in this great motion. Item 6 on the *Notice Paper* should never have been on the *Notice Paper*. It should never have had urgency attached to it. I encourage all honourable members to get rid of not only item 6 on the *Notice Paper* but also this terrible Labor government on 31 October.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.14 pm): As the Manager of Opposition Business has said, of course we will support this motion. I feel compelled to make a contribution to this debate. This is the greatest backflip since the last backflip, the reversal of the air conditioning policy. For two years we were lambasted, criticised and told it was not possible. Of course, this government did a backflip on that. That backflip was the greatest backflip since the Adani backflip, when the Premier herself was furious—furious with her own government and furious with herself—because of the lack of process.

**Mrs D’ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I know that the member has great difficulty being relevant in this chamber, but I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): I am listening carefully to the member's contribution. I must admit that I am struggling to see the link between the motion and what the member is talking about. I am sure that the member is going to bring his comments back to the motion at hand.

**Mr MANDER:** I will try harder. At the core of this is the fact that we have a government in turmoil, a government that is crumbling around us. These are the types of things that happen when a government has been in power for too long, when it is tired, when it does not have attention to detail.

This was an absolute embarrassment for the government. They came in here and said that the matter was so urgent that it needed to be addressed immediately. Less than 24 hours later, under appropriate pressure from the media, which launched a blitzkrieg against them with regard to what this meant for democracy and the blow that it was, the government retreated immediately. They made a tactical withdrawal, which still leaves a blemish on them with regard to their lack of attention to detail and not having a real agenda.

This is a sign that this government is crumbling. We have seen that again this week and today, with three ministers deserting this government. It shows that with—

**Mrs D'Ath:** Are yours deserting as well? Are you saying they are deserting? No, yours are 'retiring'.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection. Ours retire for the right reasons, not because of factional warfare. Good people like the member for Stafford are forced out. The member for Stafford, one of the more decent members of the Labor Party, has been forced out—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr Bleijie:** It was your interjection. He took your interjection.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will not have cross-chamber quarrelling. I will wait for silence and then I will take some advice from the Table Office. Member, once again I ask you to come back to the motion at hand.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at some of the comments made by the honourable member as they relate to some of my colleagues. I believe that he has presented them in a very unfair way.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, the custom in the House is that we ask for a withdrawal when somebody has taken personal offence on a matter.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. Here we are, on the last sitting day of the 56th Parliament. It is ending in the shemuzzle that this government has been for the last five years. It is emblematic of this government—its dysfunction, its disorganisation, its lack of attention to detail and basically, in the end, its lack of courage. If they honestly believed this, why would they have not gone through with the bill? The moment there was an ounce of pressure—and, may I say, appropriate pressure—this government wilted and surrendered. They stand for nothing. It shows that they have no principles. It is one of the reasons—one of the many reasons—that this government will suffer defeat on 31 October.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 2397, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.20 pm): I reflected to the opposition office on my way down to the chamber to make my speech in the debate on the appropriation bills that this was going to be the last time I spoke in the 56th Parliament. I did not realise I would be speaking on a motion beforehand.

It gives me great pleasure to now speak in the debate on the appropriation bills that have been presented. This is of course what one does when one does not have a plan for Queensland, one does not have a plan for the finances of the state and one does not have a plan for economic recovery. One does what those opposite are doing. That is the typical Labor way—no budget and no plan.



They were going to bring down a budget in April this year under former treasurer Trad. Then we heard Treasurer Dick on the radio this week deny that that was ever going to be the case. He then apologised for that. We know that the government was going to bring down a budget in April. They then delayed the budget. All of a sudden now in Queensland we have to do everything after the federal government. Everything has to follow the federal government. Rather than leading from the front, rather than doing things as a state—as our Federation has set us up to do—we have to do everything after the federal government.

It is a Labor Party excuse for not having a plan. I can understand why the Labor Party want to wait until the federal government delivers their budget. Because they do not know what to do with their budget, they are hoping that ScoMo shows them an idea, shows them a road map for our budget in Queensland. We know that the Labor Party are out of ideas. After five years in government my goodness it is time for a change. I have to say that the feeling in the community is overwhelming. We only need to look at what happened today with senior ministers leaving the government. Someone commented to me earlier that one should bring out the old rat again, and I said no I was not going to do that. It is like rats deserting a sinking ship. I have seen this before. I saw it in 2011 and I am seeing it in 2020.

This is very serious in terms of this debate today. People across Queensland have lost their jobs. The LNP has mostly supported the government on the health response. We have to. That is our duty and our obligation. We know that governments are elected. When there are crises across the state, government is the one to make the decisions. The government is the one that holds the purse strings. It is the one that sets the budget. It is the one that can make the decisions.

Those decisions impact people's lives and livelihoods. We have seen some of the decisions in terms of the health response impact positively on the Queensland community, but some have impacted negatively on the people of Queensland. The biggest thing we should be doing now is working on an economic recovery. I do not trust the Labor Party for one minute that they will have a plan for economic recovery. When they do not deliver a full budget and only deliver more appropriations through the bills we are debating today, it is clear that they really do not have an agenda or plan.

For months now they have been relying on the coronavirus and the health response to get them through to the election. The people are waking up to that. People are certainly now saying, 'Hang on, when JobKeeper transitions out and JobSeeker transitions down how are we going to afford to put food on our tables?' That is what they are asking the state government. That is what the state government cannot answer.

In my community of Kawana there are many people on JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments. They are very thankful to the federal government for those payments. There are many businesses in Kawana that missed out on any funding through the coronavirus small business loans or allowances provided by the state government. Whereas, I see the response of the federal government. They put a bunch of money on the table and if it was oversubscribed they added more. What this state government did was put money on the table and it was a case of, 'If you get your application in before the next night you are in.' There are winners and losers. There are no winners and losers in this coronavirus battle economically, but the federal government said, 'If you need assistance, if you need a hand up we will help you.' The state government have played winners and losers.

Why is it that a business in Kawana that put their application in an hour before a business across the road got a \$10,000 grant and yet the business across the road, which may be struggling just as much or even more, was told, 'Oh, no, your application did not get approved because we were oversubscribed'? There was no more money on the table. These are the double standards in the economic response.

In the last few months during the coronavirus I have seen the very best of people and I have seen the very worst of people. I have seen how our communities bind together. I love living on the Sunshine Coast in my electorate of Kawana. To see our community reach out and help each other during the coronavirus makes me enormously proud to be their member of parliament.

Then I see the cruelty that this Premier has bestowed upon people with her double standards. She is allowing celebrities into the state to quarantine in luxury hotels. The Premier is allowing AFL footballers to come in and quarantine in luxury hotels on the Gold Coast. Some 400 AFL executives and their families can come in, sunbake by the pool, enjoy a drink, stand up by the bar at the pool, but ordinary Australians, everyday Queenslanders are denied that right. That is cruel. I will support the government as much as I can on the health response, but when it starts pitting people against each other, that is wrong, that is cruel and it has to stop.

The opposition asked questions in question time this morning about Sarah who wanted to see her father before he passed away. She did not get that opportunity. She was granted an exemption after he passed away. We hear just now that she has been granted approval to go and see her father's body but not attend the funeral. This is the Queensland we live in now where we are denying people like Sarah their wish. She is a Queenslander who recently moved to the ACT for a job opportunity and we are treating her like this. We have fly-in fly-out workers who cannot see their children because they have to go into hotel quarantine for two weeks and yet Tom Hanks can fly back on a private jet, land his private jet at the airport and go into a hotel that is not a Queensland government quarantine hotel but a hotel for the rich and famous. Is this the Queensland we live in?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are debating the appropriation bills.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, I will get to that.

**Ms Fentiman:** You are not on it so get to it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh):** We will not have any quarrelling across the chamber. Member, I will ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** When governments make decisions on appropriation bills it impacts people's lives and livelihoods. I can understand why the minister tells me get back to it. I will take the interjection she made. 'Get back to it,' she says with a smile on her face. I am talking about the double standards not only economically but also with the health response in the state of Queensland.

**Mr McDonald:** Inconsistencies.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There have been inconsistencies. There has been no compassion and people are questioning: is this the Queensland we live in now? Where is the compassion? How is the Prime Minister, by phoning a state premier and asking for compassion, bullying and intimidating?

This Appropriation Bill that we are debating today is because of the coronavirus and not having a budget is all because of the global pandemic. Labor MPs will tell us at every opportunity that the reason we are doing all of this is the global pandemic. Yes, it is, but that does not mean that the government cannot be held to account. When we question the government on not only budget expenditure but its health response, it should not be seen as a form of bullying and intimidation. It should be seen as a form of accountability and fighting for our constituents like I have done for 11 years in this place.

In terms of the economic reality, I talked about businesses doing it tough and I talked about fly-in fly-out workers. In my electorate I have builders who have projects over the border in New South Wales and the site inspectors cannot go to inspect the sites to sign off on the final settlement to hand over the house. This is having a detrimental economic impact on our communities, our builders and the economy in general. Yes, there has been support from government with respect to our businesses across the state, but more needs to be done and can be done.

Looking at my own electorate, I am proud that we have recently announced a stimulus package. The Liberal National Party have announced \$20 million to expand the Sunshine Coast Stadium to give it the capacity of 16,000. I thank Tim Mander for coming up to the Sunshine Coast to make that announcement. We have also announced a \$35 million new road, Bells Creek Arterial Road, to ease congestion on the Bruce Highway and Caloundra Road. We have also announced \$15 million to upgrade the Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way roundabouts to ease congestion on Nicklin Way. More needs to be done and it will be done between now and the election.

With respect to the expenditure as shadow minister for education, the Department of Education expenditure in the Appropriation Bill on page 5 is \$432 million, but there is no detail of what it is for. There is no detail of the expenditure. Nearly half a billion dollars is allocated to the Department of Education without any notes of what it is for. It cannot be salaries. It cannot just be salaries of teachers and so forth. What is it for?

Is it for the air conditioning that the state did not budget for, that they copied the LNP policy when we said two years ago that we would air-condition every state school classroom? They denied it and said how bad it was and then they copied it. With respect to the education department expenditure, is it the fact that they are going to have to now spend a lot more money on the air conditioning because what they did not account for was the power supply? They put all this air conditioning in schools without a power supply! Some schools have no electrical ability to turn on the power to run the air conditioning.

They then said to the P&Cs at schools, 'You have to cage all around the air-conditioning units.' It is not funded, so again it comes out of the school budget. Then last week they said, 'No, no cages.' So now health and safety is not a problem with small kids putting their fingers into the air-conditioning units? Is this what the \$432 million is being spent on? They announced this program of air conditioning, but it is the typical Labor way: they cannot manage projects. They always wreck it. I know that there are schools that have full air conditioning but the electrical system does not give them enough power to turn it on. Who in their right mind in the Labor Party thought that was a good idea? Wouldn't you upgrade the power first? Seriously!

This is why a full budget should have been handed down. This is why a full estimates should have been held. We have seen the double standards across the economic portfolio. I mentioned the issue about Sarah. Let us not forget Mark. Mark was asked, as part of his exemption for his children, 'Which one do you want to pick to see you and say goodbye?' I am a father. I could not think of living in a situation as we do now that I would be asked that question by some bureaucrat in Queensland Health: 'Pick a child—any child out of your three—who you will want to say goodbye to you on your dying breath.' That is what happened to Mark. He has been asked to pick a kid who will be able to say goodbye to him. It is disgraceful.

I am not going to have the Premier play the victim in this, because she is not the victim. The people of Queensland who are suffering because of these policies of the Labor government are the victims, not the Premier. I ask that she have compassion for these people. We are not saying, 'Open the borders. Flood the borders.' We are saying, 'Have consistency and compassion.'

**Ms Scanlon:** You were saying that.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** And the Labor government opened the borders. I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'bills' be omitted and insert the words 'be read a second time after the Treasurer tables the legal advice demonstrating that there is no breach of the Constitution of Queensland'.

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

**AYES, 38:**

**LNP, 36—**Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Krause, Langbroek, 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.


**NOES, 45:**

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

Pairs: Hinchliffe, Last; Pegg, Janetzki.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.40 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2020. I am proud to be the local member for Mansfield and to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Following the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders, Australians and the global economy, the Palaszczuk government has acted swiftly and is delivering a unite and recovery plan that is committed to (1) safeguarding our health; (2) backing small business; (3) making it for Queensland; (4) building Queensland; (5) growing our regions; and (6) investing in skills.

On top of the \$100 million investment in our local schools in Mansfield, the Palaszczuk government has committed an additional \$39 million for local schools as part of the Unite and Recover plan. This is in addition to the commitment to air-condition all classrooms by 2022 and ensure that solar panels offset the associated costs. This is in stark contrast to the paltry \$1.6 million promised by the LNP in my electorate of Mansfield and air conditioning not to be installed until at least 2028. We know that Campbell Newman, backed in by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, with the LNP razor gang, devastated Queensland when they were last in power, sacking doctors, nurses and 1,400 public servants in my community. Those 1,400 public servants will not forget the Newman days.

Our resilience and past natural disaster experience has enabled the Palaszczuk Labor government to lead the state with a strong and concerted health response that is being recognised and acknowledged around the world during this global pandemic. Our response has allowed the Queensland economy to re-open more quickly, including in the Mansfield electorate small business community. I am delighted to share that, through the innovative Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant program—and I thank the Minister for Small Business, Training and Employment—the Palaszczuk Labor government has funded more than \$1.6 million in my electorate to 177 small businesses to adapt and sustain operations and to build resilience during these unprecedented times.

In stark contrast with \$23 billion in unfunded promises and a commitment of no new taxes and no new debt, the LNP's only plan for Queensland is cuts. In these challenging times the last thing Queensland needs is more job cuts and greater uncertainty. The LNP does not have a plan but they do have a record—a cut, sack and sell record that members of my community of Mansfield remember all too well. Labor, on the other hand, has a record of delivering for Queensland since it was elected in 2015, and it has a real plan to get Queensland's economy on the road to recovery.

It is already underway. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Queensland Labor's plan for economic recovery is clear: supporting, protecting and creating jobs is our No. 1 priority. We will do that by investing in building and construction projects right across our state. We will be supporting, protecting and creating jobs as our No. 1 priority. We will support small businesses in Queensland and give them the support they need to recover more quickly and strongly. We will buy more goods and materials locally and ensure that Queensland businesses from small to large play an even bigger role in our economic recovery. By investing in Queensland's manufacturing industry we can ensure that Queenslanders use and buy more goods and services that are made right here in Queensland. Only the Premier and the Labor team have a plan of economic recovery that will not hurt Queenslanders by cutting services, sacking workers and selling assets. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 and the Appropriation Bill 2020. I heard the member for Mansfield talk about who may not have a plan, but I would like to remind the member for Mansfield and all of those members opposite that even before the COVID-19 health emergency debt in Queensland was at \$91.8 billion. Queensland consistently had either the highest or second highest unemployment rate, the lowest level of business confidence and the highest number of bankruptcies of any state jurisdiction across Australia. This Labor government over the last five years has been woefully and inadequately prepared for the crisis we have seen with respect to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

Both of the bills we are debating as part of this cognate debate were declared urgent in this place under the standing orders earlier this week. Earlier today I heard some issues raised by the member for Clayfield in relation to the constitutionality of the process which is occurring. I would encourage the Labor Treasurer, the member for Woodridge, to table the government's legal advice, because that would be being open and transparent with the people of Queensland. We know that this Labor government has had a woeful track record when it comes to being open, transparent and fulsome with the people of Queensland.

At the outset, I do acknowledge that the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 provides an additional \$519,000 for unforeseen expenditure in the 2019-20 financial year for Parliamentary Services and the Legislative Assembly. I now wish to address in detail the second piece of legislation as part of the cognate debate, that is, the Appropriation Bill 2020.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is seeking additional interim supply of more than \$28.6 billion for government expenditure. This is roughly equivalent to another half of the 2019 Appropriation Act. I also note that this bill provides for a further \$1.114 billion of supplementary appropriation for the last financial year, that being 2019-20. As the LNP's shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors, I note that within this Appropriation Bill a provision of almost \$120 million has been made for the unforeseen expenditure of the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. Unfortunately, beyond detailing just two figures for controlled items—departmental services and equity adjustment—and a figure of more than \$115 million for administered items, that is all we know at this stage.

That is all we know at this stage because of the contempt that this Palaszczuk state Labor government has for proper accountability, rigorous scrutiny and comprehensive budgeting processes. This has been the consistent modus operandi of this government with respect to a number of processes over the last five years, and it is continuing again today.

Since the Palaszczuk state Labor government declared earlier this year that they would not be providing a full state budget as planned—not just an economic statement, not just an economic update or emergency appropriation bills, but a full state budget as planned—they have shown nothing but disrespect for due process, as well as a complete lack of respect for the dire economic circumstances of Queenslanders and businesses throughout all of Queensland. Quite simply, this Labor government have all but given up. We have certainly seen that today with the retirement—and in some cases the forced retirement—of a number of members because of unions, factional deals and other issues that are going on within the government.

As confirmed through their own financial statements, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has broken its own fiscal principles, including: rather than reducing general government debt to revenue, Labor has now exploded it from 63 per cent to 108 per cent; rather than targeting net operating surpluses, Labor's \$8.1 billion budget deficit is now the worst in Queensland's history; and rather than maintaining competitive taxation, Labor has introduced nine new or increased taxes, ripping \$4 billion out of the Queensland economy.

On Monday this week, in a precursor to the bills currently being debated before this House, the Labor Treasurer proudly exhibited a 41-page brochure. This was in lieu of an actual detailed budgetary document outlining the true state of our economy and Queensland's state finances. State Labor have given up because, by their own projections, a further 72,000 Queenslanders will lose their jobs over the coming months. Rather than prospectively acting to ensure they do not lose their jobs, it seems like the Labor government are just giving up and saying, 'This is what Queenslanders have to expect.' That is simply not good enough for residents in not only the electorate of Moggill but the western suburbs of Brisbane and all of Queensland. Labor have given up because, by their own projections, debt will now reach a staggering \$102 billion by the end of this financial year—\$102 billion is a big figure that is going to have to be dealt with by subsequent generations. The truth at the very heart of this debate is that Labor simply have no comprehensive plan and no credible economic plan, and Labor refuse to adequately plan for economic recovery and the future of all Queenslanders, including those who live in the electorate of Moggill.

It was incredibly telling this week that, when pressed for further detail and commitments to not raise taxes on Queenslanders, the Labor Treasurer threw his hands up in the air and said, 'I cannot say what the future holds.' The Labor Treasurer might not want to tell Queenslanders what the future holds for them under a re-elected Palaszczuk state Labor government, but the Liberal National Party certainly can and we will be doing that all the way up until the next state election on 31 October. If the Palaszczuk state Labor government is re-elected—and, worse, re-elected to serve four years as part of a minority Labor-Greens government—the future for Queensland is extremely bleak. Coupled with the reckless, ill-thought policies of the Greens, the future under Labor is one of higher debt, higher taxes and even more taxes, and higher unemployment. That is not a future that any of us want to see in Queensland. It is certainly not a future for all of us as the rhetoric of the Greens would have you believe.

The Labor Treasurer has also announced that the Palaszczuk state Labor government will add a further \$4 billion in additional borrowings in what has been speculated as a pre-election slush fund. I note media reports that the Labor Treasurer has denied that these additional borrowings will be used as an election slush fund but Queenslanders will not be fooled. Just because Labor makes an announcement, using government funds, and brands it under the banner of 'Unite and Recover', it does not mean that it is not going to be used to help get the Labor government re-elected. It is insulting to the 234,000 Queenslanders who are currently unemployed and to the thousands of businesses, large and small, that have had to close their doors that Labor has tried to pass off the state of Queensland's economy, including the perilous state of our finances, as being almost entirely as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The fact remains that, even before this pandemic, debt was on track to reach \$91.8 billion and well before COVID-19 Queensland had the highest unemployment, the most bankruptcies and the lowest rate of business confidence. Whilst no-one can deny the significant economic shocks that we continue to experience, it is a fact that the Palaszczuk state Labor government had Queensland in a perilous economic state well before we entered this crisis. We all remember the first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government when they loaded debt onto government owned corporations and raided the defined benefit scheme and all of the other voodoo economic strategies they have been running here in Queensland over the last five years.

The Liberal National Party has a credible plan. The Liberal National Party is the only party in Queensland that has the vision, the policies and the plan to grow and protect jobs and make Queensland the economic powerhouse that it once was. We will achieve this through our stated fiscal

principles: by striving to be the lowest taxing government in Australia, with no new taxes and a 10-year royalty freeze; by targeting fiscal balances across the economic cycle; by limiting general government expenditure to less than revenue; by stabilising Labor's debt, with the target of regaining Queensland's AAA credit rating; by setting improved standards in public service delivery and accountability across the whole of government; and, importantly, by building the job-creating infrastructure Queensland needs to boost state growth and improve productivity.

The Liberal National Party will stimulate the economy. We will deliver projects to bust traffic congestion, including our funded \$1 billion South-East Queensland congestion program which contains \$245 million for a new Centenary Bridge which will further alleviate traffic congestion across the western suburbs of Brisbane. The LNP is also committed to enhancing our health and education systems and creating a decade of secure jobs.

On education, I note again in the Appropriation Bill there is a further allocation for unforeseen expenditure for the Department of Education. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, as residents of the electorate of Moggill have seen over the last five years, Labor has all but refused to invest in the much needed education resources and additional school infrastructure that families and students deserve in the electorate of Moggill, whether that be classrooms, libraries or other facilities in all of our local schools. As the Labor member for Ipswich West knows all too well, Labor has continuously denied our constituents and their schoolchildren sufficient high school infrastructure, whilst also ignoring the need for a new high school to provide for the families of Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and surrounding suburbs. When it comes to the infrastructure for Kenmore State High School, Labor refuses to invest in the education of local students.

The Liberal National Party will step up if elected on 31 October and ensure that local infrastructure in our schools is invested in on behalf of students, teachers and families. That is why I was proud to be joined recently by the Liberal National Party leader, Deb Frecklington, when we announced a \$4 million commitment from the Liberal National Party for a much needed new school hall for the teachers, students and families of Kenmore State High School.

It is only the Liberal National Party that has the plans, the commitment and the passion to get Queensland out of this recession, to stimulate our economy and to get more Queenslanders back into work and protect their jobs. The Liberal National Party has the plans to build the infrastructure that Queensland needs, to invest in our hospitals, schools and roads, and to ensure water security for all Queenslanders. It is only the Liberal National Party that can get Queensland working again. Queenslanders cannot afford to re-elect a Labor government which continues to spend more than it earns. All Queenslanders understand that you cannot spend more than you earn.


Queenslanders know that the Labor government is reckless and has been financially irresponsible, without a credible economic plan for the future. Queenslanders desperately need a Liberal National Party government because Queensland needs a credible economic plan, a plan to continue to rebuild as a result of the COVID-19 global health pandemic. All Queenslanders need that, not only in the electorate of Moggill but across the western suburbs and all of Queensland.

The response of the federal coalition government has been outstanding. I want to particularly mention them because they have done an outstanding job with JobKeeper and JobSeeker and the business support that they have provided particularly here in Queensland. Can you imagine if we had a Frecklington LNP government here in Queensland working collaboratively and constructively with the federal Morrison coalition government to rebuild Queensland's economy to get Queensland working again?

**Mr Saunders:** We'd have cases everywhere. 'Open the borders, open the borders!'

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear the interjection from the member for Maryborough, but the sad fact is when everything has gone wrong here in Queensland, when it comes to this government managing the economy, when it comes to all of the mistakes that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has made, when it comes to their record of economic failure, when it comes to their record of failure across various departments, they have always tried to blame someone else. They always try to blame the federal coalition government. It is always someone else's fault. However, when it comes to their record here in Queensland, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed Queensland. They have failed our economy. They were woefully unprepared when we went into this health emergency and they still have no plan to rebuild Queensland's economy. They have no plan to create and protect jobs or to build the vital infrastructure that we need. They have no plans to ease traffic congestion and no plans to invest in our health and education system. It is simply not good enough for all Queenslanders.

All Queenslanders need a comprehensive economic plan. They need a mature and credible government that can certainly rebuild Queensland and can deliver the vital services and the vital infrastructure that is needed in Queensland. They need a government that will deliver for all of Queensland. I know that all members of the House on this side—all Liberal National Party members—are united and committed to delivering that on behalf of all of their constituents. It is certainly what we have been consistently hearing. It is certainly the feedback that we receive from all of our local residents in the electorate of Moggill. They desperately want a Liberal National Party government. It is only a Frecklington-led Liberal National Party government that can get Queensland working again.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support both the Appropriation Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020. Prior to COVID-19 the Palaszczuk government was on track to deliver its fifth consecutive budget surplus. However, 2020 has been a year like no other with governments across the world having to deal with the impacts of COVID-19, leading the federal Treasurer to announce that Australia has plunged into our first recession in nearly three decades. I have been pretty astounded to hear some of the contributions of those opposite who have had nothing constructive to say. They have been nasty and negative every step of the way, with the Leader of the Opposition calling 64 times for the borders to be opened. That would have meant that construction sites and businesses on the Gold Coast could have been shut down had we ended up with a second wave like Victoria. They have their heads in the sand when it comes to this global pandemic and, frankly, it is frightening.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order.

**An opposition member:** I'm not going to sit here and listen to that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! You do not have to. You can leave if you do not want to listen.

**Ms SCANLON:** Thankfully, because of the strong leadership of our Premier, the Palaszczuk government has focused on our health response, enabling us to manage the economic response and unite and recover more quickly than other states and countries around the world. In fact, Queensland's expected economic recovery from COVID-19 will be almost twice as strong as the national average.

The bill before the House seeks to provide the supplementary appropriation for the 2019-20 financial year for unforeseen expenditure and also appropriates additional interim supply for the 2020-21 financial year so that we can continue supporting Queenslanders' health, jobs and businesses. It should be noted that ordinarily if a department's expenditure exceeds the amount appropriated for the financial year, the additional expenditure is regarded as 'unforeseen' and then approved by the Governor in Council to be included in the supplementary appropriation bill. However, we have considered it appropriate to seek parliamentary approval to provide transparency to Queenslanders.

As part of our economic recovery plan, we have rolled out more than \$7 billion in initiatives including \$1.2 billion in health measures to double our intensive care capacity, triple emergency department capacity, employ more paramedics, expand fever clinics, fast-track non-urgent surgery and appointments, and expand community screening, contact tracing and 13HEALTH services. This is on top of the investment made by this Palaszczuk government to restore the frontline services that those opposite cut when last in government.

We have rolled out \$950 million in payroll tax relief, and I can report that on the Gold Coast that has assisted over 1,040 taxpayers. We have provided \$400 million for land tax relief and just this week we announced a further \$249 million to extend payroll and land tax measures, something I know is very much welcomed by the business community. We have provided \$360 million to exempt the JobKeeper payments from payroll tax and \$196 million in small business adaptation grants of up to \$10,000. Just on the Gold Coast that has supported 2,800 businesses like EXP Plastics in Nerang, Aromas of India in Highland Park, Mount Nathan Winery through to the Pink Hotel in Coolangatta.

We have provided \$50 million in support for tourism businesses, \$25 million in housing and homelessness support as well as our \$100 million Works for Tradies program to deliver even more social housing. We will also support our regional councils to help them refinance existing debt, allowing them to redirect funding for job-creating capital works programs. Of course, through our Works for Queensland program, we have already provided over \$10 million to the Gold Coast city council to deliver projects like the Pacific Pines Community Hub expansion within my community, not only delivering a great community asset but also creating local jobs for tradies.

Schools across the Gold Coast will also share in nearly \$24 million worth of new projects, minor works and upgrades thanks to the funding boost from the Palaszczuk government including upgrading the amenities at Nerang State High School, making them more comfortable for students. That is something I know the principal, Scott Ison, and the P&C have welcomed. This funding boost is on top of the more than \$100 million being invested on the Gold Coast to deliver much needed facilities such as additional classrooms and refurbishments, as well as a brand new primary school in Pimpama and a new special school in Coomera.

Our \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program will put air conditioning in every classroom, library and staffroom in every state school in Queensland. That is something for which I campaigned heavily. I remind those opposite that under their leadership Queensland state schools would have needed to wait eight years until students received those much needed air conditioning units.

We have also been rolling out our solar panels on school rooftops to help offset the cost—190,000 in total. Under this government, nearly two million households in Queensland will see another \$50 taken off their electricity bills from this month thanks to Queensland's publicly owned power assets. This is in addition to our COVID household relief package, which provided Queensland households with \$200 off their utility bills and \$500 for small businesses. We can do this because we still own our energy assets—assets that those opposite wanted to sell. Unlike other states, the dividends from our publicly owned companies do not flow to multinational shareholders overseas but to Queensland families across the state. We have also locked in an additional \$50 dividend payment to go to Queensland households next year, in 2021.

Queensland's publicly owned electricity companies will invest more than \$1.76 billion in capital works in the 2020-21 financial year, supporting up to 3,920 jobs. Through measures contained in this bill, we will invest \$500 million in a renewable energy fund that will mean our publicly owned energy corporations can increase public ownership of commercial renewable energy projects and support infrastructure, complementing our recent \$145 million commitment to establish three renewable energy zones. These measures will help Queensland reach our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, a target those opposite wanted to scrap.

On top of our massive M1 upgrades, light rail to Burleigh extension and exit upgrades, we are investing \$400 million in new, accelerated funding for Queensland roads, including the Gold Coast Highway and Toolona Street pedestrian upgrade and the Beaudesert Nerang Road and Maudsland Road intersection upgrade in my electorate. Our infrastructure investment under the Palaszczuk government has increased every year since we were elected. That is in stark contrast to those opposite, who did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 when last in government despite holding every single Gold Coast seat. They also managed to cut capital spending every year when the Leader of the Opposition was Campbell Newman's assistant treasurer.

The Palaszczuk government has an economic recovery plan which delivers \$7 billion in recovery measures, and with \$4 billion announced through the COVID-19 Fiscal and Economic Review, we will deliver a direct COVID stimulus of \$11 billion in total. We are up-front about how we intend to pay for our promises, following the advice of the Reserve Bank Governor and the approach of the Morrison government. In stark contrast, the LNP has made \$23 billion in unfunded election commitments. Of course, the member for Southport attended a Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce event last month. He stated—

The reason that I'm running again is that I've got some unfinished business, as does the LNP. In the two and a half short years that we were in government, we set about a very significant reform agenda for the state of Queensland ...

Let's look at that 'reform agenda' just on the Gold Coast: 68 frontline health jobs cut, including staff in general surgery roles, palliative care and in the cancer care and treatment unit; 16 workers with QBuild cut—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. I do not know how this is relevant to the Appropriation Bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh):** I am listening to the member for Gaven's contribution, and there is no point of order.

**Ms SCANLON:** They do not like their track record. Some 16 workers with QBuild were cut, 48 local TAFE workers were cut, 53 workers from road maintenance crews were cut, and funding for the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre and Gold Coast disability advocacy organisations—they assist some of our most vulnerable members—was cut. When the Leader of the Opposition says that she—

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I can barely hear the member on her feet. Member for Glass House, I have called for order. Member for Buderim!

**Ms SCANLON:** When the Leader of the Opposition says that she will 'get rid of waste', the member for Everton says that their agenda is cutting the waste and the member for Southport says that the LNP have unfinished business, those opposite need to be up-front with Queenslanders about what they will cut, who they will sack and what they will sell. I commend these bills to the House.

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.10 pm): I, too, rise to speak in this cognate debate on the appropriation bills 2020, one being for the general budget and one being for the parliament. It is important that we explain to Queenslanders what the Palaszczuk Labor government is actually trying to do under the guise of COVID and our concerns around the health pandemic.

Governments are not dissimilar to households or small businesses in the sense that they must set a budget each year. They have to look at revenues and expenditures, what they will spend on. Sure, the government has a slightly larger budget—we are talking tens of billions of dollars as opposed to a household or a small to medium business—but the government also has an extraordinary number of public servants to assist it to prepare that budget. In a subsequent budget you look at how you tracked in the previous year, like we all do. You might have adjustments: sometimes you hit it, sometimes you go slightly under and sometimes you go slightly over.

In the case of governments, they need to bring forward appropriation bills to address unforeseen circumstances or unforeseen expenditure over the previous year. Good governments, like good households and good businesses, go pretty close. When in government the LNP had a pretty good track record when it came to unforeseen expenditure. In 2012-13, there was \$63½ million out of a \$60 billion budget at the time. To be \$60 million out is pretty good. In 2013-14, it was \$447 million. That was a little bit more, but I point out that \$265 million of that was for increases to superannuation benefit payments and long service leave. No-one would challenge the need to do that when we have a considerable Public Service budget. Then 2014-15 came within \$12 million of being on the money. That is a pretty good track record. Then we look at what bad governments do. They get shown up.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Let us hear the member on their feet, please. No cross-chamber quarrelling.

**Mr POWELL:** They do not like to hear it. Their record speaks for itself: in 2015-16, \$390 million; in 2016-17, \$2.273 billion; in 2017-18 they did a little bit better, at \$500 million, and then in 2018-19 it was back over a billion dollars, at \$1.397 billion. This year we are getting an extra \$1.114 billion, but that was on the back of the former treasurer and member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, in April this year asking for an additional \$3.18 billion for this year. When we put that together, that is \$4 billion. I am sure that COVID has thrown curve balls to governments around the world, but we have to remember that we already had the highest unemployment rate, the lowest business confidence and the highest bankruptcy rate of any jurisdiction in Australia. To come in \$4 billion off the mark is a pretty lousy effort. How many treasurers have we had? Two. Can they name the debt? No. Can the Premier name the GST rate? No. We really are dealing with economic incompetence.

**Mr Saunders:** Who is the Coordinator-General?

**Mr POWELL:** That would be Toni Power, thank you. We do not want the government to think that it will be able to get away with this under the guise of COVID. Queenslanders need to understand that in Labor governments we have incredibly poor economic managers. It is just the Labor way. Normally with a government budget there is an estimates process. Given the nature of budgets, there is an opportunity for opposition members, government members and crossbench members alike to drill down into what is being spent, what was spent, why it was spent that way and whether it could have been spent better. Sadly this year, there is no budget. Again, I remind Queenslanders that it is not because we needed a federal budget first. Originally the then treasurer, Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane, was quite happy to hand down a budget in April before the federal government would have handed its down in May, so that excuse does not wash. We are not getting a budget. We have 41 pages of a glossy brochure and, apparently, that is supposed to cut it at this time.

Normally in an estimates process we would drill down into what is going on. As the shadow minister for state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning, I would like to ask a lot of questions around why we are suddenly approving an additional \$220 million for the Department of Regional Development and Manufacturing. Where is that money being spent? What is it being spent on? Why was it necessary in the year 2019-20? What did it go on? Was it another lot of failed IT

projects? Was it pork-barrelling in Labor seats? We are not getting that opportunity because there is no estimates process this year because there is no budget. Again, it is indicative of what we get with a Labor government.

Sadly, we are already seeing the same mistakes being made around the 2020-21 interim supply. When Labor runs out of its own money, it comes for yours. Last year there was \$1.2 billion of taxes. Again this year the Treasurer has said that if Labor is re-elected on 31 October he cannot guarantee that there will not be new taxes. That means that every mum and dad, as they sit around the table trying to work out how they pay their bills, has that spectre hanging over them of another Labor tax, possibly a COVID tax.

**Mr Krause:** Ten new taxes?


**Mr POWELL:** It would not surprise us. We have a government that has no plan as to how it will spend the money allocated. Last year we saw that, despite all the promises of building infrastructure, it actually ripped \$1.3 billion out of the capital spend. Why would you reduce infrastructure spending during COVID, at a time when we desperately need infrastructure spending? That is jobs going begging. Again, that is mums and dads looking at their own budgets—incomes and outgoings—and saying, ‘Hang on, there is job uncertainty here. How will I feed my kids and put them through school? How will I pay for the water and the electricity?’ It is not acceptable.

Then we have the government’s so-called recovery plan. This week, every member of the LNP has pointed out the failings of that recovery plan. In fact, many of the journalists have also. Many industry bodies have pointed out how it is a rehash and business as usual. In some cases, it is less than business as usual. There is nothing exciting the people of Queensland nor the industries in terms of how the Labor government will drag us out of the economic recession it has created. There is every chance that, had we had better economic managers in power at present, we would not be in an economic recession, but because of their track record that is where we are.

In contrast, the LNP offers a plan. We have a plan to stimulate the economy, to grow a decade of secure jobs. We will unleash Queensland industry and secure our children’s future in doing all of that. We will do that by setting up an economic recovery agency that will be solely focused on ensuring we build infrastructure across the state. We will build the New Bradfield Scheme. Then we will set up the Queensland Dam Company and look at Nullinga and Urannah, at raising Burdekin Falls Dam, at Rookwood Weir and Emu Swamp and at fixing up Paradise Dam.

We will build a billion dollars worth of congestion-busting and safety improvements on our roads in South-East Queensland. We have heard from other members this afternoon about putting another bridge at the Centenary Motorway at Jindalee, duplicating Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and fixing up Gympie Road, both at Beams Road and as it heads past Chermside. There will be plenty more of those announcements to come.

That is all about getting people to and from work quicker and safer. That is about stimulating the economy and making sure that businesses can move product and people around as they need. There will be investment in public transport. There is the investment in the second M1 on the Gold Coast. We will air-condition every state school classroom. We will deliver all of this because we know that that is the kind of bold vision that is required to drag Queensland out of the economic recession that Labor has created. As we come to the 2020 election it really does concern me that people need to understand that we are in a pandemic, yes, and that that pandemic will be over in 12 months but the economic hurt of that pandemic will go on for years and years and years and we will need a government that has a plan to stimulate the economy and grow those jobs, and it is only the LNP that has that plan.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (4.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate on the appropriation bills before the House. I support the supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure for both the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and for state government agencies as part of the 2019-20 financial year. However, I will contain my remarks to the appropriation of \$28 billion of additional interim supply for both the government and the parliament for this current financial year.

On 22 April this year when I introduced the first set of appropriation bills to seek parliament’s endorsement of the Palaszczuk Labor government’s \$4 billion health and economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 2.1 million confirmed cases of COVID globally and 170,000 deaths. Some 140 days later, when the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning introduced the current appropriations bills, we have seen a second wave shut down the entire state of Victoria, with more than 27 million confirmed cases of COVID globally and more than 895,000 deaths.

We now have one million Australian workers unemployed, our economy is in the first recession in almost 30 years and GDP has contracted by seven per cent, and I confirm for the member for Glass House that the recession is indeed a national recession and not a Queensland recession and that that national recession occurred under the Morrison LNP government under the conditions of a significant global pandemic. To put this in context, a seven per cent contraction in our GDP is equivalent to wiping away the past nine years of national economic growth—just completely evaporating the last nine years of economic growth. The recession of the 1980s wiped away four years of economic growth, the 1990s recession wiped away 3½ years of economic growth and the GFC wiped away 1½ years of economic growth at a national level. To put it in context, what we are currently experiencing is almost the equivalent of the past three recessions combined.

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a deeply worrying economic environment and straitjacketed by necessary measures to protect the health of Queenslanders. Recently Alan Kohler put up a graph on the ABC finance report which I thought was incredibly telling, because it told the story of the Palaszczuk Labor government's protection for Queenslanders and why that protection has been such an outstanding success for the small businesses of Queensland. The store shutdown rate across the nation is as follows: in New South Wales it is nine per cent, in WA it is 12 per cent, in South Australia it is 16 per cent, in Victoria it is 90 per cent, in Tasmania it is six per cent and in Queensland it is six per cent. Queensland has the equal lowest rate of store shutdowns across the nation, and why is that? It is because we are keeping our borders shut from COVID hotspots across the nation and making sure that Queenslanders are safe and our economy continues to thrive and small businesses can keep their doors open.

Queensland undoubtedly has been successful in our attempts to ensure that not only are we keeping COVID out of our state but also where there are outbreaks we have an aggressive testing response. Queenslanders have responded in the most spectacular way, and I want to add my thanks to Queenslanders for listening to the public health advice and for making sure that when we do get news and that news becomes public we respond in a very thoughtful way not only for ourselves and our families but also for our fellow Queenslanders.

Our economic recovery plan is focused on a number of key prongs. The infrastructure spend, which the Treasurer went through this morning, is critical in terms of ensuring that we have jobs on projects but we also have the jobs that come from that investment in infrastructure in the broader general economy. In my community of South Brisbane we have seen an investment in our local schools to respond to the unprecedented growth in the South Brisbane community. I particularly want to call out the expansion of West End State School, which is a spectacular new facility for the preppies and the year 1s and 2s, but also the new high school at Dutton Park which is coming along apace and looks spectacular.

We are also investing in housing, and the Cornwall Street affordable housing project will be the first of its kind in terms of providing specific accommodation for those young Queenslanders who are finding it tough to keep a roof over their head. It is a fantastic collaborative initiative with the Brisbane Youth Service as well as the Brisbane Housing Co. We are delivering bikeways and velobridges and of course our flagship program—a critical program not only for our state's economy but also for the future of public transport travel right throughout South-East Queensland, and that is Cross River Rail. On that site alone 20 per cent of the construction working hours will be partitioned for apprentices and trainees, and that means that there will be many young people who will have a job who will obtain their apprenticeships—their skills qualification—from being attached to this job. It was such a good decision that we made a couple of years ago to fund this project, because if we ever needed this project and the economic stimulus that comes with it it is right now.

Small businesses in my community—and there are so many small businesses in my community given it is right on the doorstep of the CBD—have benefited from a number of programs that have been put in place. From payroll tax relief, land tax relief as well as the adaptation grants, almost 300 businesses in my local community have benefited from those as well as the low-interest government funded loan scheme and the Buy Local campaign, which is just terrific. First and foremost, making sure that our economy can stay open at this particular point in time is the most important thing to small businesses within South Brisbane.

In terms of manufacturing and renewable energy, I want to place on record my support for the additional funding for the Renewable Energy Fund and CleanCo and the renewable energy zones which I hope will transition Queensland into being an industrial powerhouse of this century, because we have the clean energy advantage here in Queensland which we need to take advantage of to ensure that it

becomes a dividend for the industrial jobs of the future. They are the jobs—the secure, well-paid, skilled jobs—of the future and I want to particularly single out the Electrical Trades Union and the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union for all of their work in advocating for these sorts of jobs for the future.

I also want to commend the government for the fantastic renewable energy training facility to ensure that young people have the skills necessary to work in the renewable energy sector in the future. I want to pay a little bit of attention to young workers particularly because all of the economic indicators showed that it was young workers, women workers, unskilled workers and casualised workers who were the first to really feel the full economic effects of the economic shutdown caused by COVID. There are a lot of young workers in my community of South Brisbane. They do hospitality and tourism; they do a lot of the bar work. They are inexperienced, they are highly casualised and they are part of a relationship where they experience a lot of power imbalance, and I want to place on record my thanks to the Minister for Industrial Relations for the wage theft laws that we passed in this House yesterday.

In my community, the West End strip has been singled out as a place where a lot of wage theft is happening. This morning I was having a talk to someone from my local coffee shop who wanted me to pass on her thanks to the government for passing this important legislation. She knows full well how much wage theft is occurring in the local community and she thinks that these laws are very necessary and very much overdue.

We do have a looming problem and that is what will happen soon when JobKeeper is reduced and when it expires in March. We know that JobKeeper and JobSeeker will be reduced and we know that industrial flexibility has been introduced to allow companies that do not meet the requirements for JobKeeper to also reflect in the reduction in their workers' hours and wages the same level of downturn that they are currently experiencing. The economic instability will continue for a while and that is why I think now is the time to make sure that there is fairness at the centre of government, and that fairness can only come through a Labor government and the Palaszczuk Labor government here in Queensland.

The member for Toowoomba North got up earlier today and talked about the number of days that Labor had been in power and the number of days that the LNP had been in power since the Goss Labor government. I say to the member for Toowoomba North, and to all members in the chamber, that the Queensland voting public rarely gets it wrong. They rarely get it wrong when it comes to knowing whose interests political parties seek to represent in this place. They have given the LNP a go. They gave them a go under Borbidge and they gave them a go under Campbell Newman and what they found is that under the LNP so deep were the cuts, so severe were the sackings, so terrible were the actions of those governments that they only got one term at a time.

Now, when we are facing such an incredibly unstable period, not only for our economy but also in our community, people need to weigh up whether or not they will vote for a political party that believes that it is up to the individual to make a go, an individual's go, in a climate when the economy has tanked, when we are in the first recession in almost three decades. What they want is fairness in government. They want a government that is focused on them and their jobs—not on cutting, not on sacking and not on selling their assets.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Southern Downs.

**Ms TRAD:** They are interested in a government that will not axe funding for community services that seek to represent children with leukaemia or women with advanced breast cancer. They will not want a government that seeks to gag advocacy organisations or seeks to sack public servants.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. Absolutely unacceptable.


**Ms TRAD:** Thank you for your protection. In my closing remarks there is one thing that the LNP will have to defend this election in my community of South Brisbane and that is the sacking of thousands of nurses when they were last in government and whether or not that will be a repeat event if they win at the next election. Queenslanders will remember the deep cuts to Queensland Health that came from those opposite when they were in government: the sacking of nurses, the pushing of doctors off collective agreements, the sacking of orderlies, all of the allied health professionals.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, member. Member for Buderim, the member is not taking your interjections. I ask you to cease those interjections. Member for Southern Downs, you are on a warning which means there are to be no interjections or else you will exit the chamber.

**Ms TRAD:** As I said, health is the No. 1 concern of Queenslanders right now and a strong public health system that has been able to agilely and aggressively respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic in our community. This is what concerns Queenslanders the most now. The trust they put in the Campbell Newman LNP government last time was absolutely dishonoured by the deep cuts to health in particular and the gagging and the cutting of funding to important community based health organisations.

As we face the next election with this global pandemic in our community, in our nation, scarring our economy, those opposite have to make an ironclad guarantee that they will not sack one nurse, they will not sack one orderly, they will not sack one allied health professional, that they will not sack any doctors and make sure that Queenslanders' health is fundamentally protected and protected by high quality public servants.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.35 pm): In making a few comments in this cognate debate on the appropriation bills for government and for the parliament I say that this has been a terrible government for farmers, for families and for small businesses even before coronavirus came about. It introduced nine new taxes which has sapped the confidence of all businesses, including the 90 per cent of businesses in my electorate that are small businesses and rely on seeing confident signals from the government to invest and to grow jobs, for families that have seen the cost of living in various areas go up under this government and for farmers who have not been assisted at all in relation to the various costs and regulatory burdens placed on them by this government.

This is a government that still has no economic plan to lead us into the future, just a 41-page glossy brochure instead of a proper budget that can be analysed by this parliament, where members can look at the budget line by line to see what is being done or, more importantly, what is not being done by the government. We have a record 234,000 Queenslanders out of work and still we cannot have a budget brought down by this government. They have now said that one will be delivered by the end of November. If they say they can deliver one before the end of November then they should have been able to deliver one before the election, but the fact is that they do not want to deliver that budget because they do not want the people of Queensland to see the true state of our debt and the true state of the waste that they have been responsible for and the economic vandalism they are wreaking on the Queensland economy. The \$18 billion blowout in debt in a single year is absolutely outrageous. Not bringing down a budget means that members of this parliament—shadow ministers and individual members—cannot ask the questions that need to be asked for each electorate.

I want to turn to some of those questions now because there are issues that need to be addressed. In relation to education, one of the biggest drivers for our Queensland budget in one of the most important sectors is a policy that the government stole from the LNP, that is, our policy to air-condition every state school in Queensland. It was a great policy that was pushed by Deb Frecklington, our leader, for almost two years before the ALP stole it and decided to implement it. In true Labor form they have not been able to implement it properly.

I am sure there are many stories of mess-ups when it comes to the installation of air conditioning, such as cost overruns and contracts that have been awarded for way more than they should have been because of the procurement process in education, but I want to draw to the attention of the House just one terrible example of what has gone wrong with the government's implementation of that program. This example came to me from Tamborine Mountain State School, an independent public school on Tamborine Mountain, where a couple of years ago the principal was recognised with the best state school principal in the country award. I have here a letter from the school council chair and the P&C president telling me, and urging action from the government, about its air conditioning installation.

The school has had the air conditioners installed, but sadly there is not enough power infrastructure at the school for the air conditioners to be used. They have been told that the power upgrades are unlikely to happen before mid to late 2021 which, as they know, could be two years into the warranty period for the air conditioners that have been installed. That is a great example of the incompetence of this government in terms of implementing programs properly, even when they steal the idea from the LNP. It is not good enough for there to be that delay and that waste of money. To make matters worse, some fans were removed in order to install the air conditioners. Not only do they

not have working air conditioners; in some places they do not have fans either. I call on the government to fix that and get the power upgraded before the warmer summer months in the Scenic Rim. I table that document from Tamborine Mountain State School.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 19 August 2020, from the Tamborine Mountain State School to the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding Queensland Government's Cooler Cleaner Schools Program [1626].

In relation to transport, we have not had a Queensland Transport Investment Program released this year. Twice I have asked the minister for it, but still he has not released it. Instead, we have seen an industry briefing document that does not contain the usual detail of QTRIP. One issue that I have been petitioned about relates to restoring a bus stop on the Mount Lindesay Highway at the intersection with Cedar Grove and Cedar Vale roads. There was a bus stop there but it was decommissioned by TransLink some years ago, although I do not know why. We have asked a number of times for the government to reinstate that bus stop, but they have refused.


The 540 bus service runs from Beaudesert to Browns Plains. During the week it is roughly an hourly service. It is a good service that was started when the LNP was in office. It enhances accessibility between Beaudesert and Browns Plains. However, there is eight kilometres from Cedar Grove and Cedar Vale roads to the nearest bus stop. If we are trying to encourage people to use public transport, that is not a very good distance to have between bus stops. Eight kilometres is a very long way. I table a petition calling for that bus stop to be reinstated by the government.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding improving public transport options on Mount Lindesay Highway by installing bus stops [1627].

Debate, on motion of Mr Krause, adjourned.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Constitutionality of Appropriation Bills

 **Mr SPEAKER:** At the commencement of the sitting today, the member for Clayfield rose on a matter of privilege and raised a number of issues concerning the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The member for Clayfield has raised three main issues.

The first is that the bills are annual appropriation bills within the meaning of section 26C(1) of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and that there has been a failure to comply with section 26C(2) which requires that the annual appropriation bills are referred to the portfolio committees for examination in a public hearing and that the bills must be accompanied by associated documents that (a) explain the appropriation and (b) the estimates of expenditure for the financial year. In short, the complaint is that the requirement for estimates examination of the annual appropriations is not occurring, in breach of the Constitution. The second is that there has been noncompliance with the standing orders that contain the financial procedures, part 6 chapter 30, for the annual appropriations. The third is that the noncompliance is so fundamental that the matter must be referred to the Ethics Committee for consideration.

It appears to me that the pivotal issue is whether the bills introduced by the Treasurer on Tuesday are annual appropriation bills. The member for Clayfield argues that the bills are annual appropriation bills in both form and substance, meeting the definition set out in section 26C(3) of the Queensland Constitution. The member for Clayfield points out that the bills are for an appropriation for the financial year as stated in the long title to the bill being acts 'authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund ... for the financial years starting 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020'.

The Treasurer has indicated that he has legal advice that the appropriation bills currently before the House is not an annual appropriation act as it does not seek an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the full 2020-21 financial year. The Treasurer has further indicated that although the level of interim supply sought is based on 2019-20 the legal advice is that this does not represent the current estimates of total appropriation required for 2020-21.

The Attorney-General has let me sight a portion of a written legal advice by the Solicitor-General that indicates that the bills are not annual appropriation bills as they do not represent the complete or total appropriations for the financial year.

Honourable members, it is the duty of a Speaker to intervene where there is a clear breach of a constitutional requirement. However, it is not unreasonable that I should rely on the advice and assurance of the first law officer—the Attorney-General—the Solicitor-General and the Treasurer on the constitutionality of a matter. If the bills are not annual appropriations as per the advice and assurances, then the requirements of part 6 chapter 31 of standing orders do not apply.

I also note that the requirement in section 26C of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 is probably not a manner and form provision, but rather a provision dealing with internal parliamentary procedure and hence is non-justiciable. That does not mean it should be ignored by the House, the House has a duty to follow procedure in law, but it means that legislation passed is unlikely to be able to be challenged.

Finally, I observe that section 26C does not explicitly prohibit the bills from being dealt with urgently in accordance with section 26B and passed if there is non-compliance with section 26C.

Whilst I understand the genuine concerns of the member for Clayfield, I am going to rely on the advice and assurances of the government and I am not going to rule the bills out of order or refer the matter to the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence of the member for Clayfield and of the Treasurer.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence from the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, and the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege concerning the constitutionality of the appropriation bills [1628].


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 2436, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.46 pm), continuing: As I was saying, without having QTRIP published this year, we do not know what is in or out of the roads program. Another local issue that I would have been querying if there was a budget this year relates to the need to upgrade Boonah Rathdowney Road. A petition has been lodged with this parliament urging the upgrade of that road. A section of about 4½ to five kilometres of that road is very narrow. A lot of caravans, motorhomes and other large vehicles use the road to move about the Scenic Rim on a daily basis, especially at the moment when there are a lot more tourists visiting the region. The road needs an upgrade. It can get quite hairy when two vehicles need to pass on that very narrow section. I have been talking to Main Roads about this for a couple of years, but they have not seen fit to move it up their priority list, as they did on Lamington National Park Road a couple of years ago. I table a letter from the principal of Maroon State School in relation to the need for the road to be upgraded. For 10 weeks a year they take a bus from Maroon to Rathdowney for swimming lessons. They know it is an issue that needs to be addressed.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 2 September 2020, from the Principal, Maroon State School, Shaan Eldridge, to the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding the proposed upgrade to the Boonah-Rathdowney Road [1629].

Child safety is another vitally important issue that needs to be analysed and examined through the budget process. A couple of years ago the Child Safety department tried to abandon Beaudesert by shutting down the office there and moving it to another centre. Without the scrutiny of the budget process, there is no way of seeing and asking questions of the government about whether there are more secret moves to shift the Child Safety office out of Beaudesert. There have been massive failures in the Child Safety department. There are issues that need to be addressed through a budget process and estimates hearings. There has been a lot of media coverage of late about one particular child who has been left to live rough on the streets of the Gold Coast. That is a terrible example of failure by the department. Despite the repeated pleas of many people in the community to fix that issue, still it has not been fixed. Not having a budget or estimates hearings reduces our ability to hold the government to account.

A similar situation relates to Beaudesert Hospital, which is a hospital that I have a proud record of supporting and enhancing services at, as indeed does the LNP. During the 2012-15 government period, we restored maternity and other services to Beaudesert Hospital. I would like to see enhanced services at that hospital into the future. On a number of occasions I have made the point to the authorities that we need more staff, we need better equipment for diagnostics and we also need to see investment in that hospital prioritised as a result of growth in the area. I have had people come to me who are concerned about the culture of the hospital, the way that staff issues are dealt with and the lack of overnight coverage for doctors at the hospital. There is a very tight roster when it comes to surgical nurses and emergency department nurses. There is a need for more equipment so that more

services can be offered locally, instead of transferring people to Logan Hospital, which is already a very busy hospital. Things could be done locally if the decision was made to invest in the Beaudesert Hospital, as we did when we were in government and brought back maternity services.

I have heard serious claims about nepotism and bullying at the hospital. Even worse, those claims have not been dealt with sufficiently by the authorities when they have been brought to their attention. This is happening at a time when we need all of our health services to operate at their optimum level. Things such as that need to be dealt with effectively and efficiently so that staff morale is kept high and they can continue to serve the public as well as they possibly can. This is not just about funding or staffing; it is about the culture and the management of our hospitals, which needs to be examined through the budget process. Security at the hospital is another issue that has been raised. With no budget, there is no way of querying whether there will be further investment in that.

Another issue that has been raised with me in relation to Beaudesert Hospital is the fact that two of its doctors ordinarily reside in northern New South Wales. They are rural generalists in obstetrics. At the moment they have been unable to attend work. I am concerned that this will lead to a diminishing level of service at the hospital and potential health issues for patients because they have been told, even though they are doctors and obviously providing an essential service in Queensland, that they are unable to attend Beaudesert Hospital from northern New South Wales, despite the fact that there is basically zero cases of coronavirus in northern New South Wales. People would be more likely to contract it in Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich or the Gold Coast than in northern New South Wales.

When it comes to issues like this, the fact that we are not having a budget means we cannot examine that. I have spoken about Main Roads. We have had some successes in the Scenic Rim region in things I have been lobbying for. There is investment going forward in the Beaudesert Nerang Road region, a \$12 million enhancement co-funded by the Commonwealth and the state. Also my lobbying forced the government into funding the four-laning from Stoney Camp Road to Chambers Flat Road, again 50-50 with the Commonwealth.

**Mr Bailey:** It was the member for Logan who got that done.

**Mr KRAUSE:** You talk about the member for Logan, but it was the member for Scenic Rim who raised it publicly the first time. Before then there was no trace of it being on your agenda, Minister.

**Mr Bailey:** You are handing in someone else's homework.

**Mr KRAUSE:** There was no chance of it being on your agenda before I lobbied for it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting):** Order, members! I remind you once again about cross-chamber chatter. Please direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I am proud of the lobbying that I have carried out, forcing this government to act on making some improvements on the Mount Lindesay Highway including bringing forward works at Laravale, which is south of Beaudesert. There is so much more that needs to be done on our roads.

I also want to talk quickly about the Economic Development Queensland project at Ebenezer near Ipswich, in particular the Ebenezer industrial park. Apparently \$49 million has already been budgeted by the government to do work at Ebenezer as the state pushes ahead to build an industrial park. That is more than the government is intending, as far as we can tell, to invest in the Cunningham Highway. The Cunningham Highway through Yamanto and Willowbank, especially the Amberley interchange, is in dire need of improvement. A couple of years ago the Commonwealth put \$170 million on the table for that improvement project, only to have the state government promptly take it off the table, meaning that nothing has changed. Still the state is pressing ahead with more development in the area through the EDQ block of land at Ebenezer. That will do nothing except make the traffic problems worse through the Amberley interchange area.

There are also proposals for three dumps before the Ipswich City Council at the moment around the Willowbank area. The traffic problems they will cause, if they are eventually all approved, will be dramatic for the Amberley interchange. They should be called in by the state and the state should take responsibility for the impacts of those dumps, especially at the Amberley interchange, because it cannot cope with the traffic it has right now, let alone the traffic from three more dumps if they get approved. Now we have the state actively pushing more development at Ebenezer which will create even more problems. Labor is letting them all go on.

It makes one think there is an active agenda by this government to make the Willowbank area the dumping ground of South-East Queensland. We have seen more evidence of that in the last 24 hours. Labor government members in Ipswich have put out a press release saying that the Swanbank waste-to-energy facility, which has been proposed by Remondis and was championed by some in the government, needs to be moved to somewhere with less population growth.




The people who live around Willowbank in my electorate and in the electorate of Ipswich West should read between the lines of this document. The Labor members in Ipswich are saying, 'We want it taken out of our backyard and we will put it out near Willowbank and Ebenezer, where there are fewer people.' They are probably getting worried about the impact of the campaign against the incinerator in Ipswich. The people of Ipswich, and the people of the Ipswich West electorate in particular, need to know that the Labor members there are not standing up for them in relation to this. They are ducking for cover and trying to push it onto the residents of Willowbank, who have already put up with 30 years of mining.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** They now have three dumps proposed in their backyard. Those opposite refuse to call it in. Now there is this statement saying, 'Take it out of our backyard. Send it to somewhere with fewer people.' That is Willowbank. That is what this statement says.

*Tabled paper.* Media release, dated 9 September 2020, by the member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP, member for Bundamba, Mr Lance McCallum MP, member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP, and member for Jordan, Mrs Charis Mullen MP, titled 'Ipswich MPs: Better options than waste to energy' [\[1630\]](#).

It is not just this statement. I had a meeting with the people from EDQ just over a week ago. One of the things that came out of that meeting was that there is indeed a proposal on the table for a similar sort of incinerator or furnace project at the Ebenezer industrial estate. The people of Ipswich need to know that this Labor government continues to dump on them. It is allowing dumps to go ahead and now it is facilitating, through Economic Development Queensland, another incinerator project in another part of the city, all the while putting out statements trying to avoid responsibility for what is being proposed at Swanbank. The government is scared because there is an election coming up. The people of Ipswich should reject this government, reject the dumps, reject incinerators and take back their city from this government that takes them for granted and has taken them for granted for more than 30 years.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills. It gives me great pleasure to talk about all of the deliverables that are happening for the people of Capalaba and Redlands. To see this we only have to look back to last week's announcement in health. We know that we have the COVID global epidemic at the moment and that health is a really important issue at the forefront of everyone's minds. It was great to see the Deputy Premier and health minister come to Redland Hospital to announce a \$62 million upgrade to that facility, one which will include a new 32-bed ward and also an ICU. An ICU has been debated for a long time out my way, but it is a Labor government that is delivering it. I am glad that I have been able to work alongside the minister and the members for Redlands, Springwood and Lytton to ensure we have the health facilities we need.

We are also investing \$6 million in the future to do the planning and design work for stage 2, because we do not want to stop there. This is on top of what we have already delivered this term: an expanded emergency ward and an expanded maternity ward and water birthing suites at Redland Hospital. These are fantastic facilities which have gone down well, especially with mothers in my local community. They can get world-class maternity services at Redland, so much so that it is preferred over private providers in the area. They want to come to Redland to have their children and we are glad that we are giving them the facilities to do so.

Let us look at the track record of the LNP when it comes to Redland Hospital and bayside health services. What did the LNP do when it was in power? It closed down Wynnum Hospital. The member for Lytton is right next to me. She lived through the horror. We all lived through the horror. Do you reckon the LNP gave any extra infrastructure or doctors or nurses to Redland Hospital to cope with the extra services that were needed? No. There was absolutely nothing. It shut down a whole hospital. It also sacked nurses at Redland Hospital and closed down mental health beds for periods of time. It was an absolute horror show down there for the three years that the LNP was in power. It is a completely different story under a Palaszczuk Labor government. We continue to deliver health services in the local area.

We are also delivering for education services in the area. I note the whining of those opposite in relation to school air conditioners. It is great to see so many contracts being awarded in my local area for the rollout of school air conditioning. Those opposite are worried about air conditioning being delivered next year when their plan was to do it by 2028. That is another eight years away. We would have been waiting a long time for them to roll out their plan and some rooms would not be included. We are delivering solar for school rooftops to power these air conditioners. For schools the majority of their power is used from nine until three. I know that every school in my electorate is getting rooftop solar so we can power those air conditioners in a green and clean way.

We are also delivering in terms of education. I was proud to announce recently a \$600,000 upgrade of the Capalaba State College hall—a hall that is probably as old as me and in desperate need of upgrading given the sports they play in that hall. I know they have a volleyball excellence program at Capalaba State College. If you see how hard their players hit volleyballs into the glass louvres it is easy to understand why the current hall is not fit for purpose. I am glad to have been able to deliver that.

We also delivered the \$4.25 million Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics at Alexandra Hills State High School. It is a fantastic facility that I had the pleasure of opening recently. It provides the education for our students to ensure they have the training and skills they need for the jobs of the future.

It was a pleasure to have the transport minister, Minister Bailey, in my area the week before last to turn the sod for the start of the construction of the Eastern Transitway. All of these announcements are blurring my memory. They are happening every day around the Capalaba electorate. The Eastern Transitway is important. There is \$35 million to upgrade five intersections along Old Cleveland Road. The part of Old Cleveland Road we are upgrading is a Brisbane City Council road. We are effectively upgrading Brisbane City Council roads for the use, in the vast majority of cases, of Brisbane City Council buses. That is what we are doing. Public transport is at the forefront of people getting into the city from the Redlands area.

I note the contract has recently been awarded for the upgrade of the on ramp from Old Cleveland Road onto the Gateway Motorway. We used to see traffic bank up on the shoulder of the road. It was particularly dangerous for those using Old Cleveland Road to cycle into the city. We had cars banked back on the shoulder where bike riders usually should be riding. To the right-hand side of them cars were racing past at 80 kilometres an hour. It was daunting and an issue we needed to fix. I am glad we are fixing it.

I am glad the minister is in the House because he keeps delivering for my electorate. The other thing we have undertaken in my electorate is the war on wrecks. Over the last five years we have cleared out over a dozen boats from Tingalpa Creek alone. They were sitting there the whole time the Newman government was in office. I remember the response the local canoeing group received when they went to see the previous member who was from the LNP. He said, 'There are no funds to do it. We have to put up with it. We have to leave those wrecks in the creek and learn to live with them.' It was an absolute disgrace. I lobbied long and hard for this issue to be addressed. I am glad that the minister was able to help me out in that regard.

We now have a clean and pristine creek. Not only did we take the wrecks out; we took the derelict pontoons out. We saw houseboat repair jobs come in and a storm would come through and we would find them on the bottom of Tingalpa Creek. We removed the illegal pontoons from the side of the creek. That has meant that boats cannot come back there and then sink. I am appreciative of the work the minister has done for my local area to clean up that environment.

We have a plan to unite and recover for the people of Capalaba and the people of Queensland. I note the LNP candidate for Capalaba does not have a plan. The poor old LNP candidate for Capalaba does not have a single commitment or a single promise or a single plan for the people of Capalaba. The Leader of the Opposition keeps driving past Capalaba to go off to Redlands to give a couple of pork-barrelling announcements down there because they are targeting that seat. They completely ignore the Brisbane blow-in LNP candidate for Capalaba. She also gets ignored by shadow ministers. We had the member for Kawana come out to the Redlands to make a couple of announcements. He did one in Oodgeroo and one in Redlands and ignored the Brisbane blow-in LNP candidate for Capalaba. That is how little they think of her. She has no power within the party.

They take the people of Capalaba for granted. They do not care about them. They want to go down and give a couple of pork-barrelling promises in Redlands to try to get that electorate over the line, but they completely ignore the people of Capalaba. They did that while they were in power. They took for granted the fact that they won the seat previously and gave the poor member at that time no infrastructure. Actually, they did not give him no infrastructure; it went backwards. There was no road infrastructure. Nurses were sacked. Wynnum Hospital was shut down. They absolutely gutted Alexandra Hills TAFE. They sacked a heap of teachers, drove up the price of courses and allowed in a heap of private providers that destroyed the equipment at the TAFE. They had secret plans to sell it off as well.

I am glad that we came into government in 2015 and have been able to turn that around. Have we not turned it around in such a drastic fashion? Some \$10 million has been invested into that facility. There are brand new plumbing workshops at the TAFE. There is \$1.2 million for new electrical


workshops and wet floors. We have completely transformed that campus into a vibrant campus. We are running out of rooms. We are going to have to expand it in the future. I will keep lobbying Minister Shannon Fentiman for extra facilities.

In Capalaba we have a huge number of tradies. There are a huge number of families that want their sons and daughters to get their trades training at Alexandra Hills TAFE because it is a fantastic facility. As I said, it was completely neglected under the LNP. It was run into the ground because they wanted to sell it off. They did all three things at Alexandra Hills TAFE—they cut, sacked and were just about to sell it off before we were lucky enough to win government in 2015. It has been fantastic to work so hard in my local community to ensure we have a world-class TAFE.

I thank the minister for hearing my calls to ensure that we have proper investment not only in trades but also in the nursing facilities. We know that we need nurses for the rapid expansion of the NDIS. We need nurses for aged care as well. It will be fantastic to see those trained nurses get jobs locally. There is local demand for jobs.

I know a lot of places are doing it tough with COVID-19. In the bayside area unemployment is at 3.1 per cent. It is fantastic to see that we are still charging ahead with our plan while making sure that we get the health response to COVID-19 right. If we do not get the health response right we cannot do all the other things. We cannot make sure that we are investing in TAFE. We cannot invest in hospital and health services. We cannot invest in schools if we are not getting the health response right.

The Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Chief Health Officer have led this state through extremely tough times. We have seen the number of cases worldwide and in Victoria and the effect it has on the economies of those places. If you do not get the health response right, you cannot get the economics right. We are getting on with the business of investing, creating jobs and ensuring that we have the health and education services that not only Capalaba and the Redlands but also Queensland need for the future. We are getting on with our plan to make sure that we unite and recover for a better future.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution in this cognate debate on the two appropriation bills. I will, as others have, confine my comments to the Appropriation Bill itself.

We all know that these bills provide authority to spend money in the coming financial year until the state budget is delivered after the election. These bills also provide the basis for the government's mini-budget as announced this week. I will most certainly support these bills today, but I will take a moment to reflect on what kind of budget we should be fighting for in Queensland.

There are some elements of the mini-budget which are welcome—for instance, the commitment to assisting households with utilities bills. In general, the Greens strongly support government borrowing in times of hardship to look after ordinary people. The vital point is that we must make sure that ordinary people do not end up paying for this recovery. We should be aiming to create thousands of good, secure jobs and fully fund public health and education, paid for by making big mining corporations, banks and developers pay their fair share in tax.

The economic recovery we are working through should not aim to simply go back to the status quo before COVID hit. The government's plans and the upcoming state budget after the election should set a new direction for the kind of economy and society we want to have once the worst of the danger has passed. What parts of the old way do we want to switch back to and which parts should we leave behind? This is an important question—and one that I have raised in here before—because the old way was simply not working for everyone. The old way was not working for the thousands of workers pushed into casual jobs and underemployment, or for the thousands of people waiting for elective surgery, or for the households that were struggling to pay their mortgage or rent that they could not afford.

On the other hand, the old way was working spectacularly well for property developers, banks and big mining companies. Corporate profits were pushing record levels, but regular Queenslanders were not getting their fair share for schools, hospitals and the jobs of the future. As we rebuild, we need to make sure that Queensland works for everyone, not just big corporations.

Over the last few months I have outlined a series of bold measures that we could adopt to fundamentally transform our society for the better. We could take this opportunity to revive Queensland manufacturing by building a publicly owned solar panel factory in Townsville and a wind turbine factory in Rockhampton to lay the foundations for a thriving renewable energy manufacturing industry in Central and North Queensland. Together those plants would be capable of manufacturing a combined 500 megawatts of wind and solar capacity per year by 2023, creating local 1,500 local jobs a year.

As demand for our metallurgical coal declines in the coming decades, we should be manufacturing steel right here in Queensland using the power of the wind and sun. Using public funds, we could build a prototype green steel manufacturing plant in Gladstone to begin production within five years. That would set the stage for a green steel industry that will create 15,000 good, secure jobs in the long term. To do those things we propose to establish a Queensland manufacturing authority, with \$1 billion of seed funding to provide low-interest loans and grants to fund clean energy manufacturing projects in Queensland.

We could be building 100,000 public homes over the next four years to tackle the housing crisis and create 20,000 good full-time jobs every year in the construction sector. By going for 100 per cent clean, publicly and community owned energy, we could create an average of 23,000 jobs a year. That would get us 20,000 megawatts of publicly owned wind, solar and energy storage including utility batteries and pumped hydro. We could be fully funding Queensland state schools with an extra \$7 billion over four years for smaller class sizes, 6,000 more teachers and better resources. That would also mean that we could totally abolish school fees and out-of-pocket costs at public schools, because public education should be genuinely free.

The government has made a pretty sizeable allocation for the temporary health response to deal with COVID-19 but, as I am sure other members have heard, now our public hospitals are being forced to start tightening their belts to pay for all the new services. Right now, when waiting lists are surging thanks to the temporary shutdown, this is precisely the wrong time to be cutting costs. Instead of a temporary sugar hit, we could hire 6,500 more nurses and 3,000 more doctors on a permanent basis. We could build a network of 200 public health clinics with guaranteed access to a bulk-billing GP in every community to ease pressure on hospitals and make life easier for patients.

One thing sums up the contradictions of the government's plan better than anything else. Nurses, teachers, cleaners, public servants get a pay freeze; big coal mining companies get a royalties freeze—right when they should be contributing more to pay for the recovery. Queensland is a wealthy state, but Labor's decision to freeze coalmining royalties means ordinary people are going to pay to get out of this crisis. We cannot look to the LNP for an alternative. They, in fact, offered a 10-year freeze on coal royalties.

We can afford to recover from COVID-19 in a way that helps ordinary people, but we have to make a choice about who will pay. Over the last 10 years mining corporations have exported over \$480 billion in resources but only paid around seven per cent in royalties—all the while, banks and developers were making billions in profit.

The Greens think big corporations should pay. Here is how: increase mining royalties to raise \$55 billion over four years; we could introduce a 0.05 per cent levy—a very modest levy—on the big banks to raise \$4.6 billion over four years; and we could tax developers on land value gains from rezoning, reducing corruption and raising \$7.8 billion over four years. All of this is doable. It is just about choices.


I want to take the opportunity to again welcome the allocation of \$65 million for the construction of a new school in Brisbane's inner west—something I have been pushing for for some years now. I have written to the education minister asking for more detail about the promised community consultation and the department's current thinking on the location of this school, and I look forward to a response as soon as possible. It is clear, looking across all the primary schools in Brisbane's inner west, that the schools that are struggling the most with overcrowding in this area are Ironside State School at St Lucia, Indooroopilly State School and Toowong State School.

These are all schools that have recently had or are currently undergoing pretty major infrastructure upgrades and getting new learning spaces, but in each case these new facilities are a case of the government playing catch-up. There is essentially no capacity to expand without robbing these kids of the little play space they have left. As I have said before, Taringa—where the state sold off a former primary school site more than 20 years ago now—is the sensible location for a new school.

Finally, on this issue, it is equally important to note that the inner west also needs additional secondary school capacity. Since the Toowong College was closed in 2006 and converted to the selective entry Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology, we have been left with a pretty significant gap in the secondary school catchments. Indooroopilly State High School and Kelvin Grove State College have enormous catchments and are similarly struggling with how they could possibly cater for the existing enormous student populations or any growth in those.

I have discussed this with the Indooroopilly State High School P&C and the community, and it is pretty clear that they do not want to see their school, as outstanding as it is, continue to grow unabated—student numbers have more than doubled in the last decade. I have made the case before,

and I reiterate, that the government should consider whether this school that has been proposed can cater for prep to year 12 students and, if not, let us know what the plan is for dealing with the pressures on our secondary schools in the inner west that are coming. With that, I reiterate my support for these bills and I commend them to the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.18 pm): I support the bills as it is a sensible approach during an international pandemic. It is the health response of the Palaszczuk government that has allowed our government to bring our economy out of COVID-19 hibernation and begin to get us back into a pattern of growth for business and strong employment.

My region is an area of growth, the resource sector is healthy and the METS sector supporting this industry is powering ahead. Many of the businesses and the engineering sector in my area are employing people and they are putting on apprentices. A modern transport supply chain is vital for the movement of commodities from pit to port.

Last Saturday our community celebrated the opening of the Mackay Ring Road, a nearly \$500 million project—one of the largest road projects that our region has ever seen. This joint state and federally funded project employed over 1,800 workers who were inducted onto the site. This road takes trucks and heavy vehicles out of the centre of Mackay, which makes it very safe for private vehicles and trucks. The \$110 million Northern Access Road into Mackay has begun to provide a further pipeline of work for locals in road construction with a massive upgrade of additional lanes on roads, bridges and overpasses. The \$120 million Walkerston bypass is due to go out to tender, and this project is expected to commence next year. This important piece of infrastructure will enhance the transport supply chain and make Walkerston a much safer place to live. The road projects that have either just been started or completed make up about \$1 billion worth of development across my region.


Students in my region are attending school so they can reach their full potential. They are working in modern, well-kept classrooms and laboratories. The students at Pioneer State School will benefit from a \$1 million upgrade to science laboratories, robotics laboratories and their learning and storage areas. Faith based and private schools are also building in my area, and when they do it gives families in my area an opportunity to have a real choice about their children's education. Catholic education is going to build a brand new secondary school in the historic sugar research building on Nebo Road. A Palaszczuk government grant of \$12 million will get this project off the ground, and it will be open for its first students in 2022. A new \$12 million performing arts centre will be built at Sarina State School, and this will allow students south of Mackay to engage in learning in state-of-the-art facilities so they can reach their full potential while they study closer to home.

Health is something that we cannot take for granted. When our health takes a turn for the worse, we want to know that we have the highest quality of care right in our backyard. The Palaszczuk government will contribute \$16.5 million to rebuild the Sarina Hospital on a brand new site at Brewers Road. This modern facility will support all of those residents south of Mackay, which in turn will take pressure off the Mackay Base Hospital and staff. It is also planned to open in 2022. The Mackay Base Hospital now has a dedicated orthopaedics ward with specialist trained nurses and health professionals, which means high-level care for locals with hip and knee replacements and people who have had accidents. The Mackay Base Hospital now has a 24/7 heart catheter laboratory, which means that locals no longer have to travel to Townsville for heart stents. This facility will better care for patients, take stress off families and save local lives.

Small business is important to our side of the government, and we are assisting with a huge number of grants. We are cutting taxes to make sure small business gets the support it needs to save local jobs and ensure businesses survive. Ultra Coral Australia grows and exports live corals, and they have just been awarded an economic recovery Market Diversification and Resilience Grant. Tourist operators across Mackay and the Whitsundays can apply for adaption grants to offset their reliance on international visitors.

Two of our really popular festivals, Rumble on the Reef and Beach Motorcycle Races, will receive grants of \$25,000 each. We want to see our festivals back up and running so we can bolster tourism numbers. Small businesses have been hit hard, and over 285 small businesses across Mackay and the Whitsundays have applied for adaptation grants. In addition, \$11 million will go to the Mackay and Whitsunday councils so they can deliver local projects and infrastructure and keep locals in jobs.

The Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence is only in operation because the Palaszczuk government delivered the first grant to get this project up off the ground. This centre is training our miners of the future. It also conducts innovation, research and development. It is this side of parliament that has a plan to recover, and it is this side of parliament that is looking after regional Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.25 pm): With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to pass on my prayers and condolences to Tim Mulherin's family, his wife, Erin, and the three boys. Tim was a fantastic member of parliament and a great friend of mine for over 25 years. I would also like to just quickly wish Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay; Simone Wilson, the member for Pumicestone; Mark McArdle, the member for Caloundra; Minister Kate Jones; Minister Anthony Lynham; and Minister Coralee O'Rourke all the best in the future.

I will not be opposing these urgent appropriation bills because this is a very tough time for many Queenslanders and their families. Not only are they struggling with the social and financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic but they are also having to cope with the constant changes and intrusions of the Premier and health minister into their family lives, businesses and places of work. Queenslanders have been very patient in bearing this burden, and they do not deserve to have any further burdens imposed by this administration. However, while I am not opposing these bills, I do want to use my time to highlight just what is happening here for the benefit of my constituents back in Gregory.

Normally, an appropriation bill is introduced to this House and then referred to the committees of review. This is what we call estimates. The committees thoroughly investigate the expenditure department by department, minister by minister. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Clayfield for bringing up some important information with regard to these appropriation bills. The committees then report back to the House and the committee reports are debated before the Appropriation Bill is voted on. This year, because of financial developments in terms of revenues and expenditures relating to the pandemic, the federal, state and territory governments have all delayed their budgets. These will begin to be delivered from 6 October through to November.

However, the coronavirus is not the only budget concern in Queensland: there is an election, and voters therefore need to be informed. Queenslanders will be voting in the state's first fixed election on 31 October. A responsible government with nothing to hide would understand the need to bring down a budget before election day. To do anything else is undemocratic. It will deceive voters, whether deliberately or not. They will be voting without the full information they deserve.

I was astonished to hear the Treasurer say in the first reading on Tuesday that he would deliver the proper budget on 30 November. Producing a budget is not like making scones. You just cannot whip it up. If the Treasurer is able to deliver a budget in November, just weeks after the election, I strongly suspect it is already sitting on a computer in his department. It is just another mean and tricky use of COVID-19 for political purposes. The cutback in parliamentary sittings is the same and is prompted by the same motivations of secrecy and hiding Labor's woeful record in the administration of governance over the last five years.

If the motivation behind the lack of parliamentary sittings is truly health based, then all regional MPs should be able to attend virtually. Instead, we are just supposed to travel less from our COVID-free electorates to Brisbane. Travelling less is supposedly enough to keep us all safe, including members, our staff, our families and all of the constituents we meet with and assist. What nonsense! These parliamentary sittings have been cut so the government does not have to face scrutiny and examination. They are using COVID-19 as a political raincoat.

Even so, if the budget is ready—or even nearly ready—and the Treasurer wanted to keep his May promise to Queenslanders about giving them the financial information they need before the election, he could have introduced budget bills at the last sitting in August. That would have given the committees a full month to examine them and we could have been debating the resulting reports this week. Instead, the Treasurer released a 41-page brochure on Monday and moved an urgency motion on Tuesday. This is not a budget; it is an economic statement. There are no economic forecasts beyond nine months, and the only economic commitments are to projects that have already been announced. It is in no way a comprehensive document and it is certainly not a budget, nor is it a plan.

Months ago, when the Premier was put under pressure about this lack of transparency, the Premier promised that Labor would hold an open examination about the lack of a budget and Queensland's financial position before the election. With that promise on the public record, what have Labor done to handicap any scrutiny of their financial record? This Friday, after parliament has risen—tomorrow—the Premier and the Treasurer will make themselves available to the Economics and Governance Committee for three hours. That is right—for three hours. The Premier has graciously spared an hour of her time and the Treasurer is giving the committee two hours. Let us be honest though. If you put in the Dorothy Dixers, it is half an hour for the Premier and an hour for the Treasurer, with no access to directors-general or any senior bureaucrats. Clearly, this is a whitewash. It is a box-ticking exercise so Labor can say, 'We've been open to scrutiny.' They have not been open to scrutiny.


There are issues I would love to have an opportunity to probe. As the shadow minister for fire, emergency services and volunteers, I have major concerns in every area. We have no clarity around funding for Volunteer Marine Rescue and coast guard at the moment in the Blue Water Review. Where is that promise? Where is sorting that out as a legacy? The minister has claimed that he will sort that out. He has not sorted that out. What about Rural Fire Services or the SES and the review there? Where is the funding towards that? Even Queensland's surf lifesavers do not know where they stand in terms of funding their vital services this summer. Apparently, their funding goes until 31 December, but summer goes well into March and they are needed on our beaches as we try to encourage more people with domestic travel and domestic tourism to the Gold Coast, to the Sunshine Coast and right up to Far North Queensland.

As the member for Gregory, I have a feeling that cuts are being made in health care for my constituents, but we cannot see them because there is no budget. I do not know if the mobile BreastScreen service is still running. I do know that the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service is removing housing assistance for doctors. I am predicting that will lead to an inability to fill doctor vacancies and we will be back to the bad old days in terms of health care for my constituents. The Labor Party are cutting funding out of the Central Queensland health budget. They are taking away valuable accommodation services so we can keep long-term doctors in the Central Highlands. My constituents have questions about funding for roads and education. With no budget and no estimates, there are no answers.

What do we know as we stand here debating these urgent bills? We know that before coronavirus Queensland had the highest unemployment rate, the largest government debt and the lowest business confidence in the nation. We know that Labor's \$18 billion single-year blowout in debt will lead to another 72,000 Queenslanders losing their jobs. This is on top of the record 234,000 Queenslanders who are currently out of work. With these bills, Labor is essentially seeking another \$28 billion from Queensland taxpayers, no questions asked—in other words, a blank cheque. The nation is facing the greatest financial crisis in 75 years and we know that, going into this crisis, Labor's fiscal mismanagement had put Queensland on the worst possible footing to deal with this crisis. Now we know there is no calm, considered plan on how to get us through this situation we find ourselves in.

Queenslanders are being asked to take Labor on trust, but their record is not one to inspire us at the moment. There has been scandal after scandal, blowout after blowout. The Treasurer has been at lengths to put distance between himself and the former treasurer. Voters cannot be blamed for withholding their trust at the ballot box come 31 October. Even without a budget, there is a five-year record they can base their judgements on. It is not a record that recommends Labor as financial administrators or as a government committed to good governance and democratic transparency.

There is no reason why the Labor government could not hand down a budget before the election. Basically, we are the first government in history I believe that will go to an election without handing down a budget. The government says that the federal government have not handed down a budget, but they are not facing an election for another two years. We are facing an election on 31 October, and the government does not have the decency or the financial transparency to put a budget in place so people can judge the Labor Party on its record and find out where the financial transactions are going. Why can't the government put a budget in place? The government is going to an election without a budget and that is an absolute disgrace.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.35 pm): I will keep my contribution as short and sharp as possible because there is a line-up of people waiting to speak on an Appropriation Bill that has not had the due process and scrutiny it deserves and will be guillotined very shortly. I find that an offence to democracy. This should have been subject to a lengthy process. It could have been done this week. We could have at least had a look at it and trawled through some of the numbers. The member for Clayfield raised some of the numbers yesterday—borrowings as a percentage of revenue, over 100 per cent; borrowings as a percentage of state product, over 150 per cent. We should have had the opportunity to scrutinise the expenditure yet we have not.

There are now five billion reasons why Queensland should get rid of this government, because it is now five billion times they have come through an appropriation process seeking more money. That was long before we had ever heard of coronavirus. We will see COVID blamed time and time again but, before COVID, unemployment was the worst in the nation, government debt was the highest in the nation, business confidence was the lowest in the nation and bankruptcy numbers were the highest in the nation. With no budget, a quarter of a million Queenslanders who are unemployed at the moment have every reason to ask, 'Where is the plan?'

Before I conclude, I want to make a couple of points. The first is about the shameful advertising campaign we have seen. I asked the Premier today how much has been spent to date and how much will be spent, but we have not received an answer. I asked whether this will continue once we go into caretaker mode in October, and there was a very small answer of, 'Well, I will comply with provisions.' It should not be happening at the moment. The CCIQ, the CFMMEU and everybody knows this is not a plan; it is a cobbled together document that is the laughing stock of a quarter of a million Queenslanders who want some hope and the thousands of business owners who can see everything they have worked for going down the drain but who want some hope. That hope is coming in the form of an LNP government on 31 October.

Let me make three predictions if, heaven help us, the Labor Party is re-elected: first, Cross River Rail will not be delivered for \$5½ billion and the overrun will be many times that; second, the debt level will not stop at \$102 billion but will go manifestly higher than that; and, third, there will be new taxes. They are the three predictions I will be held accountable for if, heaven forbid, those opposite win the election.


Let me conclude by saying that I want to pass a quick best wishes to my opposite number today who announced her retirement. Kate Jones and I have locked horns many times, particularly on things like ecotourism and market share, but no-one will doubt her work ethic, no-one will doubt her value as a retail politician and no-one will begrudge her some family time after her service to the community for many, many years.

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): I call the Treasurer.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker! I rise to a point of order. Are you closing the debate?

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.39 pm), in reply: I thank those members on both sides of the House who have provided their support for these bills, which do two things.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, you do not have to take the Treasurer's jumping for the call to end debate prematurely. We have already had a gag motion in this House. Mr Deputy Speaker, you have the discretion to allow the Treasurer to jump to his feet, but I would draw your attention to the standing orders and the fact that you do not have to take the call from him to prematurely close this debate. This debate has already been gagged. I would ask the Deputy Speaker to not allow the Treasurer to prematurely close debate when there is a list of people still waiting to speak. It is unnecessary for him to do so.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Maroochydore. I gave the call to the Treasurer. Treasurer, you have the call.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DICK:** First—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a point of order. One moment, Treasurer, please.

**Ms SIMPSON:** With respect, the standing orders do not require you to have to gag debate and prematurely take the call from the Treasurer. There were other members on their feet. I put it to you that this is an unfair measure when this concerns \$28 billion and there is not a proper process. You are gagging debate.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms SIMPSON:** This is inappropriate. The Treasurer jumped at the same time as other members of the opposition.

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

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, you do have the discretion not to allow debate to be further gagged than it has been already.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, you clearly saw that I was on my feet. You are now warned under the standing orders. Member for Ferny Grove, you had a point of order?

**Mr FURNER:** Yes. Mr Deputy Speaker, the point of order I take is regarding a reflection on you as chair of this chamber. I believe you are dealing with it now, but I believe you should take on notice the actions of the member for Maroochydore.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Treasurer, you have the call.

**Mr DICK:** What we saw was another end-of-parliament stunt by the member for Maroochydore. Earlier today we had the end-of-parliament stunt by the member for Clayfield.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that and ask that it be withdrawn. This Treasurer is abusing the privileges of this House and is shutting down debate. I take offence and ask it to be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, you did not need to address that further. I heard what you asked me to do. I now ask the Treasurer to withdraw as the member takes personal offence.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw unreservedly. I take personal offence to the words used by the member for Maroochydore that I was seeking to abuse the privileges of the House. It is highly offensive. I take personal offence and I ask the member for Maroochydore to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, the Treasurer finds—

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw.

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

**Mr DICK:** What we saw earlier today was a stunt—a stunt by a former treasurer.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, Treasurer, we have a point of order.

### **Notice of Motion, Dissent from Deputy Speaker's Ruling**

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I give notice that I shall move dissent from your ruling.

**Mr DICK,** continuing in reply: What we saw earlier today was a stunt—a stunt by a former treasurer on the last day of the parliament. That is all it was.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, reluctant as I often am to stand up and not allow people to have their say—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, Treasurer, I ask you to resume your seat. You have a point of order?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I do have a point of order. Pretty robust as I am, I do take offence to the comments made by the Treasurer. It was a serious matter that was raised this morning. It was raised in a serious fashion. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. What the member for Clayfield, the former treasurer in the Newman LNP government, something he will never live down—and I take no point with this; if people want to come into this House and claim the actions of the government are unconstitutional or unlawful, they are entitled to do that. However, all afternoon we heard the seriatim talking points; they distributed them to the backbench. Regrettably, the member for Maroochydore did not have the opportunity to read them out again. What the member for Clayfield did was not only put constitutional and legal points—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer's comments are not only untrue but they are offensive. I had points to raise in regard to small business under your inept government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maroochydore, I am sorry, what was your point of order that you rose on?

**Ms SIMPSON:** The comments were offensive and untrue and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Treasurer—

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, but for the member for Clayfield to claim it was a serious contempt of the parliament—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw, member for Maroochydore. What more do I say? I withdraw unreservedly and completely.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms SIMPSON:** It was followed by a 'but'.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members. Members, I am not going to get into debates around points of order. If you find it offensive, stand up, state your point and we will move on.

**Mr DICK:** Of course, no-one on the opposition was willing to say, 'I was wrong,'—no-one, not one of them. Not one of them apologised. Once the Speaker ruled, they read the talking points out all afternoon and not one member of the LNP was willing to say, 'I was wrong.' I do not mind at all people taking the point on legal and constitutional points, but to say that it was a serious contempt of the parliament by the Treasurer—

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.



**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.45 pm): I move—

That the Treasurer be no longer be heard.

Division: Question put—That the Treasurer be no longer heard.

*In division—*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): There is a convention in the House that when the Speaker stands to his feet there is immediate silence.

**AYES, 38:**

**LNP, 36—**Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Hunt, Krause, Langbroek, 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.

**NOES, 45:**

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

Pairs: Hinchliffe, Last; Pegg, Janetzki.

Resolved in the negative.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Contempt of Parliament



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.52 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The conduct of the member for Maroochydore, a former Speaker in this chamber, has been disorderly and in our view disrespectful to the chair on multiple occasions this evening. To protect the institution of this chamber, we will be writing to the Speaker about her appalling conduct.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.53 pm), continuing in reply: The attempt by the LNP to gag me on an appropriation bill is really a badge of honour.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr DICK:** I do recall—

**Mr SPEAKER:** This conduct will not be tolerated, members. It is not muck-up day.

**Mr DICK:** I do recall that in the debate of the appropriation bills in 2012 the LNP would not let seven members of the opposition speak and, of course, gagged the debate. The member for Clayfield did that when the LNP had a record majority, the largest number of MPs in Queensland—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am pretty robust about debate, but I will not have the story misconstrued in the way that it was and stories being told by the Treasurer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I take offence and I ask that the comments be withdrawn.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw. The member for Clayfield closed the debate on the 2012 budget by jumping against members of the opposition. There were seven.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, that is untrue. I take offence and I ask the Treasurer to withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** Of course I withdraw, Mr Speaker. I am very happy to conform with the proprietary and the standards of this House, unlike the members of the LNP. Today we heard a series of talking points by COVID deniers. Those opposite are the party of climate change denial. In fact, there are many members of the former National Party, or National Party that sit in the Commonwealth parliament—of course the breakaway National Party of the New South Wales government today—

**Mr HART:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is an appropriation bill, apparently, and the minister is way off target.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. An appropriation bill is possibly the broadest bill that the parliament can consider. Almost everything, conceivably, is relevant.

**Mr DICK:** Of course, with members of the National Party in the Commonwealth parliament, and with members of the National Party in the breakaway government of New South Wales now sitting separately from the government, it is no wonder Premier Berejiklian was talking about borders when her own government was falling apart. Those opposite are COVID deniers. Through all of their speeches on this Appropriation Bill, member for Burleigh, they pretended that COVID did not exist and it had had no impact on the Queensland economy.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Minister. These points of order are seemingly frivolous. I will not have the speaker on his feet continually interrupted, so this had better be a good point of order.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Speaker, there is a provision that the debate will finish at 5.55 pm, and I draw your attention to that time on the clock.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have been very busy trying to deal with points of order and not to look at the clock. I appreciate the information.

**Mr HART:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the Treasurer's comments and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There were no comments directed at you, member for Burleigh.

**Mr HART:** Mr Speaker, he said 'member for Burleigh' in his comments.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, have you personally mentioned the member and, if so, will you withdraw?

**Mr DICK:** I will withdraw. He has more things to worry about than me! I withdraw unreservedly, before a further point is taken. I withdraw unreservedly.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Members, the time being 5.55 pm, pursuant to the motion agreed to by the House it is time for the debate to expire. I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

## Consideration in Detail

### Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Question put—That clauses 1 to 3 and schedule, as read, stand part of the bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 and schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Appropriation Bill

Question put—That clauses 1 to 3 and schedule, as read, stand part of the bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 and schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### 56th Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this is the first opportunity we have had to finish a parliamentary term knowing when the end was coming. In that sense, this is the end of the parliamentary term but not the end of the year. With the indulgence of the House, I wish to make a few remarks about the year that has been and to say a few 'thank yous' as well.

When this term commenced in February 2018, I do not think any one of us could have conceived what was to come this year and certainly the term ending in these sorts of circumstances. Obviously 2020 is the year of COVID and we will remember that for many years to come. That has meant that we have had to make sacrifices and, unfortunately, we all cannot be in the parliament at the same time, which is sad. One of the best parts of parliament is the robust nature of the House itself.

It also means that the Speaker's drinks are not happening this year in the same way that they otherwise would have, so hopefully we are back in a different environment next time and we can come together and share stories with those members who are returning after the election. Whilst it has been a very serious year, there have been some moments of levity. I particularly want to acknowledge a wonderful bout of both heroism and charity, and that was when Minister Grace had to run into the chamber, was out of breath and we were all very concerned about her and the most unlikely candidate, the member for Kawana, provided her with some hydration. To me, that has really summed up what has been a very strange year.

I want to thank a number of people who have made this parliamentary term go very well. First of all, I want to say thank you to both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for leading their respective teams. Whilst at times there is significant disagreement in the chamber, there were also some moments of great bipartisanship, and I think as parliamentarians we can all respect that. In a similar way, I want to thank the Leader of the House, the Attorney-General, and the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana, for working with me and my office to ensure that things work well and extend my thanks to all members of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly who have worked together as a group very well and very constructively indeed. I want to say thank you to the Deputy Speaker, Scott Stewart, who does a terrific job and has worked very closely with our panel of

temporary speakers. I thank each and every one of them for their contribution. It has been most appreciated and I hope that you have seen that they have tried very hard to have a high standard and a consistent standard in terms of presiding over the House.

I turn to the Clerk, Neil Laurie. The Clerk has one of the most unenviable jobs in this place, having to play double agent in terms of providing advice with the same sort of efficacy to both sides of the House and to all members and he does that with aplomb, so thank you, Neil, for your work. Thanks also to the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, who plays a very critical role in working closely with Neil. There are plenty of people whom I wish to thank. I wish to thank the clerks at the table and the Table Office. I also want to acknowledge the people who have been on the front line here, and they have been our attendants in particular. The attendants have been having to provide a COVID safe workplace for us and at times they have been run off their feet. Particularly when some of the warnings are issued during question time, there is a hell of a lot of changeover that seems to occur.

There are some long-term Parliamentary Service staff members whom I want to note in terms of their anniversaries this year: Mary-Ann Lloyd, 45 years; Ian Jackson, 40 years; Helena Simpson, 35 years; John Polistena, 35 years; Craig Atkinson, 30 years; Tina Grady, 25 years; Tania Coluccio, 25 years; and Robyn Moore, 20 years. I know people enjoy their time working at this parliament, but to have tenures like that in a very difficult environment is a real testament to those people and their dedication to the Parliamentary Service. I want to thank Wendy Rollo and Steve Wickson, who are about to retire after over 25 years of service.

I want to thank our Hansard staff, led ably by Jo Mathers; the Functions and Catering team, specifically head executive chef Andrew McCreagh, Manager of Catering Services Simon Neale, and Function Coordinator Megan Lomas; and Janet Prowse, the Director of Information Services, and her team for the research that they undertake and keeping our library going. A big thank you to the committee secretariats and committee office staff and the parliamentary education team of Katina Webb, Mila Andersson and Rebecca Quinnell. A big thanks to our Indigenous liaison officer, Joe Stewart. Lyneta Darlington and Brittany Honan, the communications team, are doing a fantastic job. Of course, everyone should join me in thanking Stewart Johnson, the director of property and precinct services, as well as Mark Richardson, the manager of property services. I want to say that for Stewart in particular there is no task that is impossible and he does generally go out of his way.


I want to thank all of our electorate office staff who provide support to MPs; Michael Watkin, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and precinct security; parliamentary media gallery president, Steven Wardill; and all people in the fourth estate who provide a very important safeguard and check and balance against decisions made in this House. I want to give a couple of personal thanks to my electorate office staff, my wife, Kerry, and my kids, Tristan, Layla and Kobi. They have allowed me to do this job and give me great support.

With regard to the retiring members for Hervey Bay, Pumicestone, Caloundra, Mundingburra, Stafford and Cooper, I expressed my gratitude at the end of each of their contributions this afternoon. However, I want to formally say thank you to all of them for their great service to the Queensland parliament. Some have been in office-holding positions, including cabinet, and others have spent their time as a backbencher, but all of them have made an impact and I am sure that none of them will be forgotten by their local electorates.

Finally, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Speaker in this parliament. I have enjoyed the role immensely. I know I can be cranky at times, but I hope that all of you fare well in your 31 October engagements and I am sure that many of you will be returning and I hope to see you next term.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.06 pm): I am pleased to be able to rise to speak in the adjournment debate as we were gagged from speaking on the Appropriation Bill with more than \$28 billion—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the minister who received the call of the Speaker on a debate, I take personal offence from the member for Maroochydore that I sought to gag anyone and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will you withdraw, member for Maroochydore?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. This House has been gagged by this incredibly incompetent Treasurer who came in here asking for \$28 billion without due process and without a budget appropriation.

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

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

**Mr DICK:** I take personal offence at the words used about my competency by the member for Maroochydore and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will you withdraw, member?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. Some \$28 billion has just been appropriated. In the history of this parliament over 150 years we have never seen any other government apply gag motions the way this lazy Labor government has. Never in the history of 150 years—

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the minister who received the call in the debate, I rose to speak. I sought to gag no-one and I take offence personally at those words and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In this instance, Treasurer, there was a generalisation about the government side of the House and not a specific individual, so I do not think we can claim that in this particular instance.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Never in the history of this parliament have we seen a government come in here week after week and move gag motions which essentially put a limit around debate on legislation, meaning that legislation would often have to be passed by a certain time and there would not be the scrutiny of the consideration in detail stage which is the time when we go into the detail of the legislation. This government has brought in appropriation bills worth billions of dollars without a proper budget process. Arrogant! What an arrogant government!

We need a change of government. Over five years what we have seen from this lazy Labor government has been an arrogance where it has complete disregard for some of the hardworking—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Treasurer and member for Gympie, you are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber and for not putting your comments through the chair.

**Ms SIMPSON:** In 150 years we have never seen the appalling behaviour that we have seen in the last five years but in particular during this term under this Labor government with gag motion after gag motion, usually at the beginning of the week, but we have also now seen \$28 billion taken in an appropriation without a budget process.


We in the LNP believe that the state deserves better than this. We have to rebuild the economy. We have to get people working again. It will never happen under this Labor government. We are committed to working with business and Queenslanders in our communities who have been through the hell of COVID to get our economy going again to ensure that we do not lose a generation to welfare dependency.

As a proud member of the Sunshine Coast I love representing my area. I am passionate about fighting for infrastructure but most of all caring for people. I will fight to keep my people safe. I will fight to see our economy rebuilt. We in the LNP stand together because we know our state deserves better than \$90 billion worth of debt and the worst unemployment figures and confidence in small business before COVID. We need an LNP government to get Queensland working again. Give this state a hope.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 17 August 2020 the member for Redlands wrote to me on a matter of privilege in relation to statements made by the member for Oodgeroo in the House on 30 August 2020. The member for Oodgeroo asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice a question without notice which referenced the member for Redlands. Due to COVID-19 practices adopted by the House the member for Redlands was not able to be in the assembly chamber during question time as she routinely would have prior to COVID-19.


Whilst acknowledging the difficulty members face in seeking withdrawals due to COVID-19 procedures, I have considered the member's complaint in accordance with standing order 269(4) and determined that the matter is trivial in nature and does not warrant the further attention of the House. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 17 August 2020 from the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, in reference to a matter of privilege [1631].

## ADJOURNMENT

Resumed from p. 2452.

### JBS Australia; Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.11 pm): I was shocked to hear the news yesterday that JBS at Dinmore in Ipswich, Australia's biggest meat producer, will shed 600 jobs as from tomorrow—about a third of its workforce of 1,700. JBS cited a range of reasons for the staffing cutbacks, including COVID-19, extended drought conditions and severe livestock shortages, but the company was also heavily critical of the federal government's JobKeeper program which it claimed had created inequality in the meat processing sector and contributed to its decision to shed 600 workers.


Under the eligibility criteria, companies with more than \$1 billion in revenue must show a 50 per cent drop in turnover, while companies earning less than that amount are required to demonstrate only a 30 per cent fall in income. There is some light at the end of the tunnel for our hardworking meatworkers in Ipswich with the announcement by Barry Moule, Churchill Abattoir managing director, that he has plans to reopen the Churchill Abattoir, also located in Ipswich. In a media statement issued by Barry today he said he is working to fund the conversion of the Churchill Abattoir from a beef only processing facility to an export centre for both sheep and beef exports.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to wild dog cluster fencing in Western Queensland has rebuilt our sheep industry. As part of the COVID Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan the Palaszczuk government has committed an additional \$5 million in grants for cluster fencing in Western Queensland. Initial data indicates the program has created an extra gross regional income of about \$63 million for Western Queensland. With lambing rates up and sheep numbers on the rise we need abattoirs and processors that can take these extra sheep. That is why I am doing everything I can to assist Barry Moule in reopening the Churchill Abattoir, which he estimates will deliver up to 600 jobs.

I thank those people who have contacted me recently concerning a proposal by Remondis to build an incinerator at Swanbank. I was surprised when I first heard about this incinerator because I thought the old disused Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator in Ipswich would be the last incinerator I saw there. As I said in my speech in parliament on 2 May 2019, I see no benefit for Ipswich residents in this proposal. I oppose the project and I have advised the Coordinator-General accordingly. I would encourage anyone else who agrees with me to also lodge a protest with the Coordinator-General.

In closing, I would like to thank all 93 members of the 56th Parliament for their contribution to the parliamentary process and their camaraderie. It is my hope that residents of Ipswich West will do me the honour of allowing me to represent them in the 57th Parliament. To those who have chosen not to recontest your seats, I wish you all the best. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge my fellow members of the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee for their hard work during the year and also our secretariat. Thank you very much.

### Bundaberg Electorate


 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (6.14 pm): In the last hour on the last sitting of the 56th Parliament I would like to reflect on my first term as Bundy's member of parliament. In November 2017 the people of our beautiful city took a leap of faith in me and elected me as the state member for Bundaberg. For 23 years I served our region as a police officer, including as a detective, a child protection officer and a PCYC manager. For 10 years I was a councillor at Bundaberg Regional Council serving as deputy mayor, acting chair of the Bundaberg Local Disaster Management Group and Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the 2010-11 and 2013 floods. Now I have the great privilege of being Bundy's voice in this place.

I never thought this Bundy boy would ever step foot in politics, but I am so glad that I did. Every day I put the best interests of our community first and grasp every opportunity to raise the issues I know are important to Bundaberg. It is crazy to think it has been almost three years since I started this role. On one hand it feels like the time has flown, but on the other it feels like I have been doing this job for a lot longer because of how much we have achieved in this time. We have secured air conditioning for

every state school classroom in Bundy; changes to Queensland's disability parking scheme to assist the vision impaired; opened an elder abuse prevention and support service; road upgrades, including lights at FE Walker Street and Ashfield Road; turning lanes at Parker State Drive, University Drive and Kingston Town Way; we have an independent public inquiry into Paradise Dam; a school zone with flashing lights on Mount Perry Road; a detailed business case for a new Bundy hospital; and a drop and go zone at Walkervale State School. Despite COVID-19, I have held 434 constituent meetings; facilitated \$5.3 million of grant funding through our office; provided \$40,800 in sponsorships and donations; attended 628 community events; and written 9,855 letters to Bundy residents in celebration of new beginnings and special achievements.

I absolutely love being Bundy's MP and I am really proud of what we have achieved so far and the number of important projects I remain committed to going forward. In my first speech in this place I spoke about how when I left my role at council a ratepayer sent me a greatly appreciated message that said my authenticity would be missed and how I hoped my Bundaberg constituents and colleagues would also come to see me as authentic in my role as an MP. Hopefully this has indeed happened. In that same speech I also made this commitment: that I will serve the people of Bundaberg with honesty, integrity and compassion for as long as they will have me represent them in state parliament. I truly believe I have kept this promise and I am hopeful that in 51 days Bundy will take another leap of faith in me so that together we can continue building a better Bundaberg and get Queensland working again.

### Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (6.17 pm): While COVID-19 has changed the way we live, the way we work and the way we connect, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues fighting hard to safeguard the health of Queenslanders and to restore the strength of the Queensland economy. Like every part of the world, the electorate of Woodridge has not been spared the impacts of COVID-19. Woodridge is a community that knows how to fight back against adversity. It knows how to fight back against difficulty. It was a community that learnt how to fight back against the Newman LNP government. It was communities like Woodridge that felt the lash of a wicked, arrogant and contemptible government. It was communities like Woodridge, and the most vulnerable in the Queensland community, who felt the worst and copped the worst from the Newman LNP government.

We saw the savage cuts to Queensland's health system. I was proud to work for three years as the health minister, the former state development minister, now the Treasurer, to ameliorate and to repeal and to deal with those cuts. In the Metro South Hospital and Health Service 925 health workers—226 nurses—lost their jobs. Many of those worked at the Logan Hospital.

**Mr Healy:** Shame!

**Mr DICK:** It was a terrible shame. It was a shameful time in our history. It was presided over by the LNP. The people of Queensland do not, have not and will not forget the Newman LNP government and the impact it had on communities in the city, in the bush, in the country and in our regions.


As health minister I spent years rebuilding the wreckage of the LNP government, including restoring maternity health services to the women of Woodridge. As health minister I announced three community health centres, allowing women to receive treatment in their community.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** Even tonight we hear the LNP calling out from across the chamber, trying to shout people down like they shouted down Queenslanders during their time in government. They have learnt nothing. All of this—everything we have done as a government, everything we have done to progress Queensland—will be put at risk by the \$23 billion worth of cuts that the LNP will impose on Queensland. It will be our health workers, our teachers, our doctors, our police officers, our corrective services workers and our child safety officers who again will feel the lash of the LNP if the government changes on 31 October. Every day between now and 31 October I will work to see Anastacia Palaszczuk, the best Premier in the country, re-elected and our government re-elected.

*(Time expired)*

### Gold Coast Region, Bushfire Preparedness

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.20 pm): Only a couple of days ago we celebrated Yellow Ribbon Day to honour our Rural Fire Service volunteers who protect lives, homes and properties. They do not ask for much, but they give much to our local areas. This time last year the Rural Fire Service




from my electorate of Theodore worked diligently and tirelessly in the electorate of Scenic Rim at the fires at Illinbah, Sarabah and Binna Burra. They went there and put their lives on the line to help those in need.

We appreciate everything that they have done, so it is sole destroying for me to come here today to speak about the state government's decision to not renew its 13-year partnership with the Gold Coast city council. Those fires went into the Gold Coast city council region. We need to ensure that hazard reduction burns are done properly in the Gold Coast city council region. We have 50 per cent bushland in the Gold Coast city council region. It is crucial that we do mitigation burns to prevent hot summer fires from devastating our landscapes and potentially putting at risk people's lives, their properties and their homes, as well as flora and fauna. As we know, a hot fire will destroy everything.

A state government—from either side of politics—needs to ensure that these agreements are upheld and continue after 2022. It is most important for my region and for regions all across the Gold Coast, because the Gold Coast is the epicentre of bushland and it is a selling point for the Gold Coast. I am pleased to say that Deb Frecklington, the leader of the LNP, will work with the Gold Coast city council to reinstate this type of funding to ensure that hazard reduction burns are put in place to protect the livelihoods of my residents and the residents around my region. It is most crucial that that is done.

Again I say 'thank you' for all of the wonderful work of my local rural fire brigades—Guanaba, Coomera Valley and, just outside of my area, Clagiraba. You are the heart and soul of my region. You deserve to be respected. You deserve to have the resources that you need to protect us and protect our properties. Thank you for everything that you do. We owe you a debt of gratitude. We need to ensure that those funding initiatives are kept going past 2022.

### **Queensland Housing Strategy; Orange Sky Laundry**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (6.23 pm): The Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan supports housing for vulnerable Queenslanders. In fact, since we launched our Queensland Housing Strategy we have been building homes for those who need them—at pace. Through that \$1.8 billion strategy, complemented by our Partnering for Growth initiative, we are unlocking \$2 billion in equity to fund more construction and support tradie jobs.

We know the LNP have no plan for housing except to finish the job that they started under Campbell Newman. They wanted then and they want now to privatise the lot. They wanted to give away the social housing portfolio that is there to support vulnerable Queenslanders. What else? Now they want to recycle their failed three-strikes policy. Those opposite come in here and cry crocodile tears for Queenslanders doing it tough during COVID-19, yet we know that if they get their chance they will turn their backs on the homeless, they will create exclusion zones for the poor and they will demonise public housing tenants, just as they have done before.


On this side of the House we have been supporting vulnerable Queenslanders, especially during the pandemic. We have supported more than 4,000 Queenslanders experiencing homelessness by providing a roof over their heads—a place safe from COVID-19. It was the Palaszczuk government that acted decisively with two packages of \$24.7 million and \$11.5 million respectively of interim support for homeless Queenslanders. Of those 4,000 homeless Queenslanders, we have already found more than half a permanent place to call home. Through this pandemic we have taken incredible strides to end what has too often been a cycle of homelessness for Queenslanders.

Ending homelessness is not just about giving someone a roof over their head. It is about providing the social supports to help them transition and to shine a light on a pathway to better health, education and employment and, of course, all through better housing. The key in this process is delivering wraparound social support through community, government and charitable organisations—organisations such as Orange Sky Laundry. The Palaszczuk government was proudly the first government in Australia to support Nick and Lucas from Orange Sky Laundry, to help with their important work. Since we first began working together in 2016, Orange Sky Laundry and their vans have been there for Queenslanders when they need it most. Through cyclones, floods and now global pandemics, Nick, Lucas and their team of volunteers have helped to restore dignity to Queenslanders through their mobile laundry and shower services.

That is why this year I am taking part in the Sudy Challenge, which is a challenge to wear the same clothes for three days. I am asking my friends, colleagues and sponsors to aid me in this important work and the work that Orange Sky Laundry does for the lives of Queenslanders. I will be wearing this

shirt for the Sudsy Challenge over the next three days. It is a minor inconvenience for me, but it will start an important conversation. I thank everybody who has already supported the Sudsy Challenge for making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders.

### **Maiwar Electorate**

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.26 pm): As I rise for probably the last time in this parliamentary term, I reflect on my wonderful community on the west side of Brisbane and some of the things that we have achieved together over the past three years. I will have time to mention only some of the highlights because time is short for such an incredibly busy few years.

Perhaps most memorable for me was when we stopped the LNP council's proposal to privatise Mount Coot-tha for its ill-conceived mega zip-line development. When council eventually backed down on its ridiculous plan, it was no random decision. It followed a huge local campaign that I was incredibly proud to support. My office coordinated rallies, doorknocks, petitions, yard signs and more than 1,000 resident submissions. When council leadership changed, we saw an opportunity and mobilised an entire community of passionate people to call his office and make him scrap it. Only three days later he did.


Of course, we have not always been able to make them listen. I am still waiting for both major parties to get on board with the massive local push to buy back the old ABC site on Coronation Drive in Toowong for a public riverside park. In recent decades we have lost much public space and facilities such as the Toowong pool, and there are hundreds of new apartments being built in the area. Now that the ABC site is up for sale again, buying it back for a park just makes sense. It makes sense not least of all because council has to buy back part of that site anyway to land its new green bridge over to West End, which is another huge win that I will never forget. Early last year I launched a community vote on a resident-led vision for the ABC site. One thing we proposed was a walking and cycling bridge from the site to West End. Soon afterwards, the Lord Mayor adopted that proposal and committed to build five green bridges across Brisbane, including one from Toowong to West End as we had proposed.

Another of my proudest moments came recently when we learned that our long campaign for a new school had been successful. I still remember the first Town Hall forum I held when I was elected, at which I met Michaela and her daughters, Anisha and Ishika, who were students at Ironside State School, which is struggling with such severe overcrowding that playtime is limited and the outside school hours care is constantly full. From that moment we began fighting for a new school for the inner west, so the \$65 million commitment from the government was an amazing win for local families.

I have been able to do these things only because I do not take corporate donations and I do not rely on big mining companies and developers for support. I rely on regular people. That is why I believe we have done something really special in Maiwar's first term. Of course, there is so much more to do and—touch wood—I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve with this new kind of politics in a second term.

It has been an extraordinary privilege and an honour to represent my community as the first MP for Maiwar and as the first Greens MP elected to this place. The only greater privilege would be to return for a second term to keep up the good work and to do it with more Greens MPs as colleagues in this place.

### **Redlands Electorate**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.29 pm): It has been the greatest joy to serve my Redlands community. I have spoken a lot about the achievements and the delivery of projects we have done together over the past three years, but the greatest joy in this role for me has been the relationships I have had the opportunity to develop with my community. We have the strongest community. That shone through over the weekend, as I said earlier in this week, with the COVID outbreak. I have a huge list—I do not think I will get through it all in two minutes and 30 seconds—but I want to mention some of the amazing community groups that I have had the honour and privilege of working with over the last three years.

In conservation we have our Southern Moreton Bay Islands Coast Care, Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare, Bay Islands Conservation Group, Victoria Point Garden Club, Karragarra Community Gardens and Running Wild Youth Conservation. Our service organisations absolutely abound. We have the Lions Club of Macleay Island, Lions Club of Redland Bay Victoria Point and Rotary Club of Redland Sunrise Inc.

Our emergency services are outstanding on the beautiful Moreton Bay. Our Volunteer Marine Rescue Victoria Point Association is incredible. I give a plug for their boaties market coming up this weekend. The Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association down at Redland Bay is absolutely fantastic under the stewardship of Jason Boon as commander.


Our rural bushfire brigades are amazing. We have the Karragarra Bush Fire Brigade, along with those from Russell Island, Lamb Island and Macleay Island. Our Coochiemudlo Island Surf Life Saving Club is probably the smallest surf club in all of Queensland, but it kicks goals. It is the foundation for all of our young nippers who go on to serve down on the Gold Coast.

We have Crime Stoppers. I give a huge shout-out to Volunteers in Policing. The Coffee with a Cop initiative has transformed the way we work with our local police. It has been fantastic, and I thank Brendan Winslow for that. Our Macleay Island Local Ambulance Committee, Redlands local ambulance committee, the SES, the Redlands Coast Champions, our Scouts and our Girl Guides are all incredible. Our Venturers and the RSL groups are all fantastic. I mention the Cage Youth Foundation, the Macleay Island Progress Association, Soroptimists, Zonta, the Coochiemudlo Progress Association, the Lamb Island Residents Association, Night Ninjas that are helping the homeless, Love & Hope Redlands. There are just so many. There is Horses 4 Health and the Redlands Orchid Society. Traction does great work making bikes for young kids who are looking for some guidance.

All of our seniors groups are absolutely amazing, including U3A. There is Maybanke in the domestic violence space and the Centre for Women and Co. Can I say what an incredible job the Redlands branch of the Cancer Council does. I am extremely passionate about the work that they do. They are the most highly awarded Cancer Council branch in Queensland. Thank you to Tish and to Pam for all the work they do in that space.

Our Men's Shed—oh my goodness, I cannot talk highly enough of it. I love those guys. They are absolutely amazing. They have the best sausage sizzle you will ever get in all of Redlands. #loveredlands.

### Ipswich, Waste Facility

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (6.32 pm): I rise to raise a concerning matter brought to my attention by a former member of this House and one that is of utmost importance for the health of local residents of Ipswich and what locals now sadly refer to as 'Tipswich'. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government, Ipswich is rapidly becoming the toxic waste dump capital of Australia and local residents are sick of it. I see that the lazy local Labor members out in Ipswich have finally found their voice to oppose the development of a waste-to-energy project at Swanbank, currently under consideration by the Coordinator-General as a coordinated project under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In another classic case of 'don't look at what we say, look at what we do', the lazy local Labor members have finally found their voice after a number of years of ushering the project through the approvals process and just two months before the state election, but their belated hollow opposition is all talk and no action. The waste-to-energy facility to be located at Swanbank was referred to the Coordinator-General as a coordinated project under the Palaszczuk Labor government. If Labor really opposed this project then the government would rescind this referral.


Labor's lazy local members out in Ipswich need to front up and tell the truth. If locals vote for Labor at the next election they will get the project. If the government were serious about their objections, the Minister for State Development could direct the Coordinator-General, as per section 10(2) of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. The only local Labor person who stood up for these issues is the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller.

In another local environmental disaster, late last year we saw the Department of Environment having to order an independent probe after polluted water was found more than two kilometres from the dumping site. When asked about the levels of PFAS contamination in Six Mile Creek, the department told the *Brisbane Times* that surface water in the area is not known to be used for drinking. It did not, however, provide comment on the water being used to irrigate a nearby community garden at Riverview, where dozens of families have grown vegetables for years. The people of Riverview told the *Brisbane Times* that no-one from the department warned them about the contamination of the creek water.

The Minister for Environment cannot sit idly by as toxic waste is dumped in Ipswich, polluting nearby waterways and, as we have seen recently, erupting into flames. Where are the local Labor state members amongst all of this? How can the Minister for Environment stand by when fire crews are called to this dumping site 11 times in three years? Even as a southern Gold Coaster, this concerns me and

many others I have spoken to, and the minister needs to take action. Ipswich locals and the Ipswich council are fed up with important decisions made over their heads without consultation. The Minister for Environment needs to apologise for the series of events that have transpired under her department. The only way to get rid of the Ipswich lazy Labor members is to vote for the LNP on 31 October.

### Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.35 pm): It is the honour to be the last person to speak in the 56th Parliament. In doing so, and as we head towards the election on 31 October, I once again restate my love and support for my beautiful community of Redcliffe, which I have represented for a number of years in my capacity as a federal member and a state member. I look forward to an election campaign of positivity and vision for the future of not only our Redcliffe community but also our great state. However, I do have to talk about one disturbing issue. That is, my LNP opponent, who continues to be negative in her approach, has gone one step further and has decided to whip up fear in our community and particularly politicise a tragic event in our community.

It is particularly disturbing that the LNP candidate for Redcliffe and the member for Toowoomba South, the shadow Attorney-General, have politicised the death of a young person and criticised me for not making public statements about this matter. However, they both should know better. They both should know that, as the Attorney-General, I cannot make statements in or outside of this House about the matter. The role of the Attorney-General occupies an important position in the legal system. Making public comment about an ongoing prosecution as the Attorney-General would be extremely reckless. I do, however, want to send my condolences to Angus's parents, Michelle and Ben. I know that this is an extremely difficult time for them, but we cannot allow Angus's death to be used as a political tool in the upcoming election.

On a much more positive note, I am thrilled that the Palaszczuk government continues to invest in my local community—with our hospital, with our public transport and with our education system, just to name a few. There is over \$115 million into the Redcliffe Hospital including our new car park, which opens in a few weeks; a new MRI machine, which will be operational later this year; a new building being constructed to house this new life-saving medical equipment; and upgrading the emergency department. We will also see a backup CT scanner delivered next year, thanks to the record investment by the Palaszczuk government. We will see every state school in Redcliffe having classrooms, libraries and staffrooms air-conditioned by mid-2022, far quicker than the LNP's commitment. I am pleased to say that all of our state schools in the Redcliffe community are progressing well, with each school at various stages and solar panels going on roofs as well.

In closing, I want to acknowledge my ministerial colleagues Minister Jones, Minister Lynham and Minister O'Rourke, who are leaving us at the end of this term. I thank them for their collegiality. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with them. I wish them all the best in whatever they choose to do going forward. I wish everyone all the best at the end of this parliamentary term.

*(Time expired)*

The House adjourned at 6.39 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Jones, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson